

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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SENATE BILL 121

Short Title: Electioneering Near Polls Restricted. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Webster; Berger, Carpenter, Carrington, Forrester, Garwood,
Hartsell, Moore, and Rucho.

Referred to: Judiciary II.

February 12, 2001

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROHIBITING ELECTIONEERING OR CONDUCTING AN EXIT POLL
3 WITHIN THREE HUNDRED FEET OF THE POLLING PLACE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 163-147 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 163-147. No loitering or electioneering at voting place.

7 (a) No person or group of persons shall, while the polls are open at the voting
8 place on the day of the primary or election, loiter about, congregate, distribute campaign
9 material, conduct an exit poll, or do any electioneering within the voting place, or
10 within ~~50~~ 300 feet in any direction of the entrance or entrances to the building in which
11 the voting place is located. Notwithstanding the above provision, if the voting place is
12 located in a large building, the chief judge and judges of the precinct may designate the
13 entrance to the voting place within said building and none of the above activity shall be
14 permitted within ~~50~~ 300 feet of said entrance or entrances of said voting place. This
15 section shall not, however, prohibit any candidate for nomination or election from
16 visiting such voting place in person, provided he does not enter the voting enclosure
17 except to cast his vote as a registered voter in said precinct. The county boards of
18 elections and precinct chief judges shall have full authority to enforce the provisions of
19 this section.

20 (b) This section does not prohibit establishment of or approval by the county
21 board of elections of a simulated election within the voting place or voting enclosure for
22 persons ineligible to vote because of their age, but the prohibitions of this section as to
23 activities within the voting place or within ~~50~~ 300 feet apply to that simulated election.
24 The State Board of Elections shall adopt rules to ensure that the simulated election is
25 not disruptive of the regular process of voting."

26 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 2001, and applies to
27 elections conducted on or after that date.