

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE DRS35131-ST-41 (03/10)

Short Title: Minority Appeal From County Bd Elections.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Clary.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PROCESS FOR AN APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE
3 COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS BY A
4 MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-33 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 163-33. Powers and duties of county boards of elections.**

8 (a) The county boards of elections within their respective jurisdictions shall exercise all
9 powers granted to such boards in this Chapter, and they shall perform all the duties imposed
10 upon them by law, which shall include the following:

11 (1) To make and issue such rules, regulations, and instructions, not inconsistent
12 with law, with directives promulgated under the provisions of
13 G.S. 163-132.4, or with the rules, orders, and directives established by the
14 State Board of Elections, as it may deem necessary for the guidance of
15 election officers and voters.

16 (2) To appoint all chief judges, judges, assistants, and other officers of elections,
17 and designate the precinct in which each shall serve; and, after notice and
18 hearing, to remove any chief judge, judge of elections, assistant, or other
19 officer of election appointed by it for incompetency, failure to discharge the
20 duties of office, failure to qualify within the time prescribed by law, fraud, or
21 for any other satisfactory cause. In exercising the powers and duties of this
22 subdivision, the board may act only when a majority of its members are
23 present at any meeting at which such powers or duties are exercised.

24 (3) To investigate irregularities, nonperformance of duties, and violations of
25 laws by election officers and other persons, and to report violations to the
26 State Board of Elections. In exercising the powers and duties of this
27 subdivision, the board may act only when a majority of its members are
28 present at any meeting at which such powers or duties are exercised.
29 Provided that in any hearing on an irregularity no board of elections shall
30 consider as evidence the testimony of a voter who cast a ballot, which ballot
31 that voter was not eligible to cast, as to how that voter voted on that ballot.

32 (4) As provided in G.S. 163-128, to establish, define, provide, rearrange,
33 discontinue, and combine election precincts as it may deem expedient, and
34 to fix and provide for places of registration and for holding primaries and
35 elections.



- 1 (5) To review, examine, and certify the sufficiency and validity of petitions and
2 nomination papers.
- 3 (6) To advertise and contract for the printing of ballots and other supplies used
4 in registration and elections; and to provide for the delivery of ballots,
5 pollbooks, and other required papers and materials to the voting places.
- 6 (7) To provide for the purchase, preservation, and maintenance of voting booths,
7 ballot boxes, registration and pollbooks, maps, flags, cards of instruction,
8 and other forms, papers, and equipment used in registration, nominations,
9 and elections; and to cause the voting places to be suitably provided with
10 voting booths and other supplies required by law.
- 11 (8) To provide for the issuance of all notices, advertisements, and publications
12 concerning elections required by law. If the election is on a State bond issue,
13 an amendment to the Constitution, or approval of an act submitted to the
14 voters of the State, the State Board of Elections shall reimburse the county
15 boards of elections for their reasonable additional costs in placing such
16 notices, advertisements, and publications. In addition, the county board of
17 elections shall give notice at least 20 days prior to the date on which the
18 registration books or records are closed that there will be a primary, general
19 or special election, the date on which it will be held, and the hours the voting
20 places will be open for voting in that election. The notice also shall describe
21 the nature and type of election, and the issues, if any, to be submitted to the
22 voters at that election. Notice shall be given by advertisement at least once
23 weekly during the 20-day period in a newspaper having general circulation
24 in the county and by posting a copy of the notice at the courthouse door.
25 Notice may additionally be made on a radio or television station or both, but
26 such notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required notice.
27 This subdivision shall not apply in the case of bond elections called under
28 the provisions of Chapter 159.
- 29 (9) To receive the returns of primaries and elections, canvass the returns, make
30 abstracts thereof, transmit such abstracts to the proper authorities, and to
31 issue certificates of election to county officers and members of the General
32 Assembly except those elected in districts composed of more than one
33 county.
- 34 (10) To appoint and remove the board's clerk, assistant clerks, and other
35 employees; and to appoint and remove precinct transfer assistants as
36 provided in G.S. 163-82.15(g).
- 37 (11) To prepare and submit to the proper appropriating officers a budget
38 estimating the cost of elections for the ensuing fiscal year.
- 39 (12) To perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Chapter, by
40 directives promulgated pursuant to G.S. 163-132.4, or by the rules, orders,
41 and directives of the State Board of Elections.
- 42 (13) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this Chapter, to have
43 access to any ballot boxes and their contents, any voting machines and their
44 contents, any registration records, pollbooks, voter authorization cards or
45 voter lists, any lists of absentee voters, any lists of presidential registrants
46 under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended, and any other voting
47 equipment or similar records, books or lists in any precinct or municipality
48 over whose elections it has jurisdiction or for whose elections it has
49 responsibility.

50 (b) With respect to any decision made by the county board of elections, a member
51 voting in the minority may appeal that decision to the State Board if the appeal is submitted in

1 writing to the State Board within 10 days of the decision. The board member voting in the
2 minority may direct the staff to the county board to prepare and submit the report."

3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2012, and applies to decisions
4 of the county board of elections made on or after that date.