

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

H.B. 376  
Mar 14, 2023  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30146-MTy-57

Short Title: Little Federal Model NC Edition.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Adams.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT  
3 EACH SENATOR REPRESENTS TWO COUNTIES, TO PERMIT THE GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY TO REVISE THE SENATE DISTRICTS FROM TIME TO TIME, AND TO  
5 REQUIRE THAT THE STATE IS COMPOSED OF ONE HUNDRED COUNTIES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Section 3 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
8 rewritten:

9 **"Sec. 3. Senate districts; apportionment of Senators.**

10 The Senators shall be elected from districts. The General Assembly, ~~at the first regular session~~  
11 ~~convening after the return of every decennial census of population taken by order of Congress,~~  
12 ~~from time to time,~~ shall revise the senate districts and the apportionment of Senators among those  
13 districts, subject to the following requirements:

14 (1) Each Senator shall ~~represent, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, the~~  
15 ~~number of inhabitants that each Senator represents being determined for this purpose by dividing~~  
16 ~~the population of the district that he represents by the number of Senators apportioned to that~~  
17 ~~district; represent two counties;~~

18 (2) Each senate district shall at all times consist of contiguous territory;

19 (3) No county shall be divided in the formation of a senate district;

20 (4) ~~When established, the senate districts and the apportionment of Senators shall remain~~  
21 ~~unaltered until the return of another decennial census of population taken by order of Congress."~~

22 **SECTION 1.(b)** Section 1 of Article VII of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
23 rewritten:

24 **"Section 1. General Assembly to provide for local government.**

25 The General Assembly shall provide for the organization and government and the fixing of  
26 boundaries of counties, cities and towns, and other governmental ~~subdivisions, and, except~~  
27 ~~subdivisions; provided, however, that the number of counties in the State shall be 100. Except as~~  
28 ~~otherwise prohibited by this Constitution, the General Assembly may give such powers and~~  
29 ~~duties to counties, cities and towns, and other governmental subdivisions as it may deem~~  
30 ~~advisable.~~

31 The General Assembly shall not incorporate as a city or town, nor shall it authorize to be  
32 incorporated as a city or town, any territory lying within one mile of the corporate limits of any  
33 other city or town having a population of 5,000 or more according to the most recent decennial  
34 census of population taken by order of Congress, or lying within three miles of the corporate  
35 limits of any other city or town having a population of 10,000 or more according to the most  
36 recent decennial census of population taken by order of Congress, or lying within four miles of



1 the corporate limits of any other city or town having a population of 25,000 or more according  
2 to the most recent decennial census of population taken by order of Congress, or lying within  
3 five miles of the corporate limits of any other city or town having a population of 50,000 or more  
4 according to the most recent decennial census of population taken by order of Congress.  
5 Notwithstanding the foregoing limitations, the General Assembly may incorporate a city or town  
6 by an act adopted by vote of three-fifths of all the members of each house."

7 **SECTION 1.(c)** The amendments set out in subsections (a) and (b) of this section  
8 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November 2024,  
9 which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots,  
10 voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The  
11 question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

12 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

13 A constitutional amendment providing that each senator in the North Carolina  
14 General Assembly represents two counties, permitting the General Assembly to revise the Senate  
15 districts from time to time, and requiring the State be composed of 100 counties."

16 **SECTION 1.(d)** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
17 amendments set out in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the State Board of Elections shall  
18 certify the amendments to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the  
19 amendments so certified among the permanent records of that office. The amendments set out in  
20 subsections (a) and (b) of this section are effective upon certification.

21 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.