

1 HB218  
2 216319-1  
3 By Representatives Jackson, Gray, Jones (S), Forte, Warren,  
4 Drummond, Daniels, Bracy, McCampbell and Moore (M)  
5 RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections  
6 First Read: 02-FEB-22

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, voters in Alabama may vote only on election day unless he or she has an excuse to vote by absentee ballot.

This bill would require each county to provide at least one early voting center to be open during the week immediately preceding election day, which allows registered voters to vote prior to election day.

This bill would prescribe the hours of operation for each early voting center.

This bill would clarify that this act does not impair or affect the powers and duties of boards of registrars, judges of probate, and other election officials.

This bill would also require the Secretary of State to adopt rules.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1  
2           Relating to elections; to require each county to  
3 provide at least one early voting center to be open during the  
4 week immediately preceding election day, which allows  
5 registered voters to vote prior to election day; to prescribe  
6 the hours of operation for each early voting center; and to  
7 clarify that this act does not impair or affect the powers and  
8 duties of boards of registrars, judges of probate, and other  
9 election officials.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11           Section 1. (a) As used in this section, early voting  
12 center means a location where registered voters may vote not  
13 less than four days nor more than six days during the one-week  
14 period immediately preceding election day.

15           (b) The governing body of each county shall  
16 designate and provide at least one early voting center. If a  
17 governing body designates more than one, it shall have the  
18 sole authority to configure boundaries for each early voting  
19 center in the county. The governing body shall determine the  
20 days an early voting center may be open for early voting;  
21 provided, however, an early voting center shall be open not  
22 less than four days nor more than six days during the one-week  
23 period immediately preceding election day. Hours of operation  
24 for each early voting center shall be as follows:

25           (1) On weekdays and Saturdays, early voting centers  
26 shall be open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1                   (2) On Sundays, early voting centers shall be open  
2 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

3                   (c) Any registered voter may vote in the appropriate  
4 early voting center located in his or her county.

5                   (d) Nothing in this section shall impair or affect  
6 the powers and duties of boards of registrars, judges of  
7 probate, and other election officials under Title 17, Code of  
8 Alabama 1975, nor shall it affect the procedures and  
9 requirements for election day voting.

10                   (e) The Secretary of State shall adopt rules for the  
11 implementation and administration of this section.

12                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
13 first day of the third month following its passage and  
14 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.