GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA **SESSION 2001**

S

SENATE BILL 11 Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 4/9/01

	Short Title: Election Changes-Misc.	(Public)	
	Sponsors:		
	Referred to:		
	Janua	ry 25, 2001	
1 2	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO MAKE MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO THE ELECTION LAWS.		
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8	` 1 ,		
9 10			
11	according to the following instructions:	the vacancy shan be fined by appointment	
12	according to the following instructions.		
13	Position		
14			
15	President	Vacancy is to be filled by	
16	Vice President	appointment of national	
17		executive committee of	
18		political party in which	
19		vacancy occurs	
20			
21	<u>Presidential elector or</u>	X7	
22	alternate elector	Vacancy is to be filled by	
2324	Any elective State office United States Senator	appointment of State executive committee of	
25	Officed States Senator	political party in which	
26		vacancy occurs	
27	A district office, including:	vacancy occurs	
28	Member of the United States		
29	House of Representatives		

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Judge of district court District Attorney State Senator in a multi- county senatorial district Member of State House of Representatives in a multi- county representative district	Appropriate district executive committee of political party in which vacancy occurs
9	district	
10	State Senator in a single-	County executive committee
11	county senatorial district	of political party in which
12	Member of State House of	vacancy occurs, provided, in
13	Representatives in a	the case of the State
14	single-county	Senator or State
15	representative district	Representative in a
16	Any elective county office	single-county district where
17		not all the county is
18		located in that district,
19		then in voting, only those
20		members of the county
21		executive committee who
22		reside within the
23		district shall vote

The party executive making a nomination in accordance with the provisions of this section shall certify the name of its nominee to the chairman of the board of elections, State or county, charged with the duty of printing the ballots on which the name is to appear. If at the time a nomination is made under this section the general election ballots have already been printed, the provisions of G.S. 163-139 shall apply. If any person nominated as a candidate of a vacancy occurs in a nomination of a political party vacates such nomination and such that vacancy arises from a cause other than death and the vacancy in nomination occurs more than 120 days before the general election, the vacancy in nomination may be filled under this section only if the appropriate executive committee certifies the name of the nominee in accordance with this paragraph at least 75 days before the general election.

In a county not all of which is located in one congressional district, in choosing the congressional district executive committee member or members from that area of the county, only the county convention delegates or county executive committee members who reside within the area of the county which is within the congressional district may vote.

In a county which is partly in a multi-county senatorial district or which is partly in a multi-county House of Representatives district, in choosing that county's member or members of the senatorial district executive committee or House of Representatives

district executive committee for the multi-county district, only the county convention delegates or county executive committee members who reside within the area of the county which is within that multi-county district may vote."

SECTION 2. G.S. 163-128 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-128. Election precincts and voting places established or altered.

(a) Each county shall be divided into a convenient number of precincts for the purpose of voting. Upon a resolution adopted by the county board of elections and approved by the Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections voters from a given precinct may be temporarily transferred, for the purpose of voting, to an adjacent precinct. Any such transfers shall be for the period of time equal only to the term of office of the county board of elections making such transfer. When such a resolution has been adopted by the county board of elections to assign voters from more than one precinct to the same precinct, then the county board of elections shall maintain separate registration and voting records, consistent with the procedure prescribed by the State Board of Elections, so as to properly identify the precinct in which such voters reside. The polling place for a precinct shall be located within the precinct or on a lot or tract adjoining the precinct.

Except as provided by Article 12A of this Chapter, the county board of elections shall have power from time to time, by resolution, to establish, alter, discontinue, or create such new election precincts or voting places as it may deem expedient. Upon adoption of a resolution establishing, altering, discontinuing, or creating a precinct or voting place, the board shall give 45 days' notice thereof prior to the next primary or election. Notice shall be given by advertisement in a newspaper having general circulation in the county, by posting a copy of the resolution at the courthouse door, door and at the office of the county board of elections, and by mailing a copy of the resolution to the chairman of every political party in the county. Notice may additionally be made on a radio or television station or both, but such notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required notice. No later than 30 days prior to the primary or election, the county board of elections shall mail a notice of precinct change to each registered voter who as a result of the change will be assigned to a different voting place.

(b) Each county board of elections shall prepare a map of the county on which the precinct boundaries are drawn or described, shall revise the map when boundaries are changed, and shall keep a copy of the current map on file and posted for public inspection at the office of the Board of Elections, and shall file a copy with the State Board of Elections."

SECTION 3. G.S. 163-254 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-254. Registration and voting on primary or election day.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, any person entitled to vote an absentee ballot pursuant to G.S. 163-245 who is absent in any of the capacities specified in that section on the day the registration records close for an election but who returns to that person's county of residence in North Carolina thereafter shall be permitted to register in person at any time including the day of a primary or

election. Should such person's eligibility to register or vote as provided in G.S. 163-245 terminate after the twenty-fifth day prior to a primary or election, such person, if he appears in person, shall be entitled to register if otherwise qualified after the twenty-fifth day before the primary or election, or on the primary or election day, and shall be permitted to vote if such person is otherwise qualified."

SECTION 4. G.S. 163-227.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-227.3. Date by which absentee ballots must be available for voting.

- (a) The State Board of Elections shall provide absentee ballots of the kinds to be furnished by the State Board, to the county boards of elections 50 days prior to the date on which the election shall be conducted unless there shall exist an appeal before the State Board or the courts not concluded, in which case the State Board shall provide the ballots as quickly as possible upon the conclusion of such an appeal. In every instance the State Board shall exert every effort to provide absentee ballots, of the kinds to be furnished by the State Board, to each county by the date on which absentee voting is authorized to commence. In any case where absentee ballots are printed by the county board of elections, that county board shall follow the direction of the State Board in delaying absentee ballots while an appeal is pending and in providing them as soon as possible thereafter.
- (b) Second Primary. -- The State Board of Elections shall provide absentee ballots, of the kinds to be furnished by the State Board, as quickly as possible after the ballot information has been determined."

SECTION 5. G.S. 163-278.39(a)(3) is repealed.

SECTION 6. G.S. 120-163 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-163. Petition.

- (a) The process of seeking the recommendation of the Commission is commenced by filing with the Commission a petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the registered voters of the area proposed to be incorporated, but by not less than 25 registered voters of that area, asking for incorporation. The voter shall sign the petition and also clearly print that voter's name adjacent to the signature. The petition must also contain the voter's residence address and date of birth.
- (b) The petition must be verified by the county board of elections of the county where the voter is alleged to be registered. The board of elections shall cause to be examined the signature, shall place a check mark beside the name of each signer who is qualified and registered to vote in that county in the area proposed to be incorporated, and shall attach to the petition a certificate stating the number of voters registered in that county in the area proposed to be incorporated, and the total number of registered voters who have been verified. The county board of elections shall return the petition to the person who presented it within 15 working days of receipt. That period of 15 working days shall be tolled for any period of time that is also either two weeks before or one week after a primary or election being conducted by the county board of elections.
- (c) The petition must include a proposed name for the city, a map of the city, a list of proposed services to be provided by the proposed municipality, the names of three persons to serve as interim governing board, a proposed charter, a statement of the

2 3

5

6

7

8

9

11

16

17 18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36 37

38

39

40

41 42

43

estimated population, assessed valuation, degree of development, population density, and recommendations as to the form of government and manner of election. The petition must contain a statement that the proposed municipality will have a budget ordinance with an ad valorem tax levy of at least five cents (5¢) on the one hundred 4 dollar (\$100.00) valuation upon all taxable property within its corporate limits. The petition must contain a statement that the proposed municipality will offer four of the following services no later than the first day of the third fiscal year following the effective date of the incorporation: (i) police protection; (ii) fire protection; (iii) solid waste collection or disposal; (iv) water distribution; (v) street maintenance; (vi) street 10 construction or right-of-way acquisition; (vii) street lighting; and (viii) zoning. In order to qualify for providing police protection, the proposed municipality must propose 12 either to provide police service or to have services provided by contract with a county or 13 another municipality that proposes that the other government be compensated for 14 providing supplemental protection. The proposed municipality may not contain any 15 noncontiguous areas.

- (d) The petitioners must present to the Commission the verified petition from the county board of elections.
- A petition must be submitted to the Commission at least 60 days prior to convening of the next regular session of the General Assembly in order for the Commission to make a recommendation to that session."

SECTION 7. G.S. 163-192.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-192.1. Mandatory recounts.

- Whenever, according to the canvass made under this Article, the difference between the number of votes received by a candidate who:
 - (1) Has received the number of votes necessary to be declared nominated for an office in a primary election with a majority; or
 - Received the number of votes necessary to be declared nominated for (2) an office in a second primary election

and the number of votes received by any candidate in the race is not more than one percent (1%) of the total votes which were cast for that office, except in multi-seat races one percent (1%) of the total votes cast for those two candidates, the State Board of Elections shall, before declaring the person nominated, order a recount of the primary if a candidate whose votes, according to a tally of the canvasses made under Article 15 of this Chapter, fell within one percent (1%) of a successful candidate shall, by noon on the eighth day (Saturdays and Sundays included) second Wednesday following the election, request in writing such a recount. Provided, however, that in If, however, in a statewide contest, no candidate shall be entitled to an automatic recount under this section unless the difference is at least—no greater than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the votes cast, or 10,000 votes, whichever is less. Provided further that Further, if the canvass made under this Article determines that a candidate who was not originally thought to be within the percentage entitling him to a recount based on the tally of canvasses made under Article 15 of this Chapter is in fact within the percentage entitling him to a recount, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

26

27

Elections shall immediately notify the candidate and the candidate shall be entitled to a recount if he so requests within 48 hours of notification.

- Whenever, according to the canvass made under this Article, the difference (b) between the number of votes received by a candidate who has been declared elected to an office in a general election and the number of votes received by any other candidate in the race shall be not more than one percent (1%) of the total votes which were cast for that office, except in multi-seat races one percent (1%) of the total votes cast for those two candidates, or where there is a tie vote between those candidates, the State Board of Elections shall, before certifying the result to the Secretary of State under G.S. 163-193, order a recount of the election if a candidate whose votes, according to a tally of the canvasses made under Article 15 of this Chapter, fell within one percent (1%) of a successful candidate (or in the case of a tie, either candidate) shall, by noon on the eighth day (Saturdays and Sundays included) second Wednesday following the election, request in writing such a recount. Provided, however, that If, however, in a statewide contest, no candidate shall be entitled to an automatic recount under this section unless the difference is at least—no greater than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the votes cast, or 10,000 votes, whichever is less. Provided further that Further, if the canvass made under this Article determines that a candidate who was not originally thought to be within the percentage entitling him to a recount based on the tally of canvasses made under Article 15 of this Chapter is in fact within the percentage entitling him to a recount, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections shall immediately notify the candidate and the candidate shall be entitled to a recount if he so requests within 48 hours of notification.
- 24 (c) The recount shall be conducted under the supervision of the State Board of 25 Elections.
 - (d) This section applies to the offices listed in G.S. 163-192." **SECTION 8.** This act is effective when it becomes law.