

TABLED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 958

AMENDMENT NO. A2

(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H958-ABKe-62 [v.1]

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Amends Title [NO]
Seventh Edition

Date _____, 2026

Senator Chaudhuri

moves to amend the bill on page 5, lines 46-47, by inserting the following between those lines:

"NO EXEMPT POSITIONS FOR STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

SECTION 1.9.(a) G.S. 126A-15.4, as enacted by S.L. 2026-40, reads as rewritten:

"§ 126A-15.4. Process for designating exempt managerial and policy positions.

...

(e) Exempt Policymaking and Exempt Managerial Positions in the Office of the State Controller and the State Board of Elections. –

(1) The State Controller. – The total number of exempt positions, policymaking and managerial, is limited to 10.

(2) The Executive Director of the State Board of Elections. – The total number of exempt positions is ~~limited to the following seven positions: Agency Human Relations Director II, Agency General Counsel II, Assistant General Counsel II, Public Information Manager, Legislative Affairs Manager, Internal Auditor, and Administrative Officer III.~~ none.

...

(h) Vacancies. – In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Governor, the office of a member of the Council of State, or the Office of the State Controller, ~~or the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections,~~ the person who succeeds to or is appointed or elected to fill the unexpired term shall make designations in a letter to the Director, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate within 180 days after the oath of office is administered to that person.

...."

SECTION 1.9.(b) Any positions designated as an exempt managerial position or as an exempt policymaking position as of October 1, 2026, other than that of the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections, shall be subject to Chapter 126A of the General Statutes as a employees of the State. The Executive Director of the State Board of Elections shall be subject to G.S. 163-27.

SECTION 1.9.(c) This section becomes effective October 1, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT AT STATE BOARD AND COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

SECTION 1.10.(a) G.S. 163-20 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:



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1 "(f) Public Comment Required. – At each meeting of the State Board, public comment
2 shall be allowed for a minimum of one hour, with two minutes allowed for each public comment."

3 **SECTION 1.10.(b)** G.S. 163-31 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 "(f) At each meeting of each county board, public comment shall be allowed for a
5 minimum of one hour, with two minutes allowed for each public comment."

6 **SECTION 1.10.(c)** G.S. 153A-52.1 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 153A-52.1. Public comment period during regular meetings.**

8 The board of commissioners shall provide at least one period for public comment per month
9 at a regular meeting of the board. The board may adopt reasonable rules governing the conduct
10 of the public comment period, including, but not limited to, rules (i) fixing the maximum time
11 allotted to each speaker, (ii) providing for the designation of spokesmen for groups of persons
12 supporting or opposing the same positions, (iii) providing for the selection of delegates from
13 groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions when the number of persons wishing
14 to attend the hearing exceeds the capacity of the hall, and (iv) providing for the maintenance of
15 order and decorum in the conduct of the hearing. The board is not required to provide a public
16 comment period under this section if no regular meeting is held during the month. At each
17 meeting of the board, public comment shall be allowed for a minimum of one hour, with two
18 minutes allowed for each public comment."

19 **SECTION 1.10.(d)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2027, and applies to
20 any meeting of the State Board of Elections, a county board of elections, or a board of
21 commissioners held on or after that date.

22
23 **NO INAPPROPRIATE INFLUENCE BY SBOE STAFF**

24 **SECTION 1.11.** Article 3 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
25 adding a new section to read:

26 "**§ 163-27.3. No inappropriate influence.**

27 Any permanent or temporary employee of the State Board that inappropriately influences any
28 election shall be subject to disciplinary action.";

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33 and on page 6, line 43, through page 7, line 2, by deleting the lines;

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38 and on page 7, lines 9-10, by inserting between the lines the following:

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40 "**SECTION 2.3.(c)** The State Board of Elections shall use available funds to become
41 a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. (ERIC) in order to share and
42 cross-check information on voting records and voter registration with other states to improve the
43 accuracy of voter registration lists.";

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and on page 7, line 10, by deleting "SECTION 2.3.(c)" and substituting "SECTION 2.3.(d)".

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____