

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 1258\*

Short Title: Judicial Appt./Voter Retention.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Odom; Ballance, Cooper, Dannelly, Gulley, Horton, Kinnaird, Phillips, Purcell, Rand, and Winner.

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Referred to: Judiciary.

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May 21, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO PROVIDE  
2 FOR GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME  
3 COURT AND JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, LEGISLATIVE  
4 CONFIRMATION, AND RETENTION BY VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.  
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. Section 16 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
8 rewritten:

9 "~~Sec. 16. Terms of office and election of Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the~~  
10 ~~Court of Appeals, and Judges of the Superior Court.—~~Selection and tenure of Justices of  
11 the Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Appeals; election of Judges of the Superior  
12 Court.

13 ~~Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and regular (1) Judges~~  
14 ~~of the Superior court shall be elected by the qualified voters and shall hold office for~~  
15 ~~terms of eight years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Justices of the~~  
16 ~~Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Appeals shall be elected by the qualified~~  
17 ~~voters of the State.—Regular Judges of the Superior Court may shall be elected by the~~  
18 ~~qualified voters of the State or by the voters of their respective districts, as the General~~  
19 ~~Assembly may prescribe. districts.~~

1     (2) General principles. Justices and judges of the Appellate Division should be  
2 selected for and continue to hold office solely upon the basis of personal and professional  
3 fitness to administer right and justice wisely, according to law, and without favor, denial,  
4 or delay, to all persons who come into the courts. While their continuation in office  
5 should be periodically subject to approval by the people, both their initial selection and  
6 continuation in office should be free, so far as may be, from the influences and  
7 necessities of partisan political activity.

8     (3) Nomination, confirmation, appointment retention election, and terms of  
9 justices and judges. On and after January 1, 1999, when a vacancy occurs in the office of  
10 Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division, the Governor shall  
11 nominate a person to fill the vacancy. Prior to appointment, such nominations by the  
12 Governor shall be subject to confirmation of the General Assembly by three-fifths of the  
13 members of each house present and voting prior to appointment. For the purposes of this  
14 section, creation of a new judgeship within the Appellate Division creates a vacancy.

15     Each house of the General Assembly shall vote on confirmation within 60 calendar  
16 days of the date of nomination, except that no day shall be included within that  
17 calculation if it is:

- 18         (a) Between sine die adjournment of one regular session and convening of  
19         the next regular session; or  
20         (b) During any period when the General Assembly has adjourned a regular  
21         session for more than 30 days jointly as provided under Section 20 of  
22         Article II of this Constitution.

23     If a nomination is made during either of the periods listed in subdivision (a) or (b)  
24 of this subsection, the Governor may convene the General Assembly in extra session for  
25 the purpose of considering confirmation of the nomination. No action of that extra  
26 session shall be valid after the second calendar day of that session, and that extra session  
27 may not consider any matters other than rules for the extra session, confirmation of the  
28 nomination, and adjournment sine die. The nomination may not be confirmed in any  
29 extra session other than one called under this subsection.

30     The term of office by appointment as Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the  
31 Appellate Division extends through June 30 after the next statewide election for members  
32 of the General Assembly that is held more than 18 months after the nomination is  
33 confirmed. At that election, a person holding by appointment the office of Chief Justice,  
34 Associate Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division who desires to continue in office  
35 shall be subject to approval by nonpartisan ballot, by a majority of the votes cast on the  
36 issue of the Justice's or Judge's retention. A Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of  
37 the Appellate Division then approved for retention serves a regular term.

38     The regular term of office of the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and Judges of the  
39 Appellate Division is eight years and expires on June 30.

40     At the last statewide election for members of the General Assembly held before the  
41 expiration of a regular term of office, a Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the  
42 Appellate Division who desires to continue in office shall be subject to approval by

1 nonpartisan ballot, by a majority of the votes cast on the issue of the Justice's or Judge's  
2 retention.

3 If the voters fail to approve the retention in office of a Chief Justice, Associate  
4 Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division serving an appointed or regular term, the  
5 office shall become vacant at the end of the term of office, and it shall be filled by  
6 nomination, confirmation, and appointment as prescribed in this section. In such case,  
7 the Governor may only nominate a person of the same political affiliation as the justice or  
8 judge who has not been retained in office. For the purpose of this section, the political  
9 affiliation of a nominee for justice or judge is determined as of 24 months preceding the  
10 date of the vacancy for which the nomination is made.

11 Voting in a retention election on the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and Judges of  
12 the Appellate Division shall be the qualified voters of the whole State.

13 (4) Transition provisions. The term of office of a person who has been elected  
14 before January 1, 1999, to the office of Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the  
15 Appellate Division for a term which extends beyond January 1, 1999, and who is in  
16 office on January 1, 1999, is extended through June 30 of the year following the eighth  
17 year after the date any such justice or judge was last elected to the office. If the person so  
18 elected continues to serve for the remainder of the term, that person may stand for  
19 retention in the office for a succeeding regular term as provided in this section. If the  
20 person continues to serve for the remainder of the term but does not stand for retention  
21 election, a vacancy is created in the office upon expiration of the term, and this vacancy  
22 shall be filled by nomination, confirmation, and appointment as provided in this section.

23 The term of office of a person who has been appointed before January 1, 1999, to the  
24 office of Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division for a term  
25 which extends beyond January 1, 1999, and who is in office on January 1, 1999, shall end  
26 on June 30, 2001. If the person so appointed continues to serve for the remainder of the  
27 term, that person may stand for retention in the office for a regular term as provided by  
28 this section at the statewide election for members of the General Assembly held in 2000.

29 Upon the death, resignation, removal, or retirement of any incumbent justice or judge  
30 on or after January 1, 1999, and before the expiration of his term of office, the resulting  
31 vacancy shall be filled by nomination, confirmation, and appointment as provided in this  
32 section.

33 Vacancies in judicial offices in the Appellate Division occurring before January 1,  
34 1999, and not filled by that date, shall be filled by nomination, confirmation, and  
35 appointment as provided in this section.

36 From the date any incumbent described in this subsection is continued in office by  
37 retention vote for a term next succeeding the term in progress on January 1, 1999, or is  
38 succeeded in office by another person, the office is held subject to the provisions of this  
39 section.

40 (5) The General Assembly may implement this section by general law."

41 Section 2. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to  
42 the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November 1998, which election

1 shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting  
2 systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

3 **"[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST**

4 Constitutional amendment to replace the present practice of selecting justices  
5 and judges of the Appellate Division by gubernatorial appointment, followed by partisan  
6 elections, with a method by which justices and judges of the Appellate Division will be  
7 nominated by the Governor, confirmed by the General Assembly, and then serve for  
8 limited terms after which the question of the justice's or judge's retention in office is  
9 regularly submitted for approval or disapproval by nonpartisan vote of the people at  
10 general elections, and to provide for election of superior court judges in their districts."

11 Section 3. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
12 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the  
13 amendment to the Secretary of State. The amendment becomes effective upon this  
14 certification. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the  
15 permanent records of that office.

16 Section 3.1. Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
17 Article to read:

18 **"ARTICLE 1A.**

19 **"APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES,**  
20 **RETENTION ELECTIONS.**

21 **"§ 7A-4.1. Nomination of justices and judges by Governor and confirmation by**  
22 **General Assembly.**

23 (a) The office of Chief Justice and Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of the  
24 Court of Appeals are filled by nomination by the Governor subject to confirmation by the  
25 General Assembly in accordance with Section 16 of Article IV of the Constitution.

26 (b) Nominees are subject to confirmation as provided in this subsection. A  
27 nominee is confirmed by passage of a joint resolution of the General Assembly. The  
28 Governor may withdraw a nomination at any time.

29 **"§ 7A-4.2. Confirmation procedures.**

30 (a) A legislative committee to which the issue of confirmation is referred may  
31 conduct an investigation of the nominee. The investigation may include an evaluation of  
32 the nominee's ethical conduct, the nominee's knowledge of and application of the law, the  
33 nominee's management of the courts over which he has presided, the nominee's work  
34 habits, the nominee's health, and the nominee's judicial demeanor. The nominee or judge  
35 shall be given an opportunity to present to the committee any information that the  
36 nominee determines to be appropriate.

37 (b) The committee shall be allowed to inspect the files of the Judicial Standards  
38 Commission by request of the chair of the committee. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
39 G.S. 7A-377, the files of the Judicial Standards Commission shall be made available to  
40 the committee. Testimony and other evidence presented to the committee is privileged in  
41 any action for defamation.

42 **"§ 7A-4.3. Governor to issue commissions to justices and judges.**

1 Every person duly nominated by the Governor as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,  
2 Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, or Judge of the Court of Appeals and duly  
3 confirmed by the General Assembly shall be appointed by the Governor and shall procure  
4 from the Governor a commission attesting that fact, which the Governor shall issue upon  
5 receipt of a certification by the Secretary of State of the joint resolution of confirmation.

6 When a judge is retained in office by vote of the people, the Governor shall issue a  
7 commission attesting that fact, which the Governor shall issue upon receipt of a  
8 certification by the Secretary of State of the results of the election.

9 **"§ 7A-4.4. No elections in 1999.**

10 No partisan election as previously provided by law for Chief Justice or Associate  
11 Justice of the Supreme Court, or Judge of the Court of Appeals, shall be held in 1999 or  
12 thereafter.

13 **"§ 7A-4.5. Retention elections.**

14 (a) As provided by Section 16 of Article IV of the Constitution of North Carolina,  
15 a Chief Justice or Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of  
16 Appeals desiring to continue in office shall be subject to approval by nonpartisan ballot,  
17 by a majority of votes cast on the issue of the justice's or judge's retention.

18 (b) A person subject to subsection (a) of this section shall indicate the desire to  
19 continue in office by filing a notice to that effect with the State Board of Elections no  
20 later than 12:00 noon on the first business day of July in the year of the election. The  
21 notice shall be on a form approved by the State Board of Elections. Notice can be  
22 withdrawn at any time prior to the deadline for filing notice under this subsection.

23 (c) Retention elections shall be conducted and canvassed in accordance with rules  
24 of the State Board of Elections in the same general manner as general elections under  
25 Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, except that the retention election is nonpartisan. The  
26 form of the ballot shall be determined by the State Board of Elections.

27 (d) Retention elections shall be placed at the top of the ballot above all other  
28 elections or matters for decision, whether partisan, nonpartisan, or otherwise.

29 (e) If a person who has filed a notice calling a retention election dies or is removed  
30 from office prior to the time that the ballots are printed, the retention election is  
31 cancelled. If a person who has filed a notice calling a retention election dies or is  
32 removed from office after the ballots are printed, the State Board of Elections may cancel  
33 the election if it determines that the ballots can be reprinted without significant expense.  
34 If the ballots cannot be reprinted, then the results of the election shall be ineffective."

35 Section 3.2 G.S. 163-140(a) reads as rewritten:

36 "(a) Kinds of General Election Ballots; Right to Combine. – For purposes of  
37 general elections, there shall be seven kinds of official ballots entitled:

- 38 (1) Ballot for presidential electors
- 39 (2) Ballot for United States Senator
- 40 (3) Ballot for member of the United States House of Representatives
- 41 (4) State ballot
- 42 (5) County ballot
- 43 (6) Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 793, s. 56

1 (7) Ballot for constitutional amendments and other propositions submitted  
2 to the people

3 (8) Judicial ballot for superior court.

4 Use of official ballots shall be limited to the purposes indicated by their titles. The  
5 printing on all ballots shall be plain and legible but, unless large type is specified by this  
6 section, type larger than 10-point shall not be used in printing ballots. All general election  
7 ballots shall be prepared in such a way as to leave sufficient blank space beneath each  
8 name printed thereon in which a voter may conveniently write the name of any person for  
9 whom he may desire to vote.

10 Unless prohibited by this section, the board of elections, State or county, charged by  
11 law with printing ballots may, in its discretion, combine any two or more official ballots.  
12 Whenever two or more ballots are combined, the voting instructions for the State ballot  
13 set out in subsection (b)(4) of this section shall be used, except that if the two ballots  
14 being combined do not contain a multi-seat race, then the second sentence of instruction  
15 b. shall not appear on the ballot.

16 Contests in the general election for seats in the State House of Representatives and  
17 State Senate shall be on ballots that are separate from ballots containing non-legislative  
18 contests, except where the voting system used makes separation of ballots impractical.  
19 State House and State Senate contests shall be on the same ballot, unless one is a single-  
20 seat contest and the other a multi-seat contest.

21 ~~All candidates for the Appellate Division shall appear on the same ballot."~~

22 Section 3.3. For purpose of Section 1 of this act, terms of justices and judges  
23 covered by Section 2 of Chapter 98 of the 1995 Session Laws are as provided by that act.

24 Section 3.4. G.S. 7A-10(a) reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and six associate justices,  
26 ~~elected by the qualified voters of the State for terms of eight years~~ selected as provided by  
27 Article 1A of this Chapter. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each justice shall  
28 take an oath of office. Four justices shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the  
29 business of the court. Sessions of the court shall be held in the city of Raleigh, and  
30 scheduled by rule of court so as to discharge expeditiously the court's business."

31 Section 3.5. G.S. 7A-16 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 7A-16. Creation and organization.**

33 ~~The Court of Appeals is created effective January 1, 1967. It shall consist initially of~~  
34 ~~six judges, elected by the qualified voters of the State for terms of eight years. The Chief~~  
35 ~~Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one of the judges as Chief Judge, to serve in~~  
36 ~~such capacity at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Before entering upon the duties of his~~  
37 ~~office, a judge of the Court of Appeals shall take the oath of office prescribed for a judge~~  
38 ~~of the General Court of Justice.~~

39 ~~The Governor on or after July 1, 1967, shall make temporary appointments to the six~~  
40 ~~initial judgeships. The appointees shall serve until January 1, 1969. Their successors shall~~  
41 ~~be elected at the general election for members of the General Assembly in November,~~  
42 ~~1968, and shall take office on January 1, 1969, to serve for the remainder of the~~  
43 ~~unexpired term which began on January 1, 1967.~~

1 Upon the appointment of at least five judges, and the designation of a Chief Judge, the  
2 court is authorized to convene, organize, and promulgate, subject to the approval of the  
3 Supreme Court, such supplementary rules as it deems necessary and appropriate for the  
4 discharge of the judicial business lawfully assigned to it.

5 ~~Effective January 1, 1969, the number of judges is increased to nine, and the~~  
6 ~~Governor, on or after March 1, 1969, shall make temporary appointments to the~~  
7 ~~additional judgeships thus created. The appointees shall serve until January 1, 1971.~~  
8 ~~Their successors shall be elected at the general election for members of the General~~  
9 ~~Assembly in November, 1970, and shall take office on January 1, 1971, to serve for the~~  
10 ~~remainder of the unexpired term which began on January 1, 1969.~~

11 ~~Effective January 1, 1977, the number of judges is increased to 12; and the Governor,~~  
12 ~~on or after July 1, 1977, shall make temporary appointments to the additional judgeships~~  
13 ~~thus created. The appointees shall serve until January 1, 1979. Their successors shall be~~  
14 ~~elected at the general election for members of the General Assembly in November, 1978,~~  
15 ~~and shall take office on January 1, 1979, to serve the remainder of the unexpired term~~  
16 ~~which began on January 1, 1977.~~

17 The Court of Appeals shall consist of 12 judges, selected as provided in Article 1A of  
18 this Chapter. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one of the judges as  
19 Chief Judge to serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Before entering  
20 upon the duties of his office, a judge of the Court of Appeals shall take the oath of office  
21 prescribed for a judge of the General Court of Justice.

22 The Court of Appeals shall sit in panels of three judges each. The Chief Judge insofar  
23 as practicable shall assign the members to panels in such fashion that each member sits a  
24 substantially equal number of times with each other member. He shall preside over the  
25 panel of which he is a member, and shall designate the presiding judge of the other panel  
26 or panels.

27 Three judges shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the court,  
28 except as may be provided in G.S. 7A-32.

29 In the event the Chief Judge is unable, on account of absence or temporary incapacity,  
30 to perform the duties placed upon him as Chief Judge, the Chief Justice shall appoint an  
31 acting Chief Judge from the other judges of the Court, to temporarily discharge the duties  
32 of Chief Judge."

33 Section 3.6. G.S. 163-106(c) reads as rewritten:

34 "(c) Time for Filing Notice of Candidacy. – Candidates seeking party primary  
35 nominations for the following offices shall file their notice of candidacy with the State  
36 Board of Elections no earlier than 12:00 noon on the first Monday in January and no later  
37 than 12:00 noon on the first Monday in February preceding the primary:

38 Governor

39 Lieutenant Governor

40 All State executive officers

41 ~~Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals~~

42 Judges of the district courts

43 United States Senators

1 Members of the House of Representatives of the United States

2 District attorneys

3 Candidates seeking party primary nominations for the following offices shall file their  
4 notice of candidacy with the county board of elections no earlier than 12:00 noon on the  
5 first Monday in January and no later than 12:00 noon on the first Monday in February  
6 preceding the primary:

7 State Senators

8 Members of the State House of Representatives

9 All county offices."

10 Section 3.7. G.S. 163-106(d) reads as rewritten:

11 "(d) Notice of Candidacy for Certain Offices to Indicate Vacancy. – In any primary  
12 in which there are ~~two or more vacancies for Chief Justice and associate justices of the~~  
13 ~~Supreme Court, two or more vacancies for judge of the Court of Appeals, or two~~  
14 vacancies for United States Senator from North Carolina or two or more vacancies for the  
15 office of district court judge to be filled by nominations, each candidate shall, at the time  
16 of filing notice of candidacy, file with the State Board of Elections a written statement  
17 designating the vacancy to which he seeks nomination. Votes cast for a candidate shall be  
18 effective only for his nomination to the vacancy for which he has given notice of  
19 candidacy as provided in this subsection.

20 A person seeking party nomination for a specialized district judgeship established  
21 under G.S. 7A-147 shall, at the time of filing notice of candidacy, file with the State  
22 Board of Elections a written statement designating the specialized judgeship to which he  
23 seeks nomination."

24 Section 3.8. G.S. 163-107(a) reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) Fee Schedule. – At the time of filing a notice of candidacy, each candidate  
26 shall pay to the board of elections with which he files under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
27 106 a filing fee for the office he seeks in the amount specified in the following tabulation:

28 Office Sought Amount of Filing Fee

29

30 Governor One percent (1%) of the annual

31 salary of the office sought

32 Lieutenant Governor One percent (1%) of the annual

33 salary of the office sought

34 All State executive offices One percent (1%) of the annual

35 salary of the office sought

36 ~~All Justices, Judges, and~~ One percent (1%) of the annual

37 Superior Court Judges, salary of the office sought

38 District Court Judges,

39 District Attorneys of the

40 General Court of Justice

41

42 United States Senator One percent (1%) of the annual

43 salary of the office sought



1	Members of the United States	One percent (1%) of the annual
2	House of Representatives	salary of the office sought
3	State Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual
4		salary of the office sought
5	Member of the State House of	One percent (1%) of the annual
6	Representatives	salary of the office sought
7	All county offices not	One percent (1%) of the annual
8	compensated by fees	salary of the office sought
9	County commissioners, if	Ten dollars (\$10.00)
10	compensated entirely by fees	
11	Members of county board of	Five dollars (\$5.00)
12	education, if compensated	
13	entirely by fees	
14	Sheriff, if compensated	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one
15	entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
16		office above four thousand
17		dollars (\$4,000)
18	Clerk of superior court, if	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one
19	compensated entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
20		office above four thousand
21		dollars (\$4,000)
22	Register of deeds, if	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one
23	compensated entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
24		office above four thousand
25		dollars (\$4,000)
26	Any other county office, if	Twenty dollars (\$20.00), plus one
27	compensated entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
28		office above two thousand dollars
29		(\$2,000)
30	All county offices compensated	One percent (1%) of the first
31	partly by salary and partly	annual salary to be received
32	by fees (exclusive of fees).Section 3.9. G.S. 163-107.1(b) reads as rewritten:	

33 "(b) If the candidate is seeking the office of United States Senator, Governor,  
34 Lieutenant Governor, or any State executive officer, ~~Justice of the Supreme Court or~~  
35 ~~Judge of the Court of Appeals~~, the petition must be signed by 10,000 registered voters  
36 who are members of the political party in whose primary the candidate desires to run,  
37 except that in the case of a political party as defined by G.S. 163-96(a)(2) which will be  
38 making nominations by primary election, the petition must be signed by ten percent  
39 (10%) of the registered voters of the State who are affiliated with the same political party  
40 in whose primary the candidate desires to run, or in the alternative, the petition shall be  
41 signed by no less than 10,000 registered voters regardless of the voter's political party  
42 affiliation, whichever requirement is greater. The petition must be filed with the State  
43 Board of Elections not later than 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the filing deadline

1 before the primary in which he seeks to run. The names on the petition shall be verified  
2 by the board of elections of the county where the signer is registered, and the petition  
3 must be presented to the county board of elections at least 15 days before the petition is  
4 due to be filed with the State Board of Elections. When a proper petition has been filed,  
5 the candidate's name shall be printed on the primary ballot."

6 Section 3.10. G.S. 163-111(c)(1) reads as rewritten:

7 "(1) A candidate who is apparently entitled to demand a second primary,  
8 according to the unofficial results, for one of the offices listed below,  
9 and desiring to do so, shall file a request for a second primary in writing  
10 or by telegram with the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board  
11 of Elections no later than 12:00 noon on the seventh day (including  
12 Saturdays and Sundays) following the date on which the primary was  
13 conducted, and such request shall be subject to the certification of the  
14 official results by the State Board of Elections. If the vote certification  
15 by the State Board of Elections determines that a candidate who was not  
16 originally thought to be eligible to call for a second primary is in fact  
17 eligible to call for a second primary, the Executive Secretary-Director of  
18 the State Board of Elections shall immediately notify such candidate  
19 and permit him to exercise any options available to him within a 48-  
20 hour period following the notification:

21 Governor,

22 Lieutenant Governor,

23 All State executive officers,

24 ~~Justices, Judges, or Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges~~  
25 ~~or District Attorneys of the General Court of Justice, other than~~  
26 superior court judge,

27 United States Senators,

28 Members of the United States House of  
29 Representatives,

30 State Senators in multi-county senatorial  
31 districts, and

32 Members of the State House of Representatives  
33 in multi-county representative districts.

34 Section 3.11. G.S. 163-177 reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 163-177. Disposition of duplicate abstracts.**

36 Within six hours after the returns of a primary or election have been canvassed and  
37 the results judicially determined, the chairman of the county board of elections shall mail,  
38 or otherwise deliver, to the State Board of Elections the duplicate-original abstracts  
39 prepared in accordance with G.S. 163-176 for all offices and referenda for which the  
40 State Board of Elections is required to canvass the votes and declare the results including:

41 President and Vice-President of the United States

42 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and all other State executive officers

43 United States Senators

1 Members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress  
2 ~~Justices, Judges, and Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges and District~~  
3 Attorneys of the General Court of Justice  
4 State Senators in multi-county senatorial districts  
5 Members of the State House of Representatives in multi-county representative  
6 districts

7 Constitutional amendments and propositions submitted to the voters of the State.

8 One duplicate abstract prepared in accordance with G.S. 163-176 for all offices and  
9 referenda for which the county board of elections is required to canvass the votes and  
10 declare the results (and which are listed below) shall be retained by the county board,  
11 which shall forthwith publish and declare the results; the second duplicate abstract shall  
12 be mailed to the chairman of the State Board of Elections, to the end that there be one set  
13 of all primary and election returns available at the seat of government.

14 All county offices

15 State Senators in single-county senatorial districts

16 Members of the State House of Representatives in single-county representative  
17 districts

18 Propositions submitted to the voters of one county.

19 If the chairman of the county board of elections fails or neglects to transmit duplicate  
20 abstracts to the chairman of the State Board of Elections within the time prescribed in this  
21 section, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Provided, that the penalty shall not apply if  
22 the chairman was prevented from performing the prescribed duty because of sickness or  
23 other unavoidable delay, but the burden of proof shall be on the chairman to show that his  
24 failure to perform was due to sickness or unavoidable delay."

25 Section 3.12. G.S. 163-192 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 163-192. State Board of Elections to prepare abstracts and declare results of**  
27 **primaries and elections.**

28 (a) After Primary. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the primary election, the  
29 State Board of Elections shall prepare separate abstracts of the votes cast:

30 (1) For Governor and all State officers, ~~justices of the Supreme Court,~~  
31 ~~judges of the Court of Appeals,~~ and United States Senators.

32 (2) For members of the United States House of Representatives for the  
33 several congressional districts in the State.

34 (3) For district court judges for the several district court districts in the  
35 State.

36 (3a) For superior court judges for the several superior court districts in the  
37 State.

38 (4) For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.

39 (5) For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State  
40 composed of more than one county.

41 (6) For members of the State House of Representatives in the several  
42 representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.

1 Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state  
2 the total number of votes cast for each candidate of each political party for each of the  
3 various offices canvassed by the State Board of Elections. They shall also state the name  
4 or names of the person or persons whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and  
5 judicially determine by the count to be nominated for each office.

6 Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State  
7 Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State  
8 affixed thereto.

9 (b) After General Election. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the general  
10 election, the State Board of Elections shall prepare abstracts of the votes cast:

11 (1) For President and Vice-President of the United States, when an election  
12 is held for those offices.

13 (2) For Governor and all State officers, ~~justices of the Supreme Court,~~  
14 ~~judges of the Court of Appeals,~~ and United States Senators.

15 (3) For members of the United States House of Representatives for the  
16 several congressional districts in the State.

17 (4) For district court judges for the several district court districts as defined  
18 in G.S. 7A-133 in the State.

19 (4a) For superior court judges for the several superior court districts in the  
20 State.

21 (5) For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.

22 (6) For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State  
23 composed of more than one county.

24 (7) For members of the State House of Representatives in the several  
25 representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.

26 (8) For and against any constitutional amendments or propositions  
27 submitted to the people.

28 Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state  
29 the names of all persons voted for, the office for which each received votes, and the  
30 number of legal ballots cast for each candidate for each office canvassed by the State  
31 Board of Elections. They shall also state the name or names of the person or persons  
32 whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and judicially determine by the count  
33 to be elected to each office.

34 Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State  
35 Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State  
36 affixed thereto.

37 (c) Disposition of Abstracts of Returns. – The State Board of Elections shall file  
38 with the Secretary of State the original abstracts of returns prepared by it under the  
39 provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and also the duplicate county  
40 abstracts transmitted to the State Board of Elections under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
41 177. Upon the request of the Legislative Services Office, the Secretary of State shall  
42 submit a copy of the original abstracts to that Office."

43 Section 3.13. G.S. 163-194 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 163-194. Governor to issue commissions to certain elected officials.**

2 Every person duly elected to one of the offices listed below, upon obtaining a  
3 certificate of his election from the Secretary of State under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
4 193, shall procure from the Governor a commission attesting his election to the specified  
5 office, which the Governor shall issue upon production of the Secretary of State's  
6 certificate:

7 Members of the United States House of Representatives,  
8 ~~Justices, Judges, and Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges and District~~  
9 Attorneys of the General Court of Justice."

10 Section 3.14. G.S. 163-1 is amended in the table by deleting the entries for  
11 "Justices and Judges of the Appellate Division".

12 Section 3.15. G.S. 163-9 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 163-9. Filling vacancies in ~~State and district~~ judicial offices.**

14 (a) Vacancies occurring in the ~~offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, judge of~~  
15 ~~the Court of Appeals, and office of judge of the superior court~~ for causes other than  
16 expiration of term shall be filled by appointment of the Governor. An appointee to the  
17 office of Justice of the Supreme Court or judge of the Court of Appeals shall hold office  
18 until January 1 next following the election for members of the General Assembly that is  
19 held more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time an election shall be held  
20 for an eight-year term and until a successor is elected and qualified.

21 (b) Except for judges specified in the next paragraph of this subsection, an  
22 appointee to the office of judge of superior court shall hold his place until the next  
23 election for members of the General Assembly that is held more than 60 days after the  
24 vacancy occurs, at which time an election shall be held to fill the unexpired term of the  
25 office.

26 Appointees for judges of the superior court from any district:

27 (1) With only one resident judge; or

28 (2) In which no county is subject to section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of  
29 1965,

30 shall hold the office until the next election of members of the General Assembly that is  
31 held more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time an election shall be held  
32 to fill an eight-year term.

33 (c) When the unexpired term of the office in which the vacancy has occurred  
34 expires on the first day of January succeeding the next election for members of the  
35 General Assembly, the Governor shall appoint to fill that vacancy for the unexpired term  
36 of the office.

37 (d) Vacancies in the office of district judge which occur before the expiration of a  
38 term shall not be filled by election. Vacancies in the office of district judge shall be filled  
39 in accordance with G.S. 7A-142."

40 Section 3.16. Sections 3.1 through 3.15 of this act are effective only if the  
41 constitutional amendment proposed by Section 1 of this act is approved by the qualified  
42 voters in accordance with Section 2 of this act.

43 Section 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.