

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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SENATE BILL DRS45233-LUe-44A

Short Title: Whiz Kids/Slow Pokes Voter Registration. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Meyer and Smith (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE PROCRASTINATORS THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE BY  
3 ESTABLISHING SAME-DAY REGISTRATION ON ELECTION DAY AND TO  
4 ENGAGE OVERACHIEVING TEENAGERS IN VOTING BY RECODIFYING THE  
5 PROGRAM TO PREREGISTER INDIVIDUALS SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN YEARS  
6 OF AGE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8  
9 **PART I. SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION ON ELECTION DAY**

10 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 163-82.6B reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 163-82.6B. Same-day registration.**

12 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an individual who is qualified  
13 to register to vote may register in person and then vote in the person's county of residence on  
14 election day or at an early voting site in the individual's county of residence during the period for  
15 early voting provided under Part 5 of Article 14A of this Chapter.

16 (b) To register and vote under this section, an individual shall do all of the following:

17 (1) Complete a voter registration application form as prescribed in G.S. 163-82.4.

18 (2) Provide proof of residence by presenting a HAVA document listing the  
19 individual's current name and residence address.

20 (3) Present photo identification in accordance with G.S. 163-166.16.

21 (c) An applicant who registers under this section shall vote a retrievable ballot as  
22 provided in G.S. 163-166.45 immediately after submitting the voter registration application form.  
23 If a person declines to vote immediately, the registration shall be processed, and the person may  
24 later vote at an early voting site under this section in the same election if the early voting period  
25 has not closed.

26 (d) Within two business days of the individual's registration under this section, the county  
27 board of elections in conjunction with the State Board shall verify the North Carolina drivers  
28 license or social security number in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, update the statewide  
29 registration database, search for possible duplicate registrations, and proceed under  
30 G.S. 163-82.7 to verify the applicant's address. The applicant's vote shall be counted unless the  
31 county board determines that the applicant is not qualified to vote in accordance with this  
32 Chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, if the Postal Service returns the  
33 first notice required under G.S. 163-82.7(c) as undeliverable before the close of business on the  
34 business day before canvass, the county board shall not register the applicant and shall retrieve  
35 the applicant's ballot and remove that ballot's votes from the official count.



1 (e) For purposes of this section, a "HAVA document" is any of the following that shows  
2 the name and address of the individual:

- 3 (1) A current utility bill.
- 4 (2) A current bank statement.
- 5 (3) A current government check.
- 6 (4) A current paycheck.
- 7 (5) Another current government document.
- 8 (6) A current document issued from the institution who issued the photo  
9 identification shown by the voter pursuant to G.S. 163-166.16.

10 (f) Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general  
11 election for which a partisan or nonpartisan primary is held, even though not so qualified by the  
12 date of the primary, may register for the primary and general election prior to the primary and  
13 then vote in the primary and general election after being registered in accordance with the  
14 provisions of this section."

15 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 163-59 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 163-59. Right to participate or vote in party primary.**

17 No person shall be entitled to vote or otherwise participate in the primary election of any  
18 political party unless that person complies with all of the following:

- 19 (1) Is a registered voter.
- 20 (2) Has declared and has had recorded on the registration book or record the fact  
21 that the voter affiliates with the political party in whose primary the voter  
22 proposes to vote or participate.
- 23 (3) Is in good faith a member of that party.

24 Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, any unaffiliated voter who is authorized under  
25 G.S. 163-119 may also vote in the primary if the voter is otherwise eligible to vote in that primary  
26 except for subdivisions (2) and (3) of the previous paragraph.

27 Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election for  
28 which the primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the primary, shall be  
29 entitled to register for the primary and general election prior to the primary and then to vote in  
30 the primary after being registered. Such person may register not earlier than 60 days nor later  
31 than the last day for making application to register under G.S. 163-82.6(d) prior to the primary.  
32 In addition, persons who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election  
33 for which the primary is held, who do not register during the special period may register to vote  
34 after such period as if they were qualified on the basis of age, but until they are qualified by age  
35 to vote, they may vote only in primary elections. The person also may register and vote in the  
36 primary and general election pursuant to G.S. 163-82.6B."

37 **SECTION 1.3.** G.S. 163-82.6(d) reads as rewritten:

38 "(d) Registration Deadlines for a Primary or Election. – ~~In~~ Except as provided in  
39 G.S. 163-82.6B, in order to be valid for a primary or election, the form:

- 40 (1) If submitted by mail, must be postmarked at least 25 days before the primary  
41 or election, except that any mailed application on which the postmark is  
42 missing or unclear is validly submitted if received in the mail not later than 20  
43 days before the primary or election,
- 44 (2) If submitted in person, by facsimile transmission, or by transmission of a  
45 scanned document, must be received by the county board of elections by a  
46 time established by that board, but no earlier than 5:00 P.M., on the  
47 twenty-fifth day before the primary or election,
- 48 (3) If submitted through a delegatee who violates the duty set forth in subsection  
49 (a) of this section, must be signed by the applicant and given to the delegatee  
50 not later than 25 days before the primary or election, except as provided in  
51 subsection (f) of this section."

1           **SECTION 1.4.** G.S. 163-166.12(d), as amended by Section 3A.4(c) of S.L. 2024-57,  
2 reads as rewritten:

3           "(d) Voting When Identification Numbers Do Not Match. – Regardless of whether an  
4 individual has registered by mail or by another method, if the individual has provided with the  
5 registration form a drivers license number or last four digits of a Social Security number but the  
6 computer validation of the number as required by G.S. 163-82.12 did not result in a match, and  
7 the number has not been otherwise validated by the county board, in the first election in which  
8 the individual votes that individual shall submit with the ballot the form of identification  
9 described in subsection (a) or subsection (b) of this section, depending upon whether the ballot  
10 is voted in person or absentee. If that identification is provided no later than 12:00 P.M. on the  
11 third business day after the election and the county board does not determine that the individual  
12 is otherwise ineligible to vote a ballot, the failure of identification numbers to match shall not  
13 prevent that individual from registering to vote and having that individual's vote counted. If the  
14 individual registers and votes under G.S. 163-82.6B, the identification documents required in  
15 that section, rather than those described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section, apply."

16           **SECTION 1.5.** G.S. 163-283 reads as rewritten:

17       **"§ 163-283. Right to participate or vote in party primary.**

18       No person shall be entitled to vote or otherwise participate in the primary election of any  
19 political party unless that person complies with all of the following:

- 20           (1) Is a registered voter.
- 21           (2) Has declared and has had recorded on the registration book or record the fact  
22           that the voter affiliates with the political party in whose primary the voter  
23           proposes to vote or participate.
- 24           (3) Is in good faith a member of that party.

25       Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, any unaffiliated voter who is authorized under  
26 G.S. 163-119 may also vote in the primary if the voter is otherwise eligible to vote in that primary  
27 except for subdivisions (2) and (3) of the previous paragraph.

28       Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election for  
29 which the primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the primary election, shall  
30 be entitled to register while the registration books are open during the regular registration period  
31 prior to the primary and then to vote in the primary after being registered, provided however,  
32 under full-time and permanent registration, such an individual may register not earlier than 60  
33 days nor later than the last day for making application to register under G.S. 163-82.6(d) prior to  
34 the primary. In addition, persons who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the  
35 general election for which the primary is held, who do not register during the special period may  
36 register to vote after such period as if they were qualified on the basis of age, but until they are  
37 qualified by age to vote, they may vote only in primary elections. The person also may register  
38 and vote in the primary and general election pursuant to G.S. 163-82.6B."

39           **SECTION 1.6.** G.S. 163-283.1 reads as rewritten:

40       **"§ 163-283.1. Voting in nonpartisan primary.**

41       Any person who will become qualified by age to register and vote in the general election for  
42 which a nonpartisan primary is held, even though not so qualified by the date of the primary,  
43 shall be entitled to register for the primary and general election prior to the primary and then to  
44 vote in the primary after being registered. Such a person may register not earlier than 60 days nor  
45 later than the last day for making application to register under G.S. 163-82.6(d) prior to the  
46 primary. The person also may register and vote in the primary and general election pursuant to  
47 G.S. 163-82.6B."

## 48       **PART II. PREREGISTRATION**

49           **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 163-82.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:  
50

1       "(d) Preregistration. – A person who is at least 16 years of age but will not be 18 years of  
2 age by the date of the next election and who is otherwise qualified to register may preregister to  
3 vote and shall be automatically registered upon reaching the age of eligibility following  
4 verification of the person's qualifications and address in accordance with G.S. 163-82.7."

5       **SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 163-82.3(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6       "(5) Preregister to vote."

7       **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 163-82.4(e)(2) reads as rewritten:

8       "(2) The following ~~question~~questions and statement:

- 9           a. "Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for  
10           the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant will be 18  
11           years of age or older on election day.  
12           b. "Are you at least 16 years of age and understand that you must be 18  
13 years of age on or before election day to vote?" and boxes for the  
14 applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is at least 16 years  
15 of age and understands that the applicant must be at least 18 years of  
16 age or older by election day to vote.  
17           c. "If you checked 'no' in response to ~~this question,~~ both of these  
18 questions, do not submit this form."

19       **SECTION 2.4.** G.S. 163-82.19(a) reads as rewritten:

20       "(a) Voter Registration at Drivers License Offices. – The Division of Motor Vehicles  
21 shall, pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Board of Elections, modify its forms so that any  
22 eligible person who applies for original issuance, renewal or correction of a drivers license, or  
23 special identification card issued under G.S. 20-37.7 may, on a part of the form, complete an  
24 application to register to vote, or to update the voter's registration if the voter has changed his or  
25 her address or moved from one precinct to another or from one county to ~~another.~~ another, or to  
26 preregister to vote. The person taking the application shall ask if the applicant is a citizen of the  
27 United States. If the applicant states that the applicant is not a citizen of the United States, or  
28 declines to answer the question, the person taking the application shall inform the applicant that  
29 it is a felony for a person who is not a citizen of the United States to apply to register to vote. The  
30 application shall state in clear language the penalty for violation of this section. The necessary  
31 forms shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The form must ask for the previous  
32 voter registration address of the voter, if any. If a previous address is listed, and it is not in the  
33 county of residence of the applicant, the appropriate county board of elections shall treat the  
34 application as an authorization to cancel the previous registration and also process it as such  
35 under the procedures of G.S. 163-82.9. If a previous address is listed and that address is in the  
36 county where the voter applies to register, the application shall be processed as if it had been  
37 submitted under G.S. 163-82.9.

38       Registration shall become effective as provided in G.S. 163-82.7. Applications to register to  
39 vote accepted at a drivers license office under this section until the deadline established in  
40 G.S. 163-82.6(d)(2) shall be treated as timely made for an election, and no person who completes  
41 an application at that drivers license office shall be denied the vote in that election for failure to  
42 apply earlier than that deadline.

43       All applications shall be forwarded by the Department of Transportation to the appropriate  
44 board of elections not later than five business days after the date of acceptance, according to rules  
45 which shall be promulgated by the State Board of Elections. Those rules shall provide for a  
46 paperless, instant, electronic transfer of applications to the appropriate board of elections. All  
47 applications for preregistration shall be forwarded to the State Board of Elections."

48       **SECTION 2.5.** G.S. 163-82.20 reads as rewritten:

49       "**§ 163-82.20. Voter registration at other public agencies.**

50       ...

1 (b) Duties of Voter Registration Agencies. – A voter registration agency described in  
 2 subsection (a) of this section shall, unless the applicant declines, in writing, to register ~~to vote~~ or  
 3 preregister to vote, do each of the following:

- 4 (1) Distribute with each application for service or assistance, and with each  
 5 recertification, renewal, or change of address relating to such service or  
 6 assistance:  
 7 a. The voter registration application form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a)  
 8 or (b); or  
 9 b. The voter registration agency's own form, if it is substantially  
 10 equivalent to the form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a) or (b) and has  
 11 been approved by the State Board of Elections, provided that the  
 12 agency's own form may be a detachable part of the agency's paper  
 13 application or may be a paperless computer process, as long as the  
 14 applicant is required to sign an attestation as part of the application to  
 15 ~~register~~ register or preregister.  
 16 (2) Provide a form that contains the elements required by section 7(a)(6)(B) of  
 17 the National Voter Registration Act; ~~and Act~~.  
 18 (3) Provide to each applicant who does not decline to register or preregister to  
 19 vote the same degree of assistance with regard to the completion of the  
 20 registration application as is provided by the office with regard to the  
 21 completion of its own forms.

22 ...  
 23 (e) Prohibitions. – Any person providing any service under subsection (b) of this section  
 24 shall not:

- 25 (1) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration,  
 26 except that this shall not be construed to prevent the notice provided by  
 27 G.S. 163-82.4(d) to be given if the applicant refuses to declare his party  
 28 affiliation;  
 29 (2) Display any such political preference or party allegiance;  
 30 (3) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of  
 31 which is to discourage the applicant from registering or preregistering to vote;  
 32 or  
 33 (4) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of  
 34 which is to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register or preregister  
 35 or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits.

36 (f) Confidentiality of Declination to Register. – No information relating to a declination  
 37 to register or preregister to vote in connection with an application made at a voter registration  
 38 agency may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.

39 (g) Transmittal From Agency to Board of Elections. – Any voter registration or  
 40 preregistration application completed at a voter registration agency shall be accepted by that  
 41 agency in lieu of the applicant's mailing the application. Any such application so received shall  
 42 be transmitted to the appropriate board of elections not later than five business days after  
 43 acceptance, according to rules which shall be promulgated by the State Board of Elections.

44 ...  
 45 (i) Ineligible Applications Prohibited. – No person shall make application to register or  
 46 preregister to vote under this section if that person is ineligible on account of age, citizenship,  
 47 lack of residence for the period of time provided by law, or because of conviction of a felony."

48 **SECTION 2.6.** G.S. 163-82.23 reads as rewritten:

49 "**§ 163-82.23. Voter registration at public high schools.**

50 Every public high school shall make available to its students and others who are eligible to  
 51 register or preregister to vote the application forms described in G.S. 163-82.3, and shall keep a

1 sufficient supply of the forms so that they are always available. A local board of education may,  
2 but is not required to, designate high school employees to assist in completing the forms. Only  
3 employees who volunteer for this duty may be designated by boards of education."

4 **SECTION 2.7.** G.S. 115C-47(59) reads as rewritten:

5 "(59) To Encourage Student Voter ~~Registration.~~ Registration and Preregistration. –  
6 Local boards of education are encouraged to adopt policies to promote student  
7 voter ~~registration.~~ registration and preregistration. These policies may include  
8 collaboration with county boards of elections to conduct voter registration and  
9 preregistration in high schools. Completion and submission of voter  
10 registration and preregistration forms shall not be a course requirement or  
11 graded assignment for students."

12 **SECTION 2.8.** G.S. 115C-81.45(d)(1b)b. reads as rewritten:

13 "b. Instruction on the importance of voting and otherwise participating in  
14 the democratic process, including instruction on voter  
15 ~~registration.~~ registration and preregistration."

16 **SECTION 2.9.** The State Board of Elections and the Department of Public  
17 Instruction are encouraged to improve outreach to high school students on voter registration and  
18 preregistration programs when students are eligible to do either, including the curriculum element  
19 on instruction in voter registration and preregistration, as provided by G.S. 115C-47(59) and  
20 voter registration in public high schools authorized in G.S. 163-82.23.

21  
22 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

23 **SECTION 3.1.** This act is effective when it becomes law.