Amends Title [NO]
Second Edition

Senator Mohammed

moves to amend the bill on page 1, lines 19 and 27, by deleting "basis."' and substituting "basis.
This subsection does not prohibit the in-kind donation or use of a voting site, if that voting site
is used for the purpose of conducting elections."' on each of those lines;

and on page 5, line 13, by deleting "Monday" and substituting "Monday Tuesday";

and on page 7, lines 34-36, by rewriting the lines to read:

"(2) The means by which the voter's marked absentee ballot must be returned to
the county board of elections.
(3) The date and time the voter's completed absentee ballot must be received by
the county board of elections in order to be counted."

and on page 9, lines 15-16, by inserting the following between the lines:

"(4) The container-return envelope is not witnessed as required by
G.S. 163-231(a).
(5) Any other requirement in executing the container-return envelope under State
or federal law.";

And on page 10, line 33, by inserting at the end of that line the following:

"Failure to include a printed witness name does not invalidate the application and certificate if
the identity of an individual can solely be identified by the witness's signature.";
and on page 18, line 50, by deleting "quarterly" and substituting "semi-annually";

and on page 21, lines 17-29, by rewriting the lines to read:

"b. If, within 30 days of the date on which notice was sent of the removal of a voter's name from registration records pursuant to sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, the voter notifies the county board of elections of the voter's objection to the removal, the chair of the county board of elections shall enter a challenge under G.S. 163-85(c)(7), and the notice provided to the county board of elections by the receipt of the report from the State Board pursuant to this subdivision shall establish a rebuttable presumption in the preliminary hearing heard pursuant to G.S. 163-85(d) that the person is not a citizen of the United States. The voter may appear with evidence to rebut the presumption, including any of the following: (i) birth certificate, (ii) citizenship naturalization, or (iii) other federal documentation of citizenship.";

and on page 22, line 40, by deleting "SECTION 31." and substituting "SECTION 31.(a)";

and on page 22, lines 48-49, by inserting between the lines the following:

"SECTION 31.(b) The State Board of Elections shall educate the public on the changes to the deadline for returning completed applications and marked mail-in absentee ballots to the county boards of elections contained in this legislation by mailing information regarding the deadline to North Carolina residential addresses of registered voters, in the same manner as the Judicial Voter Guide, prior to the municipal election in 2023, prior to the primary in 2024, and prior to the general election in 2024.";

and on page 23, lines 6-7, by rewriting the lines to read:

"SECTION 33.(a) The State Board of Elections shall select ten counties in the State in which to conduct a pilot program during the primary held in 2024 for signature verification on executed mail-in absentee ballots. In selecting the ten counties for the pilot, the State Board of Elections shall seek diversity of population size, regional location, and demographic
composition. The pilot program shall consist of county boards of elections using signature verification software to check the signatures of voters noted on all executed mail-in absentee ballots received by the county boards of elections in the 2024 primary. The State Board of Elections shall select the signature verification software and ensure that the software is available for all ten counties to use in the 2024 primary. The State Board shall assist the selected county boards of elections in implementing the signature verification software, including assisting the selected county boards of elections in any training needed on how the software is to be used for signature matching on executed mail-in absentee ballots.

SECTION 33.(b) The State Board of Elections shall closely monitor the pilot program established in this section. The selected county boards of elections shall report to the State Board of Elections its findings on the use of the signature verification software during the 2024 primary, including all of the following:

(1) Whether the signature matching software was used for all returned mail-in absentee ballots, and what the voter signature on the executed mail-in absentee ballot was matched against.

(2) How many executed mail-in absentee ballots were counted by the county board of elections in the 2024 primary.

(3) How many executed mail-in absentee ballots were flagged by the signature matching software, and any information known on how close of a match the signatures must be for the signature match software to not flag the voter's signature.

(4) Information on how the signature matching software worked to flag an executed mail-in absentee ballot with a signature that did not match the signature on file for the voter, including any known information on the rate of error in the software.

SECTION 33.(c) In implementing the pilot program established in this section, no executed mail-in absentee ballot shall be rejected by the county board of elections for failing any signature verification. All executed mail-in absentee ballots that are otherwise eligible to be counted in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes shall be counted.

SECTION 33.(d) The State Board of Elections shall report its findings, along with any recommendations, to the General Assembly on or before May 1, 2024. The report shall be delivered to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee and shall also include the following:

(1) A compilation of the information reported from the selected county boards of elections as required by subsection (b) of this section.

(2) The estimated cost to implement signature verification for mail-in absentee ballots statewide.

(3) Any suggested law changes to fully implement signature verification statewide for mail-in absentee ballots, including suggestions on a process for how a voter can cure a deficiency related to signature verification of mail-in absentee ballots.

(4) Any other information relevant to signature verification of mail-in absentee ballots.
SECTION 34. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.".

SIGNED __________________________________________

Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED __________________________________________

Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____________ FAILED _________________ TABLED ____________