

## Senate Bill 36

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Jordan of the 6th, Harrell of the 40th, Jones II of the 22nd, Orrock of the 36th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to provide a definition; to provide for the  
3 development of a pilot program for the provision of grants for rural counties for the purpose  
4 of establishing and funding the operation of advance voting location in such counties; to  
5 provide for criteria for such grants and the assessment of the effectiveness of such pilot  
6 program; to provide for certain reports; to provide for a funding contingency; to provide for  
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and  
11 primaries generally, is amended in Article 10, related to absentee voting, by adding a new  
12 Code section to read as follows:

13 "21-2-385.2.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'rural county' means a county having a  
15 population of less than 50,000 according to the United States decennial census of 2010 or  
16 any future such census; provided, however, that, for counties which contain a military base

17 or installation, the military personnel and their dependents living in such county shall be  
18 excluded from the total population of such county for purposes of this definition.

19 (b) The Secretary of State shall develop and implement a pilot program to provide grants  
20 to rural counties for the purpose of establishing and funding the operation of advance  
21 voting location in such counties.

22 (c) The Secretary of State shall develop the necessary criteria for the issuance of such  
23 grants as well as the necessary measures to determine the effectiveness of such program  
24 with regard to increasing elector participation and turnout in primaries and elections in such  
25 counties. The Secretary of State shall provide the members of the General Assembly with  
26 a report not later than January 31 of each odd-numbered year regarding the effectiveness  
27 of such program along with any recommendations for its continued use and any needed  
28 changes in such program for future primaries and elections.

29 (d) This Code section shall be effective when there is a specific line item appropriation in  
30 the Appropriations Act for the funding of such pilot program or a determination by the  
31 Secretary of State that there is adequate funding through public or private funds, or a  
32 combination of public and private funds, to conduct the pilot program; provided, however,  
33 that no funds shall be accepted from registered political parties or political bodies for this  
34 purpose."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.