

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2017**

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**SENATE BILL 675**

Short Title: Lack of Postmark/Absentee Ballots. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Bryant, Tarte, D. Davis (Primary Sponsors); Smith-Ingram and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 5, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ABSENTEE BALLOTS RECEIVED BY A COUNTY  
3 BOARD OF ELECTIONS BY MAIL ON THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION THAT  
4 ARE NOT POSTMARKED ARE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN POSTMARKED ON OR  
5 BEFORE ELECTION DAY UPON VERIFICATION OF RECEIPT BY THE COUNTY  
6 BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-231(b) reads as rewritten:

9 "(b) Transmitting Executed Absentee Ballots to County Board of Elections. – The sealed  
10 container-return envelope in which executed absentee ballots have been placed shall be  
11 transmitted to the county board of elections who issued those ballots as follows:

12 (1) All ballots issued under the provisions of this Article and Article 21A of this  
13 Chapter shall be transmitted by mail or by commercial courier service, at the  
14 voter's expense, or delivered in person, or by the voter's near relative or  
15 verifiable legal guardian and received by the county board not later than 5:00  
16 p.m. on the day of the statewide primary or general election or county bond  
17 election. Ballots issued under the provisions of Article 21A of this Chapter  
18 may also be electronically transmitted.

19 (2) If ballots are received later than the hour stated in subdivision (1) of this  
20 subsection, those ballots shall not be accepted unless one of the following  
21 applies:

22 a. Federal law so requires.

23 b. The ballots issued under this Article are (i) postmarked and that  
24 postmark is dated on or before the day of the statewide primary or  
25 general election or county bond election and are received by the  
26 county board of elections not later than three days after the election  
27 by ~~5:00 p.m.~~ 5:00 P.M. or (ii) if there is no postmark, are received by  
28 the county board of elections not later than one day after the election  
29 by 5:00 P.M. When a ballot is received by mail one day after the  
30 election without a postmark, the county board of elections shall  
31 verify receipt of the ballot by stamping on the ballot the date it was  
32 received.

33 c. The ballots issued under Article 21A of this Chapter are received by  
34 the county board of elections not later than the end of business on the



1 business day before the canvass conducted by the county board of  
2 elections held pursuant to G.S. 163-182.5."  
3 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.