March 24, 2005

S 926. ELECTION ADMIN. AMENDMENTS. *TO ALLOW POLITICAL PARTIES TO USE "RUNNERS" TO PICK UP VOTER LISTS FROM POLLS; TO PROHIBIT A CANDIDATE FROM BEING AN OBSERVER AT THE POLLS; TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PERMIT DIFFERENT VOTING SYSTEMS IN THE SAME PRECINCT; TO ALLOW THE CHANGING OF REGISTERED VOTERS BASED ON ADJUSTED COUNTY LINE; TO ALLOW THE STUDY OF PAPER BALLOTS BY SCHOLARS; TO CHANGE THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A PROTEST FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.; TO PERMIT THE SAME KIND OF VOTER ASSISTANCE IN ONE-STOP SITES AS AT VOTING PLACES ON ELECTION DAY; TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A STATEWIDE UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE TO CONFORM TO A FEDERAL COURT DECISION; TO ALLOW A UNANIMOUS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO DISMISS A PROTEST AS FRIVOLOUS; TO PROHIBIT PIECE PAYMENT FOR VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES; TO EXPRESSLY PROVIDE THAT PRECINCT TRANSFER VOTERS AT ONE-STOP SITES NEED NOT VOTE PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT ONE-STOP VOTERS BE INSTRUCTED IN HOW TO VOTE MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS; TO FIX THE SALARY ON WHICH A FILING FEE FOR AN OFFICE IS BASED; TO REMOVE THE OUTDATED REFERENCE IN THE FILING FEE STATUTE TO OFFICES "COMPENSATED ENTIRELY BY FEES"; TO ALLOW ONE-STOP SITES IN SOME NONPUBLIC BUILDINGS; TO ALLOW THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO AUTOMATICALLY CANCEL A VOTER'S REGISTRATION IN A FORMER COUNTY WHEN THE VOTER REGISTERS IN A NEW COUNTY; TO UPDATE AND MAKE MORE TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL THE LANGUAGE IN THE STATUTE PROVIDING FOR ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION DATA; AND TO EXPRESSLY ALLOW ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS.* Amends GS Chapter 163 as title indicates. Also provides that each party is entitled to only one voter list at each of the scheduled times and authorizes party runner to enter voting enclosure only when necessary to announce runner's presence. Allows Executive Director of the State Board of Elections to approve a proposal by a county board of elections to contract with an accredited institution of higher education to dispose of paper official ballots after Director makes certain findings. Amends GS 163-122(a)(1) (unaffiliated candidates nominated by petition) to require that petition be signed by 2% of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor and that petition be signed by at least 200 registered voters in each of the 4 NC congressional districts. Provides that if State Board of Elections has dismissed a protest as frivolous the superior court may not issue a stay of certification. Makes violation of piece payment prohibition a Class 2 misdemeanor. Makes technical corrections and conforming changes. Applies to all primaries and elections held on or after July 1, 2005.
Intro. by Clodfelter.
Ref. to Judiciary I   GS 163