

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 1032

Short Title: Online Voter Registration. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, Michaux, W. Richardson, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Elections

May 5, 2016

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE CRITERIA TO REGISTER TO
3 VOTE OR CHANGE VOTER REGISTRATION ONLINE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-82.5 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 163-82.5. Distribution of application forms.**

7 (a) The State Board of Elections shall make the forms described in G.S. 163-82.3 available
8 for distribution through governmental and private entities, with particular emphasis on making
9 them available for organized voter registration drives.

10 (b) The State Board of Elections shall make the forms available for completion and
11 submission on a secure Internet Web site in accordance with this Article."

12 **SECTION 2.** Article 7A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
13 a new section to read:

14 "**§ 163-82.5A. Online voter registration.**

15 (a) An individual who meets all of the following criteria may register to vote or change
16 voter registration online:

17 (1) The individual is eligible to register to vote.

18 (2) The individual possesses one of the following that is current and valid:

19 a. North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Chapter 20 of
20 the General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional
21 license.

22 b. Special identification card for nonoperators issued under G.S. 20-37.7.

23 (b) The State Board of Elections shall establish a secure Internet Web site to permit
24 individuals described in subsection (a) of this section to complete and submit voter registration
25 applications online.

26 (c) The secure Web site established under subsection (b) of this section shall allow an
27 individual described in subsection (a) of this section to submit:

28 (1) An application for any of the following:

29 a. Voter registration.

30 b. Reporting of a change of name, address, or party affiliation. If the
31 individual is already registered to vote and the change of address is to
32 another county, it shall be treated as an application to register to vote.

33 (2) Information to establish that the individual is eligible under this section to
34 register online.

35 (3) The individual's e-mail address.



1 (d) Upon receipt of an individual's application under subsection (c) of this section, the
2 county board of elections in conjunction with the State Board of Elections shall verify the North
3 Carolina drivers license or Social Security number in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, update the
4 statewide registration database and search for possible duplicate registrations, and proceed under
5 G.S. 163-82.7 to verify the person's address.

6 (e) If the State Board verifies the North Carolina drivers license or Social Security number
7 in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall transfer the digital
8 signature of the applicant in the Division of Motor Vehicles records to the State Board.

9 (f) If the State Board cannot verify the North Carolina drivers license or Social Security
10 number in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, the State Board shall so notify the individual
11 submitting the application by e-mail, if provided, and in accordance with this Article. That
12 individual shall be offered an opportunity to register in accordance with G.S. 163-82.6 or
13 G.S. 163-82.6A, as applicable."

14 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163-82.10(a) reads as rewritten:

15 "(a) Official Record. – The State voter registration system is the official voter registration
16 list for the conduct of all elections in the State. The State Board of Elections and the county board
17 of elections may keep copies of voter registration data, including voter registration applications, in
18 any medium and format expressly approved by the Department of Cultural Resources pursuant to
19 standards and conditions established by the Department and mutually agreed to by the Department
20 and the State Board of Elections. A completed and signed registration application form, if
21 available, described in G.S. 163-82.3, once approved by the county board of elections, becomes
22 backup to the official registration record of the voter. Full or partial social security numbers, dates
23 of birth, the identity of the public agency at which the voter registered under G.S. 163-82.20, any
24 electronic mail address submitted under this Article or Article 21A of this Chapter, any electronic
25 data associated with online registration under G.S. 163-82.5A, and drivers license numbers that
26 may be generated in the voter registration process, by the voter, either the State Board of Elections
27 Elections, or a county board of elections, elections in the voter registration process are confidential
28 and shall not be considered public records and subject to disclosure to the general public under
29 Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Cumulative data based on those items of information may be
30 publicly disclosed as long as information about any individual cannot be discerned from the
31 disclosed data. Disclosure of information in violation of this subsection shall not give rise to a
32 civil cause of action. This limitation of liability does not apply to the disclosure of information in
33 violation of this subsection as a result of gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional
34 wrongdoing that would otherwise be actionable. The signature of the voter, either on the paper
35 application or an electronically captured image of it, may be viewed by the public but may not be
36 copied or traced except by election officials for election administration purposes. Any such copy
37 or tracing is not a public record."

38 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2016.