

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL DRS35462-BKe-18

Short Title: Reduce Early Voting Period.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hollo, Daniel, and Overcash (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REDUCE THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR ALL ELECTIONS.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-166.40(b) reads as rewritten:

5 "(b) Not earlier than the ~~third~~second Thursday before an election in which a voter seeks
6 to vote and not later than 3:00 P.M. on the last Saturday before that election, the voter may appear
7 in person only at the office of the county ~~board of elections, board,~~ except as provided in
8 G.S. 163-166.35. A county board ~~of elections~~ shall conduct early voting on the last Saturday
9 before the election from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M."

10 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163-13(b) reads as rewritten:

11 "(b) Nominating Procedures. – If a congressional vacancy occurs beginning on the tenth
12 day before the filing period ends under G.S. 163-106(c) preceding the next succeeding general
13 election, candidates for the special election to fill the vacancy shall not be nominated in primaries.
14 Instead, nominations may be made by the political party congressional district executive
15 committees in the district in which the vacancy occurs. The ~~chairman~~chair and secretary of each
16 political party congressional district executive committee nominating a candidate shall
17 immediately certify his or her name and party affiliation to the State Board so that it may be
18 printed on the special election ballots.

19 If the congressional vacancy occurs before the tenth day before the filing period ends under
20 G.S. 163-106(c) prior to the next succeeding general election, the Governor shall call a special
21 primary for the purpose of nominating candidates to be voted on in a special election called by
22 the Governor in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. Such a primary
23 election shall be conducted in accordance with the general laws governing primaries, except that
24 the opening and closing dates for filing notices of candidacy with the State Board shall be fixed
25 by the Governor in his or her call for the special primary. The Governor may fix the early voting
26 period for each county board to conduct early voting for the special election and for the special
27 first primary, and such period shall be for 10 consecutive days. The Governor may also fix the
28 absentee voting period for the special election and for the special first primary, but such period
29 shall not be less than 30 days."

30 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163-287 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 "(a1) For any special election not held at a time specified under subsection (a) of this
32 section, the resolution adopted by the governing body, municipality, or special district may set
33 the time period for early voting in the special election, which shall be for 10 consecutive days."

34 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 163-302(a) reads as rewritten:

35 "(a) In any municipal election, including a primary or general election or referendum,
36 ~~mail-in~~ absentee voting and early voting may, upon resolution of the municipal governing body,



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1 be permitted. The resolution, if adopted by the municipal governing body, may set the time period
2 for each county board conducting the election to conduct early voting, and such period shall be
3 for 10 consecutive days. Such resolution must be adopted no later than 60 days prior to an election
4 in order to be effective for that election. Any such resolution shall remain effective for all future
5 elections unless repealed no later than 60 days before an election. A copy of all resolutions
6 adopted under this section shall be filed with the State Board and the county board ~~of elections~~
7 conducting the election within 10 days of passage in order to be effective. In addition, ~~mail-in~~
8 absentee voting and early voting shall be allowed in any referendum on incorporation of a
9 municipality."

10 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held
11 on or after that date.