

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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SENATE BILL DRS35158-LU-51 (02/21)

Short Title: Uniform Voting Hours Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Brock, Daniel, and Tillman (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT WHEN VOTING HOURS ARE EXTENDED FOR ONE
3 PRECINCT IN AN ELECTION, VOTING HOURS IN EVERY PRECINCT ARE TO BE
4 EXTENDED IN THAT SAME ELECTION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 163-166.01 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 163-166.01. Hours for voting.

8 In every election, the voting place shall be open at 6:30 A.M. and shall be closed at 7:30
9 P.M. If the polls are delayed in opening for more than 15 minutes, or are interrupted for more
10 than 15 minutes after opening, the State Board of Elections may extend the closing time by an
11 equal number of minutes. However, the State Board of Elections, a county board of elections,
12 or a State court is not authorized to extend voting hours in one precinct unless voting hours are
13 extended in every precinct in that same election. As authorized by law, the State Board of
14 Elections shall be available either in person or by teleconference on the day of election to
15 approve any such extension. If any voter is in line to vote at the time the polls are closed, that
16 voter shall be permitted to vote. No voter shall be permitted to vote who arrives at the voting
17 place after the closing of the polls.

18 Any voter who votes after the statutory poll closing time of 7:30 P.M. by virtue of a federal
19 or State court order or any other lawful order, including an order of a county board of elections,
20 shall be allowed to vote, under the provisions of that order, only by using a provisional official
21 ballot. Any special provisional official ballots cast under this section shall be separated,
22 counted, and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by other voters not under the effect
23 of the order extending the closing time of the voting place. If the court order has not been
24 reversed or stayed by the time of the county canvass, the total for that category of provisional
25 ballots shall be added to the official canvass."

26 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections
27 held on or after that date.

