

March 22, 2007

**S 1481. CAMPAIGN REPORT RANDOM AUDITS.** Filed 3/22/07. *TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT RANDOM AUDITS OF CAMPAIGN REPORTS; TO PROVIDE FOR CIVIL PENALTIES FOR WILLFUL CONCEALMENT THROUGH LATE FILING; AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO THE CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR KNOWINGLY SIGNING A FALSE CAMPAIGN REPORT.*

Amends GS 163-278.22 to authorize the State Board of Election (BOE) to conduct random audits of candidates, political and referendum committees, and legal assistance funds and to require the BOE to adopt rules to ensure random selection. Amends GS 163-278.34 to provide that if the BOE determines by clear and convincing evidence that a late filing constitutes a willful attempt to conceal contributions or expenditures, it may assess a civil penalty, not to exceed three times the amount of the contributions and expenditures at issue. Amends GS 163-278.32 to provide that a certification under the article is treated as if it were under oath and making a certification knowing the information to be untrue is a Class F felony. Appropriates \$1 million for 2007-08 from the General Fund to the State Board of Elections for implementation. Effective July 1, 2007, and applies to all reports due or filed on or after that date.

**Intro. by Rand.**

GS 163, APPROP

May 22, 2007

**S 1481. CAMPAIGN REPORT RANDOM AUDITS.** Filed 3/22/07. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Modifies proposed amendments to GS 163-278.22 to (1) remove legal assistance funds from the list of entities subject to random audits by the State Board of Elections and (2) remove the proposed broadening of the board's authority to make investigations. Removes proposed amendments to GS 163-278.34 providing for civil penalties when the Board determines that a late filing constitutes a willful attempt to conceal contributions or expenditures.