

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 325  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/14/18

Short Title: The Uniform & Expanded Early Voting Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 22, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO SET HOURS FOR ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING SITES AND TO REQUIRE  
COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON VOTER  
LIST MAINTENANCE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 163A-1300(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Not earlier than the ~~second Thursday~~third Wednesday before an election, in which absentee ballots are authorized, in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than ~~1:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.~~ on the last ~~Saturday~~Friday before that election, the voter shall appear in person only at the office of the county board of elections, except as provided in G.S. 163A-1303. ~~A county board of elections shall conduct one-stop voting on the last Saturday before the election until 1:00 P.M.~~ That voter shall enter the voting enclosure at the board office through the appropriate entrance and shall at once state his or her name and place of residence to an authorized member or employee of the board and present photo identification in accordance with G.S. 163A-1145. In a primary election, the voter shall also state the political party with which the voter affiliates and in whose primary the voter desires to vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to vote in the primary of a particular party under G.S. 163A-989, the voter shall state the name of the authorizing political party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The board member or employee to whom the voter gives this information shall announce the name and residence of the voter in a distinct tone of voice. After examining the registration records, an employee of the board shall state whether the person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the voter is found to be registered that voter may request that the authorized member or employee of the board furnish the voter with an application form as specified in ~~G.S. 163-227~~G.S. 163A-1391. The voter shall complete the application in the presence of the authorized member or employee of the board, and shall deliver the application to that person."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 163A-1303 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 163A-1303. Sites and hours for one-stop voting.**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of G.S. 163A-1300, 163A-1301, 163A-1302, this section, and G.S. 163A-1304, a county board of elections by unanimous vote of all its members may provide for one or more sites in that county for absentee ballots to be applied for and cast under these sections. Every individual staffing any of those sites shall be a member or full-time employee of the county board of elections or an employee of the county board of elections whom the board has given training equivalent to that given a full-time employee. Those sites must be approved by the State Board as part of a Plan for Implementation approved by both the county board of elections and by the State Board which shall also provide adequate security of the ballots and provisions to avoid allowing persons to vote who have already voted. The Plan



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1 for Implementation shall include a provision for the presence of political party observers at each  
2 one-stop site equivalent to the provisions in G.S. 163A-821 for party observers at voting places  
3 on election day. A county board of elections may propose in its Plan not to offer one-stop voting  
4 at the county board of elections office; the State Board may approve that proposal in a Plan only  
5 if the Plan includes at least one site reasonably proximate to the county board of elections office  
6 and the State Board finds that the sites in the Plan as a whole provide adequate coverage of the  
7 county's electorate. If a county board of elections has considered a proposed Plan or Plans for  
8 Implementation and has been unable to reach unanimity in favor of a Plan, a member or members  
9 of that county board of elections may petition the State Board to adopt a plan for it. If petitioned,  
10 the State Board may also receive and consider alternative petitions from another member or  
11 members of that county board. The State Board may adopt a Plan for that county. The State  
12 Board, in that plan, shall take into consideration factors including geographic, demographic, and  
13 partisan interests of that county. ~~Any plan adopted by either the county board of elections or the  
14 State Board under this subsection shall provide for the same days of operation and same number  
15 of hours of operation on each day for all sites in that county for that election. The requirement of  
16 the previous sentence does not apply to the county board of elections office itself nor, if one-stop  
17 voting is not conducted at the county board of elections office, to the reasonably proximate  
18 alternate site approved under this subsection.~~

19 ...  
20 (c) For all sites approved for one-stop voting under this section, a county board of  
21 elections shall provide the following:

- 22 (1) Each one-stop site across the county shall be open at that same location during  
23 the period required by G.S. 163A-1300(b).
- 24 (2) If any one-stop site across the county is opened on any day during the period  
25 required by G.S. 163A-1300(b), all one-stop sites shall be open on that day.
- 26 (3) On each weekday during the period required by G.S. 163A-1300(b), all  
27 one-stop sites shall be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
- 28 (4) If the county board of elections opens one-stop sites on Saturdays during the  
29 period required by G.S. 163A-1300(b), then all one-stop sites shall be open  
30 for the same number of hours uniformly throughout the county on those  
31 Saturdays.
- 32 (5) If the county board of elections opens one-stop sites on Sundays during the  
33 period required by G.S. 163A-1300(b), then all one-stop sites shall be open  
34 for the same number of hours uniformly throughout the county on those  
35 Sundays."

36 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163A-1304 is repealed.

37 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 163A-877 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

38 "(f) Annual Report on List Maintenance Efforts. – County board of elections shall submit  
39 to the State Board an annual report, on or before September 1 of each year, of its list maintenance  
40 under this section. The State Board shall compile annual reports received from the county board  
41 of elections and submit the reports to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee on or  
42 before October 1 of each year."

43 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.