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HR688 makes Feb. 23 Ahmaud Arbery Day in Georgia

VOTING RIGHTS & ELECTIONS

HB1318 would allow voters to cast ballots in any county precinct. This is a popular idea among voters that would help remove confusion about the correct polling place following recent, ongoing changes to district maps, precincts and polling places.

A flurry of bills nibble away at fair and transparent elections.

- **SB517** would outline specific qualifications for absentee ballot requests and remove "no excuse" absentee vote requests. It also eliminates absentee ballot drop boxes, and revises required absentee ballot outer envelope information. It removes or revises requirements on how, where and when early voting takes place and further shortens the number of days for advance voting.
- **HB1392** gives the GBI jurisdiction to investigate claims of election fraud, including the ability to subpoena print or electronic documents or devices. Currently only the Secretary of State's office can investigate election fraud claims.
- **HB1402** prohibits state agencies, governments, officials or their employees from the solicitation and acceptance of funds from private individuals or nongovernmental entity for any purpose related to elections.
- **SB538** would require that absentee ballots be printed on particular security paper.

SR37 would set term lengths for State Senators to four years with a limit of three consecutive terms, for State House members at two years with a limit of six consecutive terms, and for Lieutenant Governor at four years with a limit of two consecutive terms. After being out of office for one year after their maximum terms, they could run again. Currently Georgia Senators serve two-year terms and Lieutenant Governors have no term limits. Many believe that term limits would bring fresh blood and new ideas to government, counterbalance incumbent advantages and limit the influence of special interest groups. The resolution passed.