

March 29, 1999

S 568. ONE-STOP VOTING SITES. TO PERMIT COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL SITES FOR ONE-STOP ABSENTEE VOTING. Adds GS 163-227.2(f1) permitting county board of elections to provide, with State Board of Elections approval, one or more sites in county for absentee ballots to be applied for and cast. Effective July 1, 1999.

Intro. by Kinnaird.

Ref. to Judiciary II

GS 163

April 21, 1999

S 568. ONE-STOP VOTING SITES. Intro. 3/29/99. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends GS 163-227.2(a) to provide that a person who expects not to be present at the polling place in which that person is registered may obtain an absentee ballot.

July 1, 1999

S 568. ABSENTEE VOTING CHANGES. Intro. 3/29/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Changes title to read, "AN ACT TO REMOVE THE EXCUSE REQUIREMENT FROM ONE-STOP ABSENTEE VOTING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD IN NOVEMBER OF EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS, TO ALLOW COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL ONE-STOP SITES, AND TO MAKE CHANGES RELATED TO STREAMLINING THE ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCESS." Removes the excuse requirement from one-stop voting for elections held on the day of the general election in November of even-numbered years. Makes various changes to the one-stop voting procedures in the office of the county board of elections. Amends proposed GS 163-227.2(f1) to require a unanimous vote of present members of the county board of elections to designate sites at which absentee ballots may be applied for and cast. Requires that any site other than the board of elections office be in a building the board is entitled to use as a voting place. Amends GS 163-228 to require that certain information regarding requests for absentee ballots be recorded in an official register. Adds GS 163-230.1(a2) describing the procedure for the delivery of absentee ballots and container-return envelope to applicant. Adds GS 163-230.1(c1) requiring meetings of the county board of elections during the period in which absentee ballots are authorized for the purpose of passing upon applications for such ballots. Amends GS 163-234 regarding counting absentee ballots by county board of elections. Adds language to GS 163-155(4) to detail process for transporting and counting paper ballots in precincts using electronic voting equipment. Adds new GS 163-257 allow persons to apply for absentee ballots by facsimile or electronic mail. Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for a candidate to witness absentee ballots of a nonrelative. Adds new GS 163-27.1 allowing a chief election official to exercise emergency powers in certain circumstances, including the occurrence of a natural disaster, extremely inclement weather, or an armed conflict.

July 9, 1999

S 568. ABSENTEE VOTING CHANGES. Intro. 3/25/99. House amendments make the following changes to 3rd edition. Amendment #1 modifies proposed GS 163-27.1 to allow the Executive Secretary-Director, as the chief State election official, to exercise emergency powers in certain circumstances. Deletes provision allowing the exercise of emergency powers when an election contest court finds that there were errors in the conduct of an election that make it impossible to determine the result. Requires the Executive Secretary-Director to avoid unnecessary conflict with the statutory provisions. Amendment #2 requires the State Board of Elections to promulgate rules for the use of facsimiles and electronic mail in application for and voting by absentee ballot. Amendment #3 requires a unanimous vote of all members, instead of all members present, to provide a site in the county where absentee ballots may be applied for and cast.

July 12, 1999

S 568. ABSENTEE VOTING CHANGES. Intro. 3/29/99. House amendments make the following changes to 3rd edition. Amendment #5 amends GS 163-227.2(f1) to provide that the Plan of Implementation must provide for presence of political party observers at each one-stop site

equivalent to provisions in GS 163-45 for party observers at voting places on election day. Amendment #6 amends the same subsection to require that every individual staffing absentee voting sites must be a member or full-time employee of the county board of elections or an employee who has received training equivalent to that given a full-time employee.

July 13, 1999

S 568. ABSENTEE VOTING CHANGES. Intro. 3/29/99. House amendment makes the following changes to 4th edition. Requires voter seeking to cast absentee ballot under “one-stop” voting procedure in GS 163-227.2 to show one of seven forms of identification (voter registration card issued under GS 163-82.8, if it has an identification number for the voter; drivers license; special identification card issued under GS 20-37.7; passport; identification card issued by US Dep’t of Defense; uniform prescription drug identification card required by GS 58-3-177; or social security card and one other type of identification showing voter’s name and picture). Voter who does not show such identification will be allowed to mark a ballot, which will be sealed in an envelope with fact of “no I.D.” noted. County board of elections is to determine if voter is eligible to cast ballot; if so, it is to count it. Requires State Board of Elections to promulgate rules with instructions for county boards on how to determine persons’ eligibility who apply to vote by absentee ballot under GS 163-227.2.

July 19, 1999

S 568. ABSENTEE VOTING CHANGES. Intro. 3/29/99. Conference report recommends the following changes to 5th edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Amends GS 163-227.2 to delete provisions of 5th edition requiring that ballot completed by absentee voter who fails to produce one of seven specified types of identification is set aside for special handling. Adds new subsection (f2) to GS 163-227.2 providing that challenge may be entered against voter at one-stop site or during one-stop voting by person conducting one-stop voting or another registered voter who resides in the same precinct as voter being challenged. If challenged at place where one-stop voting occurs, voter to be allowed to cast ballot in same way as other voters.