

Senate Bill 202 – As Passed

- Establishes a voter intimidation and illegal election activities hotline
 - Anonymous tip, investigated within three business days
- Appointment of temporary and permanent replacement superintendents and for performance review boards of local elections officials
 - Replace officials due to a preponderance of evidence of at least three violations; by clear and convincing evidence within at least two elections within a two-year period demonstrated malfeasance, nonfeasance or gross negligence; after a hearing may be replaced
- Allocation of voting equipment by counties
 - If in the previous election a precinct contained more than 2,000 electors and they had to stand in line for more than one hour before checking in to vote, the size of such precinct would be reduced or more equipment and poll workers added or both before the next election. The wait time shall be measured three times during the day
 - Busses and other readily moveable facilities shall only be used in emergencies declared by the Governor to supplement the capacity of polling places where the emergency occurred
 - Superintendent shall provide at least one voting booth for each 250 electors in the precinct
- Payment of superintendent's expenses
 - May not accept any funding, grants or gifts other than from the governing authority or the federal government
- Revised time for early voting
 - Advance voting may not be more than 78 days and not less than 11 days prior to the date of the election
 - Shall begin the fourth Monday prior to the election and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to the election
 - Early voting shall time are 9:00AM – 5:00PM and not longer than 7:00AM – 7:00PM as in election day times
- Provides time and manner for applying for and processing of absentee ballots
 - Outside groups sent multiple absentee ballot applications causing confusion

- Applications for absentee-by-mail ballots shall be received no later than 11 days prior to the election
 - Applications for absentee-by-mail ballots must identify the voter with name, date of birth, address as registered, where to send the ballot, Georgia driver's license number or identification card
 - Electors held in jail, who are eligible to vote, shall be granted access to applying for an absentee ballot
 - If the voter does not have a Georgia driver's license or identification card there is a place for the last four digits of the social security number
 - Other forms of accepted identification: utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.
 - If none of the accepted types of identification are available to the voter, Georgia will process one for the voter at no charge
 - Handling of a completed absentee ballot application by a person other than as is allowed is a misdemeanor
 - Absentee ballots shall be mail not more than 29 days and not less than 25 days prior to the election
 - If the voter fails to sign the oath or failed to furnish required information, the absentee ballot clerk shall promptly notify the elector
- Cleaning up of voter registration records
 - Includes provisions for the limitation of opportunities for fraudulent application, including but not limited to, comparison of voter registration records with death certificates
- Provides for drop boxes
 - Establish that at least one drop box per 100,000 active registered voters in the county or number of advance voting locations
 - Additional drop boxes shall be evenly geographically distributed by population in the county
 - The drop box shall have adequate lighting and under constant surveillance by an election official
 - Ballots must be picked up at the conclusion of each day
- Provides for monitors and observers
 - On the third Monday prior to the day of the election, the election superintendent shall open the outer oath envelope of the absentee ballots that have been verified and accepted, open the inner envelope and scan the ballot using one or more ballot scanners

- Prior to beginning the process, the superintendent shall provide written notice to the Secretary of State, at least 7 days prior, of the dates, start and end times, and location where the absentee ballots will be processed and scanned and this process is open to the public
 - The state executive committee of each political party has the right to designate two persons to act as monitors for such process
 - At least three persons who are registrars, poll workers or absentee ballot clerks must be present before commencing and shall remain present at all times while the envelopes are being opened and scanned
 - No person shall attempt to tally, tabulate, estimate the absentee ballots cast until the time for closing the polls on the day of the election
 - The tabulating of absentee ballots may begin after 7:00AM on the day of the election with written notification at least 7 days prior to the election of the intent to tabulate absentee ballots prior to the close of the polls on the day of the election
 - All absentee ballots shall be reported by precincts and reported to the public as soon as possible following the closing of the polls on the day of the election
 - Poll watchers shall have access to designated locations such as check-in area, computer room, duplication area and any other areas deemed necessary to the assurance of fair and honest procedures in the tabulating center.
 - Each poll watcher must be able to fairly observe the procedures set forth in the Code, and to have completed the necessary training
- Restricts the distribution of certain items within close proximity of the polls
 - No person shall solicit votes, give, or offer to give, or participate in the giving of money or gifts including food and drink within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building of the polling place or 25 feet from any voter standing in line
 - However, it is acceptable to make available self-service water from an unattended receptacle to the elector waiting in line to vote
- Reporting election results
 - Not later than 10:00PM following the close of the polls on election day the superintendent shall report to the Secretary of State the following:
 - Number of ballots cast
 - Number of votes cast in advance voting
 - Total number of absentee ballots returned by the deadline
 - Such returns shall be certified by the superintendent not later than 5:00PM on the Monday following the date of the election
 - After closing the polls on the day of election, the superintendent shall publicly commence the computation and canvassing of returns and continue until all

absentee ballots received by the close of the polls, including advance voting and all ballots cast on the day of election have been counted and tabulation released to the public

- Review runoff election times
 - Runoff elections must be held on the 28th day after the preceding election