



HOUSE BILL 605: Voters Right to Know Act.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 28, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Winslow, Dahle, Hawkins, Mills	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H605-CSBK-4		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 605 would require the State Board of Elections to do the following:*

- *Develop and display voter education information on a placard at the entrance to each voting place during hours the site is open for voting.*
- *Educate the public on the election laws and primaries in this State by establishing the following:*
 - *A webpage with a list of frequently asked questions and answers on voting.*
 - *A toll-free telephone number for voters to call with questions during the early one-stop voting period through Election Day.*
 - *A quick response (QR) barcode linking to the frequently asked questions webpage.*

CURRENT LAW: Each county board of elections is required to post certain voter information, in a manner and format approved by the State Board of Elections (State Board), at voting places for each election involving candidates for federal or State office, as provided by G.S. 166-166.7A. Voter information must include a sample ballot, the date of the election and hours the voting place will be open, instructions, and general information on voting rights and federal and State laws.

The powers and duties of the State Board, outlined by G.S. 163-22, include the duty of general supervision over the primaries and elections in the State. As part of those duties, the State Board must conduct training programs in election law for every director and every member of a county board of elections. The State Board must promulgate rules for the training of precinct officials, to be followed by the county boards of elections. The State Board is also required to conduct programs to certify election officials, including training programs and examinations in election law and procedures. G.S. 163-82.24.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to House Bill 605 would require the State Board to do the following:

- Develop a placard containing educational information for voters, and ensure it is prominently displayed at the entrance to each voting place during all hours the site is open for voting. The placard must be specific to the election occurring. The placard must, at a minimum, contain information on the following:
 - The right to vote.
 - Eligibility to vote in that election.

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Legislative Analysis
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House PCS 605

Page 2

- The option to register to vote and cast an absentee ballot during one-stop absentee voting.
 - Which ballot and candidates may be voted for in that election.
 - Voting and tracking a provisional ballot.
 - The prohibition on using a phone or electronic device to electronically communicate with anyone while in the voting place and the limitations on taking photographs in the voting place.
 - The option to bring electronic or paper voting guides, notes, and informational materials into the voting booth.
 - The State Board's toll-free telephone number, website, and quick response (QR) barcode.
- Conduct training programs on the contents of the placards for staff of each county board of elections at least 90 days before the beginning of each voting period.
 - Establish and maintain an informational webpage on the State Board's website containing FAQs about the right to vote, registering to vote, absentee voting, voting in person, and deadlines. This information must be reviewed and updated at least 90 days before the beginning of each voting period, and as needed throughout the voting period.
 - Establish a quick-response (QR) barcode to link to the informational webpage on the State Board's website.
 - Establish a toll-free number for citizen voting questions, to be staffed by an employee of the State Board and operated each day from the first day of one-stop absentee voting through Election Day.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective October 1, 2021, and would apply to elections held on or after that date.