

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

**H.B. 580**  
**Mar 31, 2025**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH40313-LU-93

Short Title: SBOE Legislative Changes.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Dahle.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS ELECTIONS LAW CHANGES, AS RECOMMENDED BY  
3 THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.  
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **PART I. PRESERVING CONFIDENTIALITY OF ABSENTEE REQUESTERS**

7 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 163-228(c) reads as rewritten:

8 "(c) The official register required by this ~~section~~ section, along with any other information  
9 in the possession of the State Board or a county board which would disclose that an identifiable  
10 voter has requested an absentee ballot, shall be confidential and not a public record until the  
11 opening of the voting place in accordance with G.S. 163-166.25, at which time ~~the official~~  
12 ~~register~~ these records shall constitute a ~~public record~~ public records, unless otherwise protected  
13 from disclosure by law."

14 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 163-233(b) reads as rewritten:

15 "(b) The county board of elections shall create a list of applications made for absentee  
16 ballots received and approved by the county board, which shall be updated daily from the date  
17 the county board begins to mail application and ballots through the date of canvass. Such list  
18 shall be a public record."

20 **PART II. REVISIONS TO BALLOT COUNTING PROCEDURES**

21 **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 163-182.2(a), as amended by Section 3A.4(e) of S.L. 2024-57,  
22 reads as rewritten:

23 "(a) The initial counting of official ballots cast on election day and under Part 5 of Article  
24 14A of this Chapter shall be conducted according to the following principles:

- 25 (1) Vote counting of ballots cast at the precinct on election day shall occur  
26 immediately after the polls close and shall be continuous until completed. ~~If~~  
27 ~~ballots cast under Part 5 of Article 14A of this Chapter are counted~~  
28 ~~electronically, that count shall commence at the time the polls close. If ballots~~  
29 ~~east under Part 5 of Article 14A of this Chapter are paper ballots counted~~  
30 ~~manually, that count shall commence at the same time as mail-in absentee~~  
31 ~~ballots east under Article 20 or Article 21A of this Chapter are counted.~~ Vote  
32 counting of ballots cast during early voting shall commence at 5:00 P.M. on  
33 election day. Vote counting of ballots cast during early voting may commence  
34 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on election day upon the  
35 adoption of a resolution at least two days before the election in which the hour  
36 and place of counting the ballots shall be stated. A copy of the resolution shall



be posted on the county board's website and distributed to all persons required to receive notice under G.S. 143-318.12(b)(2). The county board shall not announce the result of the count before 7:30 P.M. on election day.

...  
(4)

If the county board finds that an individual voting a provisional official ballot (i) was registered in the county as provided in 163-82.1, (ii) voted in the proper precinct under G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, and (iii) was otherwise eligible to vote, the provisional official ballots shall be counted by the county board no later than ~~5:00 P.M.~~ on the third business day after the election. County boards may review for approval provisional ballots cast during early voting and take preparatory steps for the count before election day with the same procedures used for absentee ballots under G.S. 163-234(3), so long as the preparatory steps do not reveal to any individual not engaged in the actual count election results before 7:30 P.M. on election day. Except as provided in G.S. 163-82.15(e), if the county board finds that an individual voting a provisional official ballot (i) did not vote in the proper precinct under G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, (ii) is not registered in the county as provided in G.S. 163-82.1, or (iii) is otherwise not eligible to vote, the ballot shall not be counted. If a voter was properly registered to vote in the election by the county board, no mistake of an election official in giving the voter a ballot or in failing to comply with G.S. 163-82.15 or G.S. 163-166.11 shall serve to prevent the counting of the vote on any ballot item the voter was eligible by registration and qualified by residency to vote. When an individual has voted a provisional official ballot after completing an affidavit under G.S. 163-166.16(d), and the county board has not found the affidavit to be valid by the time specified in this subdivision for counting provisional ballots because the county board has grounds to believe the affidavit is false, the county board shall determine whether to count the provisional official ballot by the county canvass.

...."

**SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 163-230.1, as amended by Section 3A.4(f) of S.L. 2024-57, reads as rewritten:

**"§ 163-230.1. Simultaneous issuance of absentee ballots with application.**

...

(e1) Curable Deficiencies. – If a container-return envelope contains a curable deficiency, the county board shall promptly notify the voter of the deficiency and the manner in which the voter may cure the deficiency. Curable deficiencies are deficiencies that can be cured with supplemental documentation or attestation provided by the voter, including when any of the following occurs:

- (1) The voter did not sign the voter certification as required by G.S. 163-231(a)(4).
- (2) The voter signed the application in the wrong place on the application.
- (3) The voter failed to include with the container-return envelope a photocopy of identification described in G.S. 163-166.16(a) or an affidavit as described in G.S. 163-166.16(d)(1), (d)(2), or (d)(3), as required by subsection (f1) of this section.

The identification of the two persons witnessing the casting of the absentee ballot in accordance with G.S. 163-231(a) is not a curable deficiency. Any container-return envelope with a curable deficiency that is transmitted to the county board shall be considered timely if cure documentation is received no later than 12:00 P.M. on the ~~third~~ fourth business day after the election. Cure documentation may be transmitted via email to the county board if the deficiency

1 is one described in subdivision (3) of this subsection. The notification of voters regarding curable  
 2 deficiencies is an administrative task that may be performed by county board staff and is not  
 3 required to be performed at an absentee meeting as provided for in subsection (f) of this section.  
 4 The voter shall be notified of curable deficiencies by mail, and by telephone or email if the  
 5 telephone number or email address was provided by the voter on the request form for absentee  
 6 ballots.

7 (f) Required Meeting of County Board of Elections. – During the period commencing on  
 8 the fifth Tuesday before ~~an election, election through election day in any election in which~~  
 9 absentee ballots are authorized, the county board shall hold one or more public meetings each  
 10 Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. for the purpose of action on applications for absentee ballots. At these  
 11 meetings, the county board shall pass upon applications for absentee ballots.

12 If the county board changes the time of holding its meetings or provides for additional  
 13 meetings in accordance with the terms of this subsection, notice of the change in hour and notice  
 14 of the schedule of additional meetings, if any, shall be ~~published in a newspaper circulated in the~~  
 15 county at least 30 days prior to the election, posted on the county board's website and distributed  
 16 to all persons required to receive notice under G.S. 143-318.12(b)(2) at least two days before any  
 17 changed or additional meeting.

18 At the time the county board makes its decision on an application for absentee ballots, the  
 19 county board shall enter in the appropriate column in the register of absentee requests,  
 20 applications, and ballots issued opposite the name of the applicant a notation of whether the  
 21 applicant's application was "Approved" or "Disapproved".

22 The decision of the county board on the validity of an application for absentee ballots shall  
 23 be final subject only to such review as may be necessary in the event of an election contest. The  
 24 county board shall constitute the proper official body to pass upon the validity of all applications  
 25 for absentee ballots received in the county; this function shall not be performed by the chair or  
 26 any other member of the county board individually.

27 ...."

28 **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 163-234, as amended by Section 3A.4(g) of S.L. 2024-57, reads  
 29 as rewritten:

30 "**§ 163-234. Counting absentee ballots by county board.**

31 All absentee ballots returned to the county board in the container-return envelopes shall be  
 32 retained by the county board to be counted by the county board as follows:

33 ...

- 34 (2) The county board shall meet at 5:00 P.M. on election day in the county board  
 35 office or other public location in the county courthouse for the purpose of  
 36 counting all absentee ballots except those which have been challenged before  
 37 5:00 P.M. on election day and those received pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b)(2).  
 38 Any elector of the county shall be permitted to attend the meeting and allowed  
 39 to observe the counting process, so long as the elector does not in any manner  
 40 interfere with the election officials in the discharge of their duties. ~~The count~~  
 41 ~~of these absentee ballots shall be continuous until completed, and the members~~  
 42 ~~shall not separate or leave the counting place except for unavoidable~~  
 43 ~~necessity. The county board shall not adjourn the meeting until the count of~~  
 44 these absentee ballots is complete.

45 The county board may begin counting absentee ballots ~~issued under~~  
 46 ~~Article 21A of this Chapter~~ between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.  
 47 ~~and may begin counting all absentee ballots between the hours of 2:00 P.M.~~  
 48 ~~and 5:00 P.M.~~ upon the adoption of a resolution at least two ~~weeks~~ days prior  
 49 to the election in which the hour and place of counting absentee ballots shall  
 50 be stated. A copy of the resolution shall be ~~published once a week for two~~  
 51 ~~weeks prior to the election, in a newspaper having general circulation in the~~

1 county. Notice may additionally be made on a radio or television station or  
 2 both, but the notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required  
 3 notice. The count shall be continuous until completed and the members shall  
 4 not separate or leave the counting place except for unavoidable necessity,  
 5 except that if the count has been completed prior to the time the polls close, it  
 6 shall be suspended until that time pending receipt of any additional ballots  
 7 posted on the county board's website and distributed to all persons required to  
 8 receive notice under G.S. 143-318.12(b)(2). Nothing in this section prohibits  
 9 a county board from taking preparatory steps for the count earlier than the  
 10 times specified in this section, as long as the preparatory steps do not reveal  
 11 to any individual not engaged in the actual count election results before the  
 12 times specified in this subdivision for the count to begin. By way of  
 13 illustration and not limitation, a preparatory step for the count would be the  
 14 entry of tally cards from direct record electronic voting units into a computer  
 15 for processing. The county board shall not announce the result of the count  
 16 before 7:30 P.M.

17 ...

18 (11) The county board shall meet after the day of the election and prior to the day  
 19 of canvass to count absentee ballots received pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b)(2)  
 20 and absentee ballots that have deficiencies that have been cured pursuant to  
 21 G.S. 163-230.1(e), upon the adoption of a resolution pursuant to subdivision  
 22 (2) of this section. The county board shall comply with all other requirements  
 23 of this section and G.S. 163-230.1 for the counting of these absentee ballots.

24 (12) No later than 5:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election, the county  
 25 board shall announce the tally of all absentee ballots, except those subject to  
 26 a ~~challenge or challenge~~, those cast in accordance with Article 21A of this  
 27 ~~Chapter~~ Chapter, or those for which a final decision on a cured deficiency  
 28 remains pending."

29  
 30 **PART III. POLL WORKER ASSIGNMENT FLEXIBILITY**

31 **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 163-41 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 163-41. Precinct chief judges and judges of election; appointment; terms of office;**  
 33 **qualifications; vacancies; oaths of office.**

34 (a) Appointment of Chief Judge and Judges. – At the meeting required by G.S. 163-31 to  
 35 be held on the Tuesday following the third Monday in August of the year in which they are  
 36 appointed, the county board of elections shall appoint one person to act as chief judge and two  
 37 other persons to act as judges of election for each precinct in the county. Their terms of office  
 38 shall continue for two years from the specified date of appointment and until their successors are  
 39 appointed and qualified, except that if a nonresident of the precinct is appointed as chief judge  
 40 or judge for a precinct, that person's term of office shall end if the board of elections appoints a  
 41 qualified resident of the precinct of who is affiliated with the same party-party, or a qualified  
 42 resident regardless of party affiliation if the nonresident was unaffiliated, to replace the  
 43 nonresident chief judge or judge. It shall be their duty to conduct the primaries and elections  
 44 within their respective precincts. Persons appointed to these offices must be registered voters and  
 45 residents of the county in which the precinct is located, of good repute, and able to read and write.  
 46 Not more than one judge in each precinct shall ~~belong to be affiliated with~~ the same political  
 47 party as the chief judge. Not more than one judge in each precinct shall be appointed upon the  
 48 recommendation of the same political party that recommended the chief judge.

49 ...

50 (c) The ~~chairman~~ chair of each of the two political ~~party-parties~~ in the county having the  
 51 greatest numbers of registered voters in the State, where possible-possible, shall recommend ~~two~~

1 four registered voters in each precinct who are otherwise qualified, are residents of the precinct,  
2 have good moral character, and are able to read and write, for appointment as chief judge or judge  
3 in the precinct, and he shall also recommend where possible the same number of similarly  
4 qualified voters for appointment as judges of election in that precinct. If such recommendations  
5 are received by the county board of elections no later than the fifth day preceding the date on  
6 which appointments are to be made, it must make precinct appointments from the names of those  
7 recommended. Provided that if the party chair submits only one qualified name is submitted by  
8 the fifth day preceding the date on which appointments are to be made, by a party for judge of  
9 election by the chairman of one of the two political parties in the county having the greatest  
10 numbers of registered voters in the State, for judge of election by that date, the county board of  
11 elections must appoint that person.

12 If the recommendations of the party chairs for chief judge or judge in a precinct are  
13 insufficient, the county board of elections by ~~unanimous vote of all bipartisan~~ majority vote of  
14 its members may name to serve as chief judge or judge in that precinct registered voters in that  
15 precinct who were not recommended by the party chairs. If, after diligently seeking to fill the  
16 positions with registered voters of the precinct, the county board still has an insufficient number  
17 of officials for the precinct, the county board by ~~unanimous vote of all bipartisan~~ majority vote  
18 of its members may appoint to the positions registered voters in other precincts in the same county  
19 who meet the qualifications other than residence to be precinct officials in the precinct, provided  
20 that where possible the county board shall seek ~~and adopt the recommendation of the county~~  
21 ~~chairman of the political party affected.~~ the recommendations of the county party chairs. In  
22 making its appointments, the county board shall assure, wherever possible, that no precinct has  
23 a chief judge and judges all of whom are ~~registered affiliated with or recommended by~~ the same  
24 party. In no instance shall the county board appoint nonresidents of the precinct to a majority of  
25 the three positions of chief judge and judge in a precinct. The county board shall assure, where  
26 possible, that no precinct has a chief judge and judges all of whom are nonresidents of the  
27 precinct.

28 (d) If, at any time other than on the day of a primary or election, a chief judge or judge  
29 of election shall be removed from office, or shall die or resign, or if for any other cause there be  
30 a vacancy in a precinct election office, the ~~chairman chair~~ of the county board of elections shall  
31 appoint another in his or her place, promptly notifying him ~~of his or her~~ of the appointment. If at  
32 all possible, the ~~chairman chair~~ of the county board of elections shall consult with the county  
33 ~~chairman chair~~ of the political party ~~of that originally recommended~~ the vacating official, and if  
34 the ~~chairman chair~~ of the county political party nominates a qualified voter of that precinct to fill  
35 the vacancy, the ~~chairman chair~~ of the county board of elections shall appoint that person. In  
36 filling such a vacancy, the ~~chairman chair~~ shall appoint a person who ~~belongs to~~ is affiliated with  
37 the same political party ~~as that to which of the party chair who originally recommended the~~  
38 ~~vacating member belonged when appointed.~~ official or is unaffiliated. If the ~~chairman chair~~  
39 of the county board of elections did not appoint a person upon recommendation of the ~~chairman~~  
40 ~~chair~~ of the party to fill such a vacancy, then the term of office of the person appointed to fill the  
41 vacancy shall expire upon the conclusion of the next canvass held by the county board of  
42 elections under this Chapter, and any successor must be ~~a person nominated by the chairman of~~  
43 ~~the party of the vacating officer appointed using the procedures in subsection (c) of this section,~~  
44 with the chair of the political party recommending two qualified voters for each vacancy to be  
45 filled.

46 If any person appointed chief judge shall fail to be present at the voting place at the hour of  
47 opening the polls on primary or election day, or if a vacancy in that office shall occur on primary  
48 or election day for any reason whatever, the precinct judges of election shall appoint another to  
49 act as chief judge until such time as the ~~chairman chair~~ of the county board of elections shall  
50 appoint to fill the vacancy. If such appointment by the ~~chairman chair~~ of the county board of  
51 elections is not a person nominated by the county ~~chairman chair~~ of the political party of the

1 vacating officer, then the term of office of the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall expire  
 2 upon the conclusion of the next canvass held by the county board of elections under this Chapter.  
 3 If a judge of election shall fail to be present at the voting place at the hour of opening the polls  
 4 on primary or election day, or if a vacancy in that office shall occur on primary or election day  
 5 for any reason whatever, the chief judge shall appoint another to act as judge until such time as  
 6 the ~~chairman~~chair of the county board of elections shall appoint to fill the vacancy. Persons  
 7 appointed to fill vacancies shall, whenever possible, be ~~chosen from~~affiliated with or  
 8 recommended by the same political party as the person whose vacancy is being filled, and all  
 9 such appointees shall be sworn before acting.

10 ...."

11 **SECTION 3.2.** G.S. 163-42 reads as rewritten:

12 "**§ 163-42. Assistants at polls; appointment; term of office; qualifications; oath of office.**

13 (a) Each county board of elections is authorized, in its discretion, to appoint two or more  
 14 assistants for each precinct to aid the chief judge and judges. ~~Not more than two assistants shall~~  
 15 ~~be appointed in precincts having 500 or less registered voters.~~ Assistants shall be qualified voters  
 16 of the county in which the precinct is located. When the board of elections determines that  
 17 assistants are needed in a precinct an equal number shall be appointed from different political  
 18 parties, unless the requirement as to party affiliation cannot be met because of an insufficient  
 19 number of voters ~~of~~recommended by the different political parties within the county.

20 In the discretion of the county board of elections, a precinct assistant may serve less than the  
 21 full day prescribed for chief judges and judges in G.S. 163-47(a).

22 (b) The ~~chairman~~chair of each of the two political party parties in the county having the  
 23 greatest numbers of registered voters in the State shall have the right to recommend ~~from three~~  
 24 up to 10 registered voters in each precinct for appointment as precinct assistants in that precinct.  
 25 If the recommendations are received by ~~it~~the county board of elections no later than the thirtieth  
 26 day prior to the primary or election, the board shall make appointments of the precinct assistants  
 27 for each precinct from the names thus recommended. If the recommendations of the party chairs  
 28 for precinct assistant in a precinct are insufficient, the county board of elections by ~~unanimous~~  
 29 ~~vote of all bipartisan majority vote~~ of its members may name to serve as precinct assistant in that  
 30 precinct registered voters in that precinct of the county who were not recommended by the party  
 31 chairs. ~~If, after diligently seeking to fill the positions with registered voters of the precinct, the~~  
 32 ~~county board still has an insufficient number of precinct assistants for the precinct, the county~~  
 33 ~~board by unanimous vote of all of its members may appoint to the positions registered voters in~~  
 34 ~~other precincts in the same county who meet the qualifications other than residence to be precinct~~  
 35 ~~officials in the precinct.~~ In making its appointments, the county board shall assure, wherever  
 36 possible, that no precinct has precinct officials all of whom are ~~registered~~affiliated with or  
 37 recommended by the same party. ~~In no instance shall the county board appoint nonresidents of~~  
 38 ~~the precinct to a majority of the positions as precinct assistant in a precinct.~~

39 (c) In addition, a county board of elections by ~~unanimous vote of all bipartisan majority~~  
 40 vote of its members may appoint any registered voter in the county as emergency election-day  
 41 assistant, as long as that voter is otherwise qualified to be a precinct official. ~~The State Board of~~  
 42 ~~Elections shall determine for each election the number of emergency election-day assistants each~~  
 43 ~~county may have, based on population, expected turnout, and complexity of election duties.~~ The  
 44 county board by ~~unanimous vote of all bipartisan majority vote~~ of its members may assign  
 45 emergency election-day assistants on the day of the election to any precinct in the county where  
 46 the number of precinct officials is insufficient because of an emergency occurring within 48 hours  
 47 of the opening of the polls that prevents an appointed precinct official from serving. A person  
 48 appointed to serve as emergency election-day assistant shall be trained and paid like other  
 49 precinct assistants in accordance with G.S. 163-46. A county board of elections shall apportion  
 50 the appointments as emergency election-day assistant ~~among registrants of each political party~~  
 51 ~~so as to make possible the staffing of each precinct with officials of more than one party, and the~~

1 ~~county board shall make assignments~~ so that no precinct has precinct officials all of whom are  
 2 ~~registered-affiliated~~ with or recommended by the same party.

3 ...."

#### 5 PART IV. DIGITAL PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

6 **SECTION 4.1.** G.S. 163-166.16(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Photo Identification Required to Vote. – When a registered voter presents to vote in  
 8 person, the registered voter shall produce any of the following forms of identification that contain  
 9 a photograph of the registered voter:

10 (1) Any of the following that is valid and unexpired, or has been expired for one  
 11 year or less:

- 12 a. A North Carolina drivers license.
- 13 b. ~~A special identification card~~ Special identification for nonoperators  
 14 issued under G.S. 20-37.7 or other form of nontemporary  
 15 identification issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles of the  
 16 Department of Transportation.
- 17 c. A United States passport.
- 18 d. A North Carolina voter photo identification card of the registered voter  
 19 issued pursuant to G.S. 163-82.8A.
- 20 e. Recodified as sub-subdivision (a)(2)c. of this section by Session Laws  
 21 2019-22, s. 1, effective June 3, 2019.
- 22 f. Reserved.
- 23 g. ~~A student identification card~~ Student identification issued by a  
 24 constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, a  
 25 community college, as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2), or eligible private  
 26 postsecondary institution as defined in G.S. 116-280(3), provided that  
 27 ~~card identification~~ is issued in accordance with G.S. 163-166.17.
- 28 h. ~~An employee identification card~~ Employee identification issued by a  
 29 state or local government entity, including a charter school, provided  
 30 that ~~card identification~~ is issued in accordance with G.S. 163-166.18.
- 31 i. ~~A drivers~~ Drivers license or special identification ~~card~~  
 32 for nonoperators issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a  
 33 territory or commonwealth of the United States, but only if the voter's  
 34 voter registration was within 90 days of the election.

35 (2) Any of the following, regardless of whether the identification contains a  
 36 printed expiration or issuance date:

- 37 a. ~~A military identification card~~ Military identification issued by the  
 38 United States government.
- 39 b. ~~A Veterans Identification Card~~ issued by the United States Department  
 40 of Veterans Affairs for use at Veterans Administration medical  
 41 facilities.
- 42 c. ~~A tribal enrollment card~~ Tribal enrollment identification issued by a  
 43 State or federal recognized tribe.
- 44 d. ~~An identification card~~ Identification issued by a department, agency,  
 45 or entity of the United States government or this State for a  
 46 government program of public assistance.

47 ...."

48 **SECTION 4.2.** G.S. 163-166.17 reads as rewritten:

49 **"§ 163-166.17. Approval of student identification cards for voting identification.**

50 (a) The State Board shall approve the use of student ~~identification cards~~ identifications  
 51 issued by a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, a community college, as

1 defined in G.S. 115D-2(2), or eligible private postsecondary institution as defined in  
2 G.S. 116-280(3) for voting identification under G.S. 163-166.16 if the following criteria are met:

3 (1) The chancellor, president, or registrar of the university or college submits  
4 documentation satisfactory to the State Board that the following have been  
5 met and will not knowingly be violated with regard to student ~~identification~~  
6 ~~cards-identifications~~ issued during the approval period:

- 7 a. The ~~identification cards-identifications~~ that are issued by the university  
8 or college contain photographs of students obtained by the university  
9 or college or its agents or contractors, provided the photograph  
10 obtained (i) is a frontal image that includes the student's face and (ii)  
11 represents a clear, accurate likeness of the student to whom the  
12 identification card is issued. If the photograph is one not produced by  
13 the university or college or its agents, the university or college shall  
14 certify in detail the process used by the university or college to ensure  
15 the photograph is that of the student to whom the identification card is  
16 issued and shall certify that the process is designed to confirm the  
17 identity of the student to whom the identification card is issued.
- 18 b. The ~~identification cards-identifications~~ are issued after an enrollment  
19 or other process that includes one or more methods of confirming the  
20 identity of the student using information that may include, but are not  
21 limited to, the social security number, citizenship status, and birthdate  
22 of the student.
- 23 c. Access to the equipment for producing the ~~identification cards~~  
24 ~~identifications~~ is restricted through security measures.
- 25 d. Misuse of the equipment for producing the ~~identification cards~~  
26 ~~identifications~~ would be grounds for student discipline or termination  
27 of an employee.
- 28 e. University or college officials would report any misuse of student  
29 identification ~~card-production~~ equipment they have knowledge of to  
30 law enforcement if G.S. 163-82.8(19) was potentially violated.
- 31 f. The ~~cards-identifications~~ issued by the university or college on or after  
32 January 1, 2021, contain a date of expiration.
- 33 g. The university or college will provide copies of student ~~identification~~  
34 ~~cards-identifications~~ to the State Board to assist with training purposes.
- 35 h. The college or university will provide to students who are issued the  
36 student identification ~~card~~ a copy of, or an electronic link to, a  
37 document developed by the State Board that details the requirements  
38 related to identification for voting; the requirements to vote absentee,  
39 early, or on election day; a description of voting by provisional ballot;  
40 and the availability of a free North Carolina voter photo identification  
41 card pursuant to G.S. 163-82.8A to rural, military, veteran, elderly,  
42 underserved, minority, or other communities as determined by local  
43 needs; and the requirements of North Carolina residency to vote,  
44 including applicable intent requirements of North Carolina law, and  
45 the penalty for voting in multiple states.

46 ...

47 (b) The State Board shall establish a schedule for such submissions and approvals. The  
48 State Board shall permit a university or college with no changes to the prior election cycle's  
49 approval to submit a statement indicating no changes have been made by the university or  
50 college. When the State Board approves for use the student ~~identification cards-identifications~~  
51 issued by a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, a community college, as



1 defined in G.S. 115D-2(2), or eligible private postsecondary institution as defined in  
2 G.S. 116-280(3), for voting identification purposes under G.S. 163-166.16, such approval shall  
3 be valid for the period from January 1 of an odd-numbered year through December 31 of the next  
4 even-numbered year.

5 (c) The State Board shall produce a list of participating universities and colleges every  
6 two years. The list shall be published on the State Board's Web site and distributed to every  
7 county board of elections. The State Board shall publish sample student ~~identification cards~~  
8 identifications for each participating university and college.

9 (d) If a participating college or university with a student identification ~~card~~ approved for  
10 use by the State Board as provided in subsection (b) of this section changes the design of the  
11 student ~~identification card, identification,~~ that college or university shall provide copies of the  
12 new design of the student identification ~~cards~~ to the State Board to assist with training purposes."

13 **SECTION 4.3.** G.S. 163-166.18 reads as rewritten:

14 "**§ 163-166.18. Approval of employee identification ~~cards~~ for voting identification.**

15 (a) The State Board shall approve the use of employee ~~identification cards~~ identifications  
16 issued by a state or local government entity, including a charter school, for voting identification  
17 under G.S. 163-166.16 if the following criteria are met:

18 (1) The head elected official or lead human resources employee of the state or  
19 local government entity or charter school submits documentation satisfactory  
20 to the State Board that the following true have been met and will not  
21 knowingly be violated with regard to employee ~~identification cards~~  
22 identifications issued during the approval period:

23 a. The ~~identification cards~~ identifications that are issued by the state or  
24 local government entity or charter school contain photographs of the  
25 employees obtained by the state or local government entity or charter  
26 school employing entity or its agents or contractors, provided the  
27 photograph obtained (i) is a frontal image that includes the employee's  
28 face and (ii) represents a clear, accurate likeness of the employee to  
29 whom the identification ~~card~~ is issued. If the photograph is one not  
30 produced by the state or local government entity or charter school, the  
31 state or local government entity or charter school shall certify in detail  
32 the process used by the state or local government entity or charter  
33 school to ensure the photograph is that of the employee to whom the  
34 identification ~~card~~ is issued and shall certify that the process is  
35 designed to confirm the identity of the employee to whom the  
36 identification ~~card~~ is issued.

37 b. The ~~identification cards~~ identifications are issued after an employment  
38 application or other process that includes one or more methods of  
39 confirming the identity of the employee using information that  
40 include, but are not limited to, the social security number, citizenship  
41 status, and birthdate of the employee.

42 c. Access to the equipment for producing the ~~identification cards~~  
43 identifications is restricted through security measures.

44 d. Misuse of the equipment for producing the ~~identification cards~~  
45 identifications would be grounds for termination of an employee.

46 e. State or local or charter school officials would report any misuse of  
47 identification ~~card~~ production equipment they have knowledge of to  
48 law enforcement if G.S. 163-275(19) was potentially violated.

49 f. The ~~cards~~ identifications issued by the state or local government entity  
50 or charter school on or after January 1, 2021, contain a date of  
51 expiration.

1 g. The state or local government entity or charter school will provide  
2 copies of employee ~~identification cards~~ identifications to the State  
3 Board to assist with training purposes.  
4

5 ...

6 (b) The State Board shall establish a schedule for such submissions and approvals. The  
7 State Board shall permit a State or local government entity or charter school with no changes to  
8 the prior election cycle's approval to submit a statement indicating no changes have been made  
9 by the State or local government entity or charter school. When the State Board approves for use  
10 the employee ~~identification cards~~ identifications issued by a state or local government entity,  
11 including a charter school, for voting identification under G.S. 163-166.16, such approval shall  
12 be valid for the period from January 1 of an odd-numbered year through December 31 of the next  
13 even-numbered year.

14 (c) The State Board shall produce a list of participating employing entities every two  
15 years. The list shall be published on the State Board's Web site and distributed to every county  
16 board of elections. The State Board shall publish sample employee ~~identification cards~~  
identifications for each participating State or local government entity or charter school."  
17

## 18 PART V. CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY DURING EARLY VOTING

19 SECTION 5.1. G.S. 163-55 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

20 "(d) Qualifications Determined Upon Voting. – Notwithstanding any other provision of  
21 law to the contrary, a voter shall not be subject to challenge if the voter was qualified to cast the  
22 ballot at the time it was received by the county board; provided, however, that a voter who casts  
23 a ballot in a general election before turning 18 years of age but who will be 18 years of age as of  
24 the date of the general election shall not be disqualified on account of age."  
25

## 26 PART VI. AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY BOARD-INITIATED VOTER CHALLENGES

27 SECTION 6.1. Article 8 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by  
28 adding a new section to read:

### 29 "§ 163-90.4. Challenges by county boards.

30 (a) After each election, the State Board shall conduct a uniform, statewide audit to  
31 identify ballots cast during early voting and by absentee ballot in the election that are ineligible  
32 to be counted for one of the reasons identified in G.S. 163-87, as evidenced by official  
33 government database records. The State Board shall distribute the results of this audit to the  
34 county boards by 5:00 P.M. on the fourth business day before the canvass.

35 (b) The county board shall review the audit produced by the State Board pursuant to this  
36 section, analyze the records of county voters identified in the audit, and, by 5:00 P.M. on the  
37 third business day before the canvass, serve a challenge on any county voter identified in the  
38 audit who the county board has determined has cast an ineligible ballot. The county board shall  
39 conduct the challenge proceedings under the applicable provisions of G.S. 163-89."  
40

## 41 PART VII. CLARIFY DEADLINES FOR LATE BALLOT CHANGES

42 SECTION 7.1. G.S. 163-22(k) reads as rewritten:

43 "(k) Notwithstanding the provisions contained in Article 20 or Article 21A of this Chapter,  
44 the State Board shall be authorized, by resolution adopted prior to the printing of the ~~primary~~  
45 ballots, to reduce the time by which absentee ballots are required to be printed and distributed  
46 for the ~~primary~~ election from 50 days to 45 days. ~~This authority shall not be authorized for~~  
47 ~~absentee ballots to be voted in the general election, except if the law requires ballots to be~~  
48 ~~available for mailing 60 days before the general election, and the absentee ballots are not ready~~  
49 ~~by that date, the State Board shall allow the counties to mail absentee ballots out as soon as the~~  
50 ~~absentee ballots are available days, if unforeseen circumstances make compliance with the~~  
51 50-day deadline impracticable."

1           **SECTION 7.2.** G.S. 163-113 reads as rewritten:

2   "**§ 163-113. Nominee's right to withdraw as candidate.**

3       A person who has been declared the nominee of a political party for a specified office under  
4 the provisions of G.S. 163-182.15 or G.S. 163-110, shall not be permitted to resign as a candidate  
5 unless, prior to the first day on which military and overseas absentee ballots are transmitted to  
6 voters under Article 21A of this Chapter, that [the] person submits to the board of elections which  
7 certified the nomination a written request that person be permitted to withdraw. For the election  
8 of presidential electors under Article 18 of this Chapter, if a candidate is nominated by a political  
9 party, only the political party making the nomination may withdraw the nomination, and for any  
10 such withdrawal to be effective, the political party executive committee shall certify the  
11 withdrawal in writing to the State Board before the first day on which military and overseas  
12 absentee ballots are transmitted to voters under Article 21A of this Chapter."

13           **SECTION 7.3.** G.S. 163-114(a) reads as rewritten:

14       "(a) If any person nominated as a candidate of a political party for one of the offices listed  
15 below (either in a primary or convention or by virtue of having no opposition in a primary) dies,  
16 resigns, or for any reason becomes ineligible or disqualified before the date of the ensuing general  
17 election, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment according to the following instructions:

18       ...

19       The party executive making a nomination in accordance with the provisions of this section shall  
20 certify the name of its nominee to the chairman of the board of elections, State or county, that  
21 has jurisdiction over the ballot item under G.S. 163-182.4. ~~If at the time a nomination is made~~  
22 ~~under this section the general election ballots have already been printed, the provisions of~~  
23 ~~G.S. 163-165.3(e) shall apply. If a vacancy occurs in a nomination of a political party and that~~  
24 ~~vacancy arises from a cause other than death and the vacancy in nomination occurs more than~~  
25 ~~120 days before the general election, the vacancy in nomination may be filled under this section~~  
26 ~~only if the appropriate executive committee certifies the name of the nominee in accordance with~~  
27 ~~this paragraph at least 75 days before the general election."~~

28           **SECTION 7.4.** G.S. 163-115 reads as rewritten:

29   "**§ 163-115. Special provisions for obtaining nominations when vacancies occur in certain**  
30 **offices.**

31       (a) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the clerk of superior court, otherwise than by  
32 expiration of the term, or if the people fail to elect, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Sec.  
33 9(3) of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution. If the vacancy occurs after the time for  
34 filing notice of candidacy in the primary has expired in a year when a regular election is not being  
35 held to elect a clerk of the superior court by expiration of term, then the county executive  
36 committee of each political party shall nominate a ~~candidate whose name shall appear on the~~  
37 ~~general election ballot.~~ candidate, subject to the deadlines in G.S. 163-115.5. The candidate  
38 elected in the general election shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of the person causing  
39 the vacancy.

40       ...

41       (c) If a vacancy occurs in an elective State or district office (other than member of the  
42 United States House of Representatives) during the period opening 10 days before the filing  
43 period for the office ends and closing 30 days before the ensuing general election, a nomination  
44 shall be made by the proper executive committee of each political party as provided in  
45 G.S. 163-114, and the names of the nominees shall be printed on the general election  
46 ~~ballots.~~ ballots, subject to the deadline in G.S. 163-115.5.

47       (d) If a vacancy occurs on a county board of commissioners and G.S. 153A-27 or  
48 G.S. 153A-27.1 requires that a person shall be elected to the seat vacated for the remainder of  
49 the unexpired term, and the vacancy occurs:

50           (1) Beginning on the tenth day before the filing period ends under G.S. 163-106.2,  
51           a nomination shall be made by the county executive committee of each

1 political party and the names of the nominees shall be printed on the general  
2 election ~~ballots~~.ballots, subject to the deadline in G.S. 163-115.5.

3 (2) Prior to the tenth day before the filing period ends under G.S. 163-106.2,  
4 nominations shall be made by primary election as provided by this Article.

5 (e) If a vacancy occurs in the office of United States Senator, and the vacancy occurs:

6 (1) Beginning on the tenth day before the filing period ends under G.S. 163-106.2,  
7 a nomination shall be made by the State executive committee of each political  
8 party and the names of the nominees shall be printed on the general election  
9 ~~ballots~~.ballots, subject to the deadline in G.S. 163-115.5.

10 (2) Prior to the tenth day before the filing period ends under G.S. 163-106.2,  
11 nominations shall be made by primary election as provided by this Article."

12 **SECTION 7.5.** Article 10 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by  
13 adding a new section to read:

14 **"§ 163-115.5. Removing, replacing, or adding candidates on the general election ballot.**

15 (a) The board of elections with jurisdiction over a ballot item under G.S. 163-182.4 shall  
16 remove a candidate from the general election ballot only if the board of elections is notified, no  
17 later than 20 days before absentee ballots are authorized for distribution for the general election,  
18 that the candidate has died, withdrawn, or for any reason has become ineligible or disqualified.  
19 Except as provided in G.S. 163-113, either the candidate or the relevant executive committee of  
20 the candidate's political party, if the candidate is a nominee of the party, may provide the  
21 notification required by this section. For any nominee authorized to be replaced on the ballot  
22 pursuant to law, the nominee's name shall be replaced on the ballot only if the replacement has  
23 been certified pursuant to law to the board of elections with jurisdiction over the ballot item no  
24 later than 20 days before absentee ballots are authorized for distribution for the election. If a  
25 withdrawal, disqualification, or replacement occurs later than 20 days before absentee ballots are  
26 authorized for distribution for the general election, the provisions of G.S. 163-165.3(c) shall  
27 apply.

28 (b) When a vacancy in office occurs and that vacancy requires an election to fill the  
29 unexpired term without a candidate filing period, any nominees authorized for the election shall  
30 be certified to the board of elections with jurisdiction over a ballot item under G.S. 163-182.4 no  
31 later than eight days before absentee ballots are authorized for distribution for the election.

32 (c) The provisions of G.S. 103-5(a) shall not apply to this section."

33 **SECTION 7.6.** G.S. 163-122 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

34 "(f) If any candidate authorized to have the candidate's name printed on the general  
35 election ballot pursuant to this section dies, withdraws, or for any reason becomes ineligible or  
36 disqualified before the general election, the provisions of G.S. 163-115.5 shall apply."

37 **SECTION 7.7.** G.S. 163-165.3(c) reads as rewritten:

38 "(c) Late Changes in Ballots. – The State Board shall promulgate rules for late changes in  
39 ballots. ~~The rules shall provide for the reprinting, where practical, of official ballots as a result~~  
40 ~~of replacement candidates to fill vacancies in accordance with G.S. 163-114 or other late~~  
41 ~~changes. If an official ballot is not reprinted, a vote~~ If a board of elections having jurisdiction  
42 over a ballot item is notified of a candidate withdrawal, disqualification, or replacement after the  
43 deadline in G.S. 163-115.5 but before the deadline in G.S. 163-113, votes for a candidate  
44 removed without replacement shall not be counted and votes for a candidate who has been  
45 replaced in accordance with G.S. 163-114 will count for the replacement ~~candidate~~.candidate,  
46 and the affected county boards of elections shall inform all affected voters of these actions. No  
47 candidate withdrawal or replacement shall be permitted after the deadline in G.S. 163-113. No  
48 additional nominees, where permitted due to vacancies in office, shall be allowed after the  
49 deadline in G.S. 163-115.5."

50 **SECTION 7.8.** G.S. 163-227.10 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 163-227.10. Date by which absentee ballots must be available for voting.**

1 (a) A board of elections shall provide absentee ballots of the kinds needed ~~60 days prior~~  
 2 ~~to the statewide general election in even-numbered years and~~ 50 days prior to the date on which  
 3 any ~~other~~ election shall be conducted, unless 45 days is authorized by the State Board under  
 4 G.S. 163-22(k) or there shall exist an appeal before the State Board or the courts not concluded,  
 5 in which case the board shall provide the ballots as quickly as possible upon the conclusion of  
 6 such an appeal. ~~Provided, in a presidential election year, the board of elections shall provide~~  
 7 ~~general election ballots no later than three days after nomination of the presidential and vice~~  
 8 ~~presidential candidates if that nomination occurs later than 63 days prior to the statewide general~~  
 9 ~~election and makes compliance with the 60-day deadline impossible.~~ However, in the case of  
 10 municipal elections, absentee ballots shall be made available no later than 30 days before an  
 11 election. In every instance the board of elections shall exert every effort to provide absentee  
 12 ballots, of the kinds needed by the date on which absentee voting is authorized to commence.

13 (b) ~~The board of elections shall provide absentee ballots, of the kinds needed, as quickly~~  
 14 ~~as possible after the ballot information for a second primary has been determined.~~ For a second  
 15 primary, the county board of elections shall provide absentee ballots, of the kinds needed, no  
 16 later than 45 days before the second primary.

17 ...."

18 **SECTION 7.9.** G.S. 163-229 reads as rewritten:

19 "**§ 163-229. Absentee ballots, applications on container-return envelopes, and instruction**  
 20 **sheets.**

21 ...

22 (b) Application on Container-Return Envelope. – In time for use not later than ~~60~~50 days  
 23 before a ~~statewide general election in an even-numbered year, and not later than 50 days before~~  
 24 ~~a statewide primary, other general election or county bond election, an election,~~ the county board  
 25 of elections shall print a sufficient number of envelopes in which persons casting absentee ballots  
 26 may transmit their marked ballots to the county board of elections. However, in the case of  
 27 municipal elections, sufficient container-return envelopes shall be made available no later than  
 28 30 days before an election. Each container-return envelope shall have printed on it an application  
 29 which shall be designed and prescribed by the State Board, providing for all of the following:

30 ...

31 (c) Instruction Sheets. – In time for use not later than ~~60~~50 days before a ~~statewide~~  
 32 ~~general election in an even-numbered year, and not later than 50 days before a statewide primary~~  
 33 ~~or general election or county bond election, an election,~~ the county board of elections shall  
 34 prepare and print a sufficient number of sheets of instructions on how voters are to prepare  
 35 absentee ballots and return them to the county board of elections. The instruction sheets shall  
 36 include the means by which the voter's marked absentee ballot must be returned to the county  
 37 board of elections and the date and time that the ballot must be received by the county board of  
 38 elections. However, in the case of municipal elections, instruction sheets shall be made available  
 39 no later than 30 days before an election."

40 **SECTION 7.10.** G.S. 163-230.1(c), as amended by Section 3A.4(f) of S.L. 2024-57,  
 41 reads as rewritten:

42 "(c) Delivery of Absentee Ballots and Container-Return Envelope to Applicant. – When  
 43 the county board receives a completed request form for applications and absentee ballots from  
 44 the voter, or the near relative or the verifiable legal guardian of that voter, the county board shall  
 45 promptly issue and transmit them to the voter in accordance with the following instructions:

46 ...

47 The county board may receive completed written request forms for applications at any time  
 48 prior to the election but shall not mail applications and absentee ballots to the voter or issue  
 49 applications and absentee ballots in person earlier than ~~60 days prior to the statewide general~~  
 50 ~~election in an even-numbered year, or earlier than 50 days prior to any other~~ before an election.

1 No election official shall issue applications for absentee ballots except in compliance with this  
2 Article."

3 **SECTION 7.11.** G.S. 163-258.9(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) ~~Not later than 60 days before the statewide general election in even-numbered years~~  
5 ~~and not later than 50 days before any other election, except for a second primary, the county~~  
6 ~~board of elections shall transmit a ballot and balloting materials to all covered voters who by that~~  
7 ~~date submit a valid military-overseas ballot application, except for a second primary. Provided,~~  
8 ~~in a presidential election year, the board of elections shall provide general election ballots no~~  
9 ~~later than three days after nomination of the presidential and vice presidential candidates if that~~  
10 ~~nomination occurs later than 63 days prior to the statewide general election and makes~~  
11 ~~compliance with the 60-day deadline impossible, unless 45 days is authorized by the State Board~~  
12 ~~under G.S. 163-22(k) or there exists an appeal before the State Board or the courts that has not~~  
13 ~~concluded, in which case the county board shall provide the ballots as quickly as possible upon~~  
14 ~~the conclusion of that appeal. However, in the case of municipal elections, absentee ballots shall~~  
15 ~~be made available no later than 30 days before an election. For a second primary which includes~~  
16 ~~a candidate for federal office, primary, the county board of elections shall transmit a ballot and~~  
17 ~~balloting material to all covered voters who by that date submit a valid military-overseas ballot~~  
18 ~~application no later than 45 days before the second primary. For a second primary which does~~  
19 ~~not include a candidate for federal office, the transmission of the ballot and ballot materials shall~~  
20 ~~be as soon as practicable and shall be transmitted electronically no later than three business days~~  
21 ~~and by mail no later than 15 days from the date the appropriate board of elections orders that the~~  
22 ~~second primary be held pursuant to G.S. 163-111. If additional offices are added to the ballot to~~  
23 ~~fill a vacancy occurring after the deadline provided by this subsection, those ballots shall be~~  
24 ~~transmitted as soon as practicable."~~

25 **SECTION 7.12.** G.S. 163-294.1(b) reads as rewritten:

26 "(b) If a candidate for political party nomination for office dies, becomes disqualified, or  
27 withdraws before the primary but after the ballots have been printed, the provisions of  
28 G.S. 163-112 shall govern.

29 If a candidate for nomination in a nonpartisan municipal primary dies, becomes disqualified,  
30 or withdraws before the primary but after the ballots have been printed, the board of elections  
31 shall determine whether or not there is time to reprint the ballots. If the board determines that  
32 there is not enough time to reprint the ballots, the deceased or disqualified candidate's name shall  
33 remain on the ballots. If he receives enough votes for nomination, such votes shall be disregarded  
34 and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes below the number necessary for  
35 nomination shall be declared nominated. If the death or disqualification of the candidate leaves  
36 only two candidates for each office to be filled, the nonpartisan primary shall not be held and all  
37 candidates shall be declared nominees.

38 If a nominee for political party nomination dies, becomes disqualified, or withdraws after the  
39 primary and before election day, the provisions of ~~G.S. 163-114~~ G.S. 163-114 and  
40 G.S. 163-115.5 shall govern.

41 If a candidate in a nonpartisan election dies, becomes disqualified, or withdraws before  
42 election day ~~and after the ballots have been printed, the board of elections shall determine~~  
43 ~~whether there is enough time to reprint the ballots.~~ day, the provisions of G.S. 163-115.5 shall  
44 govern. If there is not enough time to reprint the ballots, the board of elections is notified of a  
45 candidate's death or disqualification after the relevant deadline in G.S. 163-115.5, and should the  
46 deceased or disqualified candidate receive enough votes to be elected, the board of elections shall  
47 declare the office vacant, and it shall be filled as provided by law."

## 49 **PART VIII. DEADLINE FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS**

50 **SECTION 8.1.** G.S. 163-209(a) reads as rewritten:

1       "(a) The names of candidates for electors of President and Vice-President nominated by  
 2 any political party recognized in this State under G.S. 163-96, or nominated under G.S. 163-1(c)  
 3 by a candidate for President of the United States who has qualified to have his or her name printed  
 4 on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate under G.S. 163-122, shall be filed with  
 5 the Secretary of State no later than 60 days before the general election but shall not be printed on  
 6 the ballot. ~~In the case of the unaffiliated candidate, the names of candidates for electors must be~~  
 7 ~~filed with the Secretary of State no later than 12:00 noon on the first Friday in August.~~ In place  
 8 of their names, there shall be printed on the ballot the names of the candidates for President and  
 9 Vice-President of each political party recognized in this State, and the name of any candidate for  
 10 President who has qualified to have his or her name printed on the general election ballot under  
 11 G.S. 163-122. ~~A candidate for President who has qualified for the general election ballot as an~~  
 12 ~~unaffiliated candidate under G.S. 163-122 shall, no later than 12:00 noon on the first Friday in~~  
 13 ~~August, file with the State Board of Elections the name of a candidate for Vice-President, whose~~  
 14 ~~name shall also be printed on the ballot.~~ The names of the candidates for President and  
 15 Vice-President nominated by any political party recognized in this State under G.S. 163-96 or  
 16 who has qualified as an unaffiliated candidate under G.S. 163-122 shall be filed with the State  
 17 Board no later than 60 days before the general election, and those names filed shall be printed on  
 18 the ballot. A vote for the candidates named on the ballot shall be a vote for the electors of the  
 19 party or unaffiliated candidate by which those candidates were nominated and whose names have  
 20 been filed with the Secretary of State."

## 21 **PART IX. INCREASE THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS**

### 22 **SECTION 9.1.** G.S. 163-278.10A reads as rewritten:

#### 23 **"§ 163-278.10A. Threshold of \$1,000-\$3,000 for financial reports for certain candidates.**

24 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, a candidate for ~~a district court~~  
 25 ~~judge, superior court judge,~~ county office, municipal office, local school board office, soil and  
 26 water conservation district board of supervisors, or sanitary district board shall be exempted from  
 27 the reports of contributions, loans, and expenditures required in G.S. 163-278.9(a), 163-278.40B,  
 28 163-278.40C, 163-278.40D, and 163-278.40E if to further the candidate's campaign that  
 29 candidate:  
 30

- 31       (1) Does not receive more than ~~one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ three thousand  
 32 dollars (\$3,000) in contributions, and
- 33       (2) Does not receive more than ~~one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ three thousand  
 34 dollars (\$3,000) in loans, and
- 35       (3) Does not spend more than ~~one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ three thousand  
 36 dollars (\$3,000).

37 To qualify for the exemption from those reports, the candidate's treasurer shall file a certification  
 38 that the candidate does not intend to receive in contributions or loans or expend more than ~~one~~  
 39 ~~thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to further the candidate's campaign.  
 40 The certification shall be filed with the Board at the same time the candidate files the candidate's  
 41 Organizational Report as required in G.S. 163-278.7, G.S. 163-278.9, and G.S. 163-278.40A. If  
 42 the candidate's campaign is being conducted by a political committee which is handling all  
 43 contributions, loans, and expenditures for the candidate's campaign, the treasurer of the political  
 44 committee shall file a certification of intent to stay within the threshold amount. If the intent to  
 45 stay within the threshold changes, or if the ~~one thousand dollar (\$1,000)~~ three-thousand-dollar  
 46 (\$3,000) threshold is exceeded, the treasurer shall immediately notify the Board and shall be  
 47 responsible for filing all reports required in G.S. 163-278.9 and 163-278.40B, 163-278.40C,  
 48 163-278.40D, and 163-278.40E; provided that any contribution, loan, or expenditure which  
 49 would have been required to be reported on an earlier report but for this section shall be included  
 50 on the next report required after the intent changes or the threshold is exceeded.

51       ...."

1  
2 **PART X. INCREASE THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING INDEPENDENT**  
3 **EXPENDITURES**

4 **SECTION 10.1.** G.S. 163-278.12 reads as rewritten:

5 **"§ 163-278.12. Special reporting of contributions and independent expenditures.**

6 (a) Subject to G.S. 163-278.39 and G.S. 163-278.14, individuals and other entities not  
7 otherwise prohibited from doing so may make independent expenditures. In the event an  
8 individual, person, or other entity making independent expenditures but not otherwise required  
9 to report them makes independent expenditures in excess of one ~~hundred dollars (\$100.00),~~  
10 thousand dollars (\$1,000), that individual, person, or entity shall file a statement of such  
11 independent expenditure with the appropriate board of elections in the manner prescribed by the  
12 State Board of Elections.

13 ...

14 (d) Contributions or independent expenditures required to be reported under this section  
15 shall be reported within 30 days after they exceed one ~~hundred dollars (\$100.00)-~~thousand dollars  
16 (\$1,000) or 10 days before an election the contributions or independent expenditures affect,  
17 whichever occurs earlier.

18 ...."

19  
20 **PART XI. PROHIBIT PAYMENT PER SIGNATURE FOR PETITIONS**

21 **SECTION 11.1.** G.S. 163-221 reads as rewritten:

22 **"§ 163-221. ~~Persons may not sign name of another to petition.~~ Prohibited petition activities.**

23 (a) No person may sign the name of another person to any of the following:

24 (1) Any petition calling for an election or referendum.

25 (2) Any petition under G.S. 163-96 for the formulation of a new political party.

26 (3) Any petition under G.S. 163-107.1 requesting a person to be a candidate.

27 (4) Any petition under G.S. 163-122 to have the name of an unaffiliated candidate  
28 placed on the general election ballot, or under G.S. 163-296 to have the name  
29 of an unaffiliated or nonpartisan candidate placed on the regular municipal  
30 election ballot.

31 (5) Any petition under G.S. 163-213.5 to place a name on the ballot under the  
32 Presidential Preference Primary Act.

33 (6) Any petition under G.S. 163-123 to qualify as a write-in candidate.

34 (b) Any name signed on a petition, in violation of this section, shall be void.

35 (b1) No person may be compensated based on the number of signatures collected for a  
36 petition.

37 (c) Any person who willfully violates this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

38 **SECTION 11.2.** G.S. 163-274(a) reads as rewritten:

39 "(a) Class 2 Misdemeanors. – Any person who shall, in connection with any primary or  
40 election in this State, do any of the acts and things declared in this subsection to be unlawful,  
41 shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. It shall be unlawful to do any of the following:

42 ...

43 (17) For any person to be compensated based on the number of signatures obtained  
44 on a petition authorized under this Chapter."

45  
46 **PART XII. UNIFORMITY FOR REVIEW OF PETITION SIGNATURES**

47 **SECTION 12.1.** G.S. 163-96 reads as rewritten:

48 **"§ 163-96. "Political party" defined; creation of new party.**

49 (a) Definition. – A political party within the meaning of the election laws of this State  
50 shall be one of the following:

51 ...



1 (2) Any group of voters which shall have filed with the State Board of Elections  
 2 petitions for the formulation of a new political party which are signed by  
 3 registered and qualified voters in this State equal in number to one-quarter of  
 4 one percent (0.25%) of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent  
 5 general election for Governor. Also the petition must be signed by at least 200  
 6 registered voters from each of three congressional districts in North Carolina.  
 7 To be effective, the petitioners must file their petitions with the State Board  
 8 of Elections before 12:00 noon on the first day of ~~June~~ May preceding the day  
 9 on which is to be held the first general State election in which the new political  
 10 party desires to participate. The State Board of Elections shall forthwith  
 11 determine the sufficiency of petitions filed with it and shall immediately  
 12 communicate its determination to the State chair of the proposed new political  
 13 party.

14 ...

15 (b) Petitions for New Political Party. – Petitions for the creation of a new political party  
 16 shall be on a form prescribed by the State Board and contain on the heading of each page of the  
 17 petition in bold print or all in capital letters the words: "THE UNDERSIGNED REGISTERED  
 18 VOTERS IN \_\_\_ COUNTY HEREBY PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW  
 19 POLITICAL PARTY TO BE NAMED \_\_\_ AND WHOSE STATE CHAIRMAN IS \_\_\_\_\_,  
 20 RESIDING AT \_\_\_\_\_ AND WHO CAN BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT \_\_\_\_\_."

21 All printing required to appear on the heading of the petition shall be in type no smaller than 10  
 22 point or in all capital letters, double spaced typewriter size. In addition to the form of the petition,  
 23 the organizers and petition circulators shall inform the signers of the general purpose and intent  
 24 of the new party.

25 The petitions must specify the name selected for the proposed political party. The State Board  
 26 of Elections shall reject petitions for the formation of a new party if the name chosen contains  
 27 any word that appears in the name of any existing political party recognized in this State or if,  
 28 in the State Board's opinion, the name is so similar to that of an existing political party recognized  
 29 in this State as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

30 The petitions must state the name and address of the State chairman of the proposed new  
 31 political party.

32 (c) Each petition shall be presented to the chairman of the board of elections of the county  
 33 in which the signatures were obtained, and it shall be the chairman's duty:

- 34 (1) To examine the signatures on the petition and place a check mark on the  
 35 petition by the name of each signer who is qualified and registered to vote in  
 36 his county.
- 37 (2) To attach to the petition his signed certificate  
 38 a. Stating that the signatures on the petition have been checked against  
 39 the registration records and  
 40 b. Indicating the number found qualified and registered to vote in his  
 41 county.
- 42 (3) To return each petition, together with the certificate required by the preceding  
 43 subdivision, to the person who presented it to him for checking.

44 The group of petitioners shall submit the petitions to the chairman of the county board of  
 45 elections in the county in which the signatures were obtained no later than 5:00 P.M. on the  
 46 ~~fifteenth~~ thirtieth day preceding the date the petitions are due to be filed with the State Board of  
 47 Elections as provided in subsection [subdivision] (a)(2) of this section. Provided the petitions are  
 48 timely submitted, the chairman of the county board of elections shall proceed to examine and  
 49 verify the signatures under the provisions of this subsection. Verification shall be completed  
 50 within ~~two~~ four weeks from the date such petitions are presented."

51 **SECTION 12.2.** G.S. 163-122(a) reads as rewritten:

1       "(a) Procedure for Having Name Printed on Ballot as Unaffiliated Candidate. – Any  
2 qualified voter who seeks to have the voter's name printed on the general election ballot as an  
3 unaffiliated candidate shall:

- 4           (1) If the office is a statewide office, file written petitions with the State Board of  
5 Elections supporting the voter's candidacy for a specified office. These  
6 petitions must be filed with the State Board of Elections ~~on or before 12:00~~  
7 ~~noon on the day of the primary election~~ 5:00 P.M. on the twentieth business  
8 day after canvass of the primary and must be signed by qualified voters of the  
9 State equal in number to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the total number of  
10 voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor. Also, the  
11 petition must be signed by at least 200 registered voters from each of three  
12 congressional districts in North Carolina. The State Board shall determine the  
13 sufficiency of petitions filed with the State Board and shall immediately  
14 communicate its determination to the petitioning candidate. The petitions shall  
15 be divided into sections based on the county in which the signatures were  
16 obtained. No later than 12:00 P.M. on the day of the primary election, each  
17 petition shall be presented to the board of elections of the county in which the  
18 signatures were obtained. A petition present to a county board of elections  
19 shall contain only names of voters registered in that county. Provided the  
20 petitions are timely filed, ~~the State Board of Elections shall require the filed~~  
21 ~~petition be verified no later than 15 business days after canvass of the primary~~  
22 ~~in one of the following ways:~~

23       a. ~~The Executive Director shall examine the names on the petition and~~  
24 ~~place a check mark on the petition by the name of each signer who is~~  
25 ~~qualified and registered to vote in the designated county and shall~~  
26 ~~attach to the petition a signed certificate. Said certificates shall state~~  
27 ~~that the signatures on the petition have been checked against the~~  
28 ~~registration records and shall indicate the number of signers to be~~  
29 ~~qualified and registered to vote in each county.~~

30       b. ~~The submitted, the chair of the county board of elections shall examine~~  
31 ~~the names on the petition and place a check mark on the petition by~~  
32 ~~the name of each signer who is qualified and registered to vote in the~~  
33 ~~chair's county and shall attach to the petition the chair's signed~~  
34 ~~certificate. Said certificates shall state that the signatures on the~~  
35 ~~petition have been checked against the registration records and shall~~  
36 ~~indicate the number of signers to be qualified and registered to vote in~~  
37 ~~the chair's county. The chair shall return the petition and certificate to~~  
38 ~~the State Board person who presented it to the chair for checking. The~~  
39 ~~chair shall complete the verification no later than 15 business days~~  
40 ~~after the canvass of the primary.~~

41 ~~The State Board shall return a copy of each petition, together with a copy of~~  
42 ~~the certificate required in this section, to the person who presented it to the~~  
43 ~~State Board.~~

- 44           (2) Except as provided in this subsection, if the office is a district office under the  
45 jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections under G.S. 163-182.4(b), file  
46 written petitions with the State Board of Elections supporting that voter's  
47 candidacy for a specified office. For district offices other than General  
48 Assembly seats, petitions must be filed with the State Board of Elections ~~on~~  
49 ~~or before 12:00 noon on the day of the primary election~~ 5:00 P.M. on the  
50 twentieth business day after canvass of the primary and must be signed by  
51 qualified voters of the district equal in number to one and a half percent (1.5%)

1 of the total number of registered voters in the district as reflected by the voter  
2 registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1 of the year  
3 in which the general election is to be held. For General Assembly seats in  
4 which the district lies in more than one county, petitions must be filed with  
5 the State Board of Elections on or before 12:00 noon on the day of the primary  
6 election ~~5:00 P.M. on the twentieth business day after canvass of the primary~~  
7 and must be signed by qualified voters of the district equal in number to four  
8 percent (4%) of the total number of registered voters in the district as reflected  
9 by the voter registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January  
10 1 of the year in which the general election is to be held. The State Board shall  
11 determine the sufficiency of petitions filed with the State Board and shall  
12 immediately communicate its determination to the petitioning candidate. The  
13 petitions shall be divided into sections based on the county in which the  
14 signatures were obtained. The petitions shall be verified as specified in  
15 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

16 (3) If the office is a county office or a single county legislative district, file written  
17 petitions with the chair or director of the county board of elections supporting  
18 the voter's candidacy for a specified county office. These petitions must be  
19 filed with the county board of elections on or before 12:00 noon on the day of  
20 the primary election and must be signed by qualified voters of the county equal  
21 in number to four percent (4%) of the total number of registered voters in the  
22 county as reflected by the voter registration records of the State Board of  
23 Elections as of January 1 of the year in which the general election is to be  
24 held, except if the office is for a district consisting of less than the entire  
25 county and only the voters in that district vote for that office, the petitions  
26 must be signed by qualified voters of the district equal in number to four  
27 percent (4%) of the total number of voters in the district according to the voter  
28 registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1 of the year  
29 in which the general election is to be held. Each petition shall be presented to  
30 the chair or director of the county board of elections. The chair or director of  
31 the county board of elections shall verify the filed petition ~~no later than 15~~  
32 ~~business days after canvass as provided in sub-subdivision b. of subdivision~~  
33 ~~(1) of this subsection, and shall return a copy of each petition, together with a~~  
34 ~~copy of the certificate required in this section, to the person who presented it~~  
35 ~~to the county board of elections.~~ subsection.

36 (4) If the office is a partisan municipal office, file written petitions with the chair  
37 or director of the county board of elections in the county wherein the  
38 municipality is located supporting the voter's candidacy for a specified  
39 municipal office. These petitions must be filed with the county board of  
40 elections on or before ~~the time and date specified in G.S. 163-296~~ 12:00 P.M.  
41 on the day of the primary and must be signed by the number of qualified voters  
42 specified in G.S. 163-296. The chair or director of the county board of  
43 elections shall verify the filed petition no later than 15 business days after  
44 ~~canvass~~ the primary and shall otherwise proceed as provided in  
45 ~~sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and shall return a copy~~  
46 ~~of each petition, together with a copy of the certificate required in this section,~~  
47 ~~to the person who presented it to the county board of elections.~~ subsection.

48 (5) If the office is a superior court judge or a district court judge, regardless of  
49 whether the district lies entirely in one county or in more than one county, file  
50 written petitions with the State Board of Elections supporting that voter's  
51 candidacy for a specified office. These petitions must be filed with the State

1 Board of Elections on or before 12:00 noon on the day of the primary election  
2 5:00 P.M. on the twentieth business day after canvass of the primary and must  
3 be signed by qualified voters of the district equal in number to two percent  
4 (2%) of the total number of registered voters in the district as reflected by the  
5 voter registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1 of  
6 the year in which the general election is to be held. The State Board shall  
7 determine the sufficiency of the petitions filed with the State Board and shall  
8 immediately communicate its determination to the petitioning candidate. The  
9 petitions shall be divided into sections based on the county in which the  
10 signatures were obtained. The petitions shall be verified as specified in  
11 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

12 Upon compliance with the provisions of subdivisions (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this  
13 subsection, the board of elections with which the petitions have been timely filed shall cause the  
14 unaffiliated candidate's name to be printed on the general election ballots in accordance with  
15 Article 14A of this Chapter."

16 **SECTION 12.3.** G.S. 163-296 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 163-296. Nomination by petition.**

18 In cities conducting partisan elections, any qualified voter who seeks to have his name printed  
19 on the regular municipal election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate may do so in the manner  
20 provided in G.S. 163-122, ~~except that the petitions and affidavits shall be filed not later than~~  
21 ~~12:00 noon on the Friday preceding the seventh Saturday before the election,~~ and the petitions  
22 shall be signed by a number of qualified voters of the municipality equal to at least one and a half  
23 percent (1.5%) of the whole number of voters qualified to vote in the municipal election  
24 according to the voter registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1 of the  
25 year in which the general municipal election is held. A person whose name appeared on the ballot  
26 in a primary election is not eligible to have his name placed on the regular municipal election  
27 ballot as an unaffiliated candidate for the same office in that year. The ~~State Board of Elections~~  
28 shall examine and verify the signatures on the petition, and shall certify only the names of signers  
29 who are found to be qualified registered voters in the municipality. Provided that in the case  
30 where a qualified voter seeks to have his name printed on the regular municipal election ballot  
31 as an unaffiliated candidate for election from an election district within the municipality, the  
32 petition shall be signed by one and a half percent (1.5%) of the voters qualified to vote for that  
33 office."

34  
35 **PART XIII. CAMPAIGN FINANCE PENALTY WAIVER A PREREQUISITE TO**  
36 **FILING A CONTESTED CASE**

37 **SECTION 13.1.** G.S. 163-278.34(e) reads as rewritten:

38 "(e) Calculation and Assessment. – The State Board shall calculate and assess the amount  
39 of the civil penalty due under subsection (a) or (b) of this section and shall notify the person who  
40 is assessed the civil penalty of the amount. The notice of assessment shall be served by any means  
41 authorized under G.S. 1A-1, ~~Rule 4, and shall direct~~ Rule 4. For a civil penalty assessed under  
42 subsection (a) of this section, the notice of assessment shall direct the violator to either pay the  
43 assessment or request a good-cause waiver of the assessment under subsection (d) of this section  
44 within 60 days. If the State Board does not find good cause for a waiver, the State Board shall  
45 send notice by any means authorized under G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4, directing the violator either to pay  
46 the assessment or to contest the assessment within 30 days by filing a petition for a contested  
47 case under Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. For a civil penalty assessed under  
48 subsection (b) of this section, the notice of assessment shall direct the violator either to pay the  
49 assessment or contest the assessment within 30 days by filing a petition for a contested case under  
50 Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. If a violator does not pay a civil penalty  
51 assessed by the State Board within 30 days after it is due, the State Board shall request the

1 Attorney General to institute a civil action to recover the amount of the assessment. The civil  
 2 action may be brought in the superior court of any county where the report was due to be filed or  
 3 any county where the violator resides or maintains an office. A civil action must be filed within  
 4 three years of the date the assessment was due. An assessment that is not contested is due when  
 5 the violator is served with a notice of assessment. An assessment that is contested is due at the  
 6 conclusion of the administrative and judicial review of the assessment. The State Board of  
 7 ~~Elections~~ shall pay the clear proceeds of civil penalties collected under this section to the Civil  
 8 Penalty and Forfeiture Fund pursuant to G.S. 115C-457.2. The State Board of ~~Elections~~ shall  
 9 reduce the monies collected by the enforcement costs and the collection costs to determine the  
 10 clear proceeds payable to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund. Monies set aside for the costs of  
 11 enforcement and the costs of collection shall be credited to accounts of the State ~~Board of~~  
 12 ~~Elections~~.Board."

#### 13 14 **PART XIV. CHANGE DATE FOR WHEN CERTAIN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HELD**

##### 15 **SECTION 14.1.** G.S. 163-279(a) reads as rewritten:

16 "(a) Primaries and elections for offices filled by election of the people in cities, towns,  
 17 incorporated villages, and special districts shall be held in 1973 and every two or four years  
 18 thereafter as provided by municipal charter on the following days:

- 19 (1) If the election is nonpartisan and decided by simple plurality, the election shall  
 20 be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- 21 (2) If the election is partisan, the election shall be held on Tuesday after the first  
 22 Monday in November, the first primary shall be held on the second Tuesday  
 23 after Labor Day, and the second primary, if required, shall be held on the  
 24 fourth Tuesday before the election.
- 25 (3) If the election is nonpartisan and the nonpartisan primary method of election  
 26 is used, the election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in  
 27 November and the nonpartisan primary shall be held on the ~~fourth Tuesday~~  
 28 ~~before the election~~.second Tuesday after Labor Day.
- 29 (4) If the election is nonpartisan and the election and runoff election method of  
 30 election is used, the election shall be held on the ~~fourth Tuesday before the~~  
 31 ~~Tuesday after the first Monday in November~~,second Tuesday after Labor  
 32 Day, and the runoff election, if required, shall be held on Tuesday after the  
 33 first Monday in November."

#### 34 35 **PART XV. CLARIFY VENUE IN WHICH CERTAIN STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS** 36 **MEETINGS HELD**

37 **SECTION 15.1.** G.S. 163-20, as amended by Section 3A.3(d) of S.L.2024-57, reads  
 38 as rewritten:

39 "**§ 163-20. Meetings of Board; quorum; minutes.**

40 ...

41 (b) Place of Meeting. – Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the State  
 42 Board shall meet in its offices in the City of Raleigh, or at another place in the City of Raleigh to  
 43 be designated by the chair. However, subject to ~~the limitation imposed by~~allowance as provided  
 44 in subsection (c) of this section upon the prior written request of any four members, the State  
 45 Board shall meet at any other place in the State designated by the four members.

46 (c) Meetings to Investigate Alleged Violations of This Chapter. – When called upon to  
 47 investigate or hear sworn alleged violations of this Chapter, the State Board ~~shall~~may meet and  
 48 hear the matter in the county in which the violations are alleged to have ~~occurred~~.occurred upon  
 49 the prior written request of any three members.

50 ...."

1 **PART XVI. DEADLINE TO CHALLENGE ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN CERTAIN**  
 2 **MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

3 **SECTION 16.1.** G.S. 163-89(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) Time for Challenge. – The absentee ballot of any voter received by the county board  
 5 of elections pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b)(1) may be challenged no later than 5:00 P.M. on the  
 6 fifth business day after the primary or general election or county bond ~~election.~~election;  
 7 provided, however, that any such challenge in a municipal primary or election conducted under  
 8 Article 24 of this Chapter, where the canvass is to be held on the seventh day following the  
 9 primary or election, shall be filed no later than two business days after the primary or election.  
 10 The absentee ballot of any voter received by the county board of elections pursuant to  
 11 G.S. 163-231(b)(2) may be challenged no later than 5:00 P.M. on the next business day following  
 12 the deadline for receipt of such absentee ballots."  
 13

14 **PART XVII. REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES PERMANENTLY ENJOINED IN**  
 15 **NAACP V. MCCRORY PERTAINING TO: OUT-OF-PRECINCT VOTING;**  
 16 **SAME-DAY REGISTRATION; AND PREREGISTRATION**

17 **SECTION 17.1.(a)** G.S. 163-55 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 163-55. Qualifications to vote; exclusion from electoral franchise.**

19 (a) Residence Period for State Elections. – Every person born in the United States, and  
 20 every person who has been naturalized, and who shall have resided in the State of North Carolina  
 21 and in the ~~precinct-precinct, ward, or other election district~~ in which the person offers to vote for  
 22 30 days next preceding an election, shall, if otherwise qualified as prescribed in this Chapter, be  
 23 qualified to vote in ~~the precinct in which the person resides.~~any election held in this State.  
 24 Removal from one ~~precinct-precinct, ward, or other election district~~ to another in this State shall  
 25 not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in the ~~precinct-precinct, ward, or other~~  
 26 election district from which the person has removed until 30 days after the person's removal.

27 Except as provided in this Chapter, the following classes of persons shall not be allowed to  
 28 vote in this State:

29 (1) Persons under 18 years of age.

30 (2) Any person adjudged guilty of a felony against this State or the United States,  
 31 or adjudged guilty of a felony in another state that also would be a felony if it  
 32 had been committed in this State, unless that person shall be first restored to  
 33 the rights of citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

34 (b) ~~Precincts.~~Precincts and Election Districts. – For purposes of qualification to vote in  
 35 an election, a person's residence in a ~~precinct-precinct, ward, or other election district~~ shall be  
 36 determined in accordance with G.S. 163-57. When an election district encompasses more than  
 37 one precinct, then for purposes of those offices to be elected from that election district, a person  
 38 shall also be deemed to be a resident in the election district which includes the precinct in which  
 39 that person resides. An election district may include a portion of a county, an entire county, a  
 40 portion of the State, or the entire State. When a precinct has been divided among two or more  
 41 election districts for purposes of elections to certain offices, then with respect to elections to those  
 42 offices, a person shall be deemed to be a resident in only that election district which includes the  
 43 area of the precinct in which that person resides. Qualification to vote in referenda shall be treated  
 44 the same as qualification for elections to fill offices.

45 ...."

46 **SECTION 17.1.(b)** G.S. 163-166.11 reads as rewritten:

47 "**§ 163-166.11. Provisional voting requirements.**

48 If an individual seeking to vote claims to be a registered voter in a jurisdiction as provided in  
 49 G.S. 163-82.1 and though eligible to vote in the election does not appear on the official list of  
 50 eligible registered voters in the voting place, that individual may cast a provisional official ballot  
 51 as follows:

1 ...

2 (6) The county board of elections shall count the individual's provisional official  
3 ballot for all ballot items on which it determines that the individual was  
4 eligible under State or federal law to vote."

5 SECTION 17.1.(c) G.S. 163-182.2(a)(4), as amended by Section 3A.4(e) of S.L.  
6 2024-57, reads as rewritten:

7 "(4) ~~If the county board finds that an individual voting a provisional official ballot~~  
8 ~~(i) was registered in the county as provided in 163-82.1, (ii) voted in the proper~~  
9 ~~precinct under G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, and (iii) was otherwise eligible~~  
10 ~~to vote, the provisional official ballots shall be counted by the county board~~  
11 ~~no later than 5:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election. Except as~~  
12 ~~provided in G.S. 163-82.15(e), if the county board finds that an individual~~  
13 ~~voting a provisional official ballot (i) did not vote in the proper precinct under~~  
14 ~~G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, (ii) is not registered in the county as provided~~  
15 ~~in G.S. 163-82.1, or (iii) is otherwise not eligible to vote, the ballot shall not~~  
16 ~~be counted. Provisional official ballots shall be counted by the county board~~  
17 ~~no later than 5:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election. If the~~  
18 ~~county board finds that an individual voting a provisional official ballot is not~~  
19 ~~eligible to vote in one or more ballot items on the official ballot, the board~~  
20 ~~shall not count the official ballot in those ballot items but shall count the~~  
21 ~~official ballot in any ballot items for which the individual is eligible to vote.~~  
22 Eligibility shall be determined by whether the voter is registered in the county  
23 as provided in G.S. 163-82.1 and whether the voter is qualified by residency  
24 to vote in the election district as provided in G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57. If  
25 a voter was properly registered to vote in the election by the county board, no  
26 mistake of an election official in giving the voter a ballot or in failing to  
27 comply with G.S. 163-82.15 or G.S. 163-166.11 shall serve to prevent the  
28 counting of the vote on any ballot item the voter was eligible by registration  
29 and qualified by residency to vote."

30 SECTION 17.2.(a) G.S. 163-59 reads as rewritten:

31 "§ 163-59. **Right to participate or vote in party primary.**

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

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

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

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

1           **SECTION 17.2.(b)** G.S. 163-82.6(d) reads as rewritten:

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

- 4           (1) If submitted by mail, must be postmarked at least 25 days before the primary  
5 or election, except that any mailed application on which the postmark is  
6 missing or unclear is validly submitted if received in the mail not later than 20  
7 days before the primary or election,  
8           (2) If submitted in person, by facsimile transmission, or by transmission of a  
9 scanned document, must be received by the county board of elections by a  
10 time established by that board, but no earlier than 5:00 P.M., on the  
11 twenty-fifth day before the primary or election,  
12           (3) If submitted through a delegatee who violates the duty set forth in subsection  
13 (a) of this section, must be signed by the applicant and given to the delegatee  
14 not later than 25 days before the primary or election, except as provided in  
15 subsection (f) of this section."

16           **SECTION 17.3.(a)** G.S. 163-82.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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

21           **SECTION 17.3.(b)** G.S. 163-82.3(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
22 read:

23           "(5) Preregister to vote."

24           **SECTION 17.3.(c)** G.S. 163-82.4(e)(2) reads as rewritten:

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

- 26           a. "Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for  
27 the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant will be 18  
28 years of age or older on election day.  
29           b. "Are you at least 16 years of age and understand that you must be 18  
30 years of age on or before election day to vote?" and boxes for the  
31 applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is at least 16 years  
32 of age and understands that the applicant must be at least 18 years of  
33 age or older by election day to vote.  
34           c. "If you checked 'no' in response to ~~this question~~, both of these  
35 questions, do not submit this form."

36           **SECTION 17.3.(d)** G.S. 163-82.19(a) reads as rewritten:

37           "(a) Voter Registration at Drivers License Offices. – The Division of Motor Vehicles  
38 shall, pursuant to the rules adopted by the State ~~Board of Elections, Board,~~ modify its forms so  
39 that any eligible person who applies for original issuance, renewal or correction of a drivers  
40 license, or special identification card issued under G.S. 20-37.7 may, on a part of the form,  
41 complete an application to register to vote, or to update the voter's registration if the voter has  
42 changed his or her address or moved from one precinct to another or from one county to ~~another~~  
43 another, or to preregister to vote. The person taking the application shall ask if the applicant is a  
44 citizen of the United States. If the applicant states that the applicant is not a citizen of the United  
45 States, or declines to answer the question, the person taking the application shall inform the  
46 applicant that it is a felony for a person who is not a citizen of the United States to apply to  
47 register to vote. The application shall state in clear language the penalty for violation of this  
48 section. The necessary forms shall be prescribed by the State ~~Board of Elections, Board.~~ The  
49 form must ask for the previous voter registration address of the voter, if any. If a previous address  
50 is listed, and it is not in the county of residence of the applicant, the appropriate county board of  
51 elections shall treat the application as an authorization to cancel the previous registration and also



1 process it as such under the procedures of G.S. 163-82.9. If a previous address is listed and that  
 2 address is in the county where the voter applies to register, the application shall be processed as  
 3 if it had been submitted under G.S. 163-82.9.

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

9 All applications shall be forwarded by the Department of Transportation to the appropriate  
 10 board of elections not later than five business days after the date of acceptance, according to rules  
 11 which shall be promulgated by the State ~~Board of Elections.~~ Board. Those rules shall provide for  
 12 a paperless, instant, electronic transfer of applications to the appropriate board of elections.  
 13 Applications for preregistration shall be forwarded to the State Board."

14 **SECTION 17.3.(e)** G.S. 163-82.20 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 163-82.20. Voter registration at other public agencies.**

16 (a) Voter Registration Agencies. – Every office in this State which accepts:

- 17 (1) Applications for a program of public assistance under Article 2 of Chapter  
 18 108A of the General Statutes or under Article 13 of Chapter 130A of the  
 19 General Statutes;  
 20 (2) Applications for State-funded State or local government programs primarily  
 21 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities, with such office  
 22 designated by the State ~~Board of Elections;~~ Board; or  
 23 (3) Claims for benefits under Chapter 96 of the General Statutes, the Employment  
 24 Security Law, is designated as a voter registration agency for purposes of this  
 25 section.

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

- 29 (1) Distribute with each application for service or assistance, and with each  
 30 recertification, renewal, or change of address relating to such service or  
 31 assistance:  
 32 a. The voter registration application form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a)  
 33 or (b); or  
 34 b. The voter registration agency's own form, if it is substantially  
 35 equivalent to the form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a) or (b) and has  
 36 been approved by the State ~~Board of Elections,~~ Board, provided that  
 37 the agency's own form may be a detachable part of the agency's paper  
 38 application or may be a paperless computer process, as long as the  
 39 applicant is required to sign an attestation as part of the application to  
 40 ~~register.~~ register or preregister.  
 41 (2) Provide a form that contains the elements required by section 7(a)(6)(B) of  
 42 the National Voter Registration Act; ~~and Act.~~  
 43 (3) Provide to each applicant who does not decline to register or preregister to  
 44 vote the same degree of assistance with regard to the completion of the  
 45 registration application as is provided by the office with regard to the  
 46 completion of its own forms.

47 ...

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

- 50 (1) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration,  
 51 except that this shall not be construed to prevent the notice provided by

- 1 G.S. 163-82.4(d) to be given if the applicant refuses to declare his party
- 2 affiliation;
- 3 (2) Display any such political preference or party allegiance;
- 4 (3) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of
- 5 which is to discourage the applicant from registering or preregistering to vote;
- 6 or
- 7 (4) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of
- 8 which is to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register or preregister
- 9 or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits.
- 10 (f) Confidentiality of Declination to Register. – No information relating to a declination
- 11 to register or preregister to vote in connection with an application made at a voter registration
- 12 agency may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.
- 13 (g) Transmittal From Agency to ~~Board of Elections~~ State Board. – Any voter registration
- 14 or preregistration application completed at a voter registration agency shall be accepted by that
- 15 agency in lieu of the applicant's mailing the application. Any such application so received shall
- 16 be transmitted to the appropriate board of elections not later than five business days after
- 17 acceptance, according to rules which shall be promulgated by the State ~~Board of Elections~~ Board.
- 18 ...
- 19 (i) Ineligible Applications Prohibited. – No person shall make application to register or
- 20 preregister to vote under this section if that person is ineligible on account of age, citizenship,
- 21 lack of residence for the period of time provided by law, or because of conviction of a felony."

22 **SECTION 17.3.(f)** G.S. 163-82.23 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 163-82.23. Voter registration at public high schools.**

24 Every public high school shall make available to its students and others who are eligible to

25 register or preregister to vote the application forms described in G.S. 163-82.3, and shall keep a

26 sufficient supply of the forms so that they are always available. A local board of education may,

27 but is not required to, designate high school employees to assist in completing the forms. Only

28 employees who volunteer for this duty may be designated by boards of education."

29

30 **PART XVIII. ALLOW DEPLOYED FIRST RESPONDERS TO USE ABSENTEE**

31 **VOTING PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY OVERSEAS CITIZENS**

32 **SECTION 18.1.** G.S. 163-258.2 reads as rewritten:

33 **"§ 163-258.2. Definitions.**

34 As used in this Article:

- 35 (1) "Covered voter" means any of the following:
- 36 a. A uniformed-service voter or an overseas voter who is registered to
- 37 vote in this State.
- 38 b. A uniformed-service voter defined in subdivision (7) of this section
- 39 whose voting residence is in this State and who otherwise satisfies this
- 40 State's voter eligibility requirements.
- 41 c. An overseas voter who, before leaving the United States, was last
- 42 eligible to vote in this State and, except for a State residency
- 43 requirement, otherwise satisfies this State's voter eligibility
- 44 requirements.
- 45 d. An overseas voter who, before leaving the United States, would have
- 46 been last eligible to vote in this State had the voter then been of voting
- 47 age and, except for a State residency requirement, otherwise satisfies
- 48 this State's voter eligibility requirements.
- 49 e. An overseas voter who was born outside the United States, is not
- 50 described in sub-subdivision c. or d. of this subdivision, and, except

1 for a State residency requirement, otherwise satisfies this State's voter  
2 eligibility requirements, if:

- 3 1. The last place where a parent or legal guardian of the voter  
4 was, or under this Article would have been, eligible to vote  
5 before leaving the United States is within this State; and
- 6 2. The voter has not previously registered to vote in any other  
7 state.

8 f. A voter who is registered to vote in this State and who has been  
9 deployed by the voter's employer away from the voter's county of  
10 residence to respond to a disaster declared by the Governor or the  
11 President of the United States within 60 days before an election.

12 ...."

13  
14 **PART XIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

15 **SECTION 19.1.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections  
16 held on or after that date.