



**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
CONFERENCE REPORT  
House Bill 908**

H908-CRST-128 [v.3]

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[NO] Title Change

[NO] For Committee Substitute

To: The President of the Senate  
The Speaker of the House of Representatives

The conferees appointed to resolve the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives on House Bill 908, A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE ELECTION LAWS RELATED TO VOTING EQUIPMENT, PREPARATION OF BALLOTS, AND TO THE DUTIES OF THE COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS AND THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR PREREGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND TO EXPAND INSTRUCTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING IN THE HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM AND TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PROMOTE REGISTRATION AND PREREGISTRATION OF STUDENTS; TO PERMIT THE RETENTION OF VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS IN ANY FORMAT APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES; TO DESIGNATE THE VOTING TABULATION DISTRICTS OF NORTH CAROLINA; TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY TO DEMAND THE USE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AS ONE-STOP SITES; TO PROVIDE FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPRESSION AROUND A VOTING PLACE; TO CLARIFY THAT SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLDS MAY REGISTER AT EARLY VOTING SITES UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS THEY MAY REGISTER ELSEWHERE AND TO MAKE RELATED TECHNICAL CHANGES; TO PROHIBIT THE AWARDED OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AGAINST THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN ELECTION PROTEST CASES; TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADOPTS INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING AND TO ALLOW THE USE OF THE TERM RANKED CHOICE VOTING; AND TO AUTHORIZE A STUDY OF THE PROCESS OF FILLING VACANCIES IN LOCAL ELECTED OFFICES, Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 7/30/09 Fifth Edition Engrossed 8/6/09, submit the following report:

The House and Senate agree to the following amendments and the House concurs in the Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 7/30/09, Fifth Edition Engrossed 8/6/09, as amended:

On page 12, line 31 through page 13, line 12 by rewriting those lines to read:

"SECTION 23. G.S. 163-227.2(g) reads as rewritten:



\* H 9 0 8 - C R S T - 1 2 8 - V - 3 \*

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"(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a county board of elections by unanimous vote of all its members may provide for one or more sites in that county for absentee ballots to be applied for and cast under this section. Every individual staffing any of those sites shall be a member or full-time employee of the county board of elections or an employee of the county board of elections whom the board has given training equivalent to that given a full-time employee. Those sites must be approved by the State Board of Elections as part of a Plan for Implementation approved by both the county board of elections and by the State Board of Elections which shall also provide adequate security of the ballots and provisions to avoid allowing persons to vote who have already voted. The Plan for Implementation shall include a provision for the presence of political party observers at each one-stop site equivalent to the provisions in G.S. 163-45 for party observers at voting places on election day. A county board of elections may propose in its Plan not to offer one-stop voting at the county board of elections office; the State Board may approve that proposal in a Plan only if the Plan includes at least one site reasonably proximate to the county board of elections office and the State Board finds that the sites in the Plan as a whole provide adequate coverage of the county's electorate. If a county board of elections has considered a proposed Plan or Plans for Implementation and has been unable to reach unanimity in favor of a Plan, a member or members of that county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to adopt a plan for it. If petitioned, the State Board may also receive and consider alternative petitions from another member or members of that county board. The State Board of Elections may adopt a Plan for that county. The State Board, in that plan, shall take into consideration factors including geographic, demographic, and partisan interests of that county.

(g1) The State Board of Elections shall not approve, either in a Plan approved unanimously by a county board of elections or in an alternative Plan proposed by a member or members of that board, a one-stop site in a building that the county board of elections is not entitled under G.S. 163-129 to demand and use as an election-day voting place, unless the State Board of Elections finds that other equally suitable sites were not available and that the use of the sites chosen will not unfairly advantage or disadvantage geographic, demographic, or partisan interests of that county. In providing the site or sites for one-stop absentee voting under this section, the county board of elections shall make a request to the State, county, city, local school board, or other entity in control of the building that is supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by or through tax revenues at least 90 days prior to the start of one-stop absentee voting under this section. The request shall clearly identify the building, or any specific portion thereof, requested the dates and times for which that building or specific portion thereof is requested and the requirement of an area for election related activity. If the State, local governing board, or other entity in control of the building does not respond to the request within 20 days, the building or specific portion thereof may be used for one-stop absentee voting as stated in the request. If the State, local governing board, or other entity in control of the building or specific portion thereof responds negatively to the request within 20 days, that entity and the county board of elections shall, in good faith, work to identify a building or specific portion thereof in which to conduct one-stop absentee voting under this section. If no building or specific portion thereof has been agreed upon within 45 days from the date the

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county board elections received a response to the request, the matter shall be resolved by the State Board of Elections."

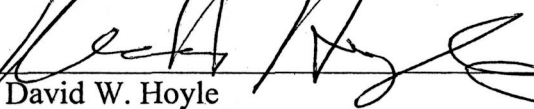
The conferees recommend that the Senate and the House of Representatives adopt this report.

Date Conferees approved report: August 7, 2009.


Conferees for the Senate

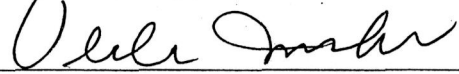
  
Daniel G. Clodfelter, Chair

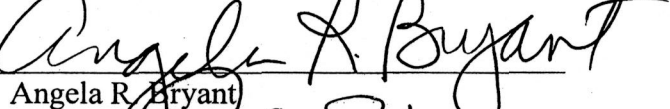
  
William R. Purcell

  
David W. Hoyle

Conferees for the House of Representatives

  
Grier Martin, Chair

  
Verla Insko

  
Angela R. Bryant

  
Paul Stam

House Submitted 8/7/09 placed on calendar 8/10/09  
ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ ( / ) Message Received \_\_\_\_\_  
ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ ( / ) Ordered Enrolled \_\_\_\_\_

KJG  
8/10