

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 411
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40252-CMe-4

Short Title: Reduce Early Voting Period for Primaries. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative N. Jackson.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REDUCE THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR ALL ELECTIONS OTHER
3 THAN THE GENERAL ELECTION FROM SEVENTEEN DAYS TO SIX DAYS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-166.40(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) Each county board shall conduct early voting in accordance with the following:

7 (1) Not earlier than the third Thursday before ~~an~~ the general election in which a
8 voter seeks to vote and not later than 3:00 P.M. on the last Saturday before
9 that general election, the voter may appear in person only at the office of the
10 county ~~board of elections, board,~~ except as provided in G.S. 163-166.35. A
11 county board ~~of elections~~ shall conduct early voting on the last Saturday
12 before the general election from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

13 (2) Not earlier than the second Monday before a primary election, a second
14 primary, or a runoff election in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than
15 3:00 P.M. on the last Saturday before that primary, second primary, or runoff
16 election, the voter may appear in person only at the office of the county board,
17 except as provided in G.S. 163-166.35. A county board shall conduct early
18 voting on the last Saturday before a primary, a second primary, or a runoff
19 election from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163-13(b) reads as rewritten:

21 "(b) Nominating Procedures. – If a congressional vacancy occurs beginning on the tenth
22 day before the filing period ends under G.S. 163-106(c) preceding the next succeeding general
23 election, candidates for the special election to fill the vacancy shall not be nominated in primaries.
24 Instead, nominations may be made by the political party congressional district executive
25 committees in the district in which the vacancy occurs. The ~~chairman~~ chair and secretary of each
26 political party congressional district executive committee nominating a candidate shall
27 immediately certify his or her name and party affiliation to the State Board so that it may be
28 printed on the special election ballots.

29 If the congressional vacancy occurs before the tenth day before the filing period ends under
30 G.S. 163-106(c) prior to the next succeeding general election, the Governor shall call a special
31 primary for the purpose of nominating candidates to be voted on in a special election called by
32 the Governor in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. Such a primary
33 election shall be conducted in accordance with the general laws governing primaries, except that
34 the opening and closing dates for filing notices of candidacy with the State Board shall be fixed
35 by the Governor in his or her call for the special primary. The Governor may fix the early voting
36 period for each county board to conduct early voting for the special election and for the special



1 first primary, but such period shall not be for more than six days. The Governor may also fix the
2 absentee voting period for the special election and for the special first primary, but such period
3 shall not be less than 30 days."

4 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163-287 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 "(a1) For any special election not held at a time specified under subsection (a) of this
6 section, the resolution adopted by the governing body of the county, municipality, or special
7 district may set the time period for early voting in the special election, which shall be for six
8 consecutive days."

9 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 163-302(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) In any municipal election, including a primary or general election or referendum,
11 ~~mail-in~~ absentee voting and early voting may, upon resolution of the municipal governing body,
12 be permitted. The resolution, if adopted by the municipal governing body, may set the time period
13 for each county board conducting the election to conduct early voting, but such period shall not
14 be for more than six days. Such resolution must be adopted no later than 60 days prior to an
15 election in order to be effective for that election. Any such resolution shall remain effective for
16 all future elections unless repealed no later than 60 days before an election. A copy of all
17 resolutions adopted under this section shall be filed with the State Board and the county board of
18 ~~elections~~ conducting the election within 10 days of passage in order to be effective. In addition,
19 ~~mail-in~~ absentee voting and early voting shall be allowed in any referendum on incorporation of
20 a municipality."

21 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to elections
22 held on or after that date.