



# NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2023 Session

## Legislative Fiscal Note

**Short Title:** Reduce Early One-Stop Voting Days.  
**Bill Number:** House Bill 303 (First Edition)  
**Sponsor(s):** Rep. Davis, Rep. Cleveland, Rep. Clampitt, and Rep. Humphrey

### SUMMARY TABLE

| <b>FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B. 303, V. (\$ in )</b> |   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | <u>FY 2023-24</u>   | <u>FY 2024-25</u> | <u>FY 2025-26</u> | <u>FY 2026-27</u> | <u>FY 2027-28</u> |
| <b>Local Impact</b>                           |   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Local Revenue                                 | -   | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| Less Local Expenditures                       | -   | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| <b>NET LOCAL IMPACT</b>                       | <b>No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section</b> |                   |                   |                   |                   |

### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

County boards of elections are responsible for conducting elections in North Carolina and county boards of commissioners are responsible for paying the cost, including one-stop (early) voting.

House Bill 303 amends G.S. 163-227.2 to shorten the period for one-stop (early) voting by moving the start of early voting from no earlier than the third Thursday before an election to the second Saturday before an election.

The bill is anticipated to have a fiscal impact on county boards of elections; however, no fiscal estimate is available.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

The cost of conducting one-stop voting is borne by counties. County boards of elections determine the resources needed to conduct one-stop voting, including establishing early voting sites and arranging facilities, providing voting machines and supplying election workers. As such, the fiscal impact of shortening the number of early voting days could vary from potential cost savings to counties to potential cost increases for counties.

The State Board of Elections surveyed five county boards of elections of varying population and found that the impact varied from projected cost savings to increased costs. However, these results cannot be applied to all 100 counties.

For example, the Iredell and Brunswick County Boards of Elections projected savings from the reduced days of early voting, noting that while they would need to increase the number of voting sites and election workers, the additional cost to do so would be more than offset by the savings from the reduction in days of early voting, while Transylvania County Board of Elections projected an increase in costs.

Two larger county boards of elections, Guilford, and Mecklenburg projected increased costs from the need for additional voting sites, larger voting facilities (building lease costs), additional staff, equipment needs, etc., associated with accommodating a concentrated demand for early voting.

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## **TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

N/A.

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## **DATA SOURCES**

NC State Board of Elections

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## **LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

This document is an official fiscal analysis prepared pursuant to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and rules adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts.

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Questions on this analysis should be directed to the Fiscal Research Division at (919) 733-4910.

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## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY**

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## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY**

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April 11, 2023



**Signed copy located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**