

January 29, 2001

S 17. ELECTION REWRITE/BALLOTS AND VOTING. *TO REWRITE ARTICLE 13 AND ARTICLE 14 OF CHAPTER 163 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELECTION LAWS REVISION COMMISSION.* Rewrites and combines into one article the general instructions and voting systems provisions of NC election law. Creates more flexible and generally simpler statutory provisions on (1) ballot types, (2) sample ballots, (3) ballot standards, content, format, preparation, and certification; (4) purchase and use of voting systems by counties; and (5) procedures at voting places, including assistance to voters and the actual voting process.

Intro. by Gulley.

Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 163

April 9, 2001

S 17. ELECTION REWRITE-1. Intro. 1/29/01. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Allows official ballots to include courtesy titles of Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms. Adds provision for write-in voting on official ballots. Adds requirement that the no-campaigning buffer area around voting places be no less than 25 feet. Makes other technical changes.

July 17, 2001

S 17. ELECTION REWRITE-1. Intro. 01/29/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Changes title to *AN ACT TO REWRITE ARTICLE 13 AND ARTICLE 14 OF CHAPTER 163 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELECTION LAWS REVISION COMMISSION; TO PERMIT THE USE OF CERTAIN GENDER TITLES ON THE BALLOT; TO GIVE THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FLEXIBILITY IN SETTING A BUFFER ZONE AROUND A VOTING PLACE, WITH A MINIMUM OF 25 FEET; AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.* Adds provision to new GS 163-165.3 to require the State Board of Elections to promulgate rules for late changes in ballots. The rules must provide for reprinting, where practical, of official ballots as a result of replacement candidates to fill vacancies in accordance with GS 163-114, and if an official ballot is not reprinted, a vote for a candidate who has been replaced in accordance with GS 163-114 will count for the replacement candidate. Changes order of candidates on general election ballot (nominees of parties that reflect at least five percent of statewide voter registration) so that such political parties rotate order each three years, and if there are more than two eligible parties, then the order among those parties shall be determined by lot, with no party being eligible for the top slot for three years after it has left the top spot. Changes new GS 163-165.7 to provide that only voting systems approved by the State Board may be used to conduct elections, but that the Board may authorize a voting system not approved for general use upon request of a local board of elections. When the State Board disapproves a voting system, the county must be given up to four years to replace the system if the county makes a showing that discontinuance would impose a financial hardship. A county may appeal the State Board's disapproval of a voting system to the superior court or to the Superior Court of Wake County. Deletes reference to "primary" in provision requiring appointment of sufficient number of voting system custodians under GS 163-165.10. Requires county board of elections to provide, where practical, an area outside the voting place buffer zone where persons may distribute campaign literature and solicit votes. Adds new GS 163-327.1 to provide special rules for elections held to fill vacancies for superior court judges. Makes other conforming changes.

July 26, 2001

S 17. ELECTION REWRITE-1. Intro. 1/29/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Amends proposed GS 163-166.3 (limited access to the voting enclosure) to: (1) permit a voter's minor children under the age of 18, or minor children under the age of 18 who are in the voter's care, to enter the voting enclosure with the voter; but such minors may enter only while accompanying the voter and while under the voter's control; and (2) permit a person authorized to assist a voter under proposed GS 163-166.8 to enter the voting enclosure only while assisting the voter. Makes technical and conforming changes.

August 8, 2001

S 17. ELECTION REWRITE-1. Intro. 1/29/01. House amendment makes the following changes to 4th edition. Changes new provision setting limit of buffer zone around voting place at “50 feet from the entrance to the voting place” to “50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured when that door is closed.” Adds new provision requiring county board of elections to tell public, for each voting place, the door from which the buffer zone is measured, the distance the zone extends from that door, and any available information concerning political activity, including sign placement, that is permitted beyond that zone. Information must be made available no later than 30 days before each election.