

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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HOUSE BILL 1243

Short Title: Voter Signatures.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blust; Morris and Davis.

Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

April 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A VOTER SIGNATURE AT THE POLLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 163-150(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Checking Registration. – A person seeking to vote shall enter the voting enclosure at the voting place through the appropriate entrance and shall at once state his name and place of residence to one of the judges of election. In a primary election, the voter shall also state the political party with which he affiliates and in whose primary he desires to vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to vote in the primary of a particular party under G.S. 163-119, the voter shall state the name of the authorizing political party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The judge 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 precinct registration records, the chief judge shall state whether the person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the chief judge states that the person is duly registered, the person shall sign the pollbook, other voting record, or voter authorization document in accordance with subsection (f) of this section before voting."

SECTION 2. G.S. 163-150(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Maintenance of Pollbook or Other Record of Voting. – At each primary, general or special election, the precinct chief judge shall appoint two precinct assistants (one from each political party as recommended by the county chairman thereof), one to be assigned to keep the pollbook or other voting record used in the county as approved by the State Board of Elections, and the other to keep the registration books under the supervision of the precinct officials. ~~The names of all persons voting shall be checked on the registration records and entered on the pollbook or other voting record.~~ The names of all persons voting shall be checked on the registration records and the voter, before voting, shall sign that voter's name on the pollbook, other voting record, or voter authorization document according to a procedure adopted by the county board of

1 elections with the approval of the State Board of Elections. If the voter is unable to sign,
2 a precinct official shall enter the person's name on the same document before the voter
3 votes. In an election where observers may be appointed under G.S. 163-45 each voter's
4 party affiliation shall be entered in the proper column of the book or other approved
5 record opposite his name. The precinct assistant shall make each entry at the time the
6 ballots are handed to the voter. As soon as the polls are closed, the chief judge and
7 judges of election shall sign the pollbook or other approved record immediately beneath
8 the last voter's name entered therein. The chief judge or the judge appointed to attend
9 the county canvass shall deliver the pollbook or other approved record to the chairman
10 of the county board of elections at the time of the county canvass, and the chairman
11 shall remain responsible for its safekeeping."

12 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2002.