

April 7, 2003

H 867. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT. *TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED OF A NEW PARTY TO ACHIEVE BALLOT ELIGIBILITY; TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VOTES A NEW PARTY MUST GAIN FOR A NOMINEE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN BALLOT ELIGIBILITY; AND TO ALLOW THAT NOMINEE TO BE ANY STATEWIDE NOMINEE, NOT JUST ITS NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR OR GOVERNOR.*

Amends GS 163-96(a) and 163-97 by reducing number of votes required to qualify as political party and maintain that status to 2% (was, 10%) of votes cast in any statewide election (was, votes cast for Governor and presidential electors) and reduce number of signatures required to achieve political party status to .5% (was, 2%) of total number of voters. Applies to elections held after Jan. 1, 2004.

Intro. by Blust.

Ref. to Election Law	GS 163
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April 21, 2003

H 867. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT. Intro. 4/7/03. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Reinstates GS 163-96(a)(1) definition of political party as party that polled a certain percentage for its candidates for Governor, or for presidential electors (was, any statewide office). Also reinstates same language in GS 163-97 and further provides that votes for a group of a party's candidates shall be considered in determining party's status as political party. Changes deadlines for filing new party petitions [GS 163-96(a)(2)] to April (was, June) preceding first general state election and for nominating new party candidates (GS 163-98) to May (was, July) preceding first general election (was, June). Amends GS 163-122(a)(1) to reduce number of signatures required of a statewide unaffiliated candidate to achieve ballot eligibility to .5% (was, 2%) and to provide that percentage shall be based upon voters who voted in most recent general election for Governor (was, total number of registered voters) and to require that a candidate's petition shall be signed by at least 200 registered voters from each of four congressional districts. Makes technical changes.