

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 325
PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S325-PCS35375-TC-64

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~~third Wednesday before an election, in which
8 absentee ballots are authorized, in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than ~~1:00 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 before the election until 1:00 P.M.~~
12 That voter shall enter the voting enclosure at the board office through the appropriate entrance
13 and shall at once state his or her name and place of residence to an authorized member or
14 employee of the board and present photo identification in accordance with G.S. 163A-1145. In a
15 primary election, the voter shall also state the political party with which the voter affiliates and
16 in whose primary the voter desires to vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to
17 vote in the primary of a particular party under G.S. 163A-989, the voter shall state the name of
18 the authorizing political party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The board member or
19 employee to whom the voter gives this information shall announce the name and residence of the
20 voter in a distinct tone of voice. After examining the registration records, an employee of the
21 board shall state whether the person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the voter is found to be
22 registered that voter may request that the authorized member or employee of the board furnish
23 the voter with an application form as specified in ~~G.S. 163-227~~G.S. 163A-1391. The voter shall
24 complete the application in the presence of the authorized member or employee of the board, and
25 shall deliver the application to that person."

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

27 "**§ 163A-1303. Sites and hours for one-stop voting.**

28 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of G.S. 163A-1300, 163A-1301, 163A-1302,
29 this section, and G.S. 163A-1304, a county board of elections by unanimous vote of all its
30 members may provide for one or more sites in that county for absentee ballots to be applied for
31 and cast under these sections. Every individual staffing any of those sites shall be a member or
32 full-time employee of the county board of elections or an employee of the county board of
33 elections whom the board has given training equivalent to that given a full-time employee. Those
34 sites must be approved by the State Board as part of a Plan for Implementation approved by both
35 the county board of elections and by the State Board which shall also provide adequate security
36 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.