

ADOPTED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 747

AMENDMENT NO. A2
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S747-ATE-3 [v.5]

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Amends Title [NO]
Second Edition

Date _____, 2023

Senator Mohammed

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

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

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

- 12
13 "(2) The means by which the voter's marked absentee ballot must be returned to
14 the county board of elections.
15 "(3) The date and time the voter's completed absentee ballot must be received by
16 the county board of elections in order to be counted.";

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18
19 and on page 9, lines 15-16, by inserting the following between the lines:

- 20
21 "(4) The container-return envelope is not witnessed as required by
22 G.S. 163-231(a).
23 "(5) Any other requirement in executing the container-return envelope under State
24 or federal law.";

25
26
27 And on page 10, line 33, by inserting at the end of that line the following:

28
29 "Failure to include a printed witness name does not invalidate the application and certificate if
30 the identity of an individual can solely be identified by the witness's signature.";



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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

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1 composition. The pilot program shall consist of county boards of elections using signature
2 verification software to check the signatures of voters noted on all executed mail-in absentee
3 ballots received by the county boards of elections in the 2024 primary. The State Board of
4 Elections shall select the signature verification software and ensure that the software is available
5 for all ten counties to use in the 2024 primary. The State Board shall assist the selected county
6 boards of elections in implementing the signature verification software, including assisting the
7 selected county boards of elections in any training needed on how the software is to be used for
8 signature matching on executed mail-in absentee ballots.

9 **SECTION 33.(b)** The State Board of Elections shall closely monitor the pilot
10 program established in this section. The selected county boards of elections shall report to the
11 State Board of Elections its findings on the use of the signature verification software during the
12 2024 primary, including all of the following:

- 13 (1) Whether the signature matching software was used for all returned mail-in
14 absentee ballots, and what the voter signature on the executed mail-in absentee
15 ballot was matched against.
- 16 (2) How many executed mail-in absentee ballots were counted by the county
17 board of elections in the 2024 primary.
- 18 (3) How many executed mail-in absentee ballots were flagged by the signature
19 matching software, and any information known on how close of a match the
20 signatures must be for the signature match software to not flag the voter's
21 signature.
- 22 (4) Information on how the signature matching software worked to flag an
23 executed mail-in absentee ballot with a signature that did not match the
24 signature on file for the voter, including any known information on the rate of
25 error in the software.

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

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

- 34 (1) A compilation of the information reported from the selected county boards of
35 elections as required by subsection (b) of this section.
- 36 (2) The estimated cost to implement signature verification for mail-in absentee
37 ballots statewide.
- 38 (3) Any suggested law changes to fully implement signature verification
39 statewide for mail-in absentee ballots, including suggestions on a process for
40 how a voter can cure a deficiency related to signature verification of mail-in
41 absentee ballots.
- 42 (4) Any other information relevant to signature verification of mail-in absentee
43 ballots.

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1 **SECTION 34.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
2 law and applies to elections held on or after that date."

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____

**The official copy of this document, with signatures
and vote information, is available in the
Senate Principal Clerk's Office**