

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

FILED SENATE
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S.B. 869
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45504-LUy-170

Short Title: Restore Voter Rights to Offenders/Const. Amd.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Smith (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO IMMEDIATELY
3 RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS TO CERTAIN OFFENDERS ADJUDGED GUILTY OF A
4 FELONY UPON COMPLETION OF ANY PERIOD OF ACTIVE PUNISHMENT
5 IMPOSED BY THE COURT.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 2(3) of Article VI of the Constitution of North Carolina reads
8 as rewritten:

9 "**Sec. 2. Qualifications of voter.**

10 ...

11 (3) Disqualification of felon. No person adjudged guilty of a felony against this State or
12 the United States, or adjudged guilty of a felony in another state that also would be a felony if it
13 had been committed in this State, shall be permitted to vote ~~unless until~~ that person has completed
14 any period of active punishment imposed by the court, except that no person adjudged guilty for
15 a felony offense of murder or a felony sexual offense shall be permitted to vote until the person
16 shall be first restored to the rights of citizenship in the manner prescribed by law."

17 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
18 the qualified voters of the State at the general election held in 2020, which election shall be
19 conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. The question to be used in the
20 voting systems and ballots shall be:

21 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

22 Constitutional amendment to allow an individual convicted of a felony to vote when
23 that individual has completed any period of active punishment imposed by the court but would
24 not apply to an individual convicted of murder or a sexual offense until that individual's civil
25 rights are restored in the manner prescribed by law."

26 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment
27 set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendment to the
28 Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the
29 permanent records of that office. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act becomes
30 effective upon certification.

31 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.



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