

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 736

Short Title: Voter I.D.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Justus; Cansler, Capps, Davis, Ives, Morris, and Sexton.

Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Reform.

April 1, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL COUNTIES TO ISSUE VOTER REGISTRATION
2 CARDS AND TO PROVIDE FOR A VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT
3 AT THE POLLS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 163-82.8 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 163-82.8. Voter registration cards.**

8 (a) Authority to Issue Card. —~~With the approval of the board of county~~
9 ~~commissioners, the~~ The county board of elections ~~may~~ shall issue to each voter in the
10 county a voter registration card, ~~or may issue cards to all voters registered after January~~
11 ~~1, 1995. card not later than December 31, 1997.~~

12 (b) Content and Format of Card. – At a minimum, the voter registration card shall:

13 (1) List the voter's name, address, and voting place;

14 (2) Contain the address and telephone number of the county board of
15 elections, along with blanks to report a change of address within the
16 county, change of name, and change of party affiliation; and

17 (3) Be wallet size.

18 No voter registration card may be issued by a county board of elections unless the
19 State Board of Elections has approved the format of the card.

1 (c) Ways County Board and Registrant May Use Card. —~~If the county board of~~
2 ~~elections issues voter registration cards, the~~ The county board may use that card as a notice
3 of tentative approval of the voter's application pursuant to G.S. 163-82.7(c), provided that
4 the mailing contains the statements and information required in that subsection. The
5 county board may also satisfy the requirements of G.S. 163-82.15(b), 163-82.16(b), or
6 163-82.17(b) by sending the registrant a replacement of the voter registration card to
7 verify change of address, change of name, or change of party affiliation. A registrant may
8 use the card to report a change of address, change of name, or change of party affiliation,
9 satisfying G.S. 163-82.15, 163-82.16, or 163-82.17.

10 (d) Card as Evidence of Registration. — A voter registration card shall be evidence
11 of registration but shall not preclude a challenge as permitted by law.

12 (e) ~~Display of Card May Not Be Required to Vote.~~ Card. —~~No~~ Except as provided by
13 G.S. 163-150(a), no county board of elections may require that a voter registration card
14 be displayed in order to vote."

15 Section 2. G.S. 163-150(a) reads as rewritten:

16 "(a) Checking Registration. — A person seeking to vote shall enter the voting
17 enclosure at the voting place through the appropriate entrance and shall at once state his
18 name and place of residence to one of the judges of election. A voter shall show one of
19 the following types of identification:

20 (1) A voter registration card issued under G.S. 163-82.8 in a county which
21 issues such cards;

22 (2) A drivers license;

23 (3) A special identification card issued under G.S. 20-37.7;

24 (4) A passport;

25 (5) An identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Defense; or

26 (6) A social security card and one other type of identification showing the
27 name and a picture of the voter.

28 A voter who does not show one of those types of identification, but does not
29 otherwise appear to be ineligible to vote in the precinct, shall be allowed to mark a
30 provisional ballot. The provisional ballot shall be sealed in an envelope on which the
31 voter shall sign an affidavit attesting to identity and eligibility to vote the ballot. The
32 county board of elections shall determine if the voter is eligible to cast the ballot and, if
33 so, shall count it, and if not, shall not count it. The State Board of Elections shall
34 promulgate rules for provisional ballot procedures to include instructions for county
35 boards of elections in methods to determine the eligibility of persons who vote a
36 provisional ballot under this subsection. In a primary election, the voter shall also state
37 the political party with which he affiliates and in whose primary he desires to vote, or if
38 the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to vote in the primary of a particular party
39 under G.S. ~~163-116, 163-119,~~ the voter shall state the name of the authorizing political
40 party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The judge to whom the voter gives this
41 information shall announce the name and residence of the voter in a distinct tone of
42 voice. After examining the precinct registration records, the chief judge shall state
43 whether the person seeking to vote is duly registered."

1 Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.