

February 7, 2005

**H 88. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT. TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY AND OF A STATEWIDE UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE TO ACHIEVE BALLOT ELIGIBILITY; TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VOTES A NEW POLITICAL PARTY MUST GAIN FOR A NOMINEE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN BALLOT ELIGIBILITY; AND TO MOVE TO A DATE BEFORE THE POLITICAL PARTY PRIMARIES AND DEADLINES FOR FILING NEW POLITICAL PARTY PETITIONS AND NOMINATING NEW POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES.** 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 0.5% (was, 2%) of total number of voters. Amends GS 163-98 to provide that new political party must certify its candidates to the State Board of Elections no later than May 1 (now July 1) preceding the general election. Amends GS 163-122(a)(1) to require that, to be placed on the ballot, an unaffiliated candidate must present a petition with signatures of 0.5% of voters who voted in most recent election for Governor and at least 200 voters from each of 4 congressional districts. Applies to elections held after Jan. 1, 2006.

**Intro. by Miller.**

Ref. to Election Law

GS 163

March 28, 2005

**H 88. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT.** Intro. 2/7/05. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends GS 163-98 and enacts new GS 163-122(d) to require the payment of a filing fee equal to 1% of the annual salary for the office sought in order for the names of unaffiliated and new party candidates to be printed on the general election ballot. Amends GS 163-114 to make an individual whose name appeared on the primary election ballot preliminary to the general election ineligible for nomination by another party for the same office in the same year.

August 23, 2005

**H 88. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT.** Intro. 2/7/05. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Amends the proposed filing fee provisions in GS 163-98 with respect to new party candidates and in GS 163-122 with respect to unaffiliated candidates to conform those provisions with the general filing fee provisions in GS 163-107 and 163-107.1.

August 23, 2005

**H 88. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT.** Intro. 2/7/05. House amendment makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Amends section defining "political party" to mean any group of voters which, at the last general election, polled for its candidate for Governor, or for presidential electors, at least 7% (was, 2%) of the vote cast in the entire state, or any group of voters that has filed petitions requesting a new political party that have been signed by registered voters equal in number to 2% (was, 0.5%) of voters who voted in last general election for Governor. Amends GS 163-97 to provide that a political party ceases to be recognized when it fails to poll for its candidate for Governor or for presidential electors at least 7% (was, 2%) of the entire vote cast in the state for Governor or for presidential electors at the general election. Amends GS 163-122(a)(1) to require that a person wanting to appear on a ballot as an unaffiliated candidate must have petitions signed by at least 2% (was 0.5%) of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent election for Governor.

July 19, 2006

**H 88. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT.** Filed 2/3/05. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 4th edition. Amends GS 163-96(a) to (1) reduce the percentage of votes required in the last election for Governor or presidential electors to qualify as a political party from 7% to 2%; and (2) change the date on which petitions for the formulation of a new political party

are due from April 1 to June 1. Amends GS 163-97 to reduce the percentage of votes from 7% to 2% that a political party must receive for its candidate for governor or presidential electors in order to remain a valid party. Amends GS 163-98 to change from May 1 to July 1 the date on which a new political party must certify the names of its candidates for the next general election. Makes technical and conforming changes.

July 20, 2006

**H 88. ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT.** Filed 2/3/05. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 5th edition. Amends GS 163-97 to clarify that a group's status as a political party will be terminated in the event it fails to meet the test established in GS 163-96(a)(1) (as amended, defines a political party as a group of voters that polls at least 2% of the entire vote cast for its candidate for Governor, or for presidential electors).

August 22, 2006

**SL 2006-234 (H 88). ELECTORAL FAIRNESS ACT. AN ACT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED OF A STATEWIDE UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE TO ACHIEVE BALLOT ELIGIBILITY; TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VOTES A NEW POLITICAL PARTY MUST GAIN FOR A NOMINEE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN BALLOT ELIGIBILITY; TO EXTEND FILING FEE PROVISIONS TO NEW PARTY AND UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATES; AND TO PROVIDE THAT A CANDIDATE WHO RAN IN A PARTY PRIMARY FOR AN OFFICE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION BY ANOTHER PARTY TO FILL A VACANCY IN ITS NOMINATION FOR THE SAME OFFICE IN THE SAME YEAR.** Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 2/7/05, 3/28/05, 8/23/05, 7/19/06, and 7/20/06. Enacted August 13, 2006. Effective January 1, 2007.