

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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S.B. 698  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45503-TC-25 (10/13)

Short Title: Increase Voter Accountability of Judges. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Rabon (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW  
3 FREQUENT ELECTION OF JUDGES BY CREATING TWO-YEAR TERMS OF  
4 OFFICE FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1.(a) Section 10 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution reads  
7 as rewritten:

8 "Sec. 10. District Courts.

9 (1) The General Assembly shall, from time to time, divide the State into a convenient  
10 number of local court districts and shall prescribe where the District Courts shall sit, but a  
11 District Court must sit in at least one place in each county. District Judges shall be elected for  
12 each district for a term of ~~four~~ two years, in a manner prescribed by law. When more than one  
13 District Judge is authorized and elected for a district, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court  
14 shall designate one of the judges as Chief District Judge. Every District Judge shall reside in  
15 the district for which he is elected.

16 (2) For each county, the senior regular resident Judge of the Superior Court serving the  
17 county shall appoint from nominations submitted by the Clerk of the Superior Court of the  
18 county, one or more Magistrates who shall be officers of the District Court. The initial term of  
19 appointment for a magistrate shall be for two years and subsequent terms shall be for four  
20 years.

21 (3) The number of District Judges and Magistrates shall, from time to time, be  
22 determined by the General Assembly.

23 (4) ~~Vacancies~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, vacancies in the office of  
24 District Judge shall be filled for the unexpired term in a manner prescribed by law. Vacancies  
25 in the office of Magistrate shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner provided for  
26 original appointment to the office, unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly.

27 (5) All terms of office for persons elected prior to July 1, 2018, to the office of District  
28 Judge shall expire on December 31, 2018. All terms of office for persons appointed to fill a  
29 vacancy in an elected term for the office of District Judge shall expire December 31, 2018.

30 (6) All District Judges shall be elected to a two-year term of office beginning with the  
31 general election held in 2018."

32 SECTION 1.(b) Section 16 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution reads  
33 as rewritten:

34 "Sec. 16. Terms of office and election of Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the  
35 Court of Appeals, and Judges of the Superior Court.



