

March 26, 2009

**S 966. EXPANDED VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS.** Filed 3/25/09. *TO EXPAND THE VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS ACT TO COVER ADDITIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE POSITIONS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE ACT.*

Identical to H 586 with the following changes. Amends the definition of *qualifying contribution* in GS 163-278.96(15) to include an exception to the requirement that a contribution must be made during the qualifying period. The revised definition, however, includes an internal cross reference to GS 163-278.98(b1), but that subsection is not included in the legislation or in other law. Also amends GS 163-278.98(e)(3) to include a cross-reference to the non-existent subsection (b1), suggesting that candidates are permitted to continue campaign-related fund-raising after the qualifying period and through the date of the general election in some circumstances. Amends the definition of *qualifying period* in GS 163-278.96(16) to provide that the period ends on the tenth day after the primary rather than the day after the primary. Amends GS 163-278.99(b)(4) to provide that if a certified candidate in a contested general election receives a qualifying contribution after the day of the primary, the candidate's distribution from the public campaign fund must be reduced by the amount of such contributions. Adds new Section 2, which includes a severability clause. Provides that unless otherwise provided in the act, the act is effective when it becomes law. The act does not, however, include any other effective dates.

**Intro. by Nesbitt.**

GS 163

May 12, 2009

**S 966. EXPANDED VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS.** Filed 3/25/09. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Adds new GS 163-278.97A setting limits on the number of contested offices candidates who may be eligible for a distribution of funds from the Voter-Owned Elections Fund depending on the amount of money available in the fund on August 1 of the year before an election and the specific office. Appropriates from the General Fund to the State Board of Elections \$2 million for fiscal year 2009-2010 and \$7,160,000 for fiscal year 2010-2011 to implement the proposed Voter-Owned Elections Act. Amends proposed new GS 163-278.99B(f) to prohibit matching funds from being available as a result of an electioneering communication that the Board ascertains is susceptible to no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against all candidates for the same office (was, provided that no matching funds are available as a result of a communication that supports all candidates for the same office or opposes all candidates for the same office).