HB116

KSDW5U5-1

By Representatives Jackson, Travis, Hendrix, Boyd, Sellers, Hassell, Ensler, Forte, Warren, Rafferty, Hollis, McClammy, Lawrence, Clarke, Morris, Gray, Drummond, Jones

RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections

First Read: 06-Feb-24

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a voter 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 would allow 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

Relating to elections; to require each county to provide at least one early voting center to be open during the week immediately preceding election day to allow registered

voters to vote prior to election day; to prescribe the hours of operation for each early voting center; and to clarify that this act does not impair or affect the powers and duties of boards of registrars, judges of probate, and other election officials.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Nothing in this section shall impair or affect the powers and duties of boards of registrars, judges of probate,

and other election officials under Title 17, Code of Alabama 1975, nor shall it affect the procedures and requirements for election day voting.

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

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.