

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 982
Judiciary II/Election Laws Committee Substitute Adopted 6/13/95

Short Title: Campaign Reform/Election Study.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to: Appropriations

May 4, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CAMPAIGN REFORM AND ELECTION LAWS
3 REVIEW COMMISSION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. (a) There is created a Campaign Reform and Election Laws Review
6 Commission to be composed of 18 members appointed as follows:

7 (1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint six members;

8 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint six members;

9 and

10 (3) The Governor shall appoint six members.

11 As used in this act and unless otherwise clearly indicated, "Commission" shall refer to the
12 Campaign Reform and Election Laws Review Commission.

13 (b) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives shall each designate a cochair of the Commission from their appointees.
15 Either cochair may call the first meeting of the Commission.

16 (c) Members shall serve until the termination of the Commission or, in the case of
17 a State legislator member, until the member either does not file for reelection to the
18 General Assembly or is not reelected, whichever occurs first. Vacancies shall be filled in
19 the same manner as the original appointments were made.

1 Sec. 2. (a) The Commission may study thoroughly:

- 2 (1) The regulation of campaigns, including the financing of campaigns and
3 the conduct of campaigns, the appropriateness of sanctions for
4 violations, and the appropriate handling and disposition of campaign
5 contributions;
6 (2) The possibility of alternative voting methods, such as limited voting,
7 cumulative voting, and preference voting, to help solve some of the
8 problems of designing fair and practical modes of election for
9 representative offices, particularly in local government, that will comply
10 with federal law;
11 (3) In general, the election laws, policies, and procedures of the State;
12 (4) The administration of those laws, policies, and procedures at the State
13 and local levels and the responsibilities of those administering these
14 laws; and
15 (5) Federal and State case rulings impinging on these laws, policies, and
16 practices.

17 (b) The Commission may recommend changes to the law that will:

- 18 (1) Address the problems of money in politics and the decline of civility in
19 politics;
20 (2) Take the proper approach toward alternative voting methods;
21 (3) Clarify the present election laws by removing inconsistencies and
22 outdated provisions, including those of dubious constitutionality;
23 (4) Incorporate in the law any desirable uncodified procedures, practices,
24 and rulings of a general nature that have been implemented by the State
25 Board of Elections and its Executive Secretary-Director;
26 (5) Conform the law to State and federal case law and to any requirements
27 of federal statutory law and regulation;
28 (6) Ensure the efficient and effective administration of elections in this
29 State;
30 (7) Continue the impartial, professional administration of elections, which
31 the citizens of the State expect and demand; and
32 (8) Recodify the election laws, as necessary, to produce a comprehensive
33 current statement of law and practice of elections in North Carolina.

34 Sec. 3. With the prior approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the
35 Legislative Administrative Officer shall assign professional and clerical staff to assist in
36 the work of the Election Laws Review Commission. Clerical staff shall be furnished to
37 the Commission through the Offices of the House of Representatives and Senate
38 Supervisors of Clerks. The expenses of employment of the clerical staff shall be borne
39 by the Commission. With the prior approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the
40 Election Laws Review Commission may hold its meetings in the State Legislative
41 Building or the Legislative Office Building.

42 Sec. 4. The Commission shall submit a final written report of its findings and
43 recommendations on or before the convening of the 1997 General Assembly. The

1 Commission may submit a written report to the 1996 Regular Session of the 1995
2 General Assembly. All reports shall be filed with the President Pro Tempore of the
3 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Principal Clerks of the
4 Senate and the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Librarian. Upon filing its
5 final report, the Commission shall terminate.

6 Sec. 5. Members of the Commission shall be paid per diem, subsistence, and
7 travel allowances as follows:

8 (1) Commission members who are also members of the General Assembly
9 at the rate established in G.S. 120-3.1;

10 (2) Commission members who are officials or employees of the State or
11 local government agencies at the rate established in G.S. 138-6;

12 (3) All other Commission members at the rate established in G.S. 138-5.

13 Sec. 6. The State Board of Elections and its Executive Secretary-Director,
14 local boards of elections, all other State departments and agencies, and local governments
15 and their subdivisions shall cooperate with the Commission and, upon request, shall
16 furnish to the Commission and its staff any information in their possession or available to
17 them.

18 Sec. 7. From the appropriations to the General Assembly for studies, the
19 Legislative Services Commission may allocate funds to conduct the work of the Election
20 Laws Review Commission.

21 Sec. 8. This act is effective upon ratification.