

House Bill 299

By: Representatives Hopson of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Wilensky of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Bazemore of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Bruce of the 61<sup>st</sup>, and Bentley of the 139<sup>th</sup>

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 extend the time period allowing for public  
3 comment on precinct realignments; to place time limits on relocation of polling places; to  
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and  
8 primaries generally, is amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-262, relating  
9 to investigation as to division, redivision, alteration, formation, or consolidation of precincts  
10 and petition of electors or board of registrars, as follows:

11 "(c) Upon the presentation of any such petition by the board of registrars or upon the filing  
12 by the board of its report and recommendations as to any investigation presented under  
13 subsection (a) of this Code section, the superintendent may make such order for the  
14 division, redivision, alteration, formation, or consolidation of precincts as will, in the  
15 superintendent's opinion, promote the convenience of electors and the public interests;  
16 provided, however, that the superintendent shall not make any final order for the division,  
17 redivision, alteration, formation, or consolidation of precincts until at least ~~ten~~ 30 days after  
18 notice of such change shall have been advertised in the legal organ of the county. A copy  
19 of such notice shall be immediately submitted to the Secretary of State. Such notice shall  
20 state briefly the division, redivision, alteration, formation, or consolidation of precincts  
21 recommended by the board of registrars and the date upon which the same will be  
22 considered by the superintendent and shall contain a warning that any person objecting  
23 thereto must file his or her objections with the superintendent prior to such date. Upon the  
24 making of any such final order by the superintendent, a copy thereof shall be certified by  
25 the superintendent to the board of registrars."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-265, relating to duty of  
28 superintendent to select polling places, change, petition objecting to proposed change, space  
29 for political parties holding primaries, facilities for disabled voters, and selection of polling  
30 place outside precinct to better serve voters, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

31 "(f) A polling place shall not be changed on a day in which a primary, election, or runoff  
32 is held, or during the 60 day period prior to any general primary or general election or  
33 runoff from such primary or election, nor shall a polling place be changed during the 30  
34 day period prior to any special primary or special election or runoff from such primary or  
35 election, except, in the discretion of the superintendent, when an emergency or event  
36 occurs during such time period which renders the polling place unavailable for use at such  
37 general primary, general election, special primary, special election, or runoff."

38 **SECTION 3.**

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