

1 SB235
2 156960-1
3 By Senators Taylor, Scofield, Holtzclaw and Orr
4 RFD: Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics, and Elections
5 First Read: 21-JAN-14

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a board of registrars is
9 prohibited from registering any person as a
10 qualified elector within the 10-day time period
11 before an election, except in counties with a
12 population of 600,000 or more inhabitants, in which
13 case local laws for voter registration deadlines
14 apply.

15 Under existing law, the judge of probate
16 after registration is closed compiles a list of
17 registered voters.

18 This bill would extend the voter
19 registration prohibition time period from 10 to 17
20 days.

21 This bill would require the voter
22 registration list to be printed within the 10-day
23 period prior to an election.

24 This bill would also remove the exception so
25 that all counties in the state must comply with the
26 17-day deadline.

1 A BILL
2 TO BE ENTITLED
3 AN ACT
4

5 Relating to voter registration; to amend Sections
6 17-3-50 and 17-4-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to extend the time
7 period during which a board of registrars is prohibited from
8 registering any person as a qualified elector from 10 to 17
9 days before an election; to require the voter registration
10 list to be printed within the 10-day period before an
11 election; and to remove the exception that counties with a
12 population of 600,000 or more inhabitants comply with local
13 laws for voter registration deadlines.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. Sections 17-3-50 and 17-4-2 of the Code
16 of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

17 "§17-3-50.

18 "~~(a)~~ The boards of registrars in the several
19 counties of the state shall not register any person as a
20 qualified elector within ~~10~~ 17 days prior to any election;
21 provided, that the boards shall maintain open offices during
22 business days in such ~~10-day~~ 17-day period and on election day
23 during the hours of voting.

24 "~~(b)~~ The provisions of this section shall not apply
25 in any county having a population of not less than 600,000
26 inhabitants according to the 1970 or any succeeding federal
27 decennial census, and any currently effective local law or

1 ~~general law of local application providing for a deadline on~~
2 ~~registration in such county shall remain in full force and~~
3 ~~effect and shall not be repealed by operation of this section.~~

4 "§17-4-2.

5 "The board of registrars, when registration is
6 closed before a primary, general, or special election, shall
7 certify to the Secretary of State any additions, deletions,
8 corrections, or changes to the state voter registration list.
9 After registration has closed and within the 10-day period
10 before an election, the judge of probate shall prepare and
11 print a report from the state voter registration list of the
12 correct alphabetical lists of the qualified electors
13 registered by precincts, districts, or subdivisions of a
14 precinct where the precinct has been divided or subdivided, if
15 not within a city or incorporated town, and by wards and other
16 subdivisions, if within a city or incorporated town, and no
17 others. An electronic archive in the database for the state
18 voter registration list shall be recorded simultaneously with
19 the printing of each county's list of qualified voters. Each
20 printed list of qualified voters shall contain a printed
21 certification generated by the state voter registration system
22 establishing that the contents of the list are true and
23 correct as of the specified time and date when it was printed.
24 The judge of probate shall deliver or cause to be delivered to
25 the inspectors in each precinct, each district, each ward, or
26 each other subdivision one copy of the list of qualified
27 electors printed for such box or voting place immediately

1 preceding every general, primary, or special election, and the
2 delivered list shall contain only the names of persons
3 qualified to vote at such box or voting place; except, that
4 for purposes of information only, there may be delivered to
5 the inspectors lists prepared for other boxes or voting
6 places. The list published in the newspaper before each
7 primary election shall not be used as the poll list.

8 "Notwithstanding the foregoing, electronic access to
9 the state voter registration list may be utilized in lieu of a
10 printed list in accordance with administrative rules
11 promulgated and implemented by the Secretary of State. The
12 Secretary of State shall send any proposed new rule or
13 amendment to an existing rule by certified mail to each county
14 canvassing board at least 30 days prior to certification of
15 the proposed rule or amendment pursuant to the Administrative
16 Procedure Act.

17 "Both the board of registrars and the judge of
18 probate shall keep a current copy of the qualified elector
19 list for the county open and subject to public inspection."

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