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PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H589-PCS70500-ST-94

Short Title: VIVA/Election Reform.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 8, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT BY ESTABLISHING THE
VOTER INFORMATION VERIFICATION ACT TO PROMOTE THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS THROUGH EDUCATION AND INCREASED REGISTRATION OF
VOTERS AND BY REQUIRING VOTERS TO PROVIDE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION
BEFORE VOTING TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF EACH REGISTERED VOTER TO
CAST A SECURE VOTE WITH REASONABLE SECURITY MEASURES THAT
CONFIRM VOTER IDENTITY AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT
RESTRICTION, AND TO FURTHER REFORM THE ELECTION LAWS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART 1. SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1.1. Parts 1 through 6 of this act shall be known and cited as the Voter Information Verification Act.

PART 2. PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

SECTION 2.1. Article 14A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 163-166.13. Photo identification requirement for voting in person.

(a) Every qualified voter voting in person in accordance with this Article, G.S. 163-227.2, or G.S. 163-182.1A shall present photo identification bearing any reasonable resemblance to that voter to a local election official at the voting place before voting, except as follows:

- (1) For a registered voter voting curbside, that voter shall present identification under G.S. 163-166.9.
- (2) For a registered voter who has a sincerely held religious objection to being photographed and has filed a declaration in accordance with G.S. 163-82.7A at least 25 days before the election in which that voter is voting in person, that voter shall not be required to provide photo identification.
- (3) For a registered voter who is a victim of a natural disaster occurring within 60 days before election day that resulted in a disaster declaration by the President of the United States or the Governor of this State who declares the



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1 lack of photo identification due to the natural disaster on a form provided by
2 the State Board, that voter shall not be required to provide photo
3 identification in any county subject to such declaration. The form shall be
4 available from the State Board of Elections, from each county board of
5 elections in a county subject to the disaster declaration, and at each polling
6 place and one-stop early voting site in that county. The voter shall submit the
7 completed form at the time of voting.

8 (b) Any voter who complies with subsection (a) of this section shall be permitted to
9 vote.

10 (c) Any voter who does not comply with subsection (a) of this section shall be
11 permitted to vote a provisional official ballot which shall be counted in accordance with
12 G.S. 163-182.1A.

13 (d) The local election official to whom the photo identification is presented shall
14 determine if the photo identification bears any reasonable resemblance to the voter presenting
15 the photo identification. If it is determined that the photo identification does not bear any
16 reasonable resemblance to the voter, the local election official shall comply with
17 G.S. 163-166.14.

18 (e) As used in this section, "photo identification" means any one of the following that
19 contains a photograph of the registered voter. In addition, the photo identification shall have a
20 printed expiration date and has not expired, provided that any voter having attained the age of
21 70 years at the time of presentation at the voting place shall be permitted to present an expired
22 form of any of the following that was unexpired on the voter's 70th birthday. Notwithstanding
23 the previous sentence, in the case of identification under subdivisions (4) through (6) of this
24 subsection, if it does not contain a printed expiration date, it shall be acceptable if it has a
25 printed issuance date that is not more than eight years before it is presented for voting:

26 (1) A North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Chapter 20 of the
27 General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional license.

28 (2) A special identification card for nonoperators issued under G.S. 20-37.7.

29 (3) A United States passport.

30 (4) A United States military identification card, except there is no requirement
31 that it have a printed expiration or issuance date.

32 (5) A Veterans Identification Card issued by the United States Department of
33 Veterans Affairs for use at Veterans Administration medical facilities
34 facilities, except there is no requirement that it have a printed expiration or
35 issuance date.

36 (6) A tribal enrollment card issued by a federally recognized tribe or a tribe
37 recognized by this State under Chapter 71A of the General Statutes.

38 (7) A drivers license or nonoperators identification card issued by another state,
39 the District of Columbia, or a territory or commonwealth of the United
40 States, but only if the voter's voter registration was within 90 days of the
41 election."

42 **SECTION 2.2.** Article 14A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
43 adding a new section to read:

44 **"§ 163-166.14. Evaluation of determination of nonreasonable resemblance of photo**
45 **identification.**

46 (a) Any local election official that determines the photo identification presented by a
47 voter in accordance with G.S. 163-166.13 does not bear any reasonable resemblance to that
48 voter shall notify the judges of election of the determination.

49 (b) When notified under subsection (a) of this section, the judges of election present
50 shall review the photo identification presented and the voter to determine if the photo
51 identification bears any reasonable resemblance to that voter. The judges of election present

1 may consider information presented by the voter in addition to the photo identification and
2 shall construe all evidence presented in a light most favorable to the voter.

3 (c) A voter subject to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be permitted to vote
4 unless the judges of election present unanimously agree that the photo identification presented
5 does not bear any reasonable resemblance to that voter. The failure of the judges of election
6 present to unanimously agree that photo identification presented by a voter does not bear any
7 reasonable resemblance to that voter shall be dispositive of any challenges that may otherwise
8 be made under G.S. 163-85(c)(10).

9 (d) A voter subject to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be permitted to vote a
10 provisional ballot in accordance with G.S. 163-88.1 if the judges of election present
11 unanimously agree that the photo identification presented does not bear any reasonable
12 resemblance to that voter.

13 (e) At any time a voter presents photo identification to a local election official other
14 than on election day, the county board of elections shall have available to the local election
15 official judges of election for the review required under subsection (b) of this section,
16 appointed in the manner as is in Article 5 of this Chapter, except that the individuals (i) may
17 reside anywhere in the county or (ii) be an employee of the county or the State. Neither the
18 local election official nor the judges of election may be a county board member. The county
19 board is not required to have the same judges of election available throughout the time period a
20 voter may present photo identification other than on election day but shall have at least two
21 judges, who are not of the same political party affiliation, available at all times during that
22 period.

23 (f) Any local or State employee appointed to serve as a judge of election may hold that
24 office in addition to the number permitted by G.S. 128-1.1.

25 (g) The county board of elections shall cause to be made a record of all voters subject to
26 subsection (c) of this section. The record shall include all of the following:

27 (1) The name and address of the voter.

28 (2) The name of the local election official under subsection (a) of this section.

29 (3) The names and a record of how each judge of election voted under
30 subsection (b) of this section.

31 (4) The date of the determinations under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

32 (5) A brief description of the photo identification presented by the voter.

33 (h) For purposes of this section, the term "judges of election" shall have the following
34 meanings:

35 (1) On election day, the chief judge and judges of election as appointed under
36 Article 5 of this Chapter.

37 (2) Any time other than on election day, the individuals appointed under
38 subsection (e) of this section.

39 (i) The State Board shall adopt rules for the administration of this section."

40 **SECTION 2.3.** Article 7A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
41 adding a new section to read:

42 **"§ 163-82.7A. Declaration of religious objection to photograph.**

43 (a) At the time of approval of the application to register to vote, a voter with a sincerely
44 held religious objection to being photographed may execute a declaration before an election
45 official to that effect to be incorporated as part of the official record of voter registration.

46 (b) At any time after the voter has registered to vote that the voter has determined the
47 voter has a sincerely held religious objection to being photographed, that voter may execute a
48 declaration before an election official to be incorporated as part of the official record of that
49 voter's voter registration.

50 (c) At any time after a voter has executed a declaration before an election official under
51 this section and that voter no longer has a sincerely held religious objection to being

1 photographed, that voter may request the cancellation of the declaration in writing to the county
2 board.

3 (d) All declarations under subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall include a
4 statement by the voter that the voter has a sincerely held religious objection to being
5 photographed and a requirement for the signature of the voter, which includes a notice that a
6 false or fraudulent declaration is a Class I felony pursuant to G.S. 163-275(13).

7 (e) The State Board shall adopt rules to establish a standard form for the administration
8 of this section."

9 **SECTION 2.5.** G.S. 163-166.7(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) Checking Registration. – A person seeking to vote shall enter the voting enclosure
11 through the appropriate entrance. A precinct official assigned to check registration shall at once
12 ask the voter to state current name and residence address. The voter shall answer by stating
13 current name and residence ~~address~~ address and presenting photo identification in accordance
14 with G.S. 163-166.13. In a primary election, that voter shall also be asked to state, and shall
15 state, the political party with which the voter is affiliated or, if unaffiliated, the authorizing
16 party in which the voter wishes to vote. After examination, that official shall state whether that
17 voter is duly registered to vote in that precinct and shall direct that voter to the voting
18 equipment or to the official assigned to distribute official ballots. If a precinct official states
19 that the person is duly registered, the person shall sign the pollbook, other voting record, or
20 voter authorization document in accordance with subsection (c) of this section before voting."

21 **SECTION 2.6.** G.S. 163-166.9 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 163-166.9. Curbside voting.**

23 (a) In any election or referendum, if any qualified voter is able to travel to the voting
24 place, but because of age or physical disability and physical barriers encountered at the voting
25 place is unable to enter the voting enclosure to vote in person without physical assistance, that
26 voter shall be allowed to vote either in the vehicle conveying that voter or in the immediate
27 proximity of the voting place.

28 (b) Any qualified voter voting under this section shall comply with G.S. 163-166.13(a)
29 by one of the following means:

30 (1) Presenting photo identification in accordance with G.S. 163-166.13.

31 (2) Presenting a copy of a document listed in G.S. 163-166.12(a)(2).

32 (c) The State Board of Elections shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules for the administration of
33 this section."

34 **SECTION 2.7.** G.S. 163-227.2(b) reads as rewritten:

35 "(b) Not earlier than the third Thursday before an election, in which absentee ballots are
36 authorized, in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than 1:00 P.M. on the last Saturday
37 before that election, the voter shall appear in person only at the office of the county board of
38 elections, except as provided in subsection (g) of this section. A county board of elections shall
39 conduct one-stop voting on the last Saturday before the election until 1:00 P.M. and may
40 conduct it until 5:00 P.M. on that Saturday. That voter shall enter the voting enclosure at the
41 board office through the appropriate entrance and shall at once state his or her name and place
42 of residence to an authorized member or employee of the ~~board~~ board and present photo
43 identification in accordance with G.S. 163-166.13. In a primary election, the voter shall also
44 state the political party with which the voter affiliates and in whose primary the voter desires to
45 vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to vote in the primary of a particular party
46 under G.S. 163-119, the voter shall state the name of the authorizing political party in whose
47 primary he wishes to vote. The board member or employee to whom the voter gives this
48 information shall announce the name and residence of the voter in a distinct tone of voice.
49 After examining the registration records, an employee of the board shall state whether the
50 person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the voter is found to be registered that voter may
51 request that the authorized member or employee of the board furnish the voter with an

1 application form as specified in G.S. 163-227. The voter shall complete the application in the
2 presence of the authorized member or employee of the board, and shall deliver the application
3 to that person."

4 **SECTION 2.8.** Article 15A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
5 adding a new section to read:

6 **"§ 163-182.1A. Counting of provisional official ballots cast due to failure to provide photo**
7 **identification when voting in person.**

8 (a) Unless disqualified for some other reason provided by law, the county board of
9 elections shall find that a voter's provisional official ballot cast as a result of failing to present
10 photo identification when voting in person in accordance with G.S. 163-166.13 is valid and
11 direct that the provisional ballot be opened and counted in accordance with this Chapter if the
12 voter complies with this section.

13 (b) A voter who casts a provisional official ballot wholly or partly as a result of failing
14 to present photo identification when voting in person in accordance with G.S. 163-166.13 may
15 comply with this section by appearing in person at the county board of elections and doing one
16 of the following:

17 (1) Presenting photo identification as defined in G.S. 163-166.13(e) that bears
18 any reasonable resemblance to the voter. The local election official to whom
19 the photo identification is presented shall determine if the photo
20 identification bears any reasonable resemblance to that voter. If not, that
21 local election official shall comply with G.S. 163-166.14.

22 (2) Presenting any of the documents listed in G.S. 163-166.12(a)(2) and
23 declaring that the voter has a sincerely held religious objection to being
24 photographed. That voter shall also be offered an opportunity to execute a
25 declaration under G.S. 163-82.7A for future elections.

26 (c) All identification under subsection (b) of this section shall be presented to the
27 county board of elections not later than 12:00 noon the day prior to the time set for the
28 convening of the election canvass pursuant to G.S. 163-182.5.

29 (d) If the county board of elections determines that a voter has also cast a provisional
30 official ballot for a cause other than the voter's failure to provide photo identification in
31 accordance with G.S. 163-166.13, the county board shall do all of the following:

32 (1) Note on the envelope containing the provisional official ballot that the voter
33 has complied with the proof of identification requirement.

34 (2) Proceed to determine any other reasons for which the provisional official
35 ballot was cast provisionally before ruling on the validity of the voter's
36 provisional official ballot."

37 **SECTION 2.9.** G.S. 163-87 reads as rewritten:

38 **"§ 163-87. Challenges allowed on day of primary or election.**

39 On the day of a primary or election, at the time a registered voter offers to vote, any other
40 registered voter of the precinct may exercise the right of challenge, and when ~~he~~ the voter does
41 so may enter the voting enclosure to make the challenge, but ~~he~~ the voter shall retire therefrom
42 as soon as the challenge is heard.

43 On the day of a primary or election, any other registered voter of the precinct may
44 challenge a person for one or more of the following reasons:

45 (1) One or more of the reasons listed in G.S. 163-85(c).

46 (2) That the person has already voted in that primary or election.

47 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-541, s. 16.1(b), effective August 28, 2009.

48 (4) If the challenge is made with respect to voting in a partisan primary, that the
49 person is a registered voter of another political party.

50 (5) Except as provided in G.S. 163-166.13(d) and G.S. 163-166.14, the voter
51 does not present photo identification in accordance with G.S. 163-166.13.

1 The chief judge, judge, or assistant appointed under G.S. 163-41 or 163-42 may enter
2 challenges under this section against voters in the precinct for which appointed regardless of
3 the place of residence of the chief judge, judge, or assistant.

4 If a person is challenged under this subsection, and the challenge is sustained under
5 G.S. 163-85(c)(3), the voter may still transfer ~~his~~that voter's registration under
6 G.S. 163-82.15(e) if eligible under that section, and the registration shall not be cancelled under
7 G.S. 163-90.2(a) if the transfer is made. A person who has transferred ~~his~~that voter's
8 registration under G.S. 163-82.15(e) may be challenged at the precinct to which the registration
9 is being transferred."

10 11 **PART 3. IMPLEMENTATION**

12 **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 20-37.7(d) reads as rewritten:

13 "(d) Expiration and Fee. – A special identification card issued to a person for the first
14 time under this section expires when a drivers license issued on the same day to that person
15 would expire. A special identification card renewed under this section expires when a drivers
16 license renewed by the card holder on the same day would expire.

17 The fee for a special identification card is the same as the fee set in G.S. 20-14 for a
18 duplicate license. The fee does not apply to a special identification card issued to a resident of
19 this State as follows:

- 20 (1) ~~who~~The applicant is legally blind, blind.
- 21 (2) The applicant is at least 70 years old, old.
- 22 (3) The applicant is homeless, has been issued a drivers license but the drivers
23 license is cancelled under G.S. 20-15, in accordance with G.S. 20-9(e) and
24 (g), as a result of a physical or mental disability or disease.
- 25 (4) The applicant is homeless. To obtain a special identification card without
26 paying a fee, a homeless person must present a letter to the Division from
27 the director of a facility that provides care or shelter to homeless persons
28 verifying that the person is homeless.
- 29 (5) The applicant is registered to vote in this State and does not have photo
30 identification acceptable under G.S. 163-166.13. To obtain a special
31 identification card without paying a fee, a registered voter shall sign a
32 declaration stating the registered voter is registered and does not have other
33 photo identification acceptable under G.S. 163-166.13. The Division shall
34 verify that voter registration prior to issuing the special identification card.
35 Any declaration shall prominently include the penalty under
36 G.S. 163-275(13) for falsely making the declaration.
- 37 (6) The applicant is appearing before the Division for the purpose of registering
38 to vote in accordance with G.S. 163-82.19 and does not have other photo
39 identification acceptable under G.S. 163-166.13. To obtain a special
40 identification card without paying a fee, that applicant shall sign a
41 declaration stating that applicant is registering to vote and does not have
42 other photo identification acceptable under G.S. 163-166.13. Any
43 declaration shall prominently include the penalty under G.S. 163-275(13) for
44 falsely making the declaration."

45 **SECTION 3.2.** G.S. 130A-93.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

46 "(c) Upon verification of voter registration, the State Registrar shall not charge any fee
47 under subsection (a) of this section to a registered voter who signs a declaration stating the
48 registered voter is registered to vote in this State and does not have a certified copy of that
49 registered voter's birth certificate or marriage license necessary to obtain photo identification
50 acceptable under G.S. 163-166.13. Any declaration shall prominently include the penalty under
51 G.S. 163-275(13) for falsely or fraudulently making the declaration."

1 **SECTION 3.3.** G.S. 161-10(a)(8) reads as rewritten:

2 "(8) Certified Copies of Birth and Death Certificates and Marriage Licenses. –
3 For furnishing a certified copy of a death or birth certificate or marriage
4 license ten dollars (\$10.00). Provided however, a ~~Register of Deeds~~register
5 of deeds, in accordance with G.S. 130A-93, may issue without charge a
6 certified ~~Birth Certificate~~birth certificate to any person over the age of 62
7 years. Provided, however, upon verification of voter registration, a register
8 of deeds, in accordance with G.S. 130A-93, shall issue without charge a
9 certified copy of a birth certificate or a certified copy of a marriage license to
10 any registered voter who declares the registered voter is registered to vote in
11 this State and does not have a certified copy of that registered voter's birth
12 certificate or marriage license necessary to obtain photo identification
13 acceptable under G.S. 163-166.13. Any declaration shall prominently
14 include the penalty under G.S. 163-275(13) for falsely or fraudulently
15 making the declaration."

16 **SECTION 3.4.** G.S. 163-275(13) reads as rewritten:

17 "(13) For any person falsely to make or present any certificate or other paper to
18 qualify any person fraudulently as a voter, or to attempt thereby to secure to
19 any person the privilege of ~~voting~~voting, including declarations made under
20 this Chapter, G.S. 20-37.7(d)(5), 20-37.7(d)(6), 130A-93.1(c), and
21 161-10(a)(8):"

22 23 **PART 4. ABSENTEE VOTING**

24 **SECTION 4.1.** G.S. 163-229(b) reads as rewritten:

25 "(b) Application on Container-Return Envelope. – In time for use not later than 60 days
26 before a statewide general election in an even-numbered year, and not later than 50 days before
27 a statewide primary, other general election or county bond election, the county board of
28 elections shall print a sufficient number of envelopes in which persons casting absentee ballots
29 may transmit their marked ballots to the county board of elections. However, in the case of
30 municipal elections, sufficient container-return envelopes shall be made available no later than
31 30 days before an election. Each container-return envelope shall have printed on it an
32 application which shall be designed and prescribed by the State Board of Elections, providing
33 for all of the following:

- 34 (1) ~~the~~The voter's certification of eligibility to vote the enclosed ballot and of
35 having voted the enclosed ballot in accordance with this ~~Article~~,Article.
36 (2) ~~a~~A space for identification of the envelope with the ~~voter~~,voter and the
37 voter's signature.
38 (3) ~~and a~~A space for the identification of the two persons witnessing the casting
39 of the absentee ballot in accordance with G.S. 163-231, those persons'
40 signatures, and those persons' addresses.
41 (4) A space for the name and address of any person who, as permitted under
42 G.S. 163-226.3(a), assisted the voter if the voter is unable to complete and
43 sign the certification and that individual's signature.
44 (5) A space for approval by the county board of elections.
45 (6) ~~The envelope shall~~A space to allow reporting of a change of name as
46 provided by G.S. 163-82.16.
47 (7) A prominent display of the unlawful acts under G.S. 163-226.3 and
48 G.S. 163-275, except if there is not room on the envelope, the State Board of
49 Elections may provide for that disclosure to be made on a separate piece of
50 paper to be included along with the container-return envelope.

1 The container-return envelope shall be printed in accordance with the instructions of the
2 State Board of Elections."

3 **SECTION 4.2.** G.S. 163-230.1 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 163-230.1. Simultaneous issuance of absentee ballots with application.**

5 (a) A qualified voter who is ~~eligible to vote by absentee ballot under~~
6 ~~G.S. 163-226(a)~~ desires to vote by absentee ballot, or that voter's near relative or verifiable legal
7 guardian, shall complete a request form for in writing an application for absentee ballots, an
8 absentee application and absentee ballots so that the county board of elections receives ~~the that~~
9 completed request form not later than 5:00 P.M. on the Tuesday before the election. That
10 completed written request form shall be ~~signed by the voter, the voter's near relative, or the~~
11 ~~voter's verifiable legal guardian~~ in compliance with G.S. 163-230.2. The county board of
12 elections shall enter in the register of absentee requests, applications, and ballots issued the
13 information required in G.S. 163-228 as soon as each item of that information becomes
14 available. Upon receiving the application, completed request form, the county board of elections
15 shall cause to be mailed to that voter ~~in a single package; package~~ that includes all of the
16 following:

- 17 (1) The official ballots ~~the that~~ voter is entitled to ~~vote; vote.~~
- 18 (2) A container-return envelope for the ballots, printed in accordance with
19 ~~G.S. 163-229; and~~ G.S. 163-229.
- 20 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 1999-455, s. 10.
- 21 (4) An instruction sheet.

22 The ballots, envelope, and instructions shall be mailed to the voter by the county board's
23 chairman, member, officer, or employee as determined by the board and entered in the register
24 as provided by this Article.

25 (a1) Absence for Sickness or Physical Disability. – Notwithstanding the provisions of
26 subsection (a) of this section, if a voter expects to be unable to go to the voting place to vote in
27 person on election day because of that voter's sickness or other physical disability, that voter or
28 that voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian may make ~~written the request under~~
29 subsection (a) of this section in person ~~for absentee ballots~~ to the board of elections of the
30 county in which the voter is registered after 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the election but
31 not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. The county board of elections shall treat
32 that completed request form in the same manner as a request under subsection (a) of this
33 section but may personally deliver the application and ballots to the voter or that voter's near
34 relative or verifiable legal guardian ~~enter in the register of absentee requests, applications, and~~
35 ~~ballots issued the information required in G.S. 163-228 as soon as each item of that information~~
36 ~~becomes available. The county board of elections shall personally deliver to the requester in a~~
37 ~~single package:~~

- 38 (1) ~~The official ballots the voter is entitled to vote;~~
- 39 (2) ~~A container-return envelope for the ballots, printed in accordance with~~
40 ~~G.S. 163-229; and~~
- 41 (3) ~~An instruction sheet.~~

42 (a2) Delivery of Absentee Ballots and Container-Return Envelope to Applicant. – When
43 the county board of elections receives a completed request form for applications and absentee
44 ballots, the board shall promptly issue and transmit them to the voter in accordance with the
45 following instructions:

- 46 (1) On the top margin of each ballot the applicant is entitled to vote, the chair, a
47 member, officer, or employee of the board of elections shall write or type the
48 words "Absentee Ballot No. ____" or an abbreviation approved by the State
49 Board of Elections and insert in the blank space the number assigned the
50 applicant's application in the register of absentee requests, applications, and
51 ballots issued. That person shall not write, type, or print any other matter

1 upon the ballots transmitted to the absentee voter. Alternatively, the board of
2 elections may cause to be barcoded on the ballot the voter's application
3 number, if that barcoding system is approved by the State Board of
4 Elections.

5 (2) The chair, member, officer, or employee of the board of elections shall fold
6 and place the ballots (identified in accordance with the preceding
7 instruction) in a container-return envelope and write or type in the
8 appropriate blanks thereon, in accordance with the terms of G.S. 163-229(b),
9 the absentee voter's name, the absentee voter's application number, and the
10 designation of the precinct in which the voter is registered. If the ballot is
11 barcoded under this section, the envelope may be barcoded rather than
12 having the actual number appear. The person placing the ballots in the
13 envelopes shall leave the container-return envelope holding the ballots
14 unsealed.

15 (3) The chair, member, officer, or employee of the board of elections shall then
16 place the unsealed container-return envelope holding the ballots together
17 with printed instructions for voting and returning the ballots, in an envelope
18 addressed to the voter at the post office address stated in the request, seal the
19 envelope, and mail it at the expense of the county board of elections:
20 Provided, that in case of a request received after 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday
21 before the election under the provisions of subsection (a1) of this section, in
22 lieu of transmitting the ballots to the voter in person or by mail, the chair,
23 member, officer, or employee of the board of elections may deliver the
24 sealed envelope containing the instruction sheet and the container-return
25 envelope holding the ballots to a near relative or verifiable legal guardian of
26 the voter.

27 The county board of elections may receive completed written requests~~request forms~~ for
28 applications at any time prior to the election but shall not mail applications and ballots to the
29 voter or issue applications and ballots in person earlier than 60 days prior to the statewide
30 general election in an even-numbered year, or earlier than 50 days prior to any other election,
31 except as provided in G.S. 163-227.2. No election official shall issue applications for absentee
32 ballots except in compliance with this Article.

33 (b) The application shall be completed and signed by the voter personally, the ballots
34 marked, the ballots sealed in the container-return envelope, and the certificate completed as
35 provided in G.S. 163-231.

36 (c) At its next official meeting after return of the completed container-return envelope
37 with the voter's ballots, the county board of elections shall determine whether the
38 container-return envelope has been properly executed. If the board determines that the
39 container-return envelope has been properly executed, it shall approve the application and
40 deposit the container-return envelope with other container-return envelopes for the envelope to
41 be opened and the ballots counted at the same time as all other container-return envelopes and
42 absentee ballots.

43 (c1) Required Meeting of County Board of Elections. – During the period commencing
44 on the third Tuesday before an election, in which absentee ballots are authorized, the county
45 board of elections shall hold one or more public meetings each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. for the
46 purpose of action on applications for absentee ballots. At these meetings, the county board of
47 elections shall pass upon applications for absentee ballots.

48 If the county board of elections changes the time of holding its meetings or provides for
49 additional meetings in accordance with the terms of this subsection, notice of the change in
50 hour and notice of the schedule of additional meetings, if any, shall be published in a
51 newspaper circulated in the county at least 30 days prior to the election.

1 At the time the county board of elections makes its decision on an application for absentee
2 ballots, the board shall enter in the appropriate column in the register of absentee requests,
3 applications, and ballots issued opposite the name of the applicant a notation of whether the
4 applicant's application was "Approved" or "Disapproved".

5 The decision of the board on the validity of an application for absentee ballots shall be final
6 subject only to such review as may be necessary in the event of an election contest. The county
7 board of elections shall constitute the proper official body to pass upon the validity of all
8 applications for absentee ballots received in the county; this function shall not be performed by
9 the chairman or any other member of the board individually.

10 (d) Repealed by Session Laws 1999-455, s. 10.

11 (e) The State Board of Elections, by rule or by instruction to the county board of
12 elections, shall establish procedures to provide appropriate safeguards in the implementation of
13 this section.

14 (f) For the purpose of this Article, "near relative" means spouse, brother, sister, parent,
15 grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law,
16 stepparent, or stepchild."

17 **SECTION 4.3.** G.S. 163-230.2 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 163-230.2. Method of requesting absentee ballots.**

19 (a) Valid Types of Written Requests. – A completed written request form for an
20 absentee ballot as required by G.S. 163-230.1 is valid only if it is written entirely by the
21 requester personally, or is on a form generated created by the county board of elections State
22 Board and signed by the requester, voter requesting absentee ballots or that voter's near relative
23 or verifiable legal guardian. The county board of elections shall issue a request form only to the
24 voter seeking to vote by absentee ballot or to a person authorized by G.S. 163-230.1 to make a
25 request for the voter. If a requester, due to disability or illiteracy, is unable to complete a
26 written request, that requester may receive assistance in writing that request from an individual
27 of that requester's choice. The State Board shall make the form available at its offices, online,
28 and in each county board of elections office, and that form may be reproduced. A voter may
29 make a request in person or by writing to the county board for the form to request an absentee
30 ballot. The request form for an absentee ballot shall require at least the following information:

31 (1) The name and address of the residence of the voter.

32 (2) The name and address of the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian
33 if that individual is making the request.

34 (3) The address of the voter to which the application and absentee ballots are to
35 be mailed if different from the residence address of the voter.

36 (4) One or more of the following in the order of preference:

37 a. The number of the voter's North Carolina drivers license issued under
38 Article 2 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes, including a learner's
39 permit or a provisional license.

40 b. The number of the voter's special identification card for nonoperators
41 issued under G.S. 20-37.7.

42 c. The last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

43 (5) The voter's date of birth.

44 (6) The signature of the voter or of the voter's near relative or verifiable legal
45 guardian if that individual is making the request.

46 (a1) A completed request form for an absentee ballot shall be deemed a request to update
47 the official record of voter registration for that voter and shall be confirmed in writing in
48 accordance with G.S. 163-82.14(d).

49 (a2) The completed request form for an absentee ballot shall be delivered to the county
50 board of elections. If the voter does not include the information requested in subdivision (a)(4)

1 of this section, a copy of a document listed in G.S. 163-166.12(a)(2) shall accompany the
2 completed request form.

3 (a3) Upon receiving a completed request form for an absentee ballot, the county board
4 shall verify the voter registration. If verified, the absentee ballots and certification form shall be
5 mailed to the voter, unless personally delivered to the requester in accordance with
6 G.S. 163-230.1(a1). If the voter's official record of voter registration conflicts with the
7 completed request form for an absentee ballot or cannot be verified, the voter shall be so
8 notified. If the county board cannot resolve the differences, no application or absentee ballots
9 shall be issued.

10 (b) Invalid Types of Written Requests. – A request is not valid if it does not comply
11 with subsection (a) of this section. If a county board of elections receives a request for an
12 absentee ballot that does not comply with subsection (a) of this section, the board shall not
13 issue an application and ballot under G.S. 163-230.1.

14 (c) Rules by State Board. – The State Board of Elections shall adopt rules for the
15 enforcement of this section."

16 **SECTION 4.4.** G.S. 163-231 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 163-231. Voting absentee ballots and transmitting them to the county board of**
18 **elections.**

19 (a) Procedure for Voting Absentee Ballots. – In the presence of ~~a person~~two persons
20 ~~who is~~are at least 18 years of age, and who ~~is~~are not disqualified by G.S. 163-226.3(a)(4) or
21 G.S. 163-237(b1), the voter ~~shall~~shall do all of the following:

- 22 (1) Mark the voter's ballots, or cause them to be marked by that person in the
23 voter's presence according to the voter's ~~instruction;~~instruction.
- 24 (2) Fold each ballot separately, or cause each of them to be folded in the voter's
25 ~~presence;~~presence.
- 26 (3) Place the folded ballots in the container-return envelope and securely seal it,
27 or have this done in the voter's ~~presence;~~presence.
- 28 (4) Make the application printed on the container-return envelope according to
29 the provisions of G.S. 163-229(b) and make the certificate printed on the
30 container-return envelope according to the provisions of G.S. 163-229(b).
- 31 (5) Require those two persons in whose presence the voter marked that voter's
32 ballots to sign the application and certificate as witnesses and to indicate
33 those persons' addresses.

34 Alternatively to the prior paragraph of this subsection, any requirement for two witnesses
35 shall be satisfied if witnessed by one notary public, who shall comply with all the other
36 requirements of that paragraph. The notary shall affix a valid notarial seal to the envelope, and
37 include the word "Notary Public" below his or her signature.

38 ~~The person~~persons in whose presence the ballot is marked shall at all times respect the
39 secrecy of the ballot and the privacy of the absentee voter, unless the voter requests ~~the person's~~
40 assistance and ~~the~~that person is otherwise authorized by law to give assistance. ~~The person in~~
41 ~~whose presence the ballot was marked shall sign the application and certificate as a witness and~~
42 ~~shall indicate that person's address.~~ When thus executed, the sealed container-return envelope,
43 with the ballots enclosed, shall be transmitted in accordance with the provisions of subsection
44 (b) of this section to the county board of elections which issued the ballots.

45 (a1) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 583, s. 1.

46 (b) Transmitting Executed Absentee Ballots to County Board of Elections. – The sealed
47 container-return envelope in which executed absentee ballots have been placed shall be
48 transmitted to the county board of elections who issued them as follows: All ballots issued
49 under the provisions of ~~Articles 20~~this Article and Article 21A of this Chapter shall be
50 transmitted by mail or by commercial courier service, at the voter's expense, or delivered in
51 person, or by the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian not later than 5:00 p.m. on the

1 day before the statewide primary or general election or county bond election. "Delivered in
2 person" as used in the previous sentence also includes delivering the ballot to an election
3 official at a one-stop voting site under G.S. 163-227.2 during any time that site is open for
4 voting. The ballots shall be kept securely and delivered by election officials at that site to the
5 county board of elections office for processing. Ballots issued under the provisions of Article
6 21A of this Chapter may also be electronically transmitted. If ballots are received later than that
7 hour, ~~they~~ those absentee ballots shall not be accepted unless (i) federal law so requires, (ii) if
8 ballots issued under Article 20 of this Chapter Article, the absentee ballots are postmarked by
9 the day of the statewide primary or general election or county bond election and are received by
10 the county board of elections not later than three days after the election by 5:00 p.m., or (iii) if
11 ballots issued under Article 21A of this Chapter Chapter, the absentee ballots are received by
12 the county board of elections not later than the end of business on the business day before the
13 canvass conducted by the county board of elections held pursuant to G.S. 163-182.5. Ballots
14 issued under Article 20 of this Chapter Article not postmarked by the day of the election shall
15 not be accepted by the county board of elections."

16 **SECTION 4.5.** G.S. 163-226 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 "(d) The Term "Verifiable Legal Guardian." – An individual appointed guardian under
18 Chapter 35A of the General Statutes. For a corporation appointed as a guardian under that
19 Chapter, the corporation may submit a list of 10 named individuals to the State Board of
20 Elections who may act for that corporation under this Article."

21 **SECTION 4.6.(a)** G.S. 163-226.3(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

22 "(a) Any person who shall, in connection with absentee voting in any election held in
23 this State, do any of the acts or things declared in this section to be unlawful, shall be guilty of
24 a Class I felony. It shall be unlawful:

- 25 ...
- 26 (4) For any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person, other than the
27 voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to (i) make a written request
28 pursuant to G.S. 163-230.1 or (ii) sign an application or certificate as a
29 witness, on behalf of a registered voter voter, who is a patient in any
30 hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home in this State or for any owner,
31 manager, director, employee, or other person other than the voter's near
32 relative or verifiable legal guardian, to mark the voter's absentee ballot or
33 assist such a voter in marking an absentee ballot. This subdivision does not
34 apply to members, employees, or volunteers of the county board of elections,
35 if those members, employees, or volunteers are working as part of a
36 multipartisan team trained and authorized by the county board of elections to
37 assist voters with absentee ballots. Each county board of elections shall train
38 and authorize such teams, pursuant to procedures which shall be adopted by
39 the State Board of Elections. If neither the voter's near relative nor a
40 verifiable legal guardian is available to assist the voter, and a multipartisan
41 team is not available to assist the voter within seven calendar days of a
42 telephonic request to the county board of elections, the voter may obtain
43 such assistance from any person other than (i) an owner, manager, director,
44 employee of the hospital, clinic, nursing home, or rest home in which the
45 voter is a patient or resident; (ii) an individual who holds any elective office
46 under the United States, this State, or any political subdivision of this State;
47 (iii) an individual who is a candidate for nomination or election to such
48 office; or (iv) an individual who holds any office in a State, congressional
49 district, county, or precinct political party or organization, or who is a
50 campaign manager or treasurer for any candidate or political party; provided
51 that a delegate to a convention shall not be considered a party office. None

1 of the persons listed in (i) through (iv) of this subdivision may sign the
2 application or certificate as a witness for the patient.

3"

4 **SECTION 4.6.(b)** The State Board of Elections shall adopt rules prior to October
5 1, 2013, concerning the multipartisan teams authorized by G.S. 163-226.3(a)(4), as amended by
6 subsection (a) of this section, to ensure that each county has, no later than the day absentee
7 voting begins for each primary and election, trained teams to promptly assist patients and
8 residents of any hospital, clinic, nursing home, or rest home in that county in casting absentee
9 ballots as provided by law. Such rules shall be initially established as temporary rules in
10 accordance with Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

11 **SECTION 4.7.** G.S. 10B-30 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 "(d) A notary may not charge any fee for witnessing and affixing a notarial seal to an
13 absentee ballot application or certificate under G.S. 163-231."

14 **PART 5. REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION**

15 **SECTION 5.1.** G.S. 163-82.20 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 "(j) Additional Public Agencies Permitted to Offer Registration. – If approved by the
17 State Board of Elections, the county board of elections, and the county board of commissioners,
18 a county may offer voter registration in accordance with this section through the following
19 additional public offices:

20 (1) Senior centers or facilities operated by the county.

21 (2) Parks and recreation services operated by the county."

22 **SECTION 5.2.** The State Board of Elections shall disseminate information about
23 photo identification requirements for voting, provide information on how to obtain photo
24 identification appropriate for voting, and assist any registered voter without photo identification
25 appropriate for voting with obtaining such photo identification. Information may be distributed
26 through public service announcements, print, radio, television, online, and social media. The
27 State Board shall work with public agencies, private partners, and nonprofits to identify voters
28 without photo identification appropriate for voting and assist those voters in securing the photo
29 identification appropriate for voting. All outreach efforts to notify voters of the photo
30 identification requirements shall be accessible to the elderly and persons with disabilities. The
31 State Board of Elections shall work with county boards of elections in those counties where
32 there is no Division of Motor Vehicles drivers license office open five days a week to (i)
33 widely communicate information about the availability and schedules of Division of Motor
34 Vehicles mobile units and (ii) provide volunteers to assist voters with obtaining photo
35 identification through mobile units.

36 **SECTION 5.3.** Education and Publicity Requirements. – The public shall be
37 educated about the photo identification to vote requirements of this act as follows:

38 (1) As counties use their regular processes to notify voters of assignments and
39 reassignments to districts for election to the United States House of
40 Representatives, State Senate, State House of Representatives, or local
41 office, by including information about the provisions of this act.

42 (2) As counties send new voter registration cards to voters as a result of new
43 registration, changes of address, or other reasons, by including information
44 about the provisions of this act.

45 (3) Counties that maintain a board of elections Web site shall include
46 information about the provisions of this act.

47 (4) Notices of elections published by county boards of elections under
48 G.S. 163-22(8) for the 2014 primary and 2014 general election shall include
49 a brief statement that photo identification will be required to vote in person
50 beginning in 2016.

- 1 (5) The State Board of Elections shall include on its Web site information about
2 the provisions of this act.
- 3 (6) Counties shall post at the polls and at early voting sites beginning with the
4 2014 primary elections information about the provisions of this act.
- 5 (7) The State Board of Elections shall distribute information about the photo
6 identification requirements to groups and organizations serving persons with
7 disabilities or the elderly.
- 8 (8) The State Board of Elections, the Division of Motor Vehicles, and county
9 boards of elections in counties where there is no Division of Motor Vehicles
10 drivers license office open five days a week shall include information about
11 mobile unit schedules on existing Web sites, shall distribute information
12 about these schedules to registered voters identified without photo
13 identification, and shall publicize information about the mobile unit
14 schedules through other available means.
- 15 (9) The State Board of Elections and county boards of elections shall direct
16 volunteers to assist registered voters in counties where there is no Division
17 of Motor Vehicles drivers license office open five days a week.

18 **SECTION 5.4.** The State Board of Elections shall include in all forms prepared by
19 the Board a prominent statement that submitting fraudulently or falsely completed declarations
20 is a Class I felony under Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

21 **SECTION 5.5.** By April 1, 2014, the State Board of Elections shall review and
22 make recommendations to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee on the steps
23 recommended by the Board to implement the use of electronic and digital information in all
24 polling places statewide. The review shall address all of the following:

- 25 (1) Obtaining digital photographs of registered voters and verifying identity of
26 those voters.
- 27 (2) Maintaining information stored electronically in a secure fashion.
- 28 (3) Utilizing electronically stored information, including digital photographs and
29 electronic signatures, to create electronic pollbooks.
- 30 (4) Using electronic pollbooks to assist in identifying individuals attempting to
31 vote more than once in an election.
- 32 (5) A proposed plan for a pilot project to implement electronic pollbooks,
33 including the taking of digital photographs at the polling place to supplement
34 the electronic pollbooks.
- 35 (6) Any other related matter identified by the State Board impacting the use of
36 digital and electronic information in the voting place.

37 38 **PART 6. EFFECTIVE DATE**

39 **SECTION 6.2.** Parts 1 through 6 of this act become effective as follows:

- 40 (1) Parts 1 and 6 of this act are effective when this act becomes law.
- 41 (2) Part 2 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to primaries
42 and elections conducted on or after that date.
- 43 (3) Part 3 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2014.
- 44 (4) Part 4 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2014, and applies to primaries
45 and elections held on or after that date, except that Section 4.6(b) is effective
46 when it becomes law.
- 47 (5) Part 5 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2013.
- 48 (6) At any primary and election between May 1, 2014, and January 1, 2016, any
49 registered voter may present that voter's photo identification to the elections
50 officials at the voting place but may not be required to do so. At each
51 primary and election between May 1, 2014, and January 1, 2016, each voter

1 presenting in person shall be notified that photo identification will be needed
2 to vote beginning in 2016 and be asked if that voter has one of the forms of
3 photo identification appropriate for voting. If that voter indicates he or she
4 does not have one or more of the types of photo identification appropriate
5 for voting, that voter shall be asked to sign an acknowledgment of the photo
6 identification requirement and be given a list of types of photo identification
7 appropriate for voting and information on how to obtain those types of photo
8 identification. The list of names of those voters who signed an
9 acknowledgment is a public record.

10 11 **PART 7. STUDY FILLING OF VACANCIES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

12 **SECTION 7.1** The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study the
13 method of filling vacancies in the General Assembly, and recommend to the General Assembly
14 any legislation it deems advisable. It may make an interim report prior to the date that the
15 General Assembly reconvenes the 2013 Regular Session in 2014, and shall make a final report
16 before the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

17 18 **PART 8. FILLING OF VACANCIES IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE**

19 **SECTION 8.1.** G.S. 163-12 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 163-12. Filling vacancy in United States Senate.**

21 Whenever there shall be a vacancy in the office of United States Senator from this State,
22 whether caused by death, resignation, or otherwise than by expiration of term, the Governor
23 shall appoint to fill the vacancy until an election shall be held to fill the office. If the Senator
24 was elected as the nominee of a political party, the person appointed by the Governor shall be a
25 person affiliated with that same political party. The Governor shall issue ~~his~~a writ for the
26 election of a Senator to be held at the time of the first election for members of the General
27 Assembly that is held more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs. The person elected shall
28 hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The election shall take effect from the
29 date of the canvassing of the returns."

30 31 **PART 9. FILLING OF VACANCIES IN UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

32 **SECTION 9.1.** The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study
33 the method of filling vacancies in the United States House of Representatives by special
34 election, and recommend to the General Assembly any legislation it deems advisable. It may
35 make an interim report prior to the date that the General Assembly reconvenes the 2013
36 Regular Session in 2014, and shall make a final report before the convening of the 2015
37 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

38 39 40 **PART 10. SPECIAL ELECTION DATES**

41 **SECTION 10.1.** G.S. 163-287 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 163-287. Special elections; procedure for calling.**

43 (a) Any ~~municipality~~county, municipality, or any special district shall have authority to
44 call special elections as permitted by law. Prior to calling a special election, the ~~city council~~or
45 ~~the~~governing body of the county, municipality, or special district shall adopt a resolution
46 specifying the details of the election, and forthwith deliver the resolution to the ~~appropriate~~local
47 board of elections. The resolution shall call on the local board of elections to conduct the
48 election described in the resolution and shall state the date on which the special election is to be
49 conducted. The special election may be held only at the same time as any other State, county or
50 municipal ~~primary, election or special election or referendum, but may not otherwise be held~~
51 ~~within the period of time beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date of any~~

1 ~~other primary, election, special election or referendum held for that city or special~~
2 ~~district.~~ general election or at the same time as the primary election in any even-numbered year.

3 (b) Legal notice of the special election shall be published no less than 45 days prior to
4 the special election. The local board of elections shall be responsible for publishing the legal
5 notice. The notice shall state the date and time of the special election, the issue to be submitted
6 to the voters, and the precincts in which the election will be held. This ~~paragraph~~ subsection
7 shall not apply to bond elections.

8 (c) The last sentence of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any special
9 election related to the public health or safety, including a vacancy in the office of sheriff or a
10 bond referendum for financing of health and sanitation systems, if the governing body adopts a
11 resolution stating the need for the special election at a time different from any other State,
12 county, or municipal general election or the primary in any even-numbered year.

13 (d) The last sentence of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to municipal
14 incorporation or recall elections pursuant to local act of the General Assembly.

15 (e) The last sentence of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to municipal
16 elections to fill vacancies in office pursuant to local act of the General Assembly where more
17 than six months remain in the term of office, and if less than six months remain in the office,
18 the governing board may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term
19 notwithstanding any provision of a local act of the General Assembly.

20 (f) This section shall not impact the authority of the courts or the State Board to order a
21 new election at a time set by the courts or State Board under this Chapter."

22 **SECTION 10.2.** Article 1 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
23 adding a new section to read:

24 "**§ 163-3. Special elections.**

25 Special elections shall be called as permitted by law and conducted in accordance with
26 G.S. 163-287."

27 **SECTION 10.3.** G.S. 18B-601(f) reads as rewritten:

28 "(f) Election Date. – The board of elections shall conduct and set the date for the
29 alcoholic beverage election, ~~which may not be sooner than 60 days nor later than 120 days~~
30 ~~from the date the request was received from the governing body or the petition was verified by~~
31 ~~the board.~~ election in accordance with G.S. 163-287. No alcoholic beverage election may be
32 held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November of an even-numbered year."

33 **SECTION 10.4.** G.S. 63-80(c) reads as rewritten:

34 "(c) Following the joint public hearing but prior to the adoption by a unit of local
35 government of any resolution creating a special airport district, the governing body of such unit
36 may submit the question of the unit's participation in a special airport district to the qualified
37 voters of such unit. The form of the question as stated on the ballot shall be in substantially the
38 following words:

39 "Shall the governing body of _____ approve _____'s
40 participation in the proposed _____ special airport district?

41 YES NO"

42 If a majority of the qualified voters of the unit who vote thereon approve such participation, the
43 governing body of such unit may adopt a resolution creating the particular special airport
44 district. The election shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 163-287 and the results
45 thereof certified, declared and published in the same manner as bond elections within the unit."

46 **SECTION 10.5.** G.S. 63-87 reads as rewritten:

47 "**§ 63-87. Bond elections.**

48 Elections for the purpose of authorizing the levy of taxes for the issuance of bonds shall be
49 called by the district board and shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 163-287 and the
50 results canvassed by the boards of elections having jurisdiction within the participating units.
51 Such results shall be certified to the district board and such board shall certify and declare the

1 result of the election and publish a statement of the result once as provided in the Local
2 Government Bond Act."

3 **SECTION 10.6.** G.S. 69-25.1 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 69-25.1. Election to be held upon petition of voters.**

5 Upon the petition of thirty-five percent (35%) of the resident freeholders living in an area
6 lying outside the corporate limits of any city or town, which area is described in the petition
7 and designated as " _____ Fire District," the board of county

8 (Here insert name)

9 commissioners of the county shall call ~~an~~ a special election in said district for the purpose of
10 submitting to the qualified voters therein the question of levying and collecting a special tax on
11 all taxable property in said district, of not exceeding fifteen cents (15¢) on the one hundred
12 dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property, for the purpose of providing fire protection in said
13 district. The county tax office shall be responsible for checking the freeholder status of those
14 individuals signing the petition and confirming the location of the property owned by those
15 individuals. Unless specifically excluded by other law, the provisions of Chapter 163 of the
16 General Statutes concerning petitions for referenda and special elections shall apply. If the
17 voters reject the special tax under the first paragraph of this section, then no new election may
18 be held under the first paragraph of this section within two years on the question of levying and
19 collecting a special tax under the first paragraph of this section in that district, or in any
20 proposed district which includes a majority of the land within the district in which the tax was
21 rejected.

22 Upon the petition of thirty-five percent (35%) of the resident freeholders living in an area
23 which has previously been established as a fire protection district and in which there has been
24 authorized by a vote of the people a special tax not exceeding ten cents (10¢) on the one
25 hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property within the area, the board of county
26 commissioners shall call ~~an~~ a special election in said area for the purpose of submitting to the
27 qualified voters therein the question of increasing the allowable special tax for fire protection
28 within said district from ten cents (10¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation to
29 fifteen cents (15¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation on all taxable property
30 within such district. ~~Elections~~ Special elections on the question of increasing the allowable tax
31 rate for fire protection shall not be held within the same district at intervals less than two
32 years."

33 **SECTION 10.7.** G.S. 69-25.2 reads as rewritten:

34 "**§ 69-25.2. Duties of county board of commissioners regarding conduct of elections; cost
35 of holding.**

36 The board of county commissioners, after consulting with the county board of elections,
37 shall set a date for the special election in accordance with G.S. 163-287 by resolution adopted.
38 The county board of elections shall hold and conduct the election in the district. The county
39 board of elections shall advertise and conduct said election, in accordance with the provisions
40 of this Article and with the procedures prescribed in Chapter 163 governing the conduct of
41 special and general elections. ~~No new registration of voters shall be required, but the deadline
42 by which unregistered voters must register shall be contained in the legal advertisement to be
43 published by the county board of elections.~~ The cost of holding the election to establish a
44 district shall be paid by the county, provided that if the district is established, then the county
45 shall be reimbursed the cost of the election from the taxes levied within the district, but the cost
46 of an election to increase the allowable tax under G.S. 69-25.1 or to abolish a fire district under
47 G.S. 69-25.10 shall be paid from the funds of the district."

48 **SECTION 10.8.** G.S. 105-465 reads as rewritten:

49 "**§ 105-465. County election as to adoption of local sales and use tax.**

50 The board of elections of any county, upon the written request of the board of county
51 commissioners, or upon receipt of a petition signed by qualified voters of the county equal in

1 number to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of votes cast in the county, at the
2 last preceding election for the office of Governor, shall call a special election for the purpose of
3 submitting to the voters of the county the question of whether a one percent (1%) sales and use
4 tax will be levied.

5 The special election shall be held under the same rules applicable to the election of
6 members of the General Assembly. ~~No new registration of voters shall be required. All~~
7 ~~qualified voters in the county who are properly registered not later than 21 days (excluding~~
8 ~~Saturdays and Sundays) prior to the election shall be entitled to vote at the election. The county~~
9 ~~board of elections shall give at least 20 days' public notice prior to the closing of the~~
10 ~~registration books for the special election.~~

11 The county board of elections shall prepare ballots for the special election. The question
12 presented on the ballot shall be "FOR one percent (1%) local sales and use tax on items subject
13 to State sales and use tax at the general State rate and on food" or "AGAINST one percent (1%)
14 local sales and use tax on items subject to State sales and use tax at the general State rate and
15 on food".

16 The county board of elections shall fix the date of the special ~~election~~, election on a date
17 permitted by G.S. 163-287, except that the special election shall not be held ~~on the date or~~
18 ~~within 60 days of any biennial election for county officers, nor within one year from the date of~~
19 ~~the last preceding special election under this section."~~

20 **SECTION 10.9.** G.S. 105-473(a) reads as rewritten:

21 "(a) The board of elections of any county, upon the written request of the board of
22 county commissioners thereof, or upon receipt of a petition signed by qualified voters of the
23 county equal in number to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of votes cast in the
24 county at the last preceding election for the office of Governor, shall call a special election for
25 the purpose of submitting to the voters of the county the question of whether the levy of a one
26 percent (1%) sales and use tax theretofore levied should be repealed.

27 The special election shall be held under the same rules and regulations applicable to the
28 election of members of the General Assembly. ~~No new registration of voters shall be required.~~
29 ~~All qualified voters in the county who are properly registered not later than 21 days (excluding~~
30 ~~Saturdays and Sundays) prior to the election shall be entitled to vote at said election. The~~
31 ~~county board of elections shall give at least 20 days' public notice prior to the closing of the~~
32 ~~registration books for the special election.~~

33 The county board of elections shall prepare ballots for the special election which shall
34 contain the words "FOR repeal of the one percent (1%) local sales and use tax levy," and the
35 words "AGAINST repeal of the one percent (1%) local sales and use tax levy," with
36 appropriate squares so that each voter may designate his vote by his cross (X) mark.

37 The county board of elections shall fix the date of the special ~~election~~, election on a date
38 permitted by G.S. 163-287; provided, however, that the special election shall not be held ~~on the~~
39 ~~day of any biennial election for county officers, nor within 60 days thereof, nor within one year~~
40 ~~from the date of the last preceding special election held under this section."~~

41 **SECTION 10.10.** G.S. 105-507.1(a) reads as rewritten:

42 "(a) Resolution. – The board of commissioners of a county may direct the county board
43 of elections to conduct an advisory referendum within the county on the question of whether a
44 local sales and use tax at the rate of one-half percent (1/2%) may be levied in accordance with
45 this Part. The election shall be held ~~on a date jointly agreed upon by the boards and shall be~~
46 ~~held~~ in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287. The board of commissioners shall
47 hold a public hearing on the question at least 30 days before the date the election is to be held."

48 **SECTION 10.11.** G.S. 105-509(b) reads as rewritten:

49 "(b) Resolution. – The board of trustees of the regional public transportation authority
50 may, if all of the conditions listed in this subsection have been met, direct the respective county
51 board or boards of elections to conduct an advisory referendum within the special district on

1 the question of whether a local sales and use tax at the rate of one-half percent (1/2%) may be
2 levied within the district in accordance with this Part. The tax may not be levied without voter
3 approval. The election shall be held on a date jointly agreed upon by the authority, the county
4 board or boards of commissioners, and the county board or boards of elections and shall be
5 held on a date permitted by and in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287. ~~An election~~
6 ~~to authorize the levy of a tax under this Part may be held only on one of the following dates: (i)~~
7 ~~Tuesday after the first Monday of November in the even-numbered year, the date of the general~~
8 ~~election under G.S. 163-1, (ii) the date of the primary election in the even-numbered year under~~
9 ~~G.S. 163-1(b), (iii) Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the odd-numbered year, or~~
10 ~~(iv) a date in September or October of the odd-numbered year as listed in G.S. 163-279(a)(2),~~
11 ~~(3), or (4) but only if at least one municipality in the county is holding a primary or election on~~
12 ~~that date.~~The conditions are as follows:

- 13 (1) The board of trustees has obtained approval to conduct a referendum by a
14 vote of the following:
 - 15 a. A majority vote of each of the county boards of commissioners
16 within the special district, if it is a multicounty special district.
 - 17 b. A majority of the county board of commissioners within the special
18 district, if it is a single-county special district.
- 19 (2) A public hearing is held on the question by the board or boards of
20 commissioners at least 30 days before the date the election is to be held."

21 **SECTION 10.12.** G.S. 105-510(b) reads as rewritten:

22 "(b) Resolution. – The board of trustees of the regional transportation authority may, if
23 all of the conditions listed in this subsection have been met, direct the respective county board
24 or boards of elections to conduct an advisory referendum within the special district on the
25 question of whether a local sales and use tax at the rate of one-half percent (1/2%) may be
26 levied within the district in accordance with this Part. The tax may not be levied without voter
27 approval. The election shall be held on a date jointly agreed upon by the authority, the county
28 board or boards of commissioners, and the county board or boards of elections and shall be
29 held on a date permitted by and in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287. ~~An election~~
30 ~~to authorize the levy of a tax under this Part may be held only on one of the following dates: (i)~~
31 ~~Tuesday after the first Monday of November in the even-numbered year, the date of the general~~
32 ~~election under G.S. 163-1, (ii) the date of the primary election in the even-numbered year under~~
33 ~~G.S. 163-1(b), (iii) Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the odd-numbered year, or~~
34 ~~(iv) a date in September or October of the odd-numbered year as listed in G.S. 163-279(a)(2),~~
35 ~~(3), or (4) but only if at least one municipality in the county is holding a primary or election on~~
36 ~~that date.~~The conditions are as follows:

- 37 (1) The board of trustees has obtained approval to conduct a referendum by a
38 vote of the following:
 - 39 a. A majority vote of both of the county boards of commissioners
40 within the special district, if it is a multicounty special district.
 - 41 b. A majority of the county board of commissioners within the special
42 district, if it is a single-county special district.
- 43 (2) A public hearing is held on the question by the board or boards of
44 commissioners at least 30 days before the date the election is to be held."

45 **SECTION 10.13.** G.S. 105-511.2(a) reads as rewritten:

46 "(a) Resolution. – The board of commissioners of a county may direct the county board
47 of elections to conduct an advisory referendum within the county on the question of whether a
48 local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (1/4%) may be levied in accordance
49 with this Part. The election shall be held on a date jointly agreed upon by the boards and shall
50 be held on a date permitted by and in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287. ~~An~~
51 ~~election to authorize the levy of a tax under this Part may be held only on one of the following~~

1 dates: (i) Tuesday after the first Monday of November in the even-numbered year, the date of
2 the general election under G.S. 163-1, (ii) the date of the primary election in the
3 even-numbered year under G.S. 163-1(b), (iii) Tuesday after the first Monday in November of
4 the odd-numbered year, or (iv) a date in September or October of the odd-numbered year as
5 listed in G.S. 163-279(a)(2), (3), or (4) but only if at least one municipality in the county is
6 holding a primary or election on that date. The board of commissioners shall hold a public
7 hearing on the question at least 30 days before the date the election is to be held."

8 **SECTION 10.14.** G.S. 105-537(b) reads as rewritten:

9 "(b) Vote. – The board of county commissioners may direct the county board of
10 elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a local sales
11 and use tax in the county as provided in this Article. The election shall be held ~~on a date jointly~~
12 ~~agreed upon by the board of county commissioners and the board of elections and shall be held~~
13 in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287."

14 **SECTION 10.15.** G.S. 106-343 reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 106-343. Appropriations by counties; elections.**

16 The several boards of county commissioners in the State are hereby expressly authorized
17 and empowered to make such appropriations from the general funds of their county as will
18 enable them to cooperate effectively with the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer
19 Services and Federal Department of Agriculture in the eradication of tuberculosis in their
20 respective counties: Provided, that if in 10 days after said appropriation is voted, one fifth of
21 the qualified voters of the county petition the board of commissioners to submit the question of
22 tuberculosis eradication or no tuberculosis eradication to the voters of the county, said
23 commissioners shall submit such questions to said voters. Said election shall be held and
24 conducted under ~~the rules and regulations provided for holding stock law elections in~~
25 ~~G.S. 68-16, 68-20 and 68-21.~~ G.S. 163-287. If at any such election a majority of the votes cast
26 shall be in favor of said tuberculosis eradication, the said board shall record the result of the
27 election upon its minutes, and cooperative tuberculosis eradication shall be taken up with the
28 state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Federal Department of
29 Agriculture. If, however, a majority of the votes cast shall be adverse, then said board shall
30 make no appropriation."

31 **SECTION 10.16.** G.S. 115C-501(h) reads as rewritten:

32 "(h) To Annex or Consolidate Areas or Districts from Contiguous Counties and to
33 Provide a Supplemental School Tax in Such Annexed Areas or Consolidated Districts. – An
34 election may be called in any districts or other school areas, from contiguous counties, as to
35 whether the districts in one county shall be enlarged by annexing or consolidating therewith
36 any adjoining districts, or other school area or areas from an adjoining county, and if a special
37 or supplemental school tax is levied and collected in the districts of the county to which the
38 territory is to be annexed or consolidated, whether upon such annexation or consolidation there
39 shall be levied and collected in the territory to be annexed or consolidated the same special or
40 supplemental tax for schools as is levied and collected in the districts in the other county. If
41 such election carries, the said special or supplemental tax shall be collected pursuant to
42 G.S. 115C-511 and remitted to the local school administrative unit on whose behalf such
43 special and supplemental tax is already levied: ~~Provided, that notwithstanding the provisions of~~
44 ~~G.S. 115C-508, if the notice of election clearly so states, and the election shall be held prior to~~
45 ~~August 1, the annexation or consolidation shall be effective and the tax so authorized shall be~~
46 ~~levied and collected beginning with the fiscal year commencing July 1 next preceding such~~
47 ~~elections.~~ levied."

48 **SECTION 10.17.** G.S. 115C-501 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

49 "(j) All elections called under this section shall be conducted in accordance with
50 G.S. 163-287."

51 **SECTION 10.18.** G.S. 115D-33(d) reads as rewritten:

1 "(d) All elections shall be held in the same manner as elections held under Article 4,
2 Chapter 159, of the General Statutes, the Local Government Bond Act, and ~~may be held at any~~
3 ~~time fixed by the tax levying authority of the administrative area or proposed administrative~~
4 ~~area of the institution for which such election is to be held.~~ shall be held on a date permitted by
5 G.S. 163-287."

6 **SECTION 10.19.** G.S. 115D-35(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Formal requests for elections on the question of authority to appropriate nontax
8 revenues or levy special taxes, or both, and to issue bonds, when such elections are to be held
9 for the purpose of establishing an institution, shall be originated and submitted only in the
10 following manner:

11 (1) Proposed multiple-county administrative areas: Formal requests for elections
12 may be submitted jointly by all county boards of education in the proposed
13 administrative area, or by petition of fifteen percent (15%) of the number of
14 qualified voters of the proposed area who voted in the last preceding election
15 for Governor, to the boards of commissioners of all counties in the proposed
16 area, who ~~may~~ shall fix the time for such election by joint resolution on a
17 date permitted by G.S. 163-287, which shall be entered in the minutes of
18 each board.

19 (2) Proposed single-county administrative area: Formal requests shall be
20 submitted by the board of education of any public school administrative unit
21 within the county of the proposed administrative area or by petition of
22 fifteen percent (15%) of the number of qualified voters of the county who
23 voted in the last preceding election for Governor, to the board of
24 commissioners of the county of the proposed administrative area, who ~~may~~
25 shall fix the time for such election by resolution on a date permitted by
26 G.S. 163-287, which shall be entered in the minutes of the board."

27 **SECTION 10.20.** G.S. 130A-69 reads as rewritten:

28 "(a) If after a sanitary district has been created or the provisions of this Part have been
29 made applicable to a sanitary district, a petition signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of
30 the resident freeholders within any territory contiguous to and adjoining the sanitary district
31 may be presented to the sanitary district board requesting annexation of territory described in
32 the petition. The sanitary district board shall send a copy of the petition to the board of
33 commissioners of the county or counties in which the district is located and to the Department.
34 The sanitary district board shall request that the Department hold a joint public hearing with the
35 sanitary district board on the question of annexation. The Secretary and the chairperson of the
36 sanitary district board shall name a time and place for the public hearing. The chairperson of
37 the sanitary district board shall publish a notice of public hearing once in a newspaper or
38 newspapers published or circulating in the sanitary district and the territory proposed to be
39 annexed. The notice shall be published not less than 15 days prior to the hearing. If after the
40 hearing, the Commission approves the annexation of the territory described in the petition, the
41 Department shall advise the board or boards of commissioners of the approval. The board or
42 boards of commissioners shall order and provide for the holding of a special election in
43 accordance with G.S. 163-287 upon the question of annexation within the territory proposed to
44 be annexed.

45 (b) If at or prior to the public hearing, a petition is filed with the sanitary district board
46 signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the freeholders residing in the sanitary district
47 requesting an election be held on the annexation question, the sanitary district board shall send
48 a copy of the petition to the board or boards of commissioners who shall order and provide for
49 the submission of the question to the voters within the sanitary district. This election may be
50 held on the same day as the election in the territory proposed to be annexed, and both elections

1 and registrations may be held pursuant to a single notice. A majority of the votes cast is
2 necessary for a territory to be annexed to a sanitary district.

3 (c) The election shall be held by the county board or boards of elections ~~as soon as~~
4 ~~possible~~ in accordance with G.S. 163-287 after the board or boards of commissioners orders the
5 election. The cost of the election shall be paid by the sanitary district. Registration in the area
6 proposed for annexation shall be under the same procedure as G.S. 163-288.2.

7"

8 **SECTION 10.21.** G.S. 139-39 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 139-39. Alternative method of financing watershed improvement programs by special**
10 **county tax.**

11 The board of county commissioners in any county is authorized to call a special election to
12 determine whether it be the will of the qualified voters of the county that they levy and cause to
13 be collected annually, at the same time and in the same manner as the general county taxes are
14 levied and collected, a special tax at a rate not to exceed twenty-five cents (25¢) on each one
15 hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property in said county, to be known as a "Watershed
16 Improvement Tax," the funds therefrom, if the levy be authorized by the voters of said county,
17 to be used for the prevention of flood water and sediment damages, and for furthering the
18 conservation, utilization and disposal of water and the development of water resources. Any
19 special election shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 163-287."

20 **SECTION 10.22.** G.S. 147-69.6(f) reads as rewritten:

21 "(f) The Board of Commissioners of Swain County may direct the Swain County Board
22 of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether any portion of the
23 principal of the Fund should be disbursed to and expended by the county for a particular
24 purpose. The election shall be held ~~on a date jointly agreed upon by the two boards, which may~~
25 ~~be the same day as any other referendum or election in the county, but may not otherwise be~~
26 ~~during the period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the day of any other~~
27 ~~referendum or election to be conducted by the board of elections and already validly called or~~
28 ~~scheduled by law. The election shall be held~~ in accordance with the procedures of
29 G.S. 163-287. The question to be presented on the ballot shall disclose the specific purpose
30 proposed for expenditure of the principal investment of the Trust Fund and the amount
31 proposed for expenditure."

32 **SECTION 10.23.** G.S. 153A-60 reads as rewritten:

33 "**§ 153A-60. Initiation of alterations by resolution.**

34 The board of commissioners shall initiate any alteration in the structure of the board by
35 adopting a resolution. The resolution shall:

- 36 (1) Briefly but completely describe the proposed alterations;
- 37 (2) Prescribe the manner of transition from the existing structure to the altered
38 structure;
- 39 (3) Define the electoral districts, if any, and apportion the members among the
40 districts;
- 41 (4) Call a special referendum on the question of adoption of the alterations. The
42 referendum shall be held and conducted by the county board of elections.
43 The referendum may be held only on a date permitted by G.S. 163-287, ~~at~~
44 ~~the same time as any other state, county or municipal primary, election,~~
45 ~~special election or referendum, or on any date set by the board of county~~
46 ~~commissioners, provided, that such referendum shall not be held within the~~
47 ~~period of time beginning 60 days before and ending 60 days after any other~~
48 ~~primary, election, special election or referendum held in the county.~~

49 Upon its adoption, the resolution shall be published in full."

50 **SECTION 10.24.** G.S. 153A-405(a) reads as rewritten:

1 "(a) If authorized to do so by the concurrent resolutions that established it, a commission
2 may call a referendum on its proposed plan of governmental consolidation. If authorized or
3 directed in the concurrent resolutions, the ballot question may include the assumption of debt
4 secured by a pledge of faith and credit language and may also include the assumption of the
5 right to issue authorized but unissued faith and credit debt language as provided in subsection
6 (b) of this section. ~~The referendum may be held on the same day as any other referendum or~~
7 ~~election in the county or counties involved, but may not otherwise be held during the period~~
8 ~~beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the day of any other referendum or election~~
9 ~~to be conducted by the board or boards of elections conducting the referendum and already~~
10 ~~validly called or scheduled by law shall be held in accordance with G.S. 163-287."~~

11 **SECTION 10.25.** G.S. 158-16 reads as rewritten:

12 "**§ 158-16. Board of commissioners may call tax election; rate and purposes of tax.**

13 The board of county commissioners in any county is authorized and empowered to call a
14 special election to determine whether it be the will of the qualified voters of said county that
15 they levy and cause to be collected annually, at the same time and in the same manner as the
16 general county taxes are levied and collected, a special tax at a rate not to exceed five cents (5¢)
17 on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property in said county, to be known as an
18 "industrial development tax," the funds therefrom, if the levy be authorized by the voters of
19 said county, to be used for the purpose of attracting new and diversified industries to said
20 county, and for the encouragement of new business and industrial ventures by local as well as
21 foreign capital, and for the purpose of aiding and encouraging the location of manufacturing
22 enterprises, making industrial surveys and locating industrial plants in said county, and for the
23 purpose of encouraging agricultural development in said county. Any special election shall be
24 conducted in accordance with G.S. 163-287."

25 **SECTION 10.26.** G.S. 159-61(b) reads as rewritten:

26 "(b) The date of a bond referendum shall be fixed by the governing board, but shall not
27 be more than one year after adoption of the bond ~~order~~ order, only on a date permitted by
28 G.S. 163-287. The governing board may call a special referendum for the purpose of voting on
29 a bond issue on any day, including the day of any regular or special election held for another
30 purpose (unless the law under which the bond referendum or other election is held specifically
31 prohibits submission of other questions at the same time). A special bond referendum may not
32 be held within 30 days before or 10 days after a statewide primary, election, or referendum, or
33 within 30 days before or 10 days after any other primary, election, or referendum to be held in
34 the same unit holding the bond referendum and already validly called or scheduled by law at
35 the time the bond referendum is called. The clerk shall mail or deliver a certified copy of the
36 resolution calling a special bond referendum to the board of elections that is to conduct it
37 within three days after the resolution is adopted, but failure to observe this requirement shall
38 not in any manner affect the validity of the referendum or bonds issued pursuant thereto. Bond
39 referenda shall be conducted by the board of elections conducting regular elections of the
40 county, city, or special district. ~~In fixing the date of a bond referendum, the governing board~~
41 shall consult the board of elections in order that the referendum shall not unduly interfere with
42 other elections already scheduled or in process. Several bond orders or other matters may be
43 voted upon at the same referendum."

44 **SECTION 10.27.** G.S. 160A-103 reads as rewritten:

45 "**§ 160A-103. Referendum on charter amendments by ordinance.**

46 An ordinance adopted under G.S. 160A-102 that is not made effective upon approval by a
47 vote of the people shall be subject to a referendum petition. Upon receipt of a referendum
48 petition bearing the signatures and residence addresses of a number of qualified voters of the
49 city equal to at least 10 percent of the whole number of voters who are registered to vote in city
50 elections according to the most recent figures certified by the State Board of Elections or 5,000,
51 whichever is less, the council shall submit an ordinance adopted under G.S. 160A-102 to a vote

1 of the people. The date of the special election shall be fixed ~~at~~ on a date permitted by
2 G.S. 163-287. not more than 120 nor fewer than 60 days after receipt of the petition. A
3 referendum petition shall be addressed to the council and shall identify the ordinance to be
4 submitted to a vote. A referendum petition must be filed with the city clerk not later than 30
5 days after publication of the notice of adoption of the ordinance."

6 **SECTION 10.28.** G.S. 160A-104 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 160A-104. Initiative petitions for charter amendments.**

8 The people may initiate a referendum on proposed charter amendments. An initiative
9 petition shall bear the signatures and resident addresses of a number of qualified voters of the
10 city equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the whole number of voters who are registered to vote
11 in city elections according to the most recent figures certified by the State Board of Elections or
12 5,000, whichever is less. The petition shall set forth the proposed amendments by describing
13 them briefly but completely and with reference to the pertinent provisions of G.S. 160A-101,
14 but it need not contain the precise text of the charter amendments necessary to implement the
15 proposed changes. The petition may not propose changes in the alternative, or more than one
16 integrated set of charter amendments. Upon receipt of a valid initiative petition, the council
17 shall call a special election on the question of adopting the charter amendments proposed
18 therein, and shall give public notice thereof in accordance with G.S. 163-287. The date of the
19 special election shall be fixed ~~at~~ on a date permitted by G.S. 163-287. not more than 120 nor
20 fewer than 60 days after receipt of the petition. If a majority of the votes cast in the special
21 election shall be in favor of the proposed changes, the council shall adopt an ordinance
22 amending the charter to put them into effect. Such an ordinance shall not be subject to a
23 referendum petition. No initiative petition may be filed (i) between the time the council initiates
24 proceedings under G.S. 160A-102 by publishing a notice of hearing on proposed charter
25 amendments and the time proceeding under that section have been carried to a conclusion
26 either through adoption or rejection of a proposed ordinance or lapse of time, nor (ii) within
27 one year and six months following the effective date of an ordinance amending the city charter
28 pursuant to this Article, nor (iii) within one year and six months following the date of any
29 election on charter amendments that were defeated by the voters.

30 The restrictions imposed by this section on filing initiative petitions shall apply only to
31 petitions concerning the same subject matter. For example, pendency of council action on
32 amendments concerning the method of electing the council shall not preclude an initiative
33 petition on adoption of the council-manager form of government.

34 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the submission of more than one
35 proposition for charter amendments on the same ballot so long as no proposition offers a
36 different plan under the same option as another proposition on the same ballot."

37 **SECTION 10.29.** G.S. 160A-583 reads as rewritten:

38 "**§ 160A-583. Funds.**

39 The establishment and operation of a transportation authority as herein authorized are
40 governmental functions and constitute a public purpose, and the municipality is hereby
41 authorized to appropriate funds to support the establishment and operation of the transit
42 authority. The municipality may also dedicate, sell, convey, donate or lease any of its interest in
43 any property to the authority. Further, the authority is hereby authorized to establish such
44 license and regulatory fees and charges as it may deem appropriate, subject to the approval of
45 the governing body of the municipality. If the governing body finds that the funds otherwise
46 available are insufficient, it may call a special election without a petition and submit to the
47 qualified voters of the municipality the question of whether or not a special tax shall be levied
48 and/or bonds issued, specifying the maximum amount thereof, for the purpose of acquiring
49 lands, buildings, equipment and facilities and for the operations of the transit authority. Any
50 special election shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 163-287."

51 **SECTION 10.30.** G.S. 162A-68(d) reads as rewritten:

1 "(d) If, at or prior to such public hearing, there shall be filed with the district board a
2 petition, signed by not less than ten per centum (10%) of the qualified voters residing in the
3 district, requesting an election to be held therein on the question of including the political
4 subdivision or unincorporated area, the district board shall certify a copy of such petition to the
5 board or boards of commissioners, and the board or boards of commissioners shall request the
6 county board or boards of elections to submit such question to the qualified voters within the
7 district in accordance with G.S. 163-287 and the other applicable provisions of Chapter 163 of
8 the General Statutes; provided, that the election shall not be held unless the Environmental
9 Management Commission has adopted a resolution approving the inclusion of the political
10 subdivision or unincorporated area in the district.

11 Notice of such election, which shall contain a statement of the boundaries of the territory
12 proposed to be included in the district and the boundaries of the district after inclusion, shall be
13 given by publication once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper or newspapers
14 having general circulation within the district, the first publication to be at least 30 days prior to
15 the election."

16 **SECTION 10.31.** G.S. 162A-77.1 reads as rewritten:

17 "**§ 162A-77.1. Special election upon the question of the merger of metropolitan sewerage**
18 **districts into cities or towns.**

19 Any district lying entirely within the corporate limits of a city or town may be merged into
20 such city or town in accordance with the provisions of this section.

21 The governing body of a city or town, with the approval of the district board, shall call and
22 conduct a special election within such city or town on the question of the merger of the district
23 into the city or town. A vote in favor of such merger shall constitute a vote for such city or
24 town to assume the obligations of the district. Such special election may be called and
25 conducted by the governing body of a city or town upon its own motion after passage of a
26 resolution of the district board requesting or approving the special election. Any special
27 election shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 163-287.

28 A new registration of voters shall not be required for the special election. The special
29 election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of law applicable to regular
30 elections in the city or town.

31 If a majority of the votes are in favor of the merger, then:

- 32 (1) All property, real and personal and mixed, including accounts receivable,
33 belonging to such district shall vest in, belong to, and be the property of,
34 such city or town. All district boards are hereby authorized to take such
35 actions and to execute such documents as will carry into effect the
36 provisions and the intent of this section.
- 37 (2) All judgments, liens, rights of liens, and causes of action of any nature in
38 favor of such district shall vest in and remain and inure to the benefit of such
39 city or town.
- 40 (3) All taxes, assessments, sewer charges, and any other debts, charges or fees,
41 owing to such district shall be owed to and collected by such city or town.
- 42 (4) All actions, suits and proceedings pending against, or having been instituted
43 by, such district shall not be abated by this section or by the merger herein
44 provided for, but all such actions, suits, and proceedings shall be continued
45 and completed in the same manner as if merger had not occurred, and such
46 city or town shall be a party to all such actions, suits, and proceedings in the
47 place and stead of the district and shall pay or cause to be paid any
48 judgments rendered against the district in any such actions, suits, or
49 proceedings. No new process need be served in any such action, suit, or
50 proceeding.

- 1 (5) All obligations of the district, including outstanding indebtedness, shall be
2 assumed by such city or town, and all such obligations and outstanding
3 indebtedness shall constitute obligations and indebtedness of such city or
4 town, and the full faith and credit of such city or town shall be deemed to be
5 pledged for the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on any
6 general obligation bonds or bond anticipation notes of such district, and all
7 the taxable property within such city or town, as well as that formerly
8 located within the district, shall be and remain subject to taxation for such
9 payment.
- 10 (6) All ordinances, rules, regulations, and policies of such district shall continue
11 in full force and effect until repealed or amended by the governing body of
12 such city or town.
- 13 (7) Such district shall be abolished, and shall no longer be constituted a public
14 body or a body politic and corporate, except for the purposes of carrying into
15 effect the provisions and the intent of this section.

16 If a majority of the votes are against the merger, then such merger shall not be effective
17 unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters who vote thereon in a subsequent special
18 election conducted under authority of this section.

19 Any action or proceeding in any court to set aside a special election held under authority of
20 this section or the result thereof, or to obtain any other relief upon the ground that such election
21 or any proceeding or action taken with respect to the holding of such election is invalid, must
22 be commenced within 30 days after the day of such special election. After the expiration of
23 such period of limitation, no right of action or defense founded upon the invalidity of the
24 election or the result thereof shall be asserted, nor shall the validity of the election or of the
25 result thereof be open to question in any court upon any ground whatever, except in an action
26 or proceeding commenced within such period."

27 **SECTION 10.32.** This Part becomes effective January 1, 2014, and applies to
28 special elections held on or after that date.

30 PART 11. POLL OBSERVERS

31 **SECTION 11.1.** G.S. 163-45 reads as rewritten:

32 "§ 163-45. Observers; appointment.

33 (a) The chair of each political party in the county shall have the right to designate two
34 observers to attend each voting place at each primary and election and such observers may, at
35 the option of the designating party chair, be relieved during the day of the primary or election
36 after serving no less than four hours and provided the list required by this section to be filed by
37 each chair contains the names of all persons authorized to represent such chair's political party.
38 The chair of each political party in the county shall have the right to designate 10 additional
39 at-large observers who are residents of that county who may attend any voting place in that
40 county. The list submitted by the chair of the political party may be amended between the
41 one-stop period under G.S. 163-227.2 and general election day to substitute one or all at-large
42 observers for election day. Not more than two observers from the same political party shall be
43 permitted in the voting enclosure at any ~~time-time~~, except that in addition one of the at-large
44 observers may also be in the voting enclosure. This right shall not extend to the chair of a
45 political party during a primary unless that party is participating in the primary. In any election
46 in which an unaffiliated candidate is named on the ballot, the candidate or the candidate's
47 campaign manager shall have the right to appoint two observers for each voting place
48 consistent with the provisions specified herein. Persons appointed as observers must be
49 registered voters of the county for which appointed and must have good moral character. No
50 person who is a candidate on the ballot in a primary or election may serve as an observer or
51 runner in that primary or election. Observers shall take no oath of office.

1 (b) Individuals authorized to appoint observers must submit in writing to the chief judge
2 of each precinct a signed list of the observers appointed for that ~~precinct~~-precinct, except that
3 the list of at-large observers authorized in subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the
4 county supervisor of elections. Individuals authorized to appoint observers must, prior to 10:00
5 A.M. on the fifth day prior to any primary or general election, submit in writing to the chair of
6 the county board of elections two signed copies of a list of observers appointed by them,
7 designating the precinct or at-large status for which each observer is appointed. Before the
8 opening of the voting place on the day of a primary or general election, the chair shall deliver
9 one copy of the list to the chief judge for each affected ~~precinct~~-precinct, except that the list of
10 at-large observers shall be provided by the county supervisor of elections to the chief judge.
11 The chair shall retain the other copy. The chair, or the chief judge and judges for each affected
12 precinct, may for good cause reject any appointee and require that another be appointed. The
13 names of any persons appointed in place of those persons rejected shall be furnished in writing
14 to the chief judge of each affected precinct no later than the time for opening the voting place
15 on the day of any primary or general election, either by the chair of the county board of
16 elections or the person making the substitute appointment.

17 If party chairs appoint observers at one-stop sites under G.S. 163-227.2, those party chairs
18 shall provide a list of the observers appointed before 10:00 A.M. on the fifth day before the
19 observer is to observe. At-large observers may serve at any one-stop site.

20 (c) An observer shall do no electioneering at the voting place, and shall in no manner
21 impede the voting process or interfere or communicate with or observe any voter in casting a
22 ballot, but, subject to these restrictions, the chief judge and judges of elections shall permit the
23 observer to make such observation and take such notes as the observer may desire. The
24 observer shall be authorized to be present and move about the voting place prior to, during, and
25 following the closing of the polls until the chief judge and judges have completed all of their
26 duties. The observer shall be permitted to observe precinct officials checking voter registration
27 from a position that allows an observer to clearly hear and understand voter responses.

28 A chief judge or judges of a precinct that limit the movement of or expel an observer from a
29 voting place shall specify in writing and sign a statement of the reasons for the limitation or
30 expulsion. The writing shall be witnessed by at least one of the other precinct judges, or if not
31 witnessed by one of the other precinct judges, by any other person present. The writing shall be
32 transmitted to the county board of elections by the chief judge at or prior to the canvass of the
33 results of that election. An observer may challenge the limitation or expulsion using the
34 procedure for an election protest as provided in G.S. 163-182.9. If the county board finds that a
35 chief judge or judge expelled or limited an observer without cause, the chief judge or judge
36 shall be subject to appropriate discipline by the county board of elections, including without
37 limitation a written reprimand, censure, or removal from that office.

38 (d) Whether or not the observer attends to the polls for the requisite time provided by
39 this section, each observer shall be entitled to obtain at times specified by the State Board of
40 Elections, but not less than three times during election day with the spacing not less than one
41 hour apart, a list of the persons who have voted in the precinct so far in that election day.
42 Counties that use an "authorization to vote document" instead of poll books may comply with
43 the requirement in the previous sentence by permitting each observer to inspect election records
44 so that the observer may create a list of persons who have voted in the precinct so far that
45 election day; each observer shall be entitled to make the inspection at times specified by the
46 State Board of Elections, but not less than three times during election day with the spacing not
47 less than one hour apart.

48 Instead of having an observer receive the voting list, the county party chair may send a
49 runner to do so, even if an observer has not been appointed for that precinct. The runner may be
50 the precinct party chair or any person named by the county party chair. Each county party chair
51 using runners in an election shall provide to the county board of elections before 10:00 A.M. on

1 the fifth day before election day a list of the runners to be used. That party chair must notify the
2 chair of the county board of elections or the board chair's designee of the names of all runners
3 to be used in each precinct before the runner goes to the precinct. The runner may receive a
4 voter list from the precinct on the same schedule as an observer. Whether obtained by observer
5 or runner, each party is entitled to only one voter list at each of the scheduled times. No runner
6 may enter the voting enclosure except when necessary to announce that runner's presence and
7 to receive the list. The runner must leave immediately after being provided with the list."
8

9 **PART 12. ELIMINATION OF PREREGISTRATION**

10 **SECTION 12.1.(a)** G.S. 163-82.1(d) is repealed.

11 **SECTION 12.1.(b)** G.S. 163-82.3(a)(5) is repealed.

12 **SECTION 12.1.(c)** G.S. 163-82.4(d) reads as rewritten:

13 "(d) Citizenship and Age Questions. – Voter registration application forms shall include
14 all of the following:

15 (1) The following question and statement:

16 a. "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and boxes for
17 the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a
18 citizen of the United States.

19 b. "If you checked 'no' in response to this question, do not submit this
20 form."

21 (2) The following ~~questions~~question and statement:

22 a. "Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?" and boxes
23 for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant will be 18
24 years of age or older on election day.

25 b. ~~"Are you at least 16 years of age and understand that you must be 18~~
26 ~~years of age on or before election day to vote?" and boxes for the~~
27 ~~applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is at least 16~~
28 ~~years of age and understands that the applicant must be at least 18~~
29 ~~years of age or older by election day to vote.~~

30 c. "If you checked 'no' in response to ~~both of these questions, this~~
31 ~~question, do not submit this form."~~

32 **SECTION 12.1.(d)** G.S. 163-82.23 reads as rewritten:

33 **"§ 163-82.23. Voter registration at public high schools.**

34 Every public high school shall make available to its students and others who are eligible to
35 register ~~and preregister~~ to vote the application forms described in G.S. 163-82.3, and shall keep
36 a sufficient supply of the forms so that they are always available. A local board of education
37 may, but is not required to, designate high school employees to assist in completing the forms.
38 Only employees who volunteer for this duty may be designated by boards of education."

39 **SECTION 12.1.(e)** G.S. 163-82.19(a) reads as rewritten:

40 "(a) Voter Registration at Drivers License Offices. – The Division of Motor Vehicles
41 shall, pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Board of Elections, modify its forms so that
42 any eligible person who applies for original issuance, renewal or correction of a drivers license,
43 or special identification card issued under G.S. 20-37.7 may, on a part of the form, complete an
44 application to register to vote, or to update the voter's registration if the voter has changed his
45 or her address or moved from one precinct to another or from one county to ~~another, or to~~
46 ~~preregister to vote, another.~~ The person taking the application shall ask if the applicant is a
47 citizen of the United States. If the applicant states that the applicant is not a citizen of the
48 United States, or declines to answer the question, the person taking the application shall inform
49 the applicant that it is a felony for a person who is not a citizen of the United States to apply to
50 register to vote. Any person who willfully and knowingly and with fraudulent intent gives false
51 information on the application is guilty of a Class I felony. The application shall state in clear

1 language the penalty for violation of this section. The necessary forms shall be prescribed by
2 the State Board of Elections. The form must ask for the previous voter registration address of
3 the voter, if any. If a previous address is listed, and it is not in the county of residence of the
4 applicant, the appropriate county board of elections shall treat the application as an
5 authorization to cancel the previous registration and also process it as such under the
6 procedures of G.S. 163-82.9. If a previous address is listed and that address is in the county
7 where the voter applies to register, the application shall be processed as if it had been submitted
8 under G.S. 163-82.9.

9 Registration shall become effective as provided in G.S. 163-82.7. Applications to register to
10 vote accepted at a drivers license office under this section until the deadline established in
11 G.S. 163-82.6(c)(2) shall be treated as timely made for an election, and no person who
12 completes an application at that drivers license office shall be denied the vote in that election
13 for failure to apply earlier than that deadline.

14 All applications shall be forwarded by the Department of Transportation to the appropriate
15 board of elections not later than five business days after the date of acceptance, according to
16 rules which shall be promulgated by the State Board of Elections. Those rules shall provide for
17 a paperless, instant, electronic transfer of applications to the appropriate board of elections.
18 ~~Applications for preregistration to vote shall be forwarded to the State Board of Elections."~~

19 **SECTION 12.1.(f)** G.S. 163-82.20 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 163-82.20. Voter registration at other public agencies.**

21 (a) Voter Registration Agencies. – Every office in this State which accepts:

- 22 (1) Applications for a program of public assistance under Article 2 of Chapter
23 108A of the General Statutes or under Article 13 of Chapter 130A of the
24 General Statutes;
- 25 (2) Applications for State-funded State or local government programs primarily
26 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities, with such office
27 designated by the State Board of Elections; or
- 28 (3) Claims for benefits under Chapter 96 of the General Statutes, the
29 Employment Security Law, is designated as a voter registration agency for
30 purposes of this section.

31 (b) Duties of Voter Registration Agencies. – A voter registration agency described in
32 subsection (a) of this section shall, unless the applicant declines, in writing, to register ~~or~~
33 ~~preregister~~ to vote:

- 34 (1) Distribute with each application for service or assistance, and with each
35 recertification, renewal, or change of address relating to such service or
36 assistance:
 - 37 a. The voter registration application form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a)
38 or (b); or
 - 39 b. The voter registration agency's own form, if it is substantially
40 equivalent to the form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a) or (b) and has
41 been approved by the State Board of Elections, provided that the
42 agency's own form may be a detachable part of the agency's paper
43 application or may be a paperless computer process, as long as the
44 applicant is required to sign an attestation as part of the application to
45 ~~register or preregister~~ register.
- 46 (2) Provide a form that contains the elements required by section 7(a)(6)(B) of
47 the National Voter Registration Act; and
- 48 (3) Provide to each applicant who does not decline to register ~~or preregister~~ to
49 vote the same degree of assistance with regard to the completion of the
50 registration application as is provided by the office with regard to the
51 completion of its own forms.

1 (c) Provided that voter registration agencies designated under subdivision (a)(3) of this
2 section shall only be required to provide the services set out in this subsection to applicants for
3 new claims, reopened claims, and changes of address under Chapter 96 of the General Statutes,
4 the Employment Security Law.

5 (d) Home Registration for Disabled. – If a voter registration agency provides services to
6 a person with disability at the person's home, the voter registration agency shall provide the
7 services described in subsection (b) of this section at the person's home.

8 (e) Prohibitions. – Any person providing any service under subsection (b) of this
9 section shall not:

- 10 (1) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration,
11 except that this shall not be construed to prevent the notice provided by
12 G.S. 163-82.4(c) to be given if the applicant refuses to declare his party
13 affiliation;
- 14 (2) Display any such political preference or party allegiance;
- 15 (3) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect
16 of which is to discourage the applicant from registering ~~or preregistering~~ to
17 vote; or
- 18 (4) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect
19 of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register ~~or~~
20 ~~preregister~~ or not to register ~~or preregister~~ has any bearing on the availability
21 of services or benefits.

22 (f) Confidentiality of Declination to Register. – No information relating to a declination
23 to register ~~or preregister~~ to vote in connection with an application made at a voter registration
24 agency may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.

25 (g) Transmittal From Agency to Board of Elections. – Any voter registration ~~or~~
26 ~~preregistration~~ application completed at a voter registration agency shall be accepted by that
27 agency in lieu of the applicant's mailing the application. Any such application so received shall
28 be transmitted to the appropriate board of elections not later than five business days after
29 acceptance, according to rules which shall be promulgated by the State Board of Elections.

30 (h) Twenty-Five-Day Deadline for an Election. – Applications to register accepted by a
31 voter registration agency shall entitle a registrant to vote in any primary, general, or special
32 election unless the registrant shall have made application later than the twenty-fifth calendar
33 day immediately preceding such primary, general, or special election, provided that nothing
34 shall prohibit voter registration agencies from continuing to accept applications during that
35 period.

36 (i) Ineligible Applications Prohibited. – No person shall make application to register ~~or~~
37 ~~preregister~~ to vote under this section if that person is ineligible on account of age, citizenship,
38 lack of residence for the period of time provided by law, or because of conviction of a felony."

39 **SECTION 12.1.(g)** G.S. 115C-81(g1)(1) reads as rewritten:

- 40 "(1) The State Board of Education shall modify the high school social studies
41 curriculum to include instruction in civic and citizenship education. The
42 State Board of Education is strongly encouraged to include, at a minimum,
43 the following components in the high school civic and citizenship education
44 curriculum:
 - 45 a. That students write to a local, State, or federal elected official about
46 an issue that is important to them;
 - 47 b. Instruction on the importance of voting and otherwise participating in
48 the democratic process, including instruction on voter ~~registration~~
49 ~~and preregistration;~~ registration;
 - 50 c. Information about current events and governmental structure; and
 - 51 d. Information about the democratic process and how laws are made."

1 **SECTION 12.1.(h)** G.S. 115C-47(59) reads as rewritten:

2 "(59) To Encourage Student Voter ~~Registration and Preregistration.~~ Registration. –
3 Local boards of education are encouraged to adopt policies to promote
4 student voter ~~registration and preregistration.~~ registration. These policies
5 may include collaboration with county boards of elections to conduct voter
6 registration and preregistration in high schools. Completion and submission
7 of voter registration ~~or preregistration~~ forms shall not be a course
8 requirement or graded assignment for students."

9 **SECTION 12.1.(i)** The Department of Public Instruction is encouraged to improve
10 outreach to high school students on registering to vote when they are eligible, including the
11 curriculum element on instruction in voter registration already provided by G.S. 115C-47(59)
12 and voter registration in public high schools as already allowed by G.S. 163-82.23.

13 **SECTION 12.1.(j)** This section becomes effective September 1, 2013. All voter
14 preregistrations completed and received by the State Board prior to that date shall be processed
15 and those voters registered, as appropriate.

17 **PART 13. "WET INK" ON VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**

18 **SECTION 13.1.** G.S. 163-82.6(b) reads as rewritten:

19 "(b) Signature. – The form shall be valid only if signed by the applicant. An
20 electronically captured signature, including signatures on applications generated by computer
21 programs of third-party groups, shall not be valid on a voter registration form, except as
22 provided in Article 21A of this Chapter. ~~And~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection,
23 an electronically captured image of the signature of a voter on an electronic voter registration
24 form offered by a State agency shall be considered a valid signature for all purposes for which
25 a signature on a paper voter registration form is used."

27 **PART 14. COMPENSATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION LIMITED**

28 **SECTION 14.1.** G.S. 163-274(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

29 "(14) For any person to be compensated based on the number of forms submitted
30 for assisting persons in registering to vote."

32 **PART 16. ELIMINATE SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION**

33 **SECTION 16.1.** G.S. 163-82.6A is repealed.

34 **SECTION 16.2.** G.S. 163-59 reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 163-59. Right to participate or vote in party primary.**

36 No person shall be entitled to vote or otherwise participate in the primary election of any
37 political party unless that person complies with all of the following:

- 38 (1) Is a registered voter.
- 39 (2) Has declared and has had recorded on the registration book or record the fact
40 that the voter affiliates with the political party in whose primary the voter
41 proposes to vote or participate.
- 42 (3) Is in good faith a member of that party.

43 Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, any unaffiliated voter who is authorized under
44 G.S. 163-119 may also vote in the primary if the voter is otherwise eligible to vote in that
45 primary except for subdivisions (2) and (3) of the previous paragraph.

46 Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election
47 for which the primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the primary, shall be
48 entitled to register for the primary and general election prior to the primary and then to vote in
49 the primary after being registered. Such person may register not earlier than 60 days nor later
50 than the last day for making application to register under G.S. 163-82.6(c) prior to the primary.
51 In addition, persons who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general

1 election for which the primary is held, who do not register during the special period may
2 register to vote after such period as if they were qualified on the basis of age, but until they are
3 qualified by age to vote, they may vote only in primary elections. ~~Such a person also may~~
4 ~~register and vote in the primary and general election pursuant to G.S. 163-82.6A(f)."~~

5 **SECTION 16.3.** G.S. 163-82.6(c) reads as rewritten:

6 "(c) Registration Deadlines for a Primary or Election. – In order to be valid for a primary
7 or election, ~~except as provided in G.S. 163-82.6A,~~ the form:

- 8 (1) If submitted by mail, must be postmarked at least 25 days before the primary
9 or election, except that any mailed application on which the postmark is
10 missing or unclear is validly submitted if received in the mail not later than
11 20 days before the primary or election,
- 12 (2) If submitted in person, by facsimile transmission, or by transmission of a
13 scanned document, must be received by the county board of elections by a
14 time established by that board, but no earlier than 5:00 P.M., on the
15 twenty-fifth day before the primary or election,
- 16 (3) If submitted through a delegatee who violates the duty set forth in subsection
17 (a) of this section, must be signed by the applicant and given to the delegatee
18 not later than 25 days before the primary or election, except as provided in
19 subsection (d) of this section."

20 **SECTION 16.4.** G.S. 163-166.12(b2) reads as rewritten:

21 "(b2) Voting When Identification Numbers Do Not Match. – Regardless of whether an
22 individual has registered by mail or by another method, if the individual has provided with the
23 registration form a drivers license number or last four digits of a Social Security number but the
24 computer validation of the number as required by G.S. 163-82.12 did not result in a match, and
25 the number has not been otherwise validated by the board of elections, in the first election in
26 which the individual votes that individual shall submit with the ballot the form of identification
27 described in subsection (a) or subsection (b) of this section, depending upon whether the ballot
28 is voted in person or absentee. If that identification is provided and the board of elections does
29 not determine that the individual is otherwise ineligible to vote a ballot, the failure of
30 identification numbers to match shall not prevent that individual from registering to vote and
31 having that individual's vote counted. ~~If the individual registers and votes under~~
32 ~~G.S. 163-82.6A, the identification documents required in that section, rather than those~~
33 ~~described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section, apply."~~

34 **SECTION 16.5.** G.S. 163-227.2(a) reads as rewritten:

35 "(a) Any voter eligible to vote by absentee ballot under G.S. 163-226 may request an
36 application for absentee ballots, complete the application, and vote under the provisions of this
37 section ~~and of G.S. 163-82.6A, as applicable.~~ section."

38 **SECTION 16.6.** G.S. 163-283 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 163-283. Right to participate or vote in party primary.**

40 No person shall be entitled to vote or otherwise participate in the primary election of any
41 political party unless that person complies with all of the following:

- 42 (1) Is a registered voter.
- 43 (2) Has declared and has had recorded on the registration book or record the fact
44 that the voter affiliates with the political party in whose primary the voter
45 proposes to vote or participate.
- 46 (3) Is in good faith a member of that party.

47 Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, any unaffiliated voter who is authorized under
48 G.S. 163-119 may also vote in the primary if the voter is otherwise eligible to vote in that
49 primary except for subdivisions (2) and (3) of the previous paragraph.

50 Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election
51 for which the primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the primary election,

1 shall be entitled to register while the registration books are open during the regular registration
2 period prior to the primary and then to vote in the primary after being registered, provided
3 however, under full-time and permanent registration, such an individual may register not earlier
4 than 60 days nor later than the last day for making application to register under
5 G.S. 163-82.6(c) prior to the primary. In addition, persons who will become qualified by age to
6 register and vote in the general election for which the primary is held, who do not register
7 during the special period may register to vote after such period as if they were qualified on the
8 basis of age, but until they are qualified by age to vote, they may vote only in primary
9 elections. ~~Such a person also may register and vote in the primary and general election pursuant
10 to G.S. 163-82.6A(f)."~~

11 **SECTION 16.7.** G.S. 163-283.1 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 163-283.1. Voting in nonpartisan primary.**

13 Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election
14 for which a nonpartisan primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the
15 primary, shall be entitled to register for the primary and general election prior to the primary
16 and then to vote in the primary after being registered. Such a person may register not earlier
17 than 60 days nor later than the last day for making application to register under
18 G.S. 163-82.6(c) prior to the primary. ~~Such a person also may register and vote in the primary
19 and general election pursuant to G.S. 163-82.6A(f)."~~

20 **SECTION 16.8.** G.S. 163-330 reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 163-330. Voting in primary.**

22 Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election
23 for which the primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the primary, shall be
24 entitled to register for the primary and general election prior to the primary and then to vote in
25 the primary after being registered. Such person may register not earlier than 60 days nor later
26 than the last day for making application to register under G.S. 163-82.6(c) prior to the primary.
27 ~~Such a person also may register and vote in the primary and general election pursuant to
28 G.S. 163-82.6A(f)."~~

29
30 **PART 17. ENHANCE DELIVERY OF MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE**
31 **BALLOTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WHEN PRESIDENTIAL**
32 **NOMINATING CONVENTIONS CONCLUDE AFTER LABOR DAY**

33 **SECTION 17.(a)** G.S. 163-227.3 reads as rewritten:

34 **"§ 163-227.3. Date by which absentee ballots must be available for voting.**

35 (a) A board of elections shall provide absentee ballots of the kinds needed 60 days prior
36 to the statewide general election in even-numbered years and 50 days prior to the date on which
37 any other election shall be conducted, unless 45 days is authorized by the State Board of
38 Elections under G.S. 163-22(k) or there shall exist an appeal before the State Board or the
39 courts not concluded, in which case the board shall provide the ballots as quickly as possible
40 upon the conclusion of such an appeal. Provided, in a presidential election year, the board of
41 elections shall provide general election ballots no later than three days after nomination of the
42 presidential and vice presidential candidates if that nomination occurs later than 63 days prior
43 to the statewide general election and makes compliance with the 60-day deadline impossible.
44 However, in the case of municipal elections, absentee ballots shall be made available no later
45 than 30 days before an election. In every instance the board of elections shall exert every effort
46 to provide absentee ballots, of the kinds needed by the date on which absentee voting is
47 authorized to commence.

48 (b) Second Primary. – The board of elections shall provide absentee ballots, of the
49 kinds needed, as quickly as possible after the ballot information for a second primary has been
50 determined."

51 **SECTION 17.(b)** G.S. 163-258.9(a) reads as rewritten:

1 "(a) Not later than 60 days before the statewide general election in even-numbered years
2 and not later than 50 days before any other election, the county board of elections shall transmit
3 a ballot and balloting materials to all covered voters who by that date submit a valid
4 military-overseas ballot application, except for a second primary. Provided, in a presidential
5 election year, the board of elections shall provide general election ballots no later than three
6 days after nomination of the presidential and vice presidential candidates if that nomination
7 occurs later than 63 days prior to the statewide general election and makes compliance with the
8 60-day deadline impossible. However, in the case of municipal elections, absentee ballots shall
9 be made available no later than 30 days before an election. For a second primary which
10 includes a candidate for federal office, the county board of elections shall transmit a ballot and
11 balloting material to all covered voters who by that date submit a valid military-overseas ballot
12 application no later than 45 days before the second primary. For a second primary which does
13 not include a candidate for federal office, the transmission of the ballot and ballot materials
14 shall be as soon as practicable and shall be transmitted electronically no later than three
15 business days and by mail no later than 15 days from the date the appropriate board of elections
16 orders that the second primary be held pursuant to G.S. 163-111. If additional offices are added
17 to the ballot to fill a vacancy occurring after the deadline provided by this subsection, those
18 ballots shall be transmitted as soon as practicable."
19

20 **PART 18. LIST MAINTENANCE/INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS TO IMPROVE** 21 **VOTER ROLLS**

22 **SECTION 18.1.** G.S. 163-82.14(a) reads as rewritten:

23 "(a) Uniform Program. – The State Board of Elections shall adopt a uniform program
24 that makes a ~~reasonable effort;~~ diligent effort not less than twice each year:

- 25 (1) To remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible
26 voters, and
- 27 (2) To update the addresses and other necessary data of persons who remain on
28 the official lists of eligible voters.

29 That program shall be nondiscriminatory and shall comply with the provisions of the Voting
30 Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and with the provisions of the National Voter Registration
31 Act. The State Board of Elections, in addition to the methods set forth in this section, may use
32 other methods toward the ends set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, including
33 address-updating services provided by the Postal ~~Service.~~ Service, and entering into data
34 sharing agreements with other states to cross-check information on voter registration and voting
35 records. Any data sharing agreement shall require the other state or states to comply with
36 G.S. 163-82.10 and G.S. 163-82.10B. Each county board of elections shall conduct systematic
37 efforts to remove names from its list of registered voters in accordance with this section and
38 with the program adopted by the State Board. The county boards of elections shall complete
39 their list maintenance mailing program by April 15 of every odd-numbered year, unless the
40 State Board of Elections approves a different date for the county."

41 **SECTION 18.2.** The State Board of Elections shall actively seek ways to share and
42 cross-check information on voting records and voter registration with other states to improve
43 the accuracy of voter registration lists, using resources such as the Electronic Registration
44 Information Center and by entering into interstate compacts for this purpose.

45 **SECTION 18.3.** This Part is effective when it becomes law.
46

47 **PART 19. NO MANDATED VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

48 **SECTION 19.1.** G.S. 163-82.25 is repealed.
49

50 **PART 20. VOTER RECORDS ACCESS CLARIFICATION AND CHALLENGES**

51 **SECTION 20.1.** G.S. 163-84 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 163-84. Time for challenge other than on day of primary or election.**

2 The registration records of each county shall be open to inspection by any registered voter
3 of the ~~county, State,~~ including any chief judge or judge of elections, during the normal business
4 hours of the county board of elections on the days when the board's office is open. At those
5 times the right of any person to register, remain registered, or vote shall be subject to objection
6 and challenge."

7 **SECTION 20.2.** G.S. 163-87 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 163-87. Challenges allowed on day of primary or election.**

9 On the day of a primary or election, at the time a registered voter offers to vote, any other
10 registered voter of the ~~precinct~~ county may exercise the right of challenge, and when he does so
11 may enter the voting enclosure to make the challenge, but he shall retire therefrom as soon as
12 the challenge is heard.

13 On the day of a primary or election, any other registered voter of the ~~precinct~~ county may
14 challenge a person for one or more of the following reasons:

- 15 (1) One or more of the reasons listed in G.S. 163-85(c).
- 16 (2) That the person has already voted in that primary or election.
- 17 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-541, s. 16.1(b), effective August 28, 2009.
- 18 (4) If the challenge is made with respect to voting in a partisan primary, that the
19 person is a registered voter of another political party.

20 The chief judge, judge, or assistant appointed under G.S. 163-41 or 163-42 may enter
21 challenges under this section against voters in the precinct for which appointed regardless of
22 the place of residence of the chief judge, judge, or assistant.

23 If a person is challenged under this subsection, and the challenge is sustained under
24 G.S. 163-85(c)(3), the voter may still transfer his registration under G.S. 163-82.15(e) if
25 eligible under that section, and the registration shall not be cancelled under G.S. 163-90.2(a) if
26 the transfer is made. A person who has transferred his registration under G.S. 163-82.15(e) may
27 be challenged at the precinct to which the registration is being transferred."
28

29 **PART 21. CANDIDATE WITHDRAWAL**

30 **SECTION 21.1.** G.S. 163-106(e) reads as rewritten:

31 "(e) Withdrawal of Notice of Candidacy. – Any person who has filed notice of
32 candidacy for an office shall have the right to withdraw it at any time prior to the close of
33 business on the third business day prior to the date on which the right to file for that office
34 expires under the terms of subsection (c) of this section. If a candidate does not withdraw
35 before the ~~filing~~ deadline, except as provided in G.S. 163-112, his name shall be printed on the
36 primary ballot, any votes for him shall be counted, and he shall not be refunded his filing fee."

37 **SECTION 21.2.** G.S. 163-294.2(d) reads as rewritten:

38 "(d) Any person may withdraw his notice of candidacy at any time prior to the close of
39 business on the third business day prior to the filing deadline prescribed in subsection (c), and
40 shall be entitled to a refund of his filing fee if he does so."

41 **SECTION 21.3.** G.S. 163-323(c) reads as rewritten:

42 "(c) Withdrawal of Notice of Candidacy. – Any person who has filed a notice of
43 candidacy for an office shall have the right to withdraw it at any time prior to the close of
44 business on the third business day prior to the date on which the right to file for that office
45 expires under the terms of subsection (b) of this section."
46

47 **PART 22. PETITIONS IN LIEU**

48 **SECTION 22.1.** G.S. 163-107.1 reads as rewritten:

49 **"§ 163-107.1. Petition in lieu of payment of filing fee.**

50 (a) Any qualified voter who seeks nomination in the party primary of the political party
51 with which he affiliates may, in lieu of payment of any filing fee required for the office he

1 seeks, file a written petition requesting him to be a candidate for a specified office with the
2 appropriate board of elections, State, county or municipal.

3 (b) If the candidate is seeking the office of United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant
4 Governor, or any State executive officer, the petition must be signed by 10,000 registered
5 voters who are members of the political party in whose primary the candidate desires to run,
6 except that in the case of a political party as defined by G.S. 163-96(a)(2) which will be making
7 nominations by primary election, the petition must be signed by ~~ten percent (10%)~~ five percent
8 (5%) of the registered voters of the State who are affiliated with the same political party in
9 whose primary the candidate desires to run, or in the alternative, the petition shall be signed by
10 no less than ~~10,000~~ 8,000 registered voters regardless of the voter's political party affiliation,
11 whichever requirement is greater. The petition must be filed with the State Board of Elections
12 not later than 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the filing deadline before the primary in which
13 he seeks to run. The names on the petition shall be verified by the board of elections of the
14 county where the signer is registered, and the petition must be presented to the county board of
15 elections at least 15 days before the petition is due to be filed with the State Board of Elections.
16 When a proper petition has been filed, the candidate's name shall be printed on the primary
17 ballot.

18 (c) County, Municipal and District Primaries. – If the candidate is seeking one of the
19 offices set forth in G.S. 163-106(c) but which is not listed in subsection (b) of this section, or a
20 municipal or any other office requiring a partisan primary which is not set forth in
21 G.S. 163-106(c) or (d), he shall file a written petition with the appropriate board of elections no
22 later than 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the filing deadline before the primary. The petition
23 shall be signed by ~~ten percent (10%)~~ five percent (5%) of the registered voters of the election
24 area in which the office will be voted for, who are affiliated with the same political party in
25 whose primary the candidate desires to run, or in the alternative, the petition shall be signed by
26 no less than 200 registered voters regardless of said voter's political party affiliation, whichever
27 requirement is greater. The board of elections shall verify the names on the petition, and if the
28 petition is found to be sufficient, the candidate's name shall be printed on the appropriate
29 primary ballot. Petitions for candidates for member of the U.S. House of Representatives,
30 District Attorney, and members of the State House of Representatives from multi-county
31 districts or members of the State Senate from multi-county districts must be presented to the
32 county board of elections for verification at least 15 days before the petition is due to be filed
33 with the State Board of Elections, and such petition must be filed with the State Board of
34 Elections no later than 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the filing deadline. The State Board of
35 Elections may adopt rules to implement this section and to provide standard petition forms.

36 (d) Nonpartisan Primaries and Elections. – Any qualified voter who seeks to be a
37 candidate in any nonpartisan primary or election may, in lieu of payment of the filing fee
38 required, file a written petition signed by ~~ten percent (10%)~~ five percent (5%) of the registered
39 voters in the election area in which the office will be voted for with the appropriate board of
40 elections. Any qualified voter may sign the petition. The petition shall state the candidate's
41 name, address and the office which he is seeking. The petition must be filed with the
42 appropriate board of elections no later than 60 days prior to the filing deadline for the primary
43 or election, and if found to be sufficient, the candidate's name shall be printed on the ballot."

44 **SECTION 22.2.** G.S. 163-325(b) reads as rewritten:

45 "(b) Requirements of Petition; Deadline for Filing. – If the candidate is seeking the
46 office of justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, or superior or district
47 court judge, that individual shall file a written petition with the State Board of Elections no
48 later than 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the filing deadline before the primary. If the office
49 is justice of the Supreme Court or judge of the Court of Appeals, the petition shall be signed by
50 ~~10,000~~ 8,000 registered voters in the State. If the office is superior court or district court judge,
51 the petition shall be signed by ~~ten percent (10%)~~ five percent (5%) of the registered voters of

1 the election area in which the office will be voted for. The board of elections shall verify the
2 names on the petition, and if the petition and notice of candidacy are found to be sufficient, the
3 candidate's name shall be printed on the appropriate ballot. Petitions must be presented to the
4 county board of elections for verification at least 15 days before the petition is due to be filed
5 with the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections may adopt rules to implement
6 this section and to provide standard petition forms."
7

8 **PART 23. TIMELY WITHDRAWAL OF PARTY NOMINEE**

9 **SECTION 23.1.** G.S. 163-113 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 163-113. Nominee's right to withdraw as candidate.**

11 A person who has been declared the nominee of a political party for a specified office under
12 the provisions of G.S. 163-182.15 or G.S. 163-110, shall not be permitted to resign as a
13 candidate unless, at least 30 days before the general election, prior to the first day on which
14 military and overseas absentee ballots are transmitted to voters under Article 21A of this
15 Chapter, he that person submits to the board of elections which certified his the nomination a
16 written request that he person be permitted to withdraw."
17

18 **PART 24. BETTER MANAGE PRECINCT SIZES**

19 **SECTION 24.1.** The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study
20 optimal numbers of voters in election precincts so as to reduce overcrowding and long lines and
21 recommend to the General Assembly any legislation it deems advisable. The study shall also
22 examine the size of the polling place itself, its accessibility, and parking availability. It may
23 make an interim report prior to the date that the General Assembly reconvenes the 2013
24 Regular Session in 2014, and shall make a final report before the convening of the 2015
25 Regular Session of the General Assembly.
26

27 **PART 25. EARLY VOTING SITES WITHIN A COUNTY**

28 **SECTION 25.1.** G.S. 163-227.2(b) and (g) read as rewritten:

29 **"§ 163-227.2. Alternate procedures for requesting application for absentee ballot;** 30 **"one-stop" voting procedure in board office.**

31 ...

32 (b) Not earlier than the ~~third~~second Thursday before an election, in which absentee
33 ballots are authorized, in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than 1:00 P.M. on the last
34 Saturday before that election, the voter shall appear in person only at the office of the county
35 board of elections, provided in subsection (g) of this section. A county board of elections shall
36 conduct one-stop voting on the last Saturday before the election until 1:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. and
37 ~~may conduct it until 5:00 P.M. on that Saturday.~~ That voter shall enter the voting enclosure at
38 the board office through the appropriate entrance and shall at once state his or her name and
39 place of residence to an authorized member or employee of the board. In a primary election, the
40 voter shall also state the political party with which the voter affiliates and in whose primary the
41 voter desires to vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to vote in the primary of a
42 particular party under G.S. 163-119, the voter shall state the name of the authorizing political
43 party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The board member or employee to whom the voter
44 gives this information shall announce the name and residence of the voter in a distinct tone of
45 voice. After examining the registration records, an employee of the board shall state whether
46 the person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the voter is found to be registered that voter
47 may request that the authorized member or employee of the board furnish the voter with an
48 application form as specified in G.S. 163-227. The voter shall complete the application in the
49 presence of the authorized member or employee of the board, and shall deliver the application
50 to that person.
51 ...

1 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a county board of elections by
2 unanimous vote of all its members may provide for one or more sites in that county for
3 absentee ballots to be applied for and cast under this section. Every individual staffing any of
4 those sites shall be a member or full-time employee of the county board of elections or an
5 employee of the county board of elections whom the board has given training equivalent to that
6 given a full-time employee. Those sites must be approved by the State Board of Elections as
7 part of a Plan for Implementation approved by both the county board of elections and by the
8 State Board of Elections which shall also provide adequate security of the ballots and
9 provisions to avoid allowing persons to vote who have already voted. The Plan for
10 Implementation shall include a provision for the presence of political party observers at each
11 one-stop site equivalent to the provisions in G.S. 163-45 for party observers at voting places on
12 election day. A county board of elections may propose in its Plan not to offer one-stop voting at
13 the county board of elections office; the State Board may approve that proposal in a Plan only
14 if the Plan includes at least one site reasonably proximate to the county board of elections
15 office and the State Board finds that the sites in the Plan as a whole provide adequate coverage
16 of the county's electorate. If a county board of elections has considered a proposed Plan or
17 Plans for Implementation and has been unable to reach unanimity in favor of a Plan, a member
18 or members of that county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to adopt
19 a plan for it. If petitioned, the State Board may also receive and consider alternative petitions
20 from another member or members of that county board. The State Board of Elections may
21 adopt a Plan for that county. The State Board, in that plan, shall take into consideration factors
22 including geographic, demographic, and partisan interests of that county. Any plan adopted by
23 either the county board of elections or the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall
24 provide for the same hours and days of operation for all additional sites in that county for that
25 election. The requirement of the previous sentence does not apply to the county board of
26 elections office itself nor, if one-stop voting is not conducted at the county board of elections
27 office, to the reasonably proximate alternate site approved under this subsection."

29 PART 26. STANDARDIZE SATELLITE POLLING PLACE APPROVAL

30 SECTION 26.1.(a) G.S. 163-130 reads as rewritten:

31 "§ 163-130. Satellite voting places.

32 A county board of elections by unanimous vote may, upon approval of a request submitted
33 in writing to the State Board of Elections, establish a plan whereby elderly or disabled voters in
34 a precinct may vote at designated sites within the precinct other than the regular voting place
35 for that precinct. Any approval under this section is only effective for one year and shall be
36 annually reviewed for extension. The State Board of Elections shall approve a county board's
37 proposed plan if:

- 38 (1) All the satellite voting places to be used are listed in the county's written
39 request;
- 40 (2) The plan will in the State Board's judgment overcome a barrier to voting by
41 the elderly or disabled;
- 42 (3) Adequate security against fraud is provided for; and
- 43 (4) The plan does not unfairly favor or disfavor voters with regard to race or
44 party affiliation."

45 SECTION 26.1.(b). This section becomes effective January 1, 2014. All plans
46 approved under G.S. 163-130 prior to that date shall be reviewed and adopted in accordance
47 with G.S. 163-130, as amended by this section.

49 PART 27. DELETE REFERENCE TO PRECINCT BOUNDARIES AFTER THE 2000 50 CENSUS

51 SECTION 27.1. G.S. 163-132.1 is repealed.

PART 28. REDUCE NEED FOR SECOND PRIMARY

SECTION 28.1. The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study the second primary and recommend to the General Assembly any legislation it deems advisable. The study may include the following:

- (1) Whether to go to a plurality method of determining the result of the primary.
- (2) Whether to reduce the current forty percent (40%) threshold.
- (3) Whether to keep the forty percent (40%) threshold but also allow a smaller percentage if the margin between first and second place finisher is substantial.
- (4) Whether to have a different system for different offices such as United States Senator, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor and other offices.

It may make an interim report prior to the date that the General Assembly reconvenes the 2013 Regular Session in 2014, and shall make a final report before the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

PART 29. CLARIFY STATE BOARD DUTY ON CHARACTERISTICS OF BALLOT

SECTION 29.1. G.S. 163-165.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-165.4. Standards for official ballots.

The State Board of Elections shall ~~seek to~~ ensure that official ballots throughout the State have all the following characteristics:

- (1) Are readily understandable by voters.
- (2) Present all candidates and questions in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner.
- (3) Allow every voter to cast a vote in every ballot item without difficulty.
- (4) Facilitate an accurate vote count.
- (5) Are uniform in content and format, subject to varied presentations required or made desirable by different voting systems."

PART 30. SIMPLIFY BALLOT RECORDS

SECTION 30.1. G.S. 163-165(1) reads as rewritten:

- "(1) "Ballot" means an instrument on which a voter indicates a choice so that it may be recorded as a vote for or against a certain candidate or referendum proposal. The term "ballot" may include a paper ballot to be counted by hand, a paper ballot to be counted on an electronic scanner, ~~the face of a lever voting machine, the image on a direct record electronic unit, or a~~ paper ballot used on any other voting system."

SECTION 30.2. G.S. 163-165 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

- "(5a) "Paper ballot" means an individual paper document that bears marks made by the voter by hand or through electronic means."

SECTION 30.3. G.S. 163-165.7(a) and (d) read as rewritten:

"§ 163-165.7. Voting systems: powers and duties of State Board of Elections.

(a) Only voting systems that have been certified by the State Board of Elections in accordance with the procedures and subject to the standards set forth in this section and that have not been subsequently decertified shall be permitted for use in elections in this State. Those certified voting systems shall be valid in any election held in the State or in any county, municipality, or other electoral district in the State. Subject to all other applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Elections and, with respect to federal elections, subject to all applicable federal regulations governing voting systems, paper ballots marked by the voter and counted by hand shall be deemed a certified voting system. The State Board of Elections shall certify optical scan voting systems, optical scan with ballot markers voting systems, and direct record electronic voting systems if any of those systems meet all applicable requirements of federal

1 and State law. The State Board may certify additional voting systems only if they meet the
2 requirements of the request for proposal process set forth in this section and only if they
3 generate ~~either a paper ballot or a paper record by which voters may verify their votes before~~
4 ~~casting them and~~ which provides a backup means of counting the vote that the voter casts.
5 Those voting systems may include optical scan and direct record electronic (DRE) voting
6 ~~systems.~~ systems that produce a paper ballot. In consultation with the Office of Information
7 Technology Services, the State Board shall develop the requests for proposal subject to the
8 provisions of this Chapter and other applicable State laws. Among other requirements, the
9 request for proposal shall require at least all of the following elements:

- 10 (1) That the vendor post a bond or letter of credit to cover damages resulting
11 from defects in the voting system. Damages shall include, among other
12 items, any costs of conducting a new election attributable to those defects.
- 13 (2) That the voting system comply with all federal requirements for voting
14 systems.
- 15 (3) That the voting system must have the capacity to include in voting tabulation
16 district returns the votes cast by voters outside of the voter's voting
17 tabulation district as required by G.S. 163-132.5G.
- 18 (4) With respect to electronic voting systems, that the voting system generate a
19 paper record-ballot of each individual vote cast, which ~~paper record-ballot~~
20 shall be maintained in a secure fashion and shall serve as a backup record for
21 purposes of any hand-to-eye count, hand-to-eye recount, or other audit.
22 Electronic systems that employ optical scan technology to count paper
23 ballots shall be deemed to satisfy this requirement.
- 24 (5) With respect to DRE voting systems, that the ~~paper record-ballot~~ generated
25 by the system be viewable by the voter before the vote is cast electronically,
26 and that the system permit the voter to correct any discrepancy between the
27 electronic vote and the ~~paper record-ballot~~ before the vote is cast.

28 ...

29 (d) Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, the State Board of Elections shall prescribe
30 rules for the adoption, handling, operation, and honest use of certified voting systems,
31 including all of the following:

- 32 (1) Procedures for county boards of elections to utilize when recommending the
33 purchase of a certified voting system for use in that county.
- 34 (2) Form of official ballot labels to be used on voting systems.
- 35 (3) Operation and manner of voting on voting systems.
- 36 (4) Instruction of precinct officials in the use of voting systems.
- 37 (5) Instruction of voters in the use of voting systems.
- 38 (6) Assistance to voters using voting systems.
- 39 (7) Duties of custodians of voting systems.
- 40 (8) Examination and testing of voting systems in a public forum in the county
41 before and after use in an election.
- 42 (9) Notwithstanding G.S. 132-1.2, procedures for the review and examination of
43 any information placed in escrow by a vendor pursuant to G.S. 163-165.9A
44 by only the following persons:
 - 45 a. State Board of Elections.
 - 46 b. Office of Information Technology Services.
 - 47 c. The State chairs of each political party recognized under
48 G.S. 163-96.
 - 49 d. The purchasing county.

50 Each person listed in sub-subdivisions a. through d. of this subdivision may
51 designate up to three persons as that person's agents to review and examine

1 the information. No person shall designate under this subdivision a business
2 competitor of the vendor whose proprietary information is being reviewed
3 and examined. For purposes of this review and examination, any designees
4 under this subdivision and the State party chairs shall be treated as public
5 officials under G.S. 132-2.

- 6 (10) With respect to electronic voting systems, procedures to maintain the
7 integrity of both the electronic vote count and the paper ~~record~~ballot. Those
8 procedures shall at a minimum include procedures to protect against the
9 alteration of the paper ~~record~~ballot after a machine vote has been recorded
10 and procedures to prevent removal by the voter from the voting enclosure of
11 any ~~paper record or copy of an~~ individually voted paper ballot or of any
12 other device or item whose removal from the voting enclosure could permit
13 compromise of the integrity of either the machine count or the paper
14 ~~record~~ballot.

15"

16 **SECTION 30.4.** G.S. 163-166.7(c) reads as rewritten:

17 "(c) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate rules for the process of voting. Those
18 rules shall emphasize the appearance as well as the reality of dignity, good order, impartiality,
19 and the convenience and privacy of the voter. Those rules, at a minimum, shall include
20 procedures to ensure that all the following occur:

- 21 (1) The voting system remains secure throughout the period voting is being
22 conducted.
- 23 (2) Only properly voted official ballots ~~or paper records of individual~~ voted
24 ~~ballots~~ are introduced into the voting system.
- 25 (3) Except as provided by G.S. 163-166.9, no official ballots leave the voting
26 enclosure during the time voting is being conducted there. The rules shall
27 also provide that during that time no one shall remove from the voting
28 enclosure any paper record or copy of an individually voted ballot or of any
29 other device or item whose removal from the voting enclosure could permit
30 compromise of the integrity of either the machine count or the paper record.
- 31 (4) All improperly voted official ballots ~~or paper records of individual~~ voted
32 ~~ballots~~ are returned to the precinct officials and marked as spoiled.
- 33 (5) Voters leave the voting place promptly after voting.
- 34 (6) Voters not clearly eligible to vote in the precinct but who seek to vote there
35 are given proper assistance in voting a provisional official ballot or guidance
36 to another voting place where they are eligible to vote.
- 37 (7) Information gleaned through the voting process that would be helpful to the
38 accurate maintenance of the voter registration records is recorded and
39 delivered to the county board of elections.
- 40 (8) The registration records are kept secure. The State Board of Elections shall
41 permit the use of electronic registration records in the voting place in lieu of
42 or in addition to a paper pollbook or other registration record.
- 43 (9) Party observers are given access as provided by G.S. 163-45 to current
44 information about which voters have voted.
- 45 (10) The voter, before voting, shall sign that voter's name on the pollbook, other
46 voting record, or voter authorization document. If the voter is unable to sign,
47 a precinct official shall enter the person's name on the same document before
48 the voter votes."

49 **SECTION 30.5.** G.S. 163-182.1(b)(1) reads as rewritten:

- 50 "(1) Provide for a sample hand-to-eye count of the paper ballots ~~or paper records~~
51 of a statewide ballot item in every county. The presidential ballot item shall

1 be the subject of the sampling in a presidential election. If there is no
2 statewide ballot item, the State Board shall provide a process for selecting
3 district or local ballot items to adequately sample the electorate. The State
4 Board shall approve in an open meeting the procedure for randomly
5 selecting the sample precincts for each election. The random selection of
6 precincts for any county shall be done publicly after the initial count of
7 election returns for that county is publicly released or 24 hours after the polls
8 close on election day, whichever is earlier. The sample chosen by the State
9 Board shall be of one or more full precincts, full counts of mailed absentee
10 ballots, full counts of one or more one-stop early voting sites, or a
11 combination. The size of the sample of each category shall be chosen to
12 produce a statistically significant result and shall be chosen after
13 consultation with a statistician. The actual units shall be chosen at random.
14 In the event of a material discrepancy between the electronic or mechanical
15 count and a hand-to-eye count, the hand-to-eye count shall control, except
16 where paper ballots or records have been lost or destroyed or where there is
17 another reasonable basis to conclude that the hand-to-eye count is not the
18 true count. If the discrepancy between the hand-to-eye count and the
19 mechanical or electronic count is significant, a complete hand-to-eye count
20 shall be conducted."

21 **SECTION 30.6.** G.S. 163-182.2(b)(1a) reads as rewritten:

22 "(1a) For optical scan and direct record electronic voting systems, and for any
23 other voting systems in which ballots are counted other than on paper by
24 hand and eye, those rules shall provide for a sample hand-to-eye count of the
25 paper ballots or ~~paper records~~ of a sampling of a statewide ballot item in
26 every county. The presidential ballot item shall be the subject of the
27 sampling in a presidential election. If there is no statewide ballot item, the
28 State Board shall provide a process for selecting district or local ballot items
29 to adequately sample the electorate. The State Board shall approve in an
30 open meeting the procedure for randomly selecting the sample precincts for
31 each election. The random selection of precincts for any county shall be
32 done publicly after the initial count of election returns for that county is
33 publicly released or 24 hours after the polls close on election day, whichever
34 is earlier. The sample chosen by the State Board shall be of one or more full
35 precincts, full counts of mailed absentee ballots, and full counts of one or
36 more one-stop early voting sites. The size of the sample of each category
37 shall be chosen to produce a statistically significant result and shall be
38 chosen after consultation with a statistician. The actual units shall be chosen
39 at random. In the event of a material discrepancy between the electronic or
40 mechanical count and a hand-to-eye count, the hand-to-eye count shall
41 control, except where paper ballots or ~~records~~ have been lost or destroyed or
42 where there is another reasonable basis to conclude that the hand-to-eye
43 count is not the true count. If the discrepancy between the hand-to-eye count
44 and the mechanical or electronic count is significant, a complete hand-to-eye
45 count shall be conducted. The sample count need not be done on election
46 night."

47 **SECTION 30.7.** G.S. 163-227.2(e1) reads as rewritten:

48 "(e1) If a county uses a voting system with retrievable ballots, that county's board of
49 elections may by resolution elect to conduct one-stop absentee voting according to the
50 provisions of this subsection. In a county in which the board has opted to do so, a one-stop
51 voter shall cast the ballot and then shall deposit the ballot in the ballot box or voting system in

1 the same manner as if such box or system was in use in a precinct on election day. At the end of
2 each business day, or at any time when there will be no employee or officer of the board of
3 elections on the premises, the ballot box or system shall be secured in accordance with a plan
4 approved by the State Board of Elections, which shall include that no additional ballots have
5 been placed in the box or system. Any county board desiring to conduct one-stop voting
6 according to this subsection shall submit a plan for doing so to the State Board of Elections.
7 The State Board shall adopt standards for conducting one-stop voting under this subsection and
8 shall approve any county plan that adheres to its standards. The county board shall adhere to its
9 State Board-approved plan. The plan shall provide that each one-stop ballot shall have a ballot
10 number on it in accordance with G.S. 163-230.1(a2), or shall have an equivalent identifier to
11 allow for retrievability. ~~The standards shall address retrievability in one-stop voting on direct
12 record electronic equipment where no paper ballot is used."~~

13 **SECTION 30.8.** Any direct record electronic (DRE) voting systems currently
14 certified by the State Board of Elections which do not use paper ballots shall be decertified and
15 shall not be used in any election held on or after January 1, 2018. Decertification of a DRE
16 voting system that does not use paper ballots may not be appealed to the Superior Court of
17 Wake County pursuant to G.S. 163-165.7(b).

18 **SECTION 30.9.** This Part becomes effective January 1, 2018.

19 **PART 31. ORDER OF PARTIES ON THE BALLOT**

20 **SECTION 31.1.** G.S. 163-165.6(d) reads as rewritten:

21 "(d) Order of Party Candidates on General Election Official Ballot. – Candidates in any
22 ballot item on a general election official ballot shall appear in the following order:

- 23 (1) Nominees of political parties that reflect at least five percent (5%) of
24 statewide voter registration, according to the most recent statistical report
25 published by the State Board of Elections, in alphabetical order by party
26 beginning with the party whose nominee for Governor received the most
27 votes in the most recent gubernatorial election, and in alphabetical order
28 within the party.
- 29 (2) Nominees of other political parties, in alphabetical order by party and in
30 alphabetical order within the party.
- 31 (3) Unaffiliated candidates, in alphabetical order."

32 **PART 32. VOTE THE PERSON NOT THE PARTY**

33 **SECTION 32.1.** G.S. 163-165.6(e) reads as rewritten:

34 "(e) No Straight-Party Voting. – Each official ballot shall not contain any place that
35 allows a voter with one mark to vote for the candidates of a party for more than one office. ~~be~~
36 ~~arranged so that the voter may cast one vote for a party's nominees for all offices except~~
37 ~~President and Vice President. A vote for President and Vice President shall be cast separately~~
38 ~~from a straight party vote. The official ballot shall be prepared so that a voter may cast a~~
39 ~~straight party vote, but then make an exception to that straight party vote by voting for a~~
40 ~~candidate not nominated by that party or by voting for fewer than all the candidates nominated~~
41 ~~by that party. Instructions for general election ballots shall clearly advise voters of the rules in~~
42 ~~this subsection and of the statutes providing for the counting of ballots."~~

43 **SECTION 32.2.** G.S. 163-182.1(a)(7) is repealed.

44 **PART 33. REGULATE EXTENSION OF CLOSE OF POLLS**

45 **SECTION 33.1.** G.S. 163-166.01 reads as rewritten:

46 **"§ 163-166.01. Hours for voting.**

47 In every election, the voting place shall be open at 6:30 A.M. and shall be closed at 7:30
48 P.M. ~~In extraordinary circumstances, the county board of elections may direct that the polls~~

1 ~~remain open until 8:30 P.M. If the polls are delayed in opening for more than 15 minutes, or are~~
2 ~~interrupted for more than 15 minutes after opening, the State Board of Elections may extend the~~
3 ~~closing time by an equal number of minutes. As authorized by law, the State Board of Elections~~
4 ~~shall be available either in person or by teleconference on the day of election to approve any~~
5 ~~such extension. If any voter is in line to vote at the time the polls are closed, that voter shall be~~
6 ~~permitted to vote. No voter shall be permitted to vote who arrives at the voting place after the~~
7 ~~closing of the polls.~~

8 Any voter who votes after the statutory poll closing time of 7:30 P.M. by virtue of a federal
9 or State court order or any other lawful order, including an order of a county board of elections,
10 shall be allowed to vote, under the provisions of that order, only by using a provisional official
11 ballot. Any special provisional official ballots cast under this section shall be separated,
12 counted, and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by other voters not under the effect
13 of the order extending the closing time of the voting place. If the court order has not been
14 reversed or stayed by the time of the county canvass, the total for that category of provisional
15 ballots shall be added to the official canvass."

17 PART 34. ASSISTANCE TO VOTER

18 SECTION 34.1. G.S. 163-166.8(a) reads as rewritten:

19 "(a) Any registered voter qualified to vote in the election shall be entitled to assistance
20 with entering and exiting the voting booth and in preparing ballots in accordance with the
21 following rules:

22 (1) Any voter not covered by subdivision (2) of this section is entitled to
23 assistance from the voter's spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child,
24 grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law,
25 stepparent, or stepchild, as chosen by the ~~voter~~ voter, and not from any other
26 person other than the chief judge, judge, or assistant as provided by
27 subsection (b) of this section.

28 (2) A voter in any of the following four categories is entitled to assistance from
29 a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that
30 employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union:

- 31 a. A voter who, on account of physical disability, is unable to enter the
32 voting booth without assistance.
- 33 b. A voter who, on account of physical disability, is unable to mark a
34 ballot without assistance.
- 35 c. A voter who, on account of illiteracy, is unable to mark a ballot
36 without assistance.
- 37 d. A voter who, on account of blindness, is unable to enter the voting
38 booth or mark a ballot without assistance.

39 (3) A voter adjudicated to be incompetent by a court of law, and who has not
40 been restored to competency, shall be entitled to assistance only from that
41 person's guardian, the chief judge or judge of elections, an assistant
42 appointed under G.S. 163-42, or at a one-stop site a person authorized by the
43 county board of elections under G.S. 163-227.2(g) to provide a similar
44 function."

45 SECTION 34.2. G.S. 163-166.8 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

46 "(d) Other than an election official as authorized by subsection (b) of this section, or a
47 guardian under subsection (a)(3) of this section who may be compensated for duties as a
48 guardian, no person may be compensated for providing assistance to voters with entering and
49 exiting the voting booth and in marking ballots."

51 PART 35. DATE OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

1 **SECTION 35.1.** G.S. 163-213.2 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 163-213.2. Primary to be held; date; qualifications and registration of voters.**

3 On the Tuesday after the first Monday in May, 1992, and every four years thereafter, the
4 voters of this State shall be given an opportunity to express their preference for the person to be
5 the presidential candidate of their political ~~party-party~~, except that if South Carolina holds its
6 presidential primary before the 15th day of March, the North Carolina presidential preference
7 primary shall be held on the Tuesday after the first South Carolina presidential preference
8 primary of that year.

9 Any person otherwise qualified who will become qualified by age to vote in the general
10 election held in the same year of the presidential preference primary shall be entitled to register
11 and vote in the presidential preference primary. Such persons may register not earlier than 60
12 days nor later than the last day for making application to register under G.S. 163-82.6 prior to
13 the said primary. In addition, persons who will become qualified by age to register and vote in
14 the general election for which the primary is held, who do not register during the special period
15 may register to vote after such period as if they were qualified on the basis of age, but until they
16 are qualified by age to vote, they may vote only in primary elections."

17 **SECTION 35.2.** G.S. 163-213.4 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 163-213.4. Nomination by State Board of Elections.**

19 ~~By the first Tuesday in February of the year preceding~~ No later than 90 days preceding the
20 North Carolina presidential preference primary, the chair of each political party shall submit to
21 the State Board of Elections a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the presidential
22 preference primary ballot. The list must be comprised of candidates whose candidacy is
23 generally advocated and recognized in the news media throughout the United States or in North
24 Carolina, unless any such candidate executes and files with the chair of the political party an
25 affidavit stating without qualification that the candidate is not and does not intend to become a
26 candidate for nomination in the North Carolina Presidential Preference Primary Election. The
27 State Board of Elections shall prepare and publish a list of the names of the presidential
28 candidates submitted. The State Board of Elections shall convene in Raleigh on the first
29 Tuesday in March preceding the presidential preference primary election. At the meeting
30 required by this section, the State Board of Elections shall nominate as presidential primary
31 candidates all candidates affiliated with a political party, recognized pursuant to the provisions
32 of Article 9 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, who have been submitted to the State Board
33 of Elections. Immediately upon completion of these requirements, the Board shall release to the
34 news media all such nominees selected. Provided, however, nothing shall prohibit the partial
35 selection of nominees prior to the meeting required by this section, if all provisions herein have
36 been complied with."

37
38 **PART 36. ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES ON PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT**

39 **SECTION 36.1.** G.S. 163-213.4 reads as rewritten:

40 "**§ 163-213.4. Nomination by State Board of Elections.**

41 By the first Tuesday in February of the year preceding the North Carolina presidential
42 preference primary, the chair of each political party shall submit to the State Board of Elections
43 a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the presidential preference primary ballot.
44 The list must be comprised of candidates whose candidacy is generally advocated and
45 recognized in the news media throughout the United States or in North Carolina, unless any
46 such candidate executes and files with the chair of the political party an affidavit stating
47 without qualification that the candidate is not and does not intend to become a candidate for
48 nomination in the North Carolina Presidential Preference Primary Election. The State Board of
49 Elections shall prepare and publish a list of the names of the presidential candidates submitted.
50 The State Board of Elections shall convene in Raleigh on the first Tuesday in March preceding
51 the presidential preference primary election. At the meeting required by this section, the State

1 Board of Elections shall nominate as presidential primary candidates all candidates affiliated
2 with a political party, recognized pursuant to the provisions of Article 9 of Chapter 163 of the
3 General Statutes, who have been submitted to the State Board of Elections. Additionally, the
4 State Board of Elections, by vote of at least three of its members in the affirmative, may
5 nominate as a presidential primary candidate any other person affiliated with a political party
6 that it finds is generally advocated and recognized in the news media throughout the United
7 States or in North Carolina as candidates for the nomination by that party. Immediately upon
8 completion of these requirements, the Board shall release to the news media all such nominees
9 selected. Provided, however, nothing shall prohibit the partial selection of nominees prior to the
10 meeting required by this section, if all provisions herein have been complied with."

11
12 **PART 38. REPEAL POLITICAL PARTIES FINANCING FUND, JUDICIAL**
13 **ELECTIONS FUND, AND VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS FUND**

14 **SECTION 38.1.(a)** Article 22D of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is repealed,
15 except that G.S. 163-278.69 is repealed effective upon exhaustion of the funds for publication
16 of the Judicial Voter Guide.

17 **SECTION 38.1.(b)** Article 22J of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is repealed.

18 **SECTION 38.1.(c)** Article 22B of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is repealed.

19 **SECTION 38.1.(d)** G.S. 84-34 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 84-34. Membership fees and list of members.**

21 Every active member of the North Carolina State Bar shall, prior to the first day of July of
22 each year, pay to the secretary-treasurer an annual membership fee in an amount determined by
23 the Council but not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00), ~~plus a surcharge of fifty dollars~~
24 ~~(\$50.00) for the implementation of Article 22D of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes,~~ and
25 every member shall notify the secretary-treasurer of the member's correct mailing address. Any
26 member who fails to pay the required dues by the last day of June of each year shall be subject
27 to a late fee in an amount determined by the Council but not to exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00).
28 All dues for prior years shall be as were set forth in the General Statutes then in effect. The
29 membership fee shall be regarded as a service charge for the maintenance of the several
30 services authorized by this Article, and shall be in addition to all fees required in connection
31 with admissions to practice, and in addition to all license taxes required by law. The fee shall
32 not be prorated: Provided, that no fee shall be required of an attorney licensed after this Article
33 shall have gone into effect until the first day of January of the calendar year following that in
34 which the attorney was licensed; but this proviso shall not apply to attorneys from other states
35 admitted on certificate. The fees shall be disbursed by the secretary-treasurer on the order of the
36 Council. ~~The fifty dollar (\$50.00) surcharge shall be sent on a monthly schedule to the State~~
37 ~~Board of Elections.~~ The secretary-treasurer shall annually, at a time and in a law magazine or
38 daily newspaper to be prescribed by the Council, publish an account of the financial
39 transactions of the Council in a form to be prescribed by it. The secretary-treasurer shall
40 compile and keep currently correct from the names and mailing addresses forwarded to the
41 secretary-treasurer and from any other available sources of information a list of members of the
42 North Carolina State Bar and furnish to the clerk of the superior court in each county, not later
43 than the first day of October in each year, a list showing the name and address of each attorney
44 for that county who has not complied with the provisions of this Article. The name of each of
45 the active members who are in arrears in the payment of membership fees shall be furnished to
46 the presiding judge at the next term of the superior court after the first day of October of each
47 year, by the clerk of the superior court of each county wherein the member or members reside,
48 and the court shall thereupon take action that is necessary and proper. The names and addresses
49 of attorneys so certified shall be kept available to the public. The Secretary of Revenue is
50 hereby directed to supply the secretary-treasurer, from records of license tax payments, with

1 any information for which the secretary-treasurer may call in order to enable the
2 secretary-treasurer to comply with this requirement.

3 The list submitted to several clerks of the superior court shall also be submitted to the
4 Council at its October meeting of each year and it shall take the action thereon that is necessary
5 and proper."

6 **SECTION 38.1.(e)** G.S. 105-159.1 is repealed.

7 **SECTION 38.1.(f)** G.S. 105-159.2 is repealed.

8 **SECTION 38.1.(g)** G.S. 163-278.5 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 163-278.5. Scope of Article; severability.**

10 The provisions of this Article apply to primaries and elections for North Carolina offices
11 and to North Carolina referenda and do not apply to primaries and elections for federal offices
12 or offices in other States or to non-North Carolina referenda. Any provision in this Article that
13 regulates a non-North Carolina entity does so only to the extent that the entity's actions affect
14 elections for North Carolina offices or North Carolina referenda.

15 The provisions of this Article are severable. If any provision is held invalid by a court of
16 competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions of the Article that can be
17 given effect without the invalid provision.

18 This section applies to Articles ~~22B, 22D, 22E, 22F, 22G, 22H, 22J,~~ and 22M of the
19 General Statutes to the same extent that it applies to this Article."

20 **SECTION 38.1.(h)** G.S. 163-278.13(e) reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 163-278.13. Limitation on contributions.**

22 ...

23 ~~(e) Except as provided in subsections (e2), (e3), and (e4) of this section, this~~
24 section shall not apply to any national, State, district or county executive committee of any
25 political party. For the purposes of this section only, the term "political party" means only those
26 political parties officially recognized under G.S. 163-96."

27 **SECTION 38.1.(i)** G.S. 163-278.13(e2) is repealed.

28 **SECTION 38.1.(j)** G.S. 163-278.13(e4) is repealed.

29 **SECTION 38.1.(k)** G.S. 163-278.23 reads as rewritten:

30 **"§ 163-278.23. Duties of Executive Director of Board.**

31 ...

32 This section applies to Articles ~~22B, 22D, 22E, 22F, 22G, 22H,~~ and 22M of the General
33 Statutes to the same extent that it applies to this Article."

34 **SECTION 38.1.(l)** G.S. 163-278.99E(d) is repealed effective upon exhaustion of
35 the funds for publication of the Judicial Voter Guide in G.S. 163-278.69.

36 **SECTION 38.1.(m)** The State Board of Elections shall use the money in the North
37 Carolina Public Campaign Fund to only publish Judicial Voter Guides as described in
38 G.S. 163-278.69 until the funds have been exhausted.

39 **SECTION 38.1.(n)** The secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina State Bar shall
40 remit any payments of the fifty-dollar (\$50.00) surcharge payable for the taxable year January
41 1, 2013, to the State Board of Elections, and the State Board of Elections must credit the funds
42 received to the North Carolina Public Campaign Fund.

43 **SECTION 38.1.(o)** The State Board of Elections shall notify the Revisor of
44 Statutes when the funds have been exhausted for publication of the Judicial Voter Guide.

45 **SECTION 38.1.(p)** Subsection (d) of this section is effective for taxable years
46 beginning on or after January 1, 2013. The remainder of this section becomes effective July 1,
47 2013.

49 **PART 39. EXPEDITE VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE**

50 **SECTION 39.1.(a)** G.S. 163-33 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 163-33. Powers and duties of county boards of elections.**

1 The county boards of elections within their respective jurisdictions shall exercise all powers
2 granted to such boards in this Chapter, and they shall perform all the duties imposed upon them
3 by law, which shall include the following:

4 ...
5 (14) To make forms available for near relatives or personal representatives of a
6 deceased voter's estate to provide signed statements of the status of a
7 deceased voter to return to the board of elections of the county in which the
8 deceased voter was registered. Forms may be provided, upon request, to any
9 of the following: near relatives, personal representatives of a deceased
10 voter's estate, funeral directors, or funeral service licensees."

11 **SECTION 39.1.(b)** G.S. 163-82.14(b) reads as rewritten:

12 "(b) Death. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall furnish free of charge
13 to the State Board of Elections every month, in a format prescribed by the State Board of
14 Elections, the names of deceased persons who were residents of the State. The State Board of
15 Elections shall distribute every month to each county board of elections the names on that list
16 of deceased persons who were residents of that county. The Department of Health and Human
17 Services shall base each list upon information supplied by death certifications it received
18 during the preceding month. Upon the receipt of those names, each county board of elections
19 shall remove from its voter registration records any person the list shows to be dead. Each
20 county board of elections shall also remove from its voter registration records a person
21 identified as deceased by a signed statement of a near relative or personal representative of the
22 estate of the deceased voter. The county board need not send any notice to the address of the
23 person so removed."

24 **SECTION 39.2.** Article 13A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by
25 adding a new section to read:

26 "**§ 90-210.25C. Notification forms for deceased voters.**

27 (a) At the time funeral arrangements are made, a funeral director or funeral service
28 licensee is encouraged to make available to near relatives of the deceased a form upon which
29 the near relative may report the status of the deceased voter to the board of elections of the
30 county in which the deceased was a registered voter.

31 (b) A funeral director or funeral service licensee may obtain forms for reporting the
32 status of deceased voters from the county board of elections."

33 **SECTION 39.3.** This Part becomes effective October 1, 2013.

34 **PART 41. CAMPAIGN FINANCE ELECTRONIC REPORTING**

35 **SECTION 41.1.** The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study
36 requiring campaign finance reports to be filed electronically and any issues with
37 implementation of such a requirement, and recommend to the General Assembly any
38 legislation it deems advisable. It may make an interim report prior to the date that the General
39 Assembly reconvenes the 2013 Regular Session in 2014, and shall make a final report before
40 the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.
41

42 **PART 42. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

43 **SECTION 42.1.** Effective for contributions made on or after January 1, 2014,
44 G.S. 163-278.13(a), (b), and (c) read as rewritten:

45 "**§ 163-278.13. Limitation on contributions.**

46 (a) No individual, political committee, or other entity shall contribute to any candidate
47 or other political committee any money or make any other contribution in any election in
48 excess of ~~four thousand dollars (\$4,000)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for that election.
49

50 (b) No candidate or political committee shall accept or solicit any contribution from any
51 individual, other political committee, or other entity of any money or any other contribution in

1 any election in excess of ~~four thousand dollars (\$4,000)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for that
2 election.

3 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, it shall be
4 lawful for a candidate or a candidate's ~~spouse, parents, brothers and sisters~~spouse to make a
5 contribution to the candidate or to the candidate's treasurer of any amount of money or to make
6 any other contribution in any election in excess of ~~four thousand dollars (\$4,000)~~ five thousand
7 dollars (\$5,000) for that election."

8 **SECTION 42.2.** G.S. 163-278.13 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 "(a1) Effective for each odd-numbered calendar year beginning in 2015, the dollar
10 amount of the contribution limitation established by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this
11 subsection shall be increased as provided in this subsection. On July 1 of each even-numbered
12 year, the State Board of Elections shall calculate from data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics
13 of the United States Department of Labor Register the percent difference between the price
14 index for the July 1 of the previous even-numbered year. That percentage increase shall be
15 multiplied by the previous dollar amount contribution limit, that number added to the previous
16 dollar amount contribution limit, and the total shall become effective with respect to
17 contributions made or accepted on or after January 1 of the next odd-numbered year. If the
18 amount after adjustment is not a multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the total shall be
19 rounded to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). As used in this subsection the
20 term "price index" means the average over a calendar year of the Consumer Price Index (all
21 items – United States city average) published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The
22 revised amount of the dollar limit of contributions shall remain in effect for two calendar years
23 until the next adjustment is made. The State Board of Elections shall publish the revised
24 amount in the North Carolina Register and shall notify the Reviser of Statutes who shall adjust
25 the dollar amounts in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section."

26 **SECTION 42.3.** G.S. 163-278.13(e3) is repealed.

27 28 **PART 43 USE OF BUILDING FUNDS**

29 **SECTION 43.1.** G.S. 163-278.19B(4) reads as rewritten:

30 "(4) The donations deposited in the separate segregated bank account for the
31 political party headquarters building fund will be spent only to purchase a
32 principal headquarters building, to construct a principal headquarters
33 building, to renovate a principal headquarters building, to pay a mortgage on
34 a principal headquarters building, ~~or~~ to repay donors if a principal
35 headquarters building is not purchased, constructed, or ~~renovated~~ renovated,
36 or to pay building rent or monthly or bimonthly utility expenses incurred to
37 operate the principal headquarters building. Donations deposited into that
38 account shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in the preceding
39 sentence, and specifically shall not be used for headquarters ~~rent, utilities, or~~
40 equipment other than ~~fixtures~~ fixtures, personnel compensation, or travel or
41 fundraising expenses or requirements of any kind. Notwithstanding the
42 above, personnel compensation and in-kind benefits may be paid to no more
43 than three personnel whose functions are primarily administrative in nature,
44 such as providing accounting, payroll, or campaign finance reporting
45 services, for the party and whose job functions require no more than ten
46 percent (10%) of work time to be spent on political advocacy each calendar
47 year."

48 49 **PART 44. STAND BY YOUR AD**

50 **SECTION 44.1.** G.S. 163-278.39A is repealed.

51 **SECTION 44.2.** G.S. 163-278.39(b) reads as rewritten:

1 "(b) Size Requirements. – In a print media advertisement covered by subsection (a) of
2 this section, the height of all disclosure statements required by that subsection shall constitute
3 at least five percent (5%) of the height of the printed space of the advertisement, provided that
4 the type shall in no event be less than 12 points in size. In an advertisement in a newspaper or a
5 newspaper insert, the total height of the disclosure statement need not constitute five percent of
6 the printed space of the advertisement if the type of the disclosure statement is at least 28 points
7 in size. If a single advertisement consists of multiple pages, folds, or faces, the disclosure
8 requirement of this section applies only to one page, fold, or face. In a television advertisement
9 covered by subsection (a) of this section, the visual disclosure legend shall constitute four
10 percent (4%) of vertical picture height in ~~size~~, ~~size, and where the television advertisement that~~
11 appears is paid for by a candidate or candidate campaign committee, the visual disclosure
12 legend shall appear simultaneously with an easily identifiable photograph of the candidate for
13 at least two seconds. In a radio advertisement covered by subsection (a) of this section, the
14 disclosure statement shall last at least two seconds, provided the statement is spoken so that its
15 contents may be easily understood."
16

17 **PART 45. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

18 **SECTION 45.1.(a)** G.S. 163-19(a) reads as rewritten:

19 "(a) The State Board of Elections shall consist of five registered voters whose terms of
20 office shall begin on May 1, 1969, and shall continue for four years, and until their successors
21 are appointed and qualified. The Governor shall appoint the members of this Board and
22 likewise shall appoint their successors every four years at the expiration of each four-year term.
23 No person may serve more than two consecutive four-year terms."

24 **SECTION 45.1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
25 members appointed on or after that date.
26

27 **PART 47. TIGHTENING OF LOBBYING BUNDLING**

28 **SECTION 47.1.(a)** G.S. 163-278.13C reads as rewritten:

29 "**§ 163-278.13C. Campaign contributions prohibition.**

30 (a) No lobbyist may make a contribution as defined in G.S. 163-278.6 to a candidate or
31 candidate campaign committee as defined in G.S. 163-278.38Z when that candidate meets any
32 of the following criteria:

33 (1) Is a legislator as defined in G.S. 120C-100.

34 (2) Is a public servant as defined in G.S. 138A-3(30)a. and G.S. 120C-104.

35 (b) No lobbyist may do any of the following with respect to a candidate or candidate
36 campaign committee described in subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section:

37 (1) ~~collect~~Collect a contribution or multiple contributions from one or multiple
38 more contributors, contributors intended for that candidate or candidate
39 campaign committee.

40 (2) ~~take~~Take possession of such a contribution or multiple contributions,
41 contributions intended for that candidate or candidate campaign committee.

42 (3) ~~or transfer~~Transfer or deliver deliver the a collected contribution or multiple
43 contributions to the intended recipient candidate or candidate campaign
44 committee. This section shall apply only to contributions to a candidate or
45 candidate campaign committee as defined in G.S. 163-278.38Z when that
46 candidate is a legislator as defined in G.S. 120C-100 or a public servant as
47 defined in G.S. 138A-3(30)a.

48 (c) This section shall not apply to a lobbyist, who has filed a notice of candidacy for
49 office under G.S. 163-106 or Article 11 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes or has been
50 nominated under G.S. 163-114 or G.S. 163-98, making a contribution to that lobbyist's
51 candidate campaign committee.

1 (d) For purposes of this section, the term "lobbyist" shall mean an individual registered
2 as a lobbyist under Chapter 120C of the General Statutes."

3 **SECTION 47.1.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2013, and applies to
4 contributions made on or after that date.

5
6 **PART 48. CANDIDATE SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS**

7 **SECTION 48.1.** Article 22G of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is repealed.

8 **SECTION 48.2.** G.S. 163-278.5 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 163-278.5. Scope of Article; severability.**

10 The provisions of this Article apply to primaries and elections for North Carolina offices
11 and to North Carolina referenda and do not apply to primaries and elections for federal offices
12 or offices in other States or to non-North Carolina referenda. Any provision in this Article that
13 regulates a non-North Carolina entity does so only to the extent that the entity's actions affect
14 elections for North Carolina offices or North Carolina referenda.

15 The provisions of this Article are severable. If any provision is held invalid by a court of
16 competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions of the Article that can be
17 given effect without the invalid provision.

18 This section applies to Articles 22B, 22D, 22E, 22F, ~~22G, 22H, 22J,~~ and 22M of the
19 General Statutes to the same extent that it applies to this Article."

20 **SECTION 48.3.** G.S. 163-278.23 reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 163-278.23. Duties of Executive Director of Board.**

22 ...

23 This section applies to Articles 22B, 22D, 22E, 22F, ~~22G, 22H,~~ and 22M of the General
24 Statutes to the same extent that it applies to this Article."

25 **SECTION 48.4.** Article 22H of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is repealed.

26
27 **PART 49. VOTING IN INCORRECT PRECINCT**

28 **SECTION 49.1.** G.S. 163-55 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 163-55. Qualifications to vote; exclusion from electoral franchise.**

30 (a) Residence Period for State Elections. – Every person born in the United States, and
31 every person who has been naturalized, and who shall have resided in the State of North
32 Carolina and in the ~~precinct, ward, or other election district~~ precinct in which the person offers
33 to vote for 30 days next preceding an election, shall, if otherwise qualified as prescribed in this
34 Chapter, be qualified to vote in ~~any election held in this State, the precinct in which the person~~
35 resides. Removal from one ~~precinct, ward, or other election district~~ precinct to another in this
36 State shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in the ~~precinct, ward, or other~~
37 ~~election district~~ precinct from which ~~he~~ the person has removed until 30 days after the person's
38 removal.

39 Except as provided in this Chapter, the following classes of persons shall not be allowed to
40 vote in this State:

41 (1) Persons under 18 years of age.

42 (2) Any person adjudged guilty of a felony against this State or the United
43 States, or adjudged guilty of a felony in another state that also would be a
44 felony if it had been committed in this State, unless that person shall be first
45 restored to the rights of citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

46 (b) ~~Precincts and Election Districts.~~ Precincts. – For purposes of qualification to vote in
47 an election, a person's residence in a ~~precinct, ward, or election district~~ precinct shall be
48 determined in accordance with G.S. 163-57. ~~When an election district encompasses more than~~
49 ~~one precinct, then for purposes of those offices to be elected from that election district a person~~
50 ~~shall also be deemed to be resident in the election district which includes the precinct in which~~
51 ~~that person resides. An election district may include a portion of a county, an entire county, a~~

1 portion of the State, or the entire State. When a precinct has been divided among two or more
2 election districts for purposes of elections to certain offices, then with respect to elections to
3 those offices a person shall be deemed to be resident in only that election district which
4 includes the area of the precinct in which that person resides. Qualification to vote in referenda
5 shall be treated the same as qualification for elections to fill offices.

6 (c) Elections. – For purposes of the 30-day residence requirement to vote in an election
7 in subsection (a) of this section, the term "election" means the day of the primary, second
8 primary, general election, special election, or referendum."

9 **SECTION 49.2.** G.S. 163-82.15(e) reads as rewritten:

10 "(e) Unreported Move to Another Precinct Within the County. – If a registrant has
11 moved from an address in one precinct to an address in another precinct within the same county
12 more than 30 days before an election and has failed to notify the county board of the change of
13 address before the close of registration for that election, the county board shall permit that
14 person to vote in that election. The county board shall permit the registrant described in this
15 subsection to vote at the registrant's new precinct, upon the registrant's written affirmation of
16 the new address, or, if the registrant prefers, at a central location in the county to be chosen by
17 the county board. If the registrant appears at the old precinct, the precinct officials there shall
18 send the registrant to the new precinct or, if the registrant prefers, to the central location,
19 according to rules which shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. At the new
20 precinct, the registrant shall be processed by a precinct transfer assistant, according to rules
21 which shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. ~~Any voter subject to this subsection~~
22 ~~may instead vote a provisional ballot according to the provisions of G.S. 163-166.11."~~

23 **SECTION 49.3.** G.S. 163-166.11(5) reads as rewritten:

24 "(5) The county board of elections shall count the individual's provisional official
25 ballot for all ballot items on which it determines that the individual was
26 eligible under State or federal law to ~~vote~~ vote, ~~except that the ballot shall~~
27 not be counted if the voter did not vote in the proper precinct under
28 G.S. 163-55, including a central location as provided by that section."

29 **SECTION 49.4** G.S. 163-182.2(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

30 "(4) Provisional official ballots shall be counted by the county board of elections
31 before the canvass. If the county board finds that an individual voting a
32 provisional official ballot is not eligible to vote in one or more ballot items
33 on the official ballot, the board shall not count the official ballot in those
34 ballot items, but shall count the official ballot in any ballot items for which
35 the individual is eligible to vote. Eligibility shall be determined by whether
36 the voter is registered in the county as provided in G.S. 163-82.1 and
37 whether the voter is qualified by residency to vote in the ~~election district~~
38 precinct as provided in G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57. If a voter was properly
39 registered to vote in the election by the county board, no mistake of an
40 election official in giving the voter a ballot or in failing to comply with
41 G.S. 163-82.15 or G.S. 163-166.11 shall serve to prevent the counting of the
42 vote on any ballot item the voter was eligible by registration and qualified by
43 residency to vote."
44

45 PART 50. ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION

46 **SECTION 50.1.** G.S. 163-278.6(8j) reads as rewritten:

47 "(8j) The term "electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or
48 satellite communication, or mass mailing, or telephone bank that has all the
49 following characteristics:

- 50 a. Refers to a clearly identified candidate for elected office.

- 1 b. ~~Is—~~In the case of the general election in November of the
 2 even-numbered year is aired or transmitted after September 15 of that
 3 year, and in the case of any other election is aired or transmitted
 4 within 60 days of the time set for absentee voting to begin pursuant
 5 to G.S. 163-227.2 in an election for that office.
- 6 c. May be received by either:
- 7 1. 50,000 or more individuals in the State in an election for
 8 statewide office or 7,500 or more individuals in any other
 9 election if in the form of broadcast, cable, or satellite
 10 communication.
- 11 2. 20,000 or more households, cumulative per election, in a
 12 statewide election or 2,500 households, cumulative per
 13 election, in any other election if in the form of mass mailing
 14 or telephone bank."

16 PART 51. ELIMINATE INSTANT-RUNOFF FOR LATE JUDICIAL VACANCIES

17 SECTION 51.1. G.S. 163-329(b1) reads as rewritten:

18 "(b1) Method for Vacancy Election. – If a vacancy for the office of justice of the Supreme
 19 Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, or judge of the superior court occurs more than 60 days
 20 before the general election and after the opening of the filing period for the primary, then the
 21 State Board of Elections shall designate a special filing period of one week for candidates for
 22 the office. If more than two candidates file and qualify for the office in accordance with
 23 G.S. 163-323, then the Board shall conduct the election for the office as follows:

- 24 (1) When the vacancy described in this section occurs more than 63 days before
 25 the date of the second primary for members of the General Assembly, a
 26 special primary shall be held on the same day as the second primary. The
 27 two candidates with the most votes in the special primary shall have their
 28 names placed on the ballot for the general election held on the same day as
 29 the general election for members of the General Assembly.
- 30 (2) When the vacancy described in this section occurs less than 64 days before
 31 the date of the second primary, a general election for all the candidates shall
 32 be held on the same day as the general election for members of the General
 33 Assembly and the results shall be determined on a plurality basis as provided
 34 by G.S. 163-292.~~the "instant runoff voting" method shall be used to~~
 35 ~~determine the winner. Under "instant runoff voting," voters rank up to three~~
 36 ~~of the candidates by order of preference, first, second, or third. If the~~
 37 ~~candidate with the greatest number of first choice votes receives more than~~
 38 ~~fifty percent (50%) of the first choice votes, that candidate wins. If no~~
 39 ~~candidate receives that minimum number, the two candidates with the~~
 40 ~~greatest number of first choice votes advance to a second round of counting.~~
 41 ~~In this round, each ballot counts as a vote for whichever of the two final~~
 42 ~~candidates is ranked highest by the voter. The candidate with the most votes~~
 43 ~~in the second round wins the election. If more than one seat is to be filled in~~
 44 ~~the same race, the voter votes the same way as if one seat were to be filled.~~
 45 ~~The counting is the same as when one seat is to be filled, with one or two~~
 46 ~~rounds as needed, except that counting is done separately for each seat to be~~
 47 ~~filled. The first count results in the first winner. Then the second count~~
 48 ~~proceeds without the name of the first winner. This process results in the~~
 49 ~~second winner. For each additional seat to be filled, an additional count is~~
 50 ~~done without the names of the candidates who have already won. In~~

1 multi-seat contests, the State Board of Elections may give the voter more
2 than three choices.

- 3 (3) ~~If two or more candidates receiving the highest number of votes each receive
4 the same number of votes, the board of elections shall resolve the tie in
5 accordance with G.S. 163-182.8."~~

6
7 **PART 52. IDENTIFYING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS AS SUCH**

8 **SECTION 52.1.** Article 14A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
9 adding a new section to read:

10 **"§ 163-166.11A. Notation on provisional ballot.**

11 Whenever a voter is permitted to vote a provisional ballot, the election official issuing the
12 ballot shall annotate in writing or other means on the ballot that it is a provisional ballot."

13
14 **PART 53. ELECTION CYCLE AND REPORTING CHANGES**

15 **SECTION 53.1.(a)** G.S. 163-278.13(d) reads as rewritten:

16 "(d) For the purposes of this section, the term "an election" means the period of time
17 from January 1 of an odd-numbered year through any the day of the primary, the day after the
18 primary through the day of the second primary, or the day after the primary through December
19 31 of the next even-numbered year, general election in which the candidate or political
20 committee may be involved, without regard to whether the candidate is opposed or unopposed
21 in the election, except that where a candidate is not on the ballot in a second primary, that
22 second primary is not "an election" with respect to that candidate."

23 **SECTION 53.1.(c)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2014.

24
25 **PART 54. DEFINITION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE**
26 **ACT**

27 **SECTION 54.1.** G.S. 163-278.6(14) reads as rewritten:

28 "(14) The term "political committee" means a combination of two or more
29 individuals, such as any person, committee, association, organization, or
30 other entity that makes, or accepts anything in excess of five hundred dollars
31 (\$500.00) of value to make, contributions or expenditures and has one or
32 more of the following characteristics:

- 33 a. Is controlled by a candidate;
34 b. Is a political party or executive committee of a political party or is
35 controlled by a political party or executive committee of a political
36 party;
37 c. Is created by a corporation, business entity, insurance company, labor
38 union, or professional association pursuant to G.S. 163-278.19(b); or
39 d. Has the major purpose to support or oppose the nomination or
40 election of one or more clearly identified candidates.

41 Supporting or opposing the election of clearly identified candidates includes
42 supporting or opposing the candidates of a clearly identified political party.

43 If the entity qualifies as a "political committee" under sub-subdivision a., b.,
44 c., or d. of this subdivision, it continues to be a political committee if it
45 receives contributions or makes expenditures or maintains assets or
46 liabilities. A political committee ceases to exist when it winds up its
47 operations, disposes of its assets, and files its final report.

48 The term "political committee" includes the campaign of a candidate who
49 serves as his or her own treasurer.

1 Special definitions of "political action committee" and "candidate campaign
2 committee" that apply only in Part 1A of this Article are set forth in
3 G.S. 163-278.38Z."
4

5 **PART 55. ALTER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING SCHEDULE**

6 **SECTION 55.1.** The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study
7 conforming political committees, electioneering communications, and independent
8 expenditures reporting schedules to similar dates and information, and recommend to the
9 General Assembly any legislation it deems advisable. It may make an interim report prior to the
10 date that the General Assembly reconvenes the 2013 Regular Session in 2014, and shall make a
11 final report before the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.
12

13 **PART 56. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS**

14 **SECTION 56.1.** G.S. 163-278.39(a) reads as rewritten:

15 "(a) Basic Requirements. – It shall be unlawful for any sponsor to sponsor an
16 advertisement in the print media or on radio or television that constitutes an expenditure,
17 independent expenditure, electioneering communication, or contribution required to be
18 disclosed under this Article unless all the following conditions are met:

- 19 (1) It bears the legend or includes the statement: "Paid for by _____
20 [Name of candidate, candidate campaign committee, political party
21 organization, political action committee, referendum committee, individual,
22 or other sponsor]." In television advertisements, this disclosure shall be
23 made by visual legend.
- 24 (2) The name used in the labeling required in subdivision (1) of this subsection
25 is the name that appears on the statement of organization as required in
26 G.S. 163-278.7(b)(1) or G.S. 163-278.12C(a).
- 27 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2001-353, s. 5, effective August 10, 2001.
- 28 ~~(4) The sponsor states in the advertisement its position for or against a ballot
29 measure, provided that this subdivision applies only if the advertisement is
30 made for or against a ballot measure.~~
- 31 (5) In a print media advertisement supporting or opposing the nomination or
32 election of one or more clearly identified candidates, the sponsor states
33 whether it is authorized by a candidate. The visual legend in the
34 advertisement shall state either "Authorized by [name of candidate],
35 candidate for [name of office]" or "Not authorized by a candidate." This
36 subdivision does not apply if the sponsor of the advertisement is the
37 candidate the advertisement supports or that candidate's campaign
38 committee.
- 39 (6) In a print media advertisement that identifies a candidate the sponsor is
40 opposing, the sponsor discloses in the advertisement the name of the
41 candidate who is intended to benefit from the advertisement. This
42 subdivision applies only when the sponsor coordinates or consults about the
43 advertisement or the expenditure for it with the candidate who is intended to
44 benefit.
- 45 ~~(7) In a print media advertisement supporting or opposing the nomination or
46 election of one or more clearly identified candidates that is an independent
47 expenditure, the sponsor discloses the names of the individuals or persons
48 making the five largest donations to the sponsor within the six-month period
49 prior to the purchase of the advertisement if those donations are required to
50 be reported under G.S. 163-278.12.~~

1 (8) ~~In a print media advertisement that is an electioneering communication, the~~
2 ~~sponsor discloses the names of the individuals or person making the five~~
3 ~~largest donations to the sponsor within the six month period prior to the~~
4 ~~purchase of the advertisement if those donations are required to be reported~~
5 ~~under G.S. 163-278.12C.~~

6 If an advertisement described in this section is jointly sponsored, the disclosure statement
7 shall name all the sponsors."
8

9 **PART 57. STUDY ELIMINATION OF 48-HOUR REPORT**

10 **SECTION 57.1.** The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee shall study
11 the elimination of the 48-hour campaign finance report provided by G.S. 163-278.9(4a), and
12 recommend to the General Assembly any legislation it deems advisable. It may make an
13 interim report prior to the date that the General Assembly reconvenes the 2013 Regular Session
14 in 2014, and shall make a final report before the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the
15 General Assembly.
16

17 **PART 58. CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF CHAPTER 132 AND ARTICLE 17 OF** 18 **CHAPTER 120 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES**

19 **SECTION 58.1.(a)** G.S. 120-133 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 120-133. Redistricting communications.**

21 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all drafting and information requests to
22 legislative employees and documents prepared by legislative employees for legislators
23 concerning redistricting the North Carolina General Assembly or the Congressional Districts
24 are no longer confidential and become public records upon the act establishing the relevant
25 district plan becoming law. Present and former legislative employees may be required to
26 disclose information otherwise protected by G.S. 120-132 concerning redistricting the North
27 Carolina General Assembly or the Congressional Districts upon the act establishing the relevant
28 district plan becoming law.

29 (b) Nothing in this section nor in Chapter 132 of the General Statutes shall be construed
30 as a waiver of the common law attorney-client privilege nor of the common law work product
31 doctrine with respect to legislators as defined in G.S. 120-129."

32 **SECTION 58.1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
33

34 **PART 59. RAFFLES BY CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL COMMITTEES**

35 **SECTION 59.1.** G.S. 14-309.15(a) reads as rewritten:

36 "(a) It is lawful for any nonprofit organization or association, recognized by the
37 Department of Revenue as tax-exempt pursuant to G.S. 105-130.11(a), or for any bona fide
38 branch, chapter, or affiliate of such organization, candidate, political committee, and for any
39 government entity within the State, to conduct raffles in accordance with this section. Any
40 person who conducts a raffle in violation of any provision of this section shall be guilty of a
41 Class 2 misdemeanor. Upon conviction that person shall not conduct a raffle for a period of one
42 year. It is lawful to participate in a raffle conducted pursuant to this section. It shall not
43 constitute a violation of State law to advertise a raffle conducted in accordance with this
44 section. A raffle conducted pursuant to this section is not "gambling". For the purpose of this
45 section, "candidate" and "political committee" have the meaning provided by Article 22A of
46 Chapter 163A of the General Statutes, who have filed organization reports under that Article,
47 and who are in good standing with the appropriate board of elections. Receipts and
48 expenditures of a raffle by a candidate or political committee shall be reported in accordance
49 with Article 22A of Chapter 163A of the General Statutes, and ticket purchases are
50 contributions within the meaning of that Article."
51

1 **PART 60. SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

2 **SECTION 60.1.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
3 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
4 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are
5 severable.

6 **SECTION 60.2.** This Part is effective when it becomes law. Except as provided
7 herein, the remainder of this act becomes effective January 1, 2014.