

March 11, 1999

S 336. OMNIBUS ELECTION REFORM. TO MAKE SEVERAL CHANGES TO REFORM THE ELECTION LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA. Amends GS 163-278.13 to reduce maximum campaign contributions subject to section from \$4000 to \$2000; provides that section is to apply to contributions to executive committees at all levels from national to precinct level and that the section's limitation is to apply collectively to all executive committees of same party nationally or within state. Adds GS 163-278.13C limiting amount that may be received in contributions by principal campaign treasury of unopposed candidate to the yearly salary of office that candidate seeks. Contribution limitations effective as to all elections taking place on or after Jan. 1, 2000. Adds new GS 163-278.19(f) to allow certain nonbusiness entities to make contributions and expenditures, and makes new provision effective when it becomes law.

Amends GS 163-150 to require voters to sign pollbook before voting, with changes effective Jan. 1, 2000. Amends GS 163-278.13B to prohibit lobbyist or political committee or parent entity thereof that employs lobbyist from soliciting contributing from any person or political committee on behalf of members or candidates for Council of State or General Assembly; makes addition effective Oct. 1, 1999. Adds new GS 163-278.16A, to require persons conducting telephone "push polls" to identify themselves and entity paying for poll and candidate poll is supporting. Defines push poll as one that has appearance of political poll and has effect of disseminating derogatory statement or information about elected official or candidate for office or of casting official or candidate in false light. Makes violation a Class 1 misdemeanor, and permits actions for damages by candidates against opponents who violate requirements. Makes push poll provisions effective Jan. 1, 2000.

Amends GS 163-1(b) to change date of primary from Tuesday after first Monday in May to Tuesday after last Monday in August; amends GS 163-111 to hold second primary three weeks (now, four) after first primary; and amends GS 163-106 to change filing period so that it begins on last Monday in June and ends on second Monday thereafter. Amends various other sections in GS Chapter 163 to conform to changes in primary date. These changes effective Jan. 1, 2000.

Intro. by Allran and Horton.
Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 163