

March 4, 1999

H 248. PRECINCT BOUNDARIES. TO AMEND THE STATUTES CONCERNING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES. Makes the following changes in Art. 12 A of GS Ch. 163 (GS 163-132.1 through - 132.6). (1) Extends the freeze on changes in precinct boundaries set in conformity with 2000 US Census block maps from Jan. 2, 2000 to Jan. 2, 2002. (2) Provides that where territory is annexed by a municipality and part of the boundary of the annexed area is also a precinct boundary, the annexed area may be automatically moved into the "city" precinct (as provided in current law) or, as a new provision, the county board of elections may adopt a resolution moving the precinct boundary to a visible feature that the Census Bureau has indicated it will use as a 2000 block boundary. (3) Deletes provisions that indicated separate legal consequences for some counties, so the precinct boundary/census requirements apply to all counties. (4) Deletes provisions requiring county boards of elections to make certain precinct map filings with the Legislative Services Office. (5) Revises the technicalities of communication between the Legislative Services Office and county boards of elections regarding the development and approval of precinct maps.

Intro. by Alexander and Bonner.

Ref. to Election Law and Campaign Reform

GS 163

March 31, 1999

H 248. PRECINCT BOUNDARIES. Intro. 3/4/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. (1) Provides that until Jan. 2, 2000 no newly created or altered precinct boundary is effective until approved by the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections. (2) Removes the following as features upon which new precinct boundaries may be based after Jan. 2, 2000: ridgelines, ravines, jeep trails, and major footpaths; and specifies that for power lines to be used they must be "major."

June 2, 1999

H 248. PRECINCT BOUNDARIES/MUNIC. REDISTRICTING. Intro. 3/4/99. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Changes to an act "TO AMEND THE STATUTES CONCERNING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES AND TO PROVIDE THE RULES AND PROCEDURE FOR MUNICIPAL REDISTRICTING IN 2001." Amends GS 163-132.1 (participation in 2000 census redistricting data program of the US Bureau of the Census) to add new sections (d1) and (d2). One section permits a county board of elections to postpone the effective date of precincts designated in Phase II of the 2000 Census redistricting until 1/1/2000. The second new section permits the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections to approve a request of a county board of elections to postpone the effective date of Phase II precinct lines until 1/1/2001. For the latter delay, the Executive Secretary-Director must make specific findings that: (1) the new lines would create a split precinct in 2000 for county commissioner, board of education, judicial, State legislative or congressional district elections that could be avoided by using old lines, and (2) that the county can provide reasonably reliable voter registration data for April and October of 2000 by the Phase II-designated precincts. Provides that Executive Secretary-Director can grant an exception only for precincts that would result in splits and for any adjacent precincts for which pre-Phase II precincts must be used to avoid geographic overlap or discontinuity.

Changes amendment of GS 163-132.3 (alterations to approved precinct boundaries) to keep "ridgelines" and "footpaths" as listed physical features that can help form precinct boundaries.

Municipal Redistricting in 2001. Amends 1989 SL Ch. 1012, Sec. 1 (municipal redistricting in 1991) to make it applicable to municipal redistricting in 2001. Recommends that if cities are unable to complete redistricting in 2001 in a timely fashion, it would be better to put off elections in an identical method as was allowed in 1991. Recommends that if changes have been adopted but approval under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is still pending on the date filing is to open, the 2001 election should be held under prior district boundaries. Amends GS 160A-23.1 (special rules for redistricting after 1990 census) to make provision applicable to redistricting after 2000 census. Makes date changes, but not substantive changes in provision. Amends GS 163-291(2) (filing of notice of candidacy) in two ways. (1) Provides that, in 2001, a candidate seeking party nomination

for municipal or district office in any city which elects members of its governing board on a district basis, or requires that candidates reside in a district in order to run, shall file notice of candidacy no earlier than noon on the fourth Monday in July and no later than noon on the second Friday in August preceding the election. (2) In 2002 if the election is held then under GS 160A-23.1, a candidate seeking party nomination for municipal or district office shall file notice of candidacy at the same time as notices of candidacy for county officers are required to be filed under GS 163-106. Amends GS 163-294.2(c) (notice of candidacy in nonpartisan municipal elections) to make exceptions for filing previously applicable in 1991 and 1992 applicable in 2001 and 2002 respectively.