

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 325
PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S325-CSBK-49 [v.4]
06/13/2018 11:31:35 PM

Short Title: The Uniform & Expanded Early Voting Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 22, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO SET HOURS FOR ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING SITES AND TO REQUIRE
3 COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON VOTER
4 LIST MAINTENANCE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "(b) Not earlier than the second ~~Thursday~~ Wednesday before an election, in which
8 absentee ballots are authorized, in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than ~~4:00 P.M.~~ 7:00
9 P.M. on the last ~~Saturday~~ Friday before that election, the voter shall appear in person only at the
10 office of the county board of elections, except as provided in G.S. 163A-1303. A county board
11 of elections shall conduct one-stop voting on the last ~~Saturday~~ Friday before the election until
12 ~~4:00 P.M.~~ 7:00 P.M. That voter shall enter the voting enclosure at the board office through the
13 appropriate entrance and shall at once state his or her name and place of residence to an
14 authorized member or employee of the board and present photo identification in accordance with
15 G.S. 163A-1145. In a primary election, the voter shall also state the political party with which
16 the voter affiliates and in whose primary the voter desires to vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated
17 voter permitted to vote in the primary of a particular party under G.S. 163A-989, the voter shall
18 state the name of the authorizing political party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The board
19 member or employee to whom the voter gives this information shall announce the name and
20 residence of the voter in a distinct tone of voice. After examining the registration records, an
21 employee of the board shall state whether the person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the
22 voter is found to be registered that voter may request that the authorized member or employee of
23 the board furnish the voter with an application form as specified in ~~G.S. 163-227~~ G.S. 163A-
24 1391. The voter shall complete the application in the presence of the authorized member or
25 employee of the board, and shall deliver the application to that person."

26 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163A-1304 reads as rewritten:

27 "**§ 163A-1304. Calculation of scheduled voting hours for absentee ballots.**

28 (a) Notwithstanding the requirements of G.S. 163A-1303, for any county board of
29 elections that provided for one or more sites during the 2010 or 2012 general election, that county
30 shall provide, at a minimum, the following:

- 31 (1) The county board of elections shall calculate the cumulative total number of
32 scheduled voting hours at all sites during the 2012 primary and general
33 elections, respectively, that the county provided for absentee ballots to be
34 applied for and voted under G.S. 163A-1300, 163A-1301, 163A-1302, and
35 163A-1303. For elections which include a presidential candidate on the ballot,
36 the county shall ensure that at least the same number of hours offered in 2012



1 is offered for absentee ballots to be applied for and voted under those sections
2 through a combination of hours and numbers of one-stop sites during the
3 primary or general election, correspondingly.

- 4 (2) The county board of elections shall calculate the cumulative total number of
5 scheduled voting hours at all sites during the 2010 primary and general
6 elections, respectively, that the county provided for absentee ballots to be
7 applied for and voted under G.S. 163A-1300, 163A-1301, 163A-1302, and
8 163A-1303. For elections which do not include a presidential candidate on the
9 ballot, the county shall ensure that at least the same number of hours offered
10 in 2010 is offered for absentee ballots to be applied for and voted under those
11 sections through a combination of hours and numbers of one-stop sites during
12 the primary or general election, correspondingly.

13 As used in this subsection, the phrase "cumulative total number of scheduled voting hours"
14 includes those at the office of the county board of elections or the reasonably proximate alternate
15 site approved under G.S. 163A-1303.

16 The State Board, to ensure compliance with this subsection, may approve a one-stop site in a
17 building that the county board of elections is not entitled under G.S. 163A-1046 to demand and
18 use as an election-day voting place, but may deny approval if a member of that board presents
19 evidence that other equally suitable sites were available and the use of the sites chosen would
20 unfairly advantage or disadvantage geographic, demographic, or partisan interests of that county.

21 (a1) Unless subsection (a) of this section provides for a greater number of voting hours,
22 the county shall open one-stop sites for absentee ballots to be applied for and cast during the
23 hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. each weekday throughout the period for one-stop voting
24 provided in G.S. 163A-1300(b). County boards of elections may set hours for absentee ballots to
25 be applied for and cast on weekend days, provided that hours set are uniform for all weekend
26 days. The same one-stop sites shall be open each day throughout the period for one-stop voting.

27 (b) A county board of elections by unanimous vote of the board, with all members present
28 and voting, may submit a request to the State Board to reduce the number of hours established in
29 subsection (a) or (a1) of this section for a primary or a general election. The reduction shall take
30 effect for that primary or general election only if approved by unanimous vote of the State Board
31 with all members present and voting."

32 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163A-877 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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

38 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.