

1 SB77
2 174056-1
3 By Senators Smitherman, Ross, Figures, Coleman-Madison, Dunn
4 and Beasley
5 RFD: Constitution, Ethics and Elections
6 First Read: 07-FEB-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, electors may only vote
9 on election day, with the exception of absentee
10 voting.

11 This bill would establish an early voting
12 period during which qualified electors may vote,
13 without excuse, at a designated early voting center
14 before election day.

15 This bill would provide for minimum days and
16 hours of operation for each early voting center.

17 This bill would authorize judges of probate
18 to manage early voting and authorize appointing
19 boards to appoint poll workers to work at early
20 voting centers.

21 This bill would also require the Secretary
22 of State to promulgate rules.

23
24 A BILL
25 TO BE ENTITLED
26 AN ACT
27

1 Relating to voting; to establish an early voting
2 period during which qualified electors may vote, without
3 excuse, at a designated early voting center before election
4 day; to provide for minimum days and hours of operation for
5 each early voting center; to authorize judges of probate to
6 manage early voting and authorize appointing boards to appoint
7 poll workers to work at early voting centers; and to require
8 the Secretary of State to promulgate rules.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. (a) The Secretary of State, by rule,
11 shall establish a procedure by which a registered voter may
12 cast his or her ballot, without excuse, during an early voting
13 period for an election at an early voting center in the county
14 in which he or she resides, as provided in this section.

15 (b) This section shall apply to all elections.

16 (c) The judge of probate in each county shall be
17 responsible for managing early voting. Prior to an election,
18 the judge of probate shall designate and provide at least one
19 early voting center in the county. If a judge of probate
20 designates more than one voting center, the judge of probate
21 shall configure boundaries for each early voting center in the
22 county. All early voting centers in a county shall have the
23 same days and hours of operation.

24 (d) The judge of probate shall designate the days an
25 early voting center will be open for voting; provided,
26 however, an early voting center shall be open for at least
27 five days during the 14-day period immediately preceding an

1 election, and additionally, for all statewide elections, be
2 open the two Saturdays immediately preceding the election.

3 (e) The judge of probate shall designate the hours
4 of operation for an early voting center; provided, however, a
5 center shall be open at least 10 hours each day it is open for
6 early voting.

7 (f) The appointing board responsible for appointing
8 poll workers, as provided in Section 17-8-1, Code of Alabama
9 1975, shall be responsible for appointing poll workers to work
10 during the early voting period.

11 (g) Nothing in this section shall impair or affect
12 the powers and duties of boards of registrars, judges of
13 probate, and other election officials under Title 17, Code of
14 Alabama 1975, nor shall it affect the procedures and
15 requirements for voter registration and election day voting.

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