

1 HB41  
2 164390-1  
3 By Representatives Standridge and Shedd  
4 RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections  
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15  
6 PFD: 02/18/2015

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a voter who is  
9 physically disabled or elderly must wait his or her  
10 turn in line at a polling place in order to vote.

11 This bill would require an election official  
12 to allow a voter who is physically disabled or over  
13 the age of 70 to move to the front of the line at a  
14 polling place if the voter so requests.

15  
16 A BILL  
17 TO BE ENTITLED  
18 AN ACT

19  
20 Relating to elections; to amend Section 17-9-13,  
21 Code of Alabama 1975, to require an election official to allow  
22 a voter who is physically disabled or over the age of 70 to  
23 move to the front of the line at a polling place if the voter  
24 so requests.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26 Section 1. Section 17-9-13, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

1           "§17-9-13.

2           "(a) Any person who wishes assistance in voting may  
3 receive assistance from any person the voter chooses except  
4 the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer  
5 or agent of the voter's union. The voter is not required to  
6 state a reason for requesting assistance. To obtain  
7 assistance, the voter must specifically request assistance by  
8 naming the person from whom assistance is sought and by  
9 signing in the appropriate column of the voters' poll list.  
10 The person providing assistance shall legibly sign in the  
11 adjacent column on the same line as the assisted voter's name.  
12 By signing the poll list, the assistant shall certify that he  
13 or she is not the voter's employer, an agent of the employer,  
14 or an officer or agent of the voter's union. If the voter is  
15 unable to sign the poll list, the person giving assistance  
16 shall write the voter's name in the appropriate column and  
17 then sign his or her own name in the third column.

18           "(b) Any voter remaining in a voting station,  
19 including, but not limited to, a voting machine, table, booth,  
20 or device that permits a voter to complete a ballot in  
21 privacy, for four minutes or longer may be asked by a poll  
22 official if he or she requires assistance. At the same time,  
23 the voter shall be reminded that he or she has the right to  
24 have the assistance of any other person as permitted by law in  
25 this section, and that the poll officials may assist the voter  
26 if he or she so desires. If the voter does not desire  
27 assistance, the voter shall be permitted to remain in the

1 voting station for no less than one additional minute. At the  
2 end of this additional minute, and if there exists a line of  
3 individuals waiting to vote, the voter may be informed that  
4 time is up and be asked to leave. If there is no line, the  
5 voter shall have as much time as necessary to finish voting.  
6 If the voter does request assistance, the voter may have the  
7 assistance of any person of his or her choosing currently in  
8 the voting place, as permitted by law in this section, and may  
9 have no less than an additional five minutes to vote. At the  
10 end of this additional five minutes, and if there exists a  
11 line of individuals waiting to vote, the voter may be informed  
12 that the time is up and be asked to leave the voting station.  
13 If there is no line, the voter shall have as much time as  
14 necessary to finish voting. Before an assigned voter exits the  
15 voting place, the voters' poll list must be revised to reflect  
16 that assistance was received.

17 "(c) An election official shall allow any voter who  
18 is physically disabled or over the age of 70, who so requests,  
19 to move to the front of the line at the polling place.

20 ~~"(c)~~ (d) This section applies to general, primary,  
21 and special elections."

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