

April 21, 2005

H 1446. BETTER ELECTIONS ACT. TO REFORM THE ELECTION LAWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING VOTING SIMPLER AND FAIRER. Amends GS 163-165.6(e) and 163-182.1(a)(7) to allow straight ticket voting that includes offices of US president and vice-president. Amends GS 163-166.12 and other statutes to require all voters to present a current and valid photo ID or other specified form of identification. Amends GS 163-165.6(d) to provide that ballot order for nominees of political parties will be determined by rotation rather than alphabetical order. Requires all municipal elections to be held on the uniform days specified in GS 163-279 and repeals conflicting local acts. Requires State Board of Elections to prepare plan to implement voting via Internet unless it determines that Internet voting is not feasible. Enacts new GS 165-203 requiring General Assembly to divide counties among congressional districts only when necessary to achieve single-member districts and to comply with the NC Constitution and federal law in achieving population equality and avoiding racial discrimination. Prohibits State Board of Elections from approving voting systems that have not been approved by the National Association of State Election Directors. Effective January 1, 2006; applies to primaries and elections held on or after that date.

Intro. by Blust.

Ref. to Election Law

GS 163, 165