

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 486  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 5/30/18  
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/31/18

Short Title: The Elections Security and Transparency Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES RELATED TO ELECTION LAWS.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4  
5 **PART I. CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS FOR STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND**  
6 **ETHICS ENFORCEMENT**

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Subpart D of Part 4 of Article 13 of Chapter 143B of the General  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 **"§ 143B-968. Criminal record checks for employees and contractors of the State Board of**  
10 **Elections and Ethics Enforcement and county directors of elections.**

11 (a) As used in this section, the term:

12 (1) "Current or prospective employee" means any of the following:

13 a. A current or prospective permanent or temporary employee of the  
14 State Board or a current or prospective county director of elections.

15 b. A current or prospective contractor with the State Board.

16 c. An employee or agent of a current or prospective contractor with the  
17 State Board.

18 d. Any other individual otherwise engaged by the State Board who has  
19 or will have the capability to update, modify, or change elections  
20 systems or confidential elections or ethics data.

21 (2) "State Board" means the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement.

22 (b) The Department of Public Safety may provide to the Executive Director of the State  
23 Board a current or prospective employee's criminal history from the State and National  
24 Repositories of Criminal Histories. The Executive Director shall provide to the Department of  
25 Public Safety, along with the request, the fingerprints of the current or prospective employee, a  
26 form signed by the current or prospective employee consenting to the criminal record check and  
27 use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State and National  
28 Repositories, and any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety. The  
29 fingerprints of the current or prospective employee shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of  
30 Investigation for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of  
31 Investigation shall forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a  
32 national criminal history record check.

33 (c) The Department of Public Safety may charge a fee to offset the cost incurred by it to  
34 conduct a criminal record check under this section. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost of  
35 locating, editing, researching, and retrieving the information.



1        (d) The criminal history report shall be provided to the Executive Director of the State  
2 Board, who shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential to the State  
3 Board. A criminal history report obtained as provided in this section is not a public record under  
4 Chapter 132 of the General Statutes."

5                **SECTION 1.(b)** Subpart D of Part 4 of Article 13 of Chapter 143B of the General  
6 Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **"§ 143B-969. Criminal record checks for employees of county boards of elections.**

8        (a) As used in this section, the term:

9                (1) "Current or prospective employee" means a current or prospective permanent  
10 or temporary employee of a county board of elections.

11                (2) "State Board" means the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement.

12        (b) The Department of Public Safety may provide to a county board of elections a current  
13 or prospective employee's criminal history from the State and National Repositories of Criminal  
14 Histories. The county board of elections shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, along  
15 with the request, the fingerprints of the current or prospective employee, a form signed by the  
16 current or prospective employee consenting to the criminal record check and use of fingerprints  
17 and other identifying information required by the State and National Repositories, and any  
18 additional information required by the Department of Public Safety. The fingerprints of the  
19 current or prospective employee shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a  
20 search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall  
21 forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history  
22 record check.

23        (c) The Department of Public Safety may charge a fee to offset the cost incurred by it to  
24 conduct a criminal record check under this section. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost of  
25 locating, editing, researching, and retrieving the information.

26        (d) The criminal history report shall be provided to the county board of elections, who  
27 shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential to the county board of  
28 elections, the county director of elections, the State Board, and the Executive Director of the  
29 State Board. A criminal history report obtained as provided in this section is not a public record  
30 under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes."

31                **SECTION 1.(c)** Article 1 of Chapter 163A of the General Statutes is amended by  
32 adding a new section to read:

33 **"§ 163A-7. Criminal history record checks of current and prospective employees of the**  
34 **State Board and county directors of elections.**

35        (a) As used in this section, the term "current or prospective employee" means any of the  
36 following:

37                (1) A current or prospective permanent or temporary employee of the State Board  
38 or a current or prospective county director of elections.

39                (2) An employee or agent of a current or prospective contractor with the State  
40 Board.

41                (3) Any other individual otherwise engaged by the State Board who has or will  
42 have the capability to update, modify, or change elections systems or  
43 confidential elections or ethics data.

44        (b) A criminal history record check shall be required of all current or prospective  
45 permanent or temporary employees of the State Board and all current or prospective county  
46 directors of elections, which shall be conducted by the Department of Public Safety as provided  
47 in G.S. 143B-968. The criminal history report shall be provided to the Executive Director, who  
48 shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential to the State Board, as  
49 provided in G.S. 143B-968(d). A criminal history report provided under this subsection is not a  
50 public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

1       (c) If the current or prospective employee's verified criminal history record check reveals  
2 one or more convictions, the conviction shall constitute just cause for not selecting the person for  
3 employment or for dismissing the person from current employment. The conviction shall not  
4 automatically prohibit employment.

5       (d) A prospective employee may be denied employment or a current employee may be  
6 dismissed from employment for refusal to consent to a criminal history record check or to submit  
7 fingerprints or to provide other identifying information required by the State or National  
8 Repositories of Criminal Histories. Any such refusal shall constitute just cause for the  
9 employment denial or the dismissal from employment.

10       (e) A conditional offer of employment or appointment may be extended pending the  
11 results of a criminal history record check authorized by this section.

12       (f) A county board of elections shall require a criminal history record check of all current  
13 or prospective employees of the county board of elections, as defined in G.S. 163A-778(a)(1),  
14 who have or will have access to the statewide computerized voter registration system maintained  
15 under G.S. 163A-874 and for any additional position or function as the State Board may  
16 designate. The county director of elections shall provide the criminal history record of all current  
17 or prospective employees of the county board of elections required by this subsection or in  
18 designated positions to the Executive Director and State Board.

19       (g) Neither appointment as a precinct official or assistant under Part 4 of Article 16 of  
20 this Chapter nor employment at a one-stop early voting location shall require a criminal history  
21 record check unless the official, assistant, or employee performs a function designated by the  
22 State Board pursuant to subsection (f) of this section."

23       **SECTION 1.(d)** Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 163A of the General Statutes is  
24 amended by adding a new section to read:

25 **"§ 163A-778. Criminal history record checks of current and prospective employees of**  
26 **county boards of elections.**

27       (a) As used in this section, the term "current or prospective employee" means a current  
28 or prospective permanent or temporary employee of a county board of elections who has or will  
29 have access to the statewide computerized voter registration system maintained under  
30 G.S. 163A-874 or has a position or function designated by the State Board as provided in  
31 G.S. 163A-7(f).

32       (b) The county board of elections shall require a criminal history record check of all  
33 current or prospective employees, which shall be conducted by the Department of Public Safety  
34 as provided in G.S. 143B-969. The criminal history report shall be provided to the county board  
35 of elections. A county board of elections shall provide the criminal history record of all current  
36 or prospective employees required by G.S. 163A-7 to the Executive Director and the State Board.  
37 The criminal history report shall be kept confidential as provided in G.S. 143B-969(d) and is not  
38 a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

39       (c) If the current or prospective employee's verified criminal history record check reveals  
40 one or more convictions, the conviction shall constitute just cause for not selecting the person for  
41 employment, or for dismissing the person from current employment. The conviction shall not  
42 automatically prohibit employment.

43       (d) The county board of elections may deny employment to or dismiss from employment  
44 a current or prospective employee who refuses to consent to a criminal history record check or  
45 to submit fingerprints or to provide other identifying information required by the State or  
46 National Repositories of Criminal Histories. Any such refusal shall constitute just cause for the  
47 employment denial or the dismissal from employment.

48       (e) The county board of elections may extend a conditional offer of employment or  
49 appointment pending the results of a criminal history record check authorized by this section.

50       (f) Neither appointment as a precinct official or assistant under Part 4 of Article 16 of  
51 this Chapter nor employment at a one-stop early voting location shall require a criminal history

1 record check unless the official, assistant, or employee performs a function designated by the  
2 State Board pursuant to G.S. 163A-7(f)."

3 **SECTION 1.(e)** G.S. 163A-774(b) reads as rewritten:

4 "(b) Appointment, Duties; Termination. – Upon receipt of a nomination from the county  
5 board of elections stating that the nominee for director of elections is submitted for appointment  
6 upon majority selection by the county board of elections the Executive Director shall issue a  
7 letter of appointment of such nominee to the chairman of the county board of elections within 10  
8 days after receipt of the ~~nomination. Thereafter, nomination, unless good cause exists to decline~~  
9 the appointment. The Executive Director may delay the issuance of appointment for a reasonable  
10 time if necessary to obtain a criminal history records check sought under G.S. 143B-968. The  
11 Executive Director shall apply the standards provided in G.S. 163A-7 in determining whether a  
12 nominee with a criminal history shall be selected. If the Executive Director determines a nominee  
13 shall not be selected and does not issue a letter of appointment, the decision of the Executive  
14 Director of the State Board shall be final unless the decision is, within 10 days from the official  
15 date on which it was made, deferred by the State Board. If the State Board defers the decision,  
16 then the State Board shall make a final decision on appointment of the director of elections and  
17 may direct the Executive Director to issue a letter of appointment. If an Executive Director issues  
18 a letter of appointment, the county board of elections shall enter in its official minutes the  
19 specified duties, responsibilities and designated authority assigned to the director by the county  
20 board of elections. The specified duties and responsibilities shall include adherence to the duties  
21 delegated to the county board of elections pursuant to G.S. 163A-769. A copy of the specified  
22 duties, responsibilities and designated authority assigned to the director shall be filed with the  
23 State Board. In the event the Executive Director is recused due to an actual or apparent conflict  
24 of interest from rendering a decision under this section, the chair and vice-chair of the State Board  
25 shall designate a member of staff to fulfill those duties."

26 **SECTION 1.(f)** This section becomes effective August 1, 2018.

## 27 **PART II. 2018 JUDICIAL ELECTIONS BALLOT INFORMATION**

28 **SECTION 2.(a)** The General Assembly finds that both chambers of the General  
29 Assembly have carefully examined judicial redistricting and the forms of judicial selection with  
30 multiple committees considering various proposals of selection and new judicial district maps.  
31 The General Assembly finds that, to allow for more time to thoughtfully consider these changes,  
32 the General Assembly enacted S.L. 2017-214, the Electoral Freedom Act of 2017, which, among  
33 other items, provided for a one-time cancellation of partisan primaries for the offices of district  
34 court judge, superior court judge, judges of the Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court justices for  
35 the 2018 election cycle. The General Assembly finds that all elections for judges in 2018 were  
36 to be treated uniformly under S.L. 2017-214, the Electoral Freedom Act of 2017, while those  
37 changes were considered.

38 The General Assembly notes that election to these offices will be held under a  
39 plurality election system, with candidates running under a political party label on the ballot,  
40 without having gone through a party primary. The General Assembly finds that ballot language  
41 above the sections of election ballots regarding these impacted offices setting forth that the listed  
42 party affiliation is only the self-identified party of a candidate at the time of filing will aid voters'  
43 understanding of the 2018 judicial races.

44 **SECTION 2.(b)** For the 2018 general election, the State Board of Elections and  
45 Ethics Enforcement shall, notwithstanding G.S. 163A-1114(b)(2), list the following judicial  
46 offices at the end of all partisan offices listed on the general election ballot:

- 47 (1) Justices of the Supreme Court.
- 48 (2) Judges of the Court of Appeals.
- 49 (3) Judges of the superior courts.
- 50 (4) Judges of the district courts.
- 51

1           **SECTION 2.(c)** Notwithstanding G.S. 163A-1112, immediately prior to the  
2 placement of the judicial offices listed in subsection (b) of this section on the ballot, the following  
3 information shall be printed:

4           "No primaries for judicial office were held in 2018. The information listed by each of the  
5 following candidates' names indicates only the candidates' party affiliation or unaffiliated status  
6 on their voter registration at the time they filed to run for office."

7           **SECTION 2.(d)** Except as provided in this section, ballot order for the judicial  
8 offices listed in subsection (b) of this section shall be as provided in Section 4(j) of S.L. 2017-214.

9           **SECTION 2.(e)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to the  
10 2018 general election.

### 11 12 **PART III. OTHER ELECTION CHANGES**

13           **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 150B-45 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 150B-45. Procedure for seeking review; waiver.**

15           (a) Procedure. – To obtain judicial review of a final decision under this Article, the person  
16 seeking review must file a petition within 30 days after the person is served with a written copy  
17 of the decision. The petition must be filed as follows:

18           (1) Contested tax cases. – A petition for review of a final decision in a contested  
19 tax case arising under G.S. 105-241.15 must be filed in the Superior Court of  
20 Wake County.

21           (2) Other final decisions. – A petition for review of any other final decision under  
22 this Article must be filed in the superior court of the county where the person  
23 aggrieved by the administrative decision resides, or in the case of a person  
24 residing outside the State, in the county where the contested case which  
25 resulted in the final decision was filed.

26           (b) Waiver. – A person who fails to file a petition within the required time waives the  
27 right to judicial review under this Article. For good cause shown, however, the superior court  
28 may accept an untimely petition.

29           (c) Judicial Review for State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement. – For a stay  
30 entered pursuant to G.S. 150B-33(b)(6), the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement  
31 may obtain judicial review of the temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction in the  
32 superior court of the county designated in subsection (a) of this section."

33           **SECTION 3.2.(a)** G.S. 163A-741 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

34           "(j1) Notwithstanding G.S. 153A-98 or any other provision of law, all officers, employees,  
35 and agents of a county board of elections are required to give to the State Board, upon request,  
36 all information, documents, and data within their possession, or ascertainable from their records,  
37 including any internal investigation or personnel documentation and are required to make  
38 available, upon request pursuant to an investigation under subsection (d) of this section, any  
39 county board employee for interview and to produce any equipment, hardware, or software for  
40 inspection. These requirements are mandatory and shall be timely complied with as specified in  
41 a request made by any four members of the State Board."

42           **SECTION 3.2.(b)** G.S. 153A-98 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

43           "(c5) Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, information shall be provided to the  
44 State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement from employee personnel records as provided  
45 in G.S. 163A-741."

46           **SECTION 3.3.** G.S. 163A-775 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

47           "(e) In the event the Executive Director is recused due to an actual or apparent conflict of  
48 interest from rendering a decision under this section, the chair and vice-chair of the State Board  
49 shall designate a member of staff to fulfill those duties."

50           **SECTION 3.4.** G.S. 163A-953 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 163A-953. General election participation by new political party.**

1 In the first general election following the date on which a new political party qualifies under  
2 the provisions of G.S. 163A-950, it shall be entitled to have the names of its candidates for  
3 national, State, congressional, and local offices printed on the official ballots upon paying a filing  
4 fee equal to that provided for candidates for the office in G.S. 163A-979 or upon complying with  
5 the alternative available to candidates for the office in G.S. 163A-980.

6 For the first general election following the date on which it qualifies under G.S. 163A-950, a  
7 new political party shall select its candidates by party convention. An individual whose name  
8 appeared on the ballot in a primary election preliminary to the general election shall not be  
9 eligible to have that individual's name placed on the general election ballot as a candidate for the  
10 new political party for the same office in that year. Following adjournment of the nominating  
11 convention, but not later than the first day of July prior to the general election, the president of  
12 the convention shall certify to the State Board the names of persons chosen in the convention as  
13 the new party's candidates in the ensuing general election. Any candidate nominated by a new  
14 party shall be affiliated with the party at the time of certification to the State Board. The  
15 requirement of affiliation with the party will be met if the candidate submits at or before the time  
16 of certification as a candidate an application to change party affiliation to that party. The State  
17 Board shall print names thus certified on the appropriate ballots as the nominees of the new party.  
18 The State Board shall send to each county board of elections the list of any new party candidates  
19 so that the county board can add those names to the appropriate ballot."

20 **SECTION 3.6.** G.S. 163A-1114(b)(4) reads as rewritten:

21 "(4) When offices are in the same class, they shall be listed in alphabetical order  
22 by office name, or in numerical or alphabetical order by district name. Governor and Lieutenant Governor, in that order, shall be listed before other  
23 Council of State offices. The Supreme Court shall be listed before the Court  
24 of Appeals. Judicial offices and district attorney shall be listed, in that order,  
25 after other offices in the same class. Mayor shall be listed before other  
26 citywide offices. Chair of a board, where elected separately, shall be listed  
27 before other board seats having the same electorate. Chief Justice shall be  
28 listed before Associate Justices."

30 **SECTION 3.6A.** G.S. 163A-1115(a)(1) reads as rewritten:

31 "(1) That the vendor post a performance bond or letter of credit to cover damages  
32 resulting from defects in the voting system-system, expenses associated with  
33 State or federal decertification of the voting system, and to protect against the  
34 vendor's insolvency or financial inability to make State or federally mandated  
35 modifications or updates to the voting system. Damages may include, among  
36 other items, any costs of conducting a new county or statewide election  
37 attributable to those defects. The bond or letter of credit shall be maintained  
38 in the amount determined by the State Board as sufficient for the cost of a new  
39 statewide election or in the amount of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000),  
40 whichever is greater."

41 **SECTION 3.7.(a)** G.S. 163A-1115(c) reads as rewritten:

42 "(c) Only electronic poll books or ballot duplication systems that have been certified by  
43 the State Board in accordance with procedures and subject to standards adopted by the State  
44 ~~Board~~ Board, or which have been developed or maintained by the State Board, shall be permitted  
45 for use in elections in this State. Among other requirements as set by the State Board, the  
46 certification requirements shall require that a vendor meet at least all of the following elements:

47 (1) That the vendor post a bond or letter of credit to cover damages resulting from  
48 defects in the electronic poll book or ballot duplication system. Damages may  
49 include, among other items, any costs of conducting a new election  
50 attributable to those defects.

1           (2)    That the vendor provide access to all of any information required to be placed  
 2           in escrow by a vendor pursuant to G.S. 163A-1118 for review and  
 3           examination by the State Board, the Department of Information Technology,  
 4           the State chairs of each political party recognized under G.S. 163A-950, the  
 5           purchasing county, and designees as provided in subdivision (9) of subsection  
 6           (f) of this section.

7           (3)    That the vendor must quote a statewide uniform price for each unit of the  
 8           equipment.

9           (4)    That the vendor must separately agree with the purchasing county that if it is  
 10          granted a contract to provide software for an electronic poll books or ballot  
 11          duplication system but fails to debug, modify, repair, or update the software  
 12          as agreed or, in the event of the vendor having bankruptcy filed for or against  
 13          it, the source code described in G.S. 163A-1118(a) shall be turned over to the  
 14          purchasing county by the escrow agent chosen under G.S. 163A-1118(a)(1)  
 15          for the purposes of continuing use of the software for the period of the contract  
 16          and for permitting access to the persons described in subdivision (2) of this  
 17          subsection for the purpose of reviewing the source code."

18          **SECTION 3.7.(b)** G.S. 163A-1118 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19          "(c) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the term "voting system" shall include  
 20          an electronic poll book or a ballot duplication system."

21          **SECTION 3.8.(a)** G.S. 163A-1115 is amended by adding the following new  
 22          subsections to read:

23          "(h) Neither certification of electronic poll books, ballot duplication systems, or voting  
 24          systems under this section shall constitute a license under Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

25          (i) The State Board in writing may decertify or otherwise halt the use of electronic poll  
 26          books in North Carolina. Any such action is appealable only to the Superior Court of Wake  
 27          County.

28          (j) No voting system used in any election in this State shall be connected to a network,  
 29          and any feature allowing connection to a network shall be disabled. Prohibited network  
 30          connections include the Internet, intranet, fax, telephone line, networks established via modem,  
 31          or any other wired or wireless connection."

32          **SECTION 3.8.(b)** G.S. 150B-2(3) reads as rewritten:

33          "(3) "License" means any certificate, permit or other evidence, by whatever name  
 34          called, of a right or privilege to engage in any activity, except licenses issued  
 35          under Chapter 20 and Subchapter I of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes ~~and~~  
 36          Statutes, occupational licenses, and certifications of electronic poll  
 37          books, ballot duplication systems, or voting systems under G.S. 163A-1115."

38          **SECTION 3.9.(a)** G.S. 163A-1388(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~~ unlawful to do any of the following:

42          (1) For any person to fail, as an officer or as a judge or chief judge of a primary  
 43          or election, or as a member of any board of elections, to prepare the books,  
 44          ballots, and return blanks which it is ~~his~~ the person's duty under the law to  
 45          prepare, or to distribute the same as required by law, or to perform any other  
 46          duty imposed upon ~~him~~ that person within the time and in the manner required  
 47          by ~~law~~ law.

48          (2) For any member, director, or employee of a board of elections to alter a voter  
 49          registration application or other voter registration record without either the  
 50          written authorization of the applicant or voter or the written authorization of  
 51          the State ~~Board~~ Board.

- 1 (3) For any person to continue or attempt to act as a judge or chief judge of a  
2 primary or election, or as a member of any board of elections, after having  
3 been legally removed from such position and after having been given notice  
4 of such ~~removal~~;removal.
- 5 (4) For any person to break up or by force or violence to stay or interfere with the  
6 holding of any primary or election, to interfere with the possession of any  
7 ballot box, election book, ballot, or return sheet by those entitled to possession  
8 of the same under the law, or to interfere in any manner with the performance  
9 of any duty imposed by law upon any election officer or member of any board  
10 of ~~elections~~;elections.
- 11 (5) For any person to be guilty of any boisterous conduct so as to disturb any  
12 member of any election board or any chief judge or judge of election in the  
13 performance of ~~his~~-that person's duties as imposed by ~~law~~;law.
- 14 (6) For any person to bet or wager any money or other thing of value on any  
15 ~~election~~;election.
- 16 (7) For any person, directly or indirectly, to discharge or threaten to discharge  
17 from employment, or otherwise intimidate or oppose any legally qualified  
18 voter on account of any vote such voter may cast or consider or intend to cast,  
19 or not to cast, or which ~~he~~-that voter may have failed to ~~east~~;cast.
- 20 (8) For any person to publish in a newspaper or pamphlet or otherwise, any charge  
21 derogatory to any candidate or calculated to affect the candidate's chances of  
22 nomination or election, unless such publication be signed by the party giving  
23 publicity to and being responsible for such ~~charge~~;charge.
- 24 (9) For any person to publish or cause to be circulated derogatory reports with  
25 reference to any candidate in any primary or election, knowing such report to  
26 be false or in reckless disregard of its truth or falsity, when such report is  
27 calculated or intended to affect the chances of such candidate for nomination  
28 or ~~election~~;election.
- 29 (10) For any person to give or promise, in return for political support or influence,  
30 any political appointment or support for political ~~office~~;office.
- 31 (11) For any ~~chairman~~-chair of a county board of elections or other returning officer  
32 to fail or neglect, willfully or of malice, to perform any duty, act, matter or  
33 thing required or directed in the time, manner and form in which said duty,  
34 matter or thing is required to be performed in relation to any primary, general  
35 or special election and the returns ~~thereof~~;thereof.
- 36 (12) For any clerk of the superior court to refuse to make and give to any person  
37 applying in writing for the same a duly certified copy of the returns of any  
38 primary or election or of a tabulated statement to a primary or election, the  
39 returns of which are by law deposited in his office, upon the tender of the fees  
40 ~~therefor~~;therefor.
- 41 (13) For any person willfully and knowingly to impose upon any blind or illiterate  
42 voter a ballot in any primary or election contrary to the wish or desire of such  
43 voter, by falsely representing to such voter that the ballot proposed to ~~him~~-the  
44 voter is such as ~~he~~-desires; ~~or~~the voter desires.
- 45 (14) Except as authorized by G.S. 163A-878, for any person to provide false  
46 information, or sign the name of any other person, to a written report under  
47 ~~G.S. 163A-878~~; ~~[or]~~G.S. 163A-878.
- 48 (15) For any person to be compensated based on the number of forms submitted  
49 for assisting persons in registering to vote.
- 50 (16) For any person who is not an elections official or who is not otherwise  
51 authorized by law to retain a registrant's signature, full or partial Social



1                    Security number, date of birth, or the identity of the public agency at which  
2                    the registrant registered under G.S. 163A-884, any electronic mail address  
3                    submitted under Part 2 of Article 17 of this Chapter, or drivers license number  
4                    from any form described in G.S. 163-862 after submission of the form to the  
5                    county board of elections or elections official."

6                    **SECTION 3.9.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2018, and applies to  
7 offenses committed on or after that date.

8                    **SECTION 3.10.** G.S. 163A-1412(a) reads as rewritten:

9                    "(a) Each ~~candidate~~, candidate who has received funds or made payments or given consent  
10 for anyone else to receive funds or transfer anything of value for the purpose of bringing about  
11 that individual's nomination or election for office, political committee, and referendum  
12 committee shall appoint a treasurer and, under verification, report the name and address of the  
13 treasurer to the Board. Only an individual who resides in North Carolina shall be appointed as a  
14 treasurer. A candidate may appoint himself or herself or any other individual, including any  
15 relative except his or her spouse, as his-the candidate's treasurer, and, upon failure to file report  
16 designating a treasurer, the candidate shall be concluded to have appointed himself or herself as  
17 treasurer and shall be required to personally fulfill the duties and responsibilities imposed upon  
18 the appointed treasurer and subject to the penalties and sanctions hereinafter provided."

19                    **SECTION 3.11.(a)** Section 30.8 of S.L. 2013-281, as amended by Section 6(a) of  
20 S.L. 2015-103, reads as rewritten:

21                    "**SECTION 30.8.** Any direct record electronic (DRE) voting systems currently certified by  
22 the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement which do not use paper ballots shall be  
23 decertified and shall not be used in any election held on or after ~~September 1, 2019, for counties~~  
24 ~~that use direct record electronic voting machines on election day as of January 1, 2015, and~~  
25 ~~January 1, 2018, for all other counties.~~December 1, 2019. Decertification of a DRE voting system  
26 that does not use paper ballots may not be appealed to the Superior Court of Wake County  
27 pursuant to ~~G.S. 163-165.7(b).~~G.S. 163A-1115(d)."

28                    **SECTION 3.11.(b)** Section 30.9 of S.L. 2013-281, as amended by Section 6(b) of  
29 S.L. 2015-103, reads as rewritten:

30                    "**SECTION 30.9.** This Part becomes effective ~~September 1, 2019,~~December 1, 2019, for  
31 counties that use direct record electronic voting ~~machines on election day as of January 1, 2015.~~  
32 ~~This Part becomes effective for all other counties January 1, 2018.~~machines."

#### 33 34 **PART IV. DUAL OFFICE HOLDING CHANGES**

35                    **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 160A-284 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 160A-284. Oath of office; holding other offices.**

37                    (a) Each person appointed or employed as chief of police, policeman, or auxiliary  
38 policeman shall take and subscribe before some person authorized by law to administer oaths the  
39 oath of office required by Article VI, Sec. 7, of the Constitution. The oath shall be filed with the  
40 city clerk.

41                    (b) The offices of ~~policeman, policeman and chief of police, and auxiliary policeman~~  
42 ~~police~~ are hereby declared to be offices that may be held concurrently with any other appointive  
43 office pursuant to Article VI, Sec. 9, of the Constitution. The offices of policeman and chief of  
44 police are hereby declared to be offices that may be held concurrently with any elective office,  
45 other than elective office in the municipality employing the policeman or chief of police, pursuant  
46 to Section 9 of Article VI of the Constitution.

47                    (c) The office of auxiliary policeman is hereby declared to be an office that may be held  
48 concurrently with any elective office or appointive office pursuant to Article VI, Sec. 9, of the  
49 Constitution."

50                    **SECTION 4.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law. Any policeman or  
51 chief of police having taken an oath of office to any elective office in this State prior to the

1 effective date is not deemed to have resigned his or her position as a law enforcement officer due  
2 to the elective office.

3  
4 **PART V. TECHNICAL CHANGES TO G.S. 163A-2.**

5 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 163A-2 is rewritten to read:

6 **"§ 163A-2. Membership.**

7 (a) The State Board shall consist of nine individuals registered to vote in North Carolina,  
8 appointed by the Governor, as follows:

9 (1) Four individuals registered with the political party with the highest number of  
10 registered affiliates in the State, from a list of six nominees submitted by the  
11 State party chairs of that party.

12 (2) Four individuals registered with the political party with the second highest  
13 number of registered affiliates in the State, from a list of six nominees  
14 submitted by the State party chairs of that party.

15 (3) One individual not registered with either the political party with the largest  
16 number of registered affiliates in the State or of the political party with the  
17 second-largest number of registered affiliates in the State, from a list of two  
18 nominees selected by the other eight members of the State Board.

19 The number of registered affiliates shall be as reflected by the latest registration statistics  
20 published by the State Board. The Governor shall make all appointments promptly upon receipt  
21 of the list of nominees from each nominating entity and in no instance shall appoint later than 30  
22 days after receipt of the list.

23 (b) Within 14 days of appointment by the Governor of the eight members appointed under  
24 subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this section, the eight members shall hold an initial  
25 appointment selection meeting for the sole purpose of selecting two nominees who meet the  
26 qualifications for appointment under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section and shall  
27 promptly submit those names to the Governor. No additional actions, other than the oath of office,  
28 shall be taken by the eight members appointed under subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a)  
29 of this section at the appointment selection meeting.

30 (c) Beginning on May 1 of the odd-numbered year, members shall serve for two-year  
31 terms.

32 (d) Members may be removed from the State Board by the Governor, acting in the  
33 Governor's discretion. Vacancies created on the State Board by removal from office by the  
34 Governor shall be filled in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

35 (e) Any vacancy occurring on the State Board shall be filled by an individual meeting the  
36 same appointment criteria under subsection (a) of this section as the vacating member. Any  
37 vacancy occurring in the State Board shall be filled by the Governor, and the person so appointed  
38 shall fill the unexpired term. The Governor shall fill vacancies as follows:

39 (1) For a vacancy for an appointment under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection  
40 (a) of this section, the Governor shall fill the vacancy from a list of two names  
41 submitted by the State party chair of the political party with which the vacating  
42 member was affiliated if that list is submitted within 30 days of the occurrence  
43 of the vacancy.

44 (2) For a vacancy for an appointment under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of  
45 this section, the Governor shall fill the vacancy from a list of two names  
46 submitted by the remaining members of the State Board if that list is submitted  
47 within 30 days of the occurrence of the vacancy. The State Board shall hold a  
48 meeting within 21 days of the occurrence of the vacancy for the purpose of  
49 selecting two nominees for submission to the Governor to fill the vacancy.

50 (f) At the first meeting held after any new appointments are made, the members of the  
51 State Board shall take the following oath:

1 "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United  
2 States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina and to the  
3 constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof;  
4 that I will endeavor to support, maintain, and defend the Constitution of said State; and that I will  
5 well and truly execute the duties of the office of member of the Bipartisan State Board of  
6 Elections and Ethics Enforcement according to the best of my knowledge and ability, according  
7 to law, so help me God."

8 (g) At the first meeting held after the appointment of the member under subdivision (3)  
9 of subsection (a) of this section, the State Board shall organize by electing one of its members  
10 chair and one of its members vice-chair, each to serve a two-year term as such. In 2017 and every  
11 four years thereafter, the chair shall be a member of the political party with the highest number  
12 of registered affiliates, as reflected by the latest registration statistics published by the State  
13 Board, and the vice-chair a member of the political party with the second highest number of  
14 registered affiliates. In 2019 and every four years thereafter, the chair shall be a member of the  
15 political party with the second highest number of registered affiliates, as reflected by the latest  
16 registration statistics published by the State Board, and the vice-chair a member of the political  
17 party with the highest number of registered affiliates.

18 (h) At the first meeting held after the appointment under subdivision (3) of subsection (a)  
19 of this section, the State Board shall elect one of its members as secretary, to serve a two-year  
20 term as such.

21 (i) No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of the State Board who meets any of  
22 the following criteria:

- 23 (1) Holds any elective or appointive office under the government of the United  
24 States, the State of North Carolina, or any political subdivision thereof.
- 25 (2) Holds any office in a political party or organization.
- 26 (3) Is a candidate for nomination or election to any office.
- 27 (4) Is a campaign manager or treasurer of any candidate in a primary or election.
- 28 (5) Has served two full consecutive terms.

29 (j) No person while serving on the State Board shall do any of the following:

- 30 (1) Make a reportable contribution to a candidate for a public office over which  
31 the State Board would have jurisdiction or authority.
- 32 (2) Register as a lobbyist under Article 8 of this Chapter.
- 33 (3) Make written or oral statements intended for general distribution or  
34 dissemination to the public at large supporting or opposing the nomination or  
35 election of one or more clearly identified candidates for public office.
- 36 (4) Make written or oral statements intended for general distribution or  
37 dissemination to the public at large supporting or opposing the passage of one  
38 or more clearly identified referendum or ballot issue proposals.
- 39 (5) Solicit contributions for a candidate, political committee, or referendum  
40 committee.

41 (k) State Board members shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel, as provided in  
42 G.S. 138-5 and G.S. 138-6."

#### 43 44 **PART VI. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

45 **SECTION 6.** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or  
46 invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than  
47 the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

#### 48 49 **PART VII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

50 **SECTION 7.** Except as otherwise provided herein, this act is effective when it  
51 becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.