

January 26, 2001

**S 10. BALLOT ACCESS CHANGES. TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE BALLOT ACCESS LAWS.**

Rewrites GS 163-96 to require that any petition for formulation of a new political party be filed before the last Friday in July (instead of first day in June) preceding the general state election in which the party wants to participate and to change the required contents of the heading of the petition, so that it names location of the state headquarters but not the state chairperson, and specifies span of years during which the party wants its candidates to be listed on the ballot. Rewrites GS 163-97 to provide that a party's failure to poll at least 10 percent of the vote results in its ceasing to be included on the ballot (losing ballot status), not in its ceasing to be a political party. Rewrites GS 163-97.1 to require county board of elections, within 90 days after a party loses its ballot status, to notify each voter affiliated with that party of the legal consequences of continued affiliation with the party, including potential inability to vote in any party primary. Rewrites GS 163-98 to allow a new political party, in the first general election after it qualifies, to have its candidates for any offices (not just state, Congressional, and national) listed on ballots. Rewrites GS 163-122 to provide that petitions supporting a person's candidacy as an unaffiliated candidate be signed by a specified percent of voters who voted in the most recent election for that office (instead of registered voters) and, in the case of presidential candidates or candidates for any office elected statewide, reduces the percent from 2 to 1.5 and adds requirement that the petition be signed by at least 200 registered voters from each of four congressional districts in the state. In GS 163-209, changes the deadlines for the filing of names of presidential electors and candidates with the Secretary of State. Rewrites GS 163-123, regarding write-in candidates, to make the procedures regarding candidates for statewide office also apply to candidates for President, Vice President, and presidential elector. Effective with respect to elections held on and after January 1, 2002.

**Intro. by Gulley.**

Held as Filed	GS 163
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March 14, 2001

**S 10. BALLOT ACCESS CHANGES.** Intro. 1/25/01. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Deletes requirement that petition for formation of new political party must state name and address of state chairman. Adds provision for designation of vice presidential candidate by the political party of a candidate who has qualified for the ballot as an unaffiliated candidate.

April 2, 2001

**S 10. BALLOT ACCESS CHANGES.** Intro. 1/25/01. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Modifies amendment to GS 163-98, regarding general election participation by new party, to provide that only persons affiliated as registered voters with new party at time of their certification are eligible to have their names printed on ballot as nominee of such party, and to prohibit a person whose name appeared on ballot in another party's primary from having his or her name printed on ballot as nominee of new party. Adds amendment to GS 163-106(a), modifying the notice and pledge required of candidates for selection as nominee of political party, to include a promise not to run for the same office in the general election as nominee of another party or as unaffiliated candidate.

May 31, 2001

**S 10. BALLOT ACCESS CHANGES.** Intro. 1/25/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Provides that unaffiliated candidates must petition the State Board of Elections before the last Friday in June preceding the general election. Previous version of bill had extended time to end of July.