

By: Senator(s) Turner-Ford

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2281

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR TO VOTE NOT MORE THAN
2 TEN DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF AN ELECTION; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN
3 CONDITIONS FOR EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE
4 SECRETARY OF STATE; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-195, MISSISSIPPI CODE
5 OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) **Early voting; applicability.** This act
8 applies to the following elections:

9 (a) A primary election;

10 (b) A general election;

11 (c) A special election to fill a vacancy in a statewide
12 office, the legislature or county, municipal or school district
13 office; and

14 (d) A runoff election.

15 (2) **Early voting; designated locations.** The Secretary of
16 State shall designate locations at which a qualified voter, duly
17 registered, may vote in person during not more than ten (10) days
18 before an election, up to and including the Saturday and Sunday
19 immediately before an election.



20 (3) **Designation and publication of early voting locations.**

21 (a) The Secretary of State shall designate and publish
22 the early voting locations at least thirty (30) days before an
23 election.

24 (b) The Secretary of State shall only designate a
25 location as an early voting location if it meets the requirements
26 of this act.

27 (c) In an election for a statewide office, at least one
28 (1) early voting location must be designated in each county.

29 (4) **Hours at designated early voting locations.**

30 (a) The Secretary of State shall ensure that the
31 designated early voting locations are open for at least eight (8)
32 hours on each day of early voting.

33 (b) The Secretary of State shall ensure that the
34 designated early voting locations open by 7 a.m. and close by 7
35 p.m. on at least five (5) of the early voting days.

36 (5) **Method of early voting.** The Secretary of State shall
37 determine whether early voting occurs by voting machine or paper
38 ballot.

39 (6) **Tabulation of early voting ballots.** Early voting
40 ballots must be tabulated at the same time as absentee ballots.

41 (7) **Daily updates of polling records.** The Secretary of
42 State shall establish procedures for daily updates of polling
43 records to ensure the integrity of each election.



44 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-195, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
45 amended as follows:

46 23-15-195. All elections by the people shall be by
47 ballot * * *.

48 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2024.

