

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 652

Short Title: Voter Fraud Prevention Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Garrett, Batch, and Salvador (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 26, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO REQUIRE A SPECIAL ELECTION WHEN AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED
MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHANGES PARTY AFFILIATION
DURING THE MEMBER'S TERM IN OFFICE WITH MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF
THE TERM REMAINING AND TO REQUIRE THE RETURN OF CAMPAIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CONTRIBUTOR.

Whereas, nothing is more important to the functioning of an open and free democracy
than voter confidence in elections; and

Whereas, members of the General Assembly are duty-bound to faithfully pursue the
interests and issues for which they were elected; and

Whereas, political party affiliation switches by seated legislators may have profound
consequences for those legislators' constituents and all residents of North Carolina; and

Whereas, both major parties have had members switch political party affiliation; and

Whereas, 25,986 votes were cast in the 2022 general election for or against a North
Carolina legislator who chose to switch political party affiliation less than six months after being
sworn into office; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 2 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
a new section to read:

"§ 163-3.5. Special election; change in party affiliation.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if an elected or appointed member of
the General Assembly changes party affiliation during the member's term of office with more
than six months remaining on the member's term, that member's office shall be deemed vacated
and the vacancy shall automatically trigger a special election which shall be held within 90 days
from the date the member changed party affiliation. The State Board of Elections shall develop
the guidelines and procedures to be used in conducting the special election required by this
section, including reimbursement to the county board of elections for the actual cost involved in
administering the special election."

SECTION 2. Article 22A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
adding a new section to read:

"§ 163-278.16C. Request to return contribution; change in party affiliation.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any elected or appointed member of
the General Assembly who changes party affiliation as described in G.S. 163-3.5 shall return any
contributions made to the member's or candidate's campaign committee, as defined in
G.S. 163-278.38Z, during the most recent election cycle upon the request of the contributor. A
contribution refund under this section shall be made within 30 days from the date of the request."



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SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.