

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

H

D

HOUSE DRH11162-TC-13 (03/16)

Short Title: Straight-Ticket Provisional Voting.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Bryant.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT STRAIGHT-TICKET VOTES CAST BY AN INDIVIDUAL
3 VOTING BY PROVISIONAL BALLOT SHALL BE COUNTED FOR ANY PARTISAN
4 BALLOT ITEM IN THE ELECTION DISTRICT IN WHICH THAT VOTER WOULD
5 HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED BY RESIDENCY TO VOTE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-165.6(e) reads as rewritten:

8 "(e) Straight-Party Voting. – Each official ballot shall be arranged so that the voter may
9 cast one vote for a party's nominees for all offices except President and Vice President. A vote
10 for President and Vice President shall be cast separately from a straight-party vote. The official
11 ballot shall be prepared so that a voter may cast a straight-party vote, but then make an
12 exception to that straight-party vote by voting for a candidate not nominated by that party or by
13 voting for fewer than all the candidates nominated by that party. Instructions for general
14 election ballots shall clearly advise voters of the rules in this subsection and of the statutes
15 providing for the counting of ballots. The official ballot shall include a means for the voter to
16 designate that, if the voter is voting a provisional ballot in an election district in which the voter
17 is not qualified by residency to vote, the voter intends the straight-party vote to apply to all
18 candidates of that party in the election district in which the voter would be qualified by
19 residency to vote."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163-182.8(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

21 "(4a) Notwithstanding subdivision (4) of this subsection, if an individual voting a
22 provisional ballot is registered in the county as provided in G.S. 163-82.1,
23 votes a straight-party ticket, and indicates on the ballot that the voter intends
24 the straight-party vote to apply to all candidates of that party in the election
25 district in which the voter would have been qualified by residency to vote as
26 provided in G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, the board shall count that vote
27 pursuant to the guidelines in G.S. 163-182.1(a)(7) for the partisan ballot
28 items on the official ballot which the voter would have been qualified by
29 residency to vote."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2012, and applies to all
31 elections occurring on or after that date.

