

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 298

Short Title: Online Voter Registration. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Bryant, Parmon, McKissick (Primary Sponsors); Clark, Clodfelter, D. Davis, Jenkins, and Kinnaird.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 14, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE SIMPLER THE PROCESS OF FILLING OUT A VOTER  
3 REGISTRATION FORM AND PRINTING IT OUT TO MAIL AND ALSO TO ALLOW  
4 VOTERS TO REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-82.3(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Form Developed by State Board of Elections. – The State Board of Elections shall  
8 develop an application form for voter ~~registration~~ registration that can either be printed out in  
9 blank or filled in online and printed out for mailing. Any person may use the form to apply to  
10 do any of the following:

- 11 (1) Register to vote.
- 12 (2) Change party affiliation or unaffiliated status.
- 13 (3) Report a change of address within a county.
- 14 (4) Report a change of name.
- 15 (5) Preregister to vote.

16 (a1) The online fillable voter registration form shall:

- 17 (1) Allow a user with the proper software to save the data.
- 18 (2) Prompt the user to easily do either or both of the following: (i) download the  
19 mailing address of the appropriate county board of elections based on the  
20 county of residence or (ii) download a list of all county board of elections  
21 mailing addresses.

22 The county board of elections for the county where the applicant resides shall accept the  
23 form as application for any of those purposes if the form is submitted as set out in  
24 G.S. 163-82.3."

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

27 "**§ 163-82.5A. Online voter registration.**

28 (a) This section applies to an individual who both:

- 29 (1) Is eligible to register to vote; and
- 30 (2) Possesses a current and valid:
  - 31 a. North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Section 20 of  
32 the General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional  
33 license; or
  - 34 b. Special identification card for nonoperators issued under  
35 G.S. 20-37.7.



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1       (b) An individual described in subsection (a) of this section may submit a voter  
2 registration application online using the procedures set forth in this section. The State Board of  
3 Elections shall establish a secure Internet Web site to permit individuals described in  
4 subsection (a) of this section to submit online applications under this section.

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

7           (1) An application for the following:

8               a. To register to vote.

9               b. To report a change of name, address, or party affiliation. If the  
10 applicant is already registered to vote and the change of address is to  
11 another county, it shall be treated as an application to register to vote.

12           (2) Information to establish that the applicant is eligible under this section to  
13 register online.

14       (d) When an applicant submits an application under this section, the Division of Motor  
15 Vehicles shall compare the information submitted by the applicant with the information  
16 maintained in its database listing individuals who possess a current and valid North Carolina  
17 license, permit, or card specified under subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

18       (e) If the Division of Motor Vehicles confirms that the applicant possesses either a  
19 current and valid:

20           (1) North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Section 20 of the  
21 General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional license; or

22           (2) Special identification card for nonoperators issued under G.S. 20-37.7,

23 the completed application and information compiled by the Division of Motor Vehicles  
24 (including the digital signature of the applicant in the Division of Motor Vehicles records) shall  
25 be submitted to the county board of elections in which the applicant currently resides in  
26 accordance with procedures established by the State Board of Elections.

27       (f) If the Division of Motor Vehicles is unable to confirm that the applicant possesses  
28 either a current and valid:

29           (1) North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Section 20 of the  
30 General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional license; or

31           (2) Special identification card for nonoperators issued under G.S. 20-37.7,

32 the Division of Motor Vehicles shall send to the county board of elections of the county in  
33 which the applicant currently resides the application submitted by the applicant and information  
34 indicating that the Division of Motor Vehicles cannot confirm the information and that the  
35 applicant's application cannot be processed. The county board of elections shall notify the  
36 applicant of this fact by U.S. mail and by e-mail if the applicant provided an e-mail address  
37 with the online registration."

38       **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2013.