

By: Senator(s) Simmons (12th)

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2645

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR TO VOTE NOT MORE THAN
2 20 DAYS NOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF AN ELECTION; TO
3 PROVIDE THAT PREELECTION VOTING MAY BE CONDUCTED IN THE
4 REGISTRAR'S OFFICE; TO REQUIRE A PERSON WHO DESIRES TO VOTE DURING
5 THE PREELECTION DAY VOTING PERIOD TO APPEAR AT THE REGISTRAR'S
6 OFFICE AND TO PROVIDE THAT AFTER SIGNING THE RECEIPT BOOK SUCH
7 PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE AT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE IN THE
8 SAME MANNER AS HE OR SHE WOULD AT HIS OR HER VOTING PRECINCT ON
9 THE DAY OF THE ELECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ELECTION LAWS THAT
10 GOVERN PROCEDURES FOR A PERSON WHO APPEARS TO VOTE ON THE DAY OF
11 ELECTION SHALL APPLY WHEN A PERSON APPEARS TO VOTE DURING THE
12 PREELECTION DAY VOTING PERIOD; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL VOTES CAST
13 DURING THE PREELECTION DAY VOTING PERIOD SHALL BE FINAL; TO
14 PROVIDE THAT THE VOTES CAST DURING THE PREELECTION DAY VOTING
15 PERIOD SHALL BE ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE VOTE CAST ON
16 ELECTION DAY; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH CANDIDATE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT
17 TO BE PRESENT AT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND TO CHALLENGE THE
18 QUALIFICATIONS OF ANY PERSON OFFERING TO PREELECTION VOTE IN THE
19 SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED BY LAW AT THE POLLING PLACE ON THE DAY OF
20 THE ELECTION; TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO PROMULGATE
21 RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE PREELECTION DAY
22 VOTING; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-195, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
23 CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

25 SECTION 1. Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be known
26 and may be cited as the "Preelection Day Voting Act."

27 SECTION 2. (1) The preelection day voting period shall
28 begin twenty (20) days before the date of each election and end at

29 12:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately before election day. Any
30 qualified elector may vote in the registrar's office in the county
31 in which the elector is registered to vote during the times
32 established for preelection day voting in this section.

33 (2) Preelection day voting shall be conducted in the office
34 of the registrar during weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
35 During the last full week before an election, the office of the
36 register may remain open for preelection voting on weekdays during
37 the lunch hour and from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

38 **SECTION 3.** (1) An elector who desires to vote early shall
39 appear at the office of the registrar in the county in which he or
40 she is registered to vote and shall present an acceptable form of
41 photo identification. After signing the appropriate receipt book,
42 the elector shall cast his or her ballot in the same manner as he
43 or she would at his or her voting precinct on the day of the
44 election. Except as may be otherwise provided by this act, the
45 election laws that govern procedures for a person who appears to
46 vote on the day of election shall apply when a person appears to
47 vote during the preelection day voting period.

48 (2) All votes cast at a preelection day voting location
49 shall be final.

50 (3) The votes cast during preelection voting shall be
51 announced simultaneously with the vote cast on election day.

52 **SECTION 4.** Each candidate or his or her representatives
53 shall have the right to be present at the office of the registrar



54 when it is open for preelection day voting and to challenge the
55 qualifications of any person offering to vote in the same manner
56 as provided by law at the polling place on election day.

57 **SECTION 5.** The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules and
58 regulations necessary to effectuate preelection day voting.

59 **SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-195, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
60 amended as follows:

61 23-15-195. All elections by the people shall be by
62 ballot * * *.

63 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2025.

