

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 978
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/5/95

Short Title: Precinct Boundaries.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 12, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO VOTING PRECINCTS AND TO REMOVE THE SUNSET ON DESIGNATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICES AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES TO COMPLY WITH THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 163-128 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-128. Election precincts and voting places established or altered.

(a) Each county shall be divided into a convenient number of precincts for the purpose of voting, and there shall be at least one precinct encompassed within the territory of each township; provided, however, that upon voting. Upon a resolution adopted by the county board of elections and approved by the Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections voters from a given precinct within a township may be temporarily transferred, for the purpose of voting, to a precinct in an adjacent township. an adjacent precinct. Any such transfers shall be for the period of time equal only to the term of office of the county board of elections making such transfer. When such a resolution has been adopted by the county board of elections to assign voters from more than one township precinct to the same precinct, then the county board of elections shall maintain separate registration and voting records, consistent with the procedure

1 prescribed by the State Board of Elections, so as to properly identify the township
2 precinct in which such voters reside. ~~Except as provided in G.S. 163-132.2(a)(1), the~~ The
3 polling place for a precinct shall be located within the precinct, precinct or on a lot or
4 tract adjoining the precinct.

5 Except as provided by Article 12A of this Chapter, the county board of elections shall
6 have power from time to time, by resolution, to establish, alter, discontinue, or create
7 such new election precincts or voting places as it may deem expedient. Upon adoption of
8 a resolution establishing, altering, discontinuing, or creating a precinct or voting place,
9 the board shall give 45 days' notice thereof prior to the next primary or election. Notice
10 shall be given by advertisement in a newspaper having general circulation in the county,
11 by posting a copy of the resolution at the courthouse door, and by mailing a copy of the
12 resolution to the chairman of every political party in the county. Notice may additionally
13 be made on a radio or television station or both, but such notice shall be in addition to the
14 newspaper and other required notice.

15 (b) Each county board of elections shall prepare a map of the county on which the
16 precinct boundaries are drawn or described, shall revise the map when boundaries are
17 changed, and shall keep a copy of the current map on file and posted for public inspection
18 at the office of the Board of Elections, and shall file a copy with the State Board of
19 Elections."

20 Sec. 2. Article 12A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

21 "ARTICLE 12A.

22 "PRECINCT BOUNDARIES.

23 "**§ 163-132.1. Participation in ~~Block Boundary Suggestion Program~~ 2000 Census**
24 **Redistricting Data Program of the United States Bureau of the Census.**

25 (a) Purpose. – The State of North Carolina shall participate in the 2000 Census
26 Redistricting Data Program, conducted pursuant to P.L. 94-171, of the United States
27 Bureau of the Census, including Phase I (Block Boundary Suggestion Program) and
28 Phase II (concerning the designation of precincts on 2000 Census maps or databases), so
29 that the State will receive 2000 Census data by voting precinct and be able to revise
30 districts at all levels without splitting precincts and in compliance with the United States
31 and North Carolina Constitutions and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

32 (b) Phase I (Block Boundary Suggestion Program). – ~~The State of North Carolina~~
33 shall participate in the Block Boundary Suggestion Program of the United States Bureau
34 of the Census to the end so that the maps the Census Bureau will use in the 2000 Census
35 will contain adequate features to permit reporting of Census data by precinct for use in
36 the 2001 redistricting efforts. Not later than December 1, 1995, the ~~The~~ Legislative Services
37 Office shall send preliminary maps produced by the Census Bureau in preparation for the
38 2000 Census ~~Census~~, as soon as practical after the maps are available, to the county
39 boards of elections to determine which of their precincts have boundaries that are not
40 coterminous with a physical feature, a current township boundary, or a current municipal
41 boundary, as shown on those preliminary 2000 Census maps. The Legislative Services
42 Office shall:

- 1 (1) Assist county boards of elections in identifying the precincts with
2 boundaries not shown on the preliminary Census maps and in
3 identifying physical features the county boards may wish to have
4 available for future precinct boundaries;
- 5 (2) Place those boundaries and features on maps deemed appropriate by the
6 State Board;
- 7 (3) Request the U.S. Census Bureau to hold for census block identification
8 in the 2000 U.S. Census all physical features the county boards have
9 identified as current or potential precinct boundaries; and
- 10 (4) Request the U.S. Census Bureau to hold for census block identification
11 in the 2000 U.S. Census all other physical features already on ~~U.S.~~1990
12 Census Bureau maps.

13 (c) Phase II. – The State shall participate in Phase II of the 2000 Census
14 Redistricting Data Program so that, to the extent practical, the precinct boundaries of all
15 North Carolina counties will appear on the 2000 Census maps or database. The State's
16 effort shall be conducted as follows:

- 17 (1) By January 1, 1998, or as soon thereafter as they become available, the
18 Legislative Services Office shall send to the county boards of elections
19 the Census Bureau's official block maps, on paper or electronically, to
20 be used in the 2000 Census.
- 21 (2) After receiving the maps, the county boards of elections shall designate
22 their precinct lines along the block boundary lines on the maps. Where
23 necessary, the county boards of elections shall alter precincts, including
24 any precincts approved under the provisions of G.S. 163-132.1A, 163-
25 132.2, or 163-132.3 or designated by local act, to conform to Census
26 block boundaries as shown on the official block maps to be used for the
27 2000 Census and to consist only of contiguous territory. The county
28 boards of elections, at a time deemed necessary by the Executive
29 Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections, shall file with the
30 Legislative Services Office the maps sent to them and marked by them
31 pursuant to this subsection.
- 32 (3) After examining the returned maps, the Legislative Services Office shall
33 submit to the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of
34 Elections its opinion as to whether the county board of elections has
35 complied with the provisions of this subsection, with notations as to
36 where those boundaries do not comply with these standards.
- 37 (4) If the Executive Secretary-Director determines that the county board of
38 elections has complied, he shall approve the precinct boundaries as filed
39 and those precincts shall be the official precincts.
- 40 (5) If the Executive Secretary-Director determines that the county board of
41 elections has not complied, he shall not approve those precinct
42 boundaries but shall alter the precinct boundaries so that each precinct
43 consists solely of contiguous territory and that each precinct's

1 boundaries are coterminous with 2000 Census block boundaries nearest
2 to the precinct boundaries shown by the county boards on the maps.
3 These altered precincts shall then be the official precincts.

4 (6) Upon the adoption of a resolution by a county board of elections and
5 instead of altering precinct lines as required by G.S. 163-132.1(c)(5),
6 the Executive Secretary-Director may combine for Census reporting
7 purposes only two or more adjacent precincts of the county into a
8 Combined Reporting Unit, if the Executive Secretary-Director finds
9 that:

10 a. The boundaries of the Combined Reporting Unit conform with
11 the Census block boundaries as shown on the official block maps
12 to be used in the 2000 Census;

13 b. The Combined Reporting Unit consists only of contiguous
14 territory;

15 c. The precincts of which the Combined Reporting Unit consists
16 were bounded as of January 1, 1996, by ridgelines, as certified on
17 official county maps by the county manager of the relevant
18 county, or if there is no county manager the chair of the board of
19 commissioners, and the boundaries failed to comply with
20 subdivision (2) of this subsection only because those ridgelines
21 were unrecognized as Census block boundaries in the 2000
22 official Census maps;

23 d. The Combined Reporting Unit does not contain a majority of the
24 territory of more than one township; and

25 e. To alter those precinct boundaries would result in significant
26 voter dislocation.

27 If the Executive Secretary-Director recognizes a Combined Reporting
28 Unit for specific precincts, the official boundaries of those individual
29 precincts forming the Combined Reporting Unit shall be those which
30 the Legislative Services Office submitted to the Executive Secretary-
31 Director under subdivision (3) of this subsection.

32 (7) The Executive Secretary-Director shall file the completed maps with the
33 Census Bureau and request that the Census Bureau provide summaries
34 of 2000 Census data by precinct and Combined Reporting Units.

35 (d) Freezing of Precincts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 163-132.3,
36 after the Executive Secretary-Director approves the precincts in accordance with
37 subsection (c) of this section and before January 2, 2000, no county board of elections
38 may establish, alter, discontinue, or create any precinct except by division of one precinct
39 into two or more precincts using 2000 Census block boundaries for that division.
40 Provided that, whenever an annexation ordinance adopted under Parts 1, 2, or 3 of Article
41 4A of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, or a local act of the General Assembly
42 annexing property to a municipality, becomes effective during the period beginning with
43 the date of the annexation as reported through the U.S. Census Bureau's 1998 Boundary

1 and Annexation Survey and ending January 2, 2000, and any part of the boundary of the
2 area being annexed which is actually contiguous to the city is also a precinct boundary
3 for elections administered by the county board of elections then the annexed area is
4 automatically moved into the 'city precinct', provided that if the annexed area is adjacent
5 to more than one city precinct, the board of elections shall place the area in any one or
6 more of the adjacent city precincts. The county board of elections may delay the effective
7 date of any change under this subsection to a date not later than January 1, 2002.

8 (e) Municipal and Township Boundaries. – Notwithstanding the provisions of
9 subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the county boards of elections may designate
10 precinct boundaries on municipal or township boundaries that are not designated on the
11 2000 official Census block maps, according to directives promulgated by the Executive
12 Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and adopted to insure that all precincts
13 shall be included on the 2000 Census database.

14 (f) Additional Rules. – In addition to the directives promulgated by the Executive
15 Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections under G.S. 163-132.4, the Legislative
16 Services Commission may promulgate rules to implement this section.

17 **"§ 163-132.1A. Precinct boundaries for certain counties.**

18 (a) The boundaries of precincts for the counties listed in subsection (b) of this
19 section are those recorded in the Legislative Services Office's automated redistricting
20 system as of May 1, 1991, except as changed in accordance with G.S. 163-132.3, and
21 except in Caldwell County, the boundaries of Lenoir #3, North Catawba, Gamewell #1,
22 and Gamewell #2 Precincts shall be as provided on the precinct map of the county
23 adopted by the Caldwell County Board of Elections and in effect on January 1, 1992,
24 unless changed in accordance with ~~G.S. 163-132.3.~~ G.S. 163-132.1 or G.S. 163-132.3,
25 whichever occurs later.

26 (b) This section shall apply only to the following counties: Alamance, Buncombe,
27 Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Chatham, Chowan, Cleveland, Craven,
28 Cumberland, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville,
29 Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Iredell, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Mecklenburg,
30 Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pender, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson,
31 Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Surry, Union, Wake, Washington, Wayne,
32 Wilkes, Wilson, and Yancey.

33 **"§ 163-132.2. Precinct boundaries for other counties.**

34 (a) The Legislative Services Office shall send as directed by the schedule
35 contained in subsection (g) of this section the relevant copies of the United States Census
36 Bureau's official census block maps of the 1990 United States Census to each county
37 board of elections. The county board of elections shall:

38 (1) Alter, where necessary, precinct boundaries to be coterminous with
39 those of:

40 a. Townships, as certified by the county manager, or the chairman
41 of the board of county commissioners if there is not a county
42 manager, on the official map of the county;

43 b. The census blocks established under the latest U.S. Census;

1 c. The following visible physical features, readily distinguishable
2 upon the ground:

- 3 1. Roads or streets;
- 4 2. Water features or drainage features;
- 5 3. Ridgelines;
- 6 4. Ravines;
- 7 5. Jeep trails;
- 8 6. Rail features;
- 9 7. Above-ground power lines; or
- 10 8. Major footpaths

11 as certified by the North Carolina Department of Transportation
12 on its highway maps or the county manager of the relevant
13 county or, if there is no county manager, the chair of the county
14 board of commissioners, on official county maps.

15 d. Municipalities, as certified by the city clerk on the official map
16 of the city; or

17 e. A combination of these boundaries;

18 ~~Provided that if, as a result of the alteration, the polling place is no~~
19 ~~longer in the precinct, it may continue to be the polling place as long as~~
20 ~~the lot or tract on which the polling place is situated adjoins the~~
21 ~~precinct;~~

22 (1a) Alter, where necessary, precinct boundaries so that each precinct is
23 composed solely of contiguous territory;

24 (2) Mark all precinct boundaries on the maps sent by the Legislative
25 Services ~~Office, Office or on other maps or electronic databases~~
26 approved by the Executive Secretary-Director, showing the precinct
27 boundaries in effect as of the time of marking, but with any changes
28 effective at a later time as provided by subsection (d) of this section; and

29 (3) File, at a time deemed necessary by the Executive Secretary-Director of
30 the State Board of Elections, with the State Board and the Legislative
31 Services Office the maps identifying the precinct boundaries. The
32 Executive Secretary-Director may require a county board of elections to
33 file a written description of the boundaries of any precinct or part
34 thereof.

35 (b) The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the
36 Legislative Services Office shall examine the returned maps and their written
37 descriptions. After its examination of the maps and their written descriptions, the
38 Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive Secretary-Director of the State
39 Board of Elections its opinion as to whether the county board of elections has complied
40 with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, with notations as to where those
41 boundaries do not comply with these standards. If the Executive Secretary-Director of the
42 State Board determines that the county board of elections has complied with the
43 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State

1 Board shall approve the maps and written descriptions as filed and these precincts shall
2 be the official precincts.

3 (c) If the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that the
4 county board of elections has not complied with the provisions of subsection (a) of this
5 section, he shall not approve those precinct boundaries but shall alter the precinct
6 boundaries so that each precinct consists solely of contiguous territory and that each
7 precinct's boundaries are coterminous with those boundaries set forth in subsection (a)(1)
8 of this section nearest to those existing precinct boundaries. These altered precincts shall
9 then be the official precincts.

10 (d) The changes in precinct boundaries under subsections (b) and (c) of this
11 section shall be made effective not later than January 1, 1997; unless the change would
12 result in placing a precinct in more than one State House of Representatives, State Senate,
13 or Congressional district, in which case it shall be made effective not later than January 1,
14 2002.

15 (e), (f) Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 927, s. 1.

16 (g) The Legislative Services Office shall send maps, under subsection (a) of this
17 section, to the counties named below by the dates indicated:

18 (1) Maps to be sent not later than January 1, 1993, to the following
19 counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie,
20 Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Currituck, Cherokee,
21 Clay, Franklin, Gates, and Hoke;

22 (2) Maps to be sent not later than January 1, 1994, to the following
23 counties: Columbus, Dare, Davie, Graham, Greene, Haywood, Hertford,
24 Hyde, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Martin, Mitchell, Montgomery,
25 Northampton, and Pasquotank; and

26 (3) Maps to be sent not later than January 1, 1995, to the following
27 counties: Macon, McDowell, Moore, Pamlico, Perquimans, Person,
28 Polk, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance,
29 Warren, Watauga, and Yadkin.

30 (h) This section shall apply only to the following counties: Alexander, Alleghany,
31 Anson, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Caswell,
32 Cherokee, Clay, Columbus, Currituck, Dare, Davie, Franklin, Gates, Graham, Greene,
33 Haywood, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Martin,
34 McDowell, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank,
35 Perquimans, Person, Polk, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell,
36 Vance, Warren, Watauga, and Yadkin.

37 (i) Any county board of elections whose precincts were not approved by the
38 Executive Secretary-Director under the provisions of this section during the year by
39 which maps were to be sent to the county under subsection (g) of this section shall submit
40 precinct boundary changes that comply with subsection (a) of this section to the
41 Legislative Services Office before January 1, 1996, according to directives promulgated
42 by the Executive Secretary-Director.

43 **"§ 163-132.3. Alterations to approved precinct boundaries.**

1 (a) No county board of elections of a county listed in G.S. 163-132.1A(b), after
2 January 1, 1990, and no county board of elections of a county listed in G.S. 163-132.2(h),
3 after its precinct boundaries are approved pursuant to G.S. 163-132.2, may change any
4 precinct boundary unless the proposed new precinct consists solely of contiguous
5 territory and its new boundaries are coterminous with those of:

6 (1) Townships, as certified by the county manager, or the chairman of the
7 board of county commissioners if there is not a county manager, on the
8 official map of the county;

9 (2) The census blocks established under the latest U.S. Census; ~~Census or~~
10 the boundaries contained on the latest preliminary U.S. Census maps,
11 issued under P.L. 94-171, whichever occurs later;

12 (3) The following visible physical features, readily distinguishable upon the
13 ground:

14 a. Roads or streets;

15 b. Water features or drainage features;

16 c. Ridgelines;

17 d. Ravines;

18 e. Jeep trails;

19 f. Rail features;

20 g. Above-ground power lines; or

21 h. Major footpaths

22 as certified by the North Carolina Department of Transportation on its
23 highway maps or the county manager of the relevant county or, if there
24 is no county manager, the chair of the county board of commissioners,
25 on official county maps.

26 (4) Municipalities, as certified by the city clerk on the official map of the
27 city; or

28 (5) A combination of these boundaries.

29 The county boards of elections shall report precinct boundary changes by filing with
30 the Legislative Services Office on current official census maps or maps certified by the
31 North Carolina Department of Transportation or the county's planning department or on
32 other maps or electronic databases approved by the Executive Secretary-Director the new
33 boundaries of these precincts. The Executive Secretary-Director may require a county
34 board of elections to file a written description of the boundaries of any precinct or part
35 thereof. No newly created or altered precinct boundary is effective until approved by the
36 Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board as being in compliance with this
37 subsection.

38 (b) The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the
39 Legislative Services Office shall examine the maps of the proposed new or altered
40 precincts and any required written descriptions. After its examination of the maps and
41 their written descriptions, the Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive
42 Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections its opinion as to whether all of the
43 proposed precinct boundaries are in compliance with subsection (a) of this section, with

1 notations as to where those boundaries do not comply with these standards. If the
2 Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that all precinct boundaries
3 are in compliance with this section, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board
4 shall approve the maps and written descriptions as filed and these precincts shall be the
5 official precincts.

6 (c) If the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that the
7 proposed precinct boundaries are not in compliance with subsection (a) of this section, he
8 shall not approve those precinct boundaries. He shall notify the county board of elections
9 of his disapproval specifying the reasons. The county board of elections may then
10 resubmit new precinct maps and written descriptions to cure the reasons for their
11 disapproval.

12 **"§ 163-132.4. Directives.**

13 The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections may promulgate
14 directives concerning its duties and those of the county boards of elections under this
15 Article.

16 **"§ 163-132.5. Cooperation of State and local agencies.**

17 The State Budget Office, the Department of Transportation and county and municipal
18 planning departments shall cooperate and assist the Legislative Services Office, the
19 Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the county boards of
20 elections in the implementation of this Article.

21 **"§ 163-132.5A: Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c. 927, s. 1.**

22 **"§ 163-132.5B. Exemption from Administrative Procedure Act.**

23 The State Board of Elections is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 150B of the
24 General Statutes while acting under the authority of this Article. Appeals from a final
25 decision of the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections under this
26 Article shall be taken to the State Board of Elections within 30 days of that decision. The
27 State Board shall approve, disapprove or modify the Executive Secretary's decision
28 within 30 days of receipt of notice of appeal. Failure of the State Board to act within 30
29 days of receipt of notice of appeal shall constitute a final decision approving that of the
30 Executive Secretary. Appeals from a final decision of the State Board under this Article
31 shall be taken to the Superior Court of Wake County.

32 **"§ 163-132.5C. Local acts and township lines.**

33 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, a county board of elections
34 need not have the approval of any other county board or commission to make precinct
35 boundary changes required by this Article.

36 (b) ~~Notwithstanding G.S. 163-128, precinct~~ Precinct boundaries established, retained
37 or changed under this Article, or changed to follow a district line where a precinct has
38 been divided in a districting plan, may cross township lines.

39 **"§ 163-132.5D. Retention of precinct maps.**

40 The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections shall retain the maps
41 and written descriptions which he approves pursuant to G.S. 163-132.3.

42 **"§ 163-132.5E. Precinct maps and voter statistics filed with the Legislative Services
43 Office.**

1 (a) No later than January 31 of each year, the chairman of each county board of
2 elections shall file with the Legislative Services Office a map showing the county's
3 precincts as of January 1 of that year.

4 (b) Not later than January 31 of each year, the chair of each county board of
5 elections shall file with the Legislative Services Office a list of each precinct in the
6 county as of January 1 of that year and the number of registered voters, in each precinct,
7 by political party and race; and, no later than January 31 of each year beginning in 1996,
8 with a numerical breakdown as to the race of registered voters of each political party.

9 (c) The Legislative Services Office shall develop and send by mail to each county
10 board of elections by September 15 of each year a standard electronic data format that
11 can be used in the following year by county boards of election as an alternative method of
12 filing the list required by subsection (b) of this section. The standard electronic data
13 format shall be for data provided in international standard ASCII file format on 9-track
14 magnetic tape, 8-millimeter magnetic tape, 5 1/4 inch diskettes, or 3 1/2 inch diskettes.
15 The standard electronic data format shall contain the name of the precinct, and for each
16 precinct the total number of registered voters, the number of registered voters by party
17 affiliation, the number of registered voters by race, and a numerical breakdown as to the
18 race of registered voters in each political party.

19 **"§ 163-132.5F. U.S. Census data by precinct.**

20 The State shall request the U.S. Census Bureau for each decennial census to provide
21 summaries of census data by precinct and shall participate in any U.S. Bureau of the
22 Census' program to effectuate this provision.

23 **"§ 163-132.6: Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c. 927, s. 1."**

24 Sec. 3. G.S. 163-132.3, effective on January 2, 2000, reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 163-132.3. Alterations to approved precinct boundaries.**

26 (a) No county board of elections ~~of a county listed in G.S. 163-132.1A(b), after~~
27 ~~January 1, 1990, and no county board of elections of a county listed in G.S. 163-132.2(h),~~
28 ~~after its precinct boundaries are approved pursuant to G.S. 163-132.2,~~ may change any
29 precinct boundary unless the proposed new precinct consists solely of contiguous
30 territory and its new boundaries are coterminous with those of:

- 31 (1) Townships, as certified by the county manager, or the chairman of the
32 board of county commissioners if there is not a county manager, on the
33 official map of the county;
- 34 (2) The census blocks established under the latest U.S. Census or the
35 boundaries contained on the latest preliminary U.S. Census Maps,
36 issued under P.L. 94-171, whichever occurs later;
- 37 (3) The following visible physical features, readily distinguishable upon the
38 ground:
 - 39 a. Roads or streets;
 - 40 b. Water features or drainage features;
 - 41 c. ~~Ridgelines;~~
 - 42 d. ~~Ravines;~~
 - 43 e. ~~Jeep trails;~~

- 1 f. Rail features; or
2 g. Above-ground power ~~lines; or~~ lines
3 ~~h. Major footpaths~~

4 as certified by the North Carolina Department of Transportation on its highway
5 maps or the county manager of the relevant county or, if there is no
6 county manager, the chair of the county board of commissioners, on
7 official county maps.

8 (4) Municipalities, as certified by the city clerk on the official map of the
9 city; or

10 (5) A combination of these boundaries.

11 The county boards of elections shall report precinct boundary changes by filing with
12 the Legislative Services Office on current official census maps or maps certified by the
13 North Carolina Department of Transportation or the county's planning department or on
14 other maps or electronic databases approved by the Executive Secretary-Director, the
15 new boundaries of these precincts. The Executive Secretary-Director may require a
16 county board of elections to file a written description of the boundaries of any precinct or
17 part thereof. No newly created or altered precinct boundary is effective until approved by
18 the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board as being in compliance with this
19 subsection.

20 (b) The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the
21 Legislative Services Office shall examine the maps of the proposed new or altered
22 precincts and any required written descriptions. After its examination of the maps and
23 their written descriptions, the Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive
24 Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections its opinion as to whether all of the
25 proposed precinct boundaries are in compliance with subsection (a) of this section, with
26 notations as to where those boundaries do not comply with these standards. If the
27 Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that all precinct boundaries
28 are in compliance with this section, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board
29 shall approve the maps and written descriptions as filed and these precincts shall be the
30 official precincts.

31 (c) If the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that the
32 proposed precinct boundaries are not in compliance with subsection (a) of this section, he
33 shall not approve those precinct boundaries. He shall notify the county board of elections
34 of his disapproval specifying the reasons. The county board of elections may then
35 resubmit new precinct maps and written descriptions to cure the reasons for their
36 disapproval."

37 Sec. 4. G.S. 153A-19 reads as rewritten:

38 "**§ 153A-19. Establishing and naming townships.**

39 (a) A county may by resolution establish and abolish townships, change their
40 boundaries, and prescribe their names, except that no such resolution may become
41 effective during the period beginning January 1, ~~1988, 1998,~~ and ending January 2, ~~1990,~~
42 2000, and any resolution providing that the boundaries of a township shall change
43 automatically with changes in the boundaries of a city shall not be effective during that

1 period. The current boundaries of each township within a county shall at all times be
2 drawn on a map, or set out in a written description, or shown by a combination of these
3 techniques. This current delineation shall be available for public inspection in the office
4 of the clerk.

5 (b) Any provision of a city charter or other local act which provides that the
6 boundaries of a township shall change automatically upon a change in a city boundary
7 shall not be effective during the period beginning January 1, ~~1988~~, 1998, and ending
8 January 2, ~~1990~~, 2000.

9 (c) The county manager or, where there is no county manager, the chairman of the
10 board of commissioners, shall report township boundaries and changes in those
11 boundaries to the United States Bureau of the Census in the Boundary and Annexations
12 Survey. In responding to the surveys, each county manager or, if there is no manager,
13 chairman of the board of commissioners shall consult with the county board of elections
14 and other appropriate local agencies as to the location of township boundaries, so that the
15 Census Bureau's mapping of township boundaries does not disagree with any county
16 voting precinct boundaries that may be based on township boundaries."

17 Sec. 5. Section 73 of Chapter 762 of the 1993 Session Laws reads as rewritten:
18 "Sec. 73. Sections 1 through 68 of this act become effective January 1, 1995, and
19 apply to all primaries and elections occurring on or after that date. The remainder of this
20 act is effective upon ratification and shall apply to all primaries and elections occurring
21 on or after the date of ratification. Prosecutions for, or sentences based on, offenses
22 occurring before the effective date of any section of this act are not abated or affected by
23 this act and the statutes that would be applicable to those prosecutions or sentences but
24 for the provisions of this act remain applicable to those prosecutions or sentences. ~~G.S.~~
25 ~~163-82.20(a)(3) and G.S. 163-82.20(b1) as enacted in Section 2 of this act expire January 1,~~
26 ~~1996.~~"

27 Sec. 6. Except as specifically otherwise provided in this act, this act is
28 effective upon ratification.