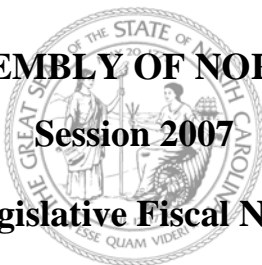


**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**



**Session 2007**

**Legislative Fiscal Note**

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 195 (First Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Registration and Voting at One-Stop Sites.

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Shaw

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes (X)</b>	<b>No ( )</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 2007-08</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2009-10</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2010-11</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2011-12</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
State Board of Elections	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Boards of Elections	\$400,000*	\$600,000*	\$400,000	\$600,000	\$400,000
	2008 Primary	2008 General	2010 Primary	2010 General	2012 Primary
* Funds available in HAVA/MOE. See Assumptions and Methodology.					
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b> State Board of Elections					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act become effective July 1, 2007, and shall apply to all primaries and elections held on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.					

**BILL SUMMARY:**

This bill enacts G.S. 163-82.6A (In-person registration and voting at one-stop sites), which allows qualified persons to register and vote at designated one-stop voting sites within their county of residence during specified times. A person registering and voting at a one-stop site must provide proof of residence and complete a voter registration form as prescribed by G.S. 163-82.4, and sign a statement under penalty of perjury that the person is a citizen of the United States and resides at the address given. This bill allows a person to vote immediately after registering or to vote later at a one-stop voting site, and requires the State Board of Elections and the county boards of elections to verify the driver's license or social security number, update the statewide registration database, and proceed to verify the person's address within two business days of the person's registration. This bill amends G.S. 163-82.6, which prohibited eligible voters from registering for the election prior to 25 days before an election, and enables a qualified voter to register and vote within this period at a one-stop voting site. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act become effective July 1, 2007, and shall apply to all primaries and elections held on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law. This bill also requires the State Board of Elections to monitor the implementation of the law and to determine the feasibility and timetable for expanding same-day

registration and voting to all voting places. The State Board of Elections must report its findings to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations no later than March 1, 2008.

*Source: Bill Digest S.B. 195 (02/15/0200).*

## **ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

### Background Information:

Beginning in 1973, the State of North Carolina made one-stop voting available at county election board offices, but voting was limited to registered voters that were unavailable to vote on Election Day. In 2000, the eligibility requirements for one-stop voting were expanded to include all registered voters. One-stop sites were allowed during even numbered years for the General Election. The 2000 legislation stipulated more than one one-stop site per county may be made available. The use of one-stop voting during primary elections became effective in 2001.

The expanded use of one-stop voting has increased the number of voters who choose to vote at a one-stop location. The number of one-stop voters increased 600,000 comparing 2000 and 2004 General Election voters. Each county contains at least one one-stop site. A Primary Election requires fewer sites than the General Election. In 2004, counties used 137 Primary Election one-stop sites and 202 General Election sites. Total labor costs associated with one-stop sites in the 2004 General Election totaled \$1,069,913. It is anticipated that counties will spend approximately \$2.5 million on 2008 Primary and General Election one-stop sites. This figure includes additional one-stop sites to accommodate increased awareness of one-stop voting and an increase in voter turnout that occurs during Presidential elections. It is not known how many new one-stop sites will be available in 2008 due to the increased demand that will normally result.

The Legislature appropriated \$250,000 in non-recurring funds in 2000 and 2002 that were used to offset county expenses for one-stop voting.

### Costs to the State Board of Elections:

Minimal costs can be absorbed in budget. Additional funding is not necessary.

### Costs to Local Boards of Elections:

Counties pay for the majority of electoral costs, including hiring Election Day personnel, training costs, ballot printing, and facility rental fees. Two costs to counties, both related to personnel costs, are associated with this bill.

First, additional personnel at one-stop sites and additional staff at the local county offices will be needed. The State Board of Elections estimates that one to three additional laborers at each one-stop site will be required and cost between \$1,300 - \$1,500 per person. These additional laborers will be needed up to 19 days prior to an election. Each urban county may require an additional laborer to process mail and follow up on applications issues, and cost between \$2,600 - \$3,000 per person. This staff may be necessary for up 30 days following the election.

Second, it is estimated that 20 to 30 additional one-stop sites, primarily located in urban areas or near large university campuses, will be needed to meet the increased demand for one-stop voting

that occurs as a result of this bill. The costs to fully staff these additional sites are included in the estimate.

The fiscal impact of this bill is therefore estimated to be \$400,000 for the 2008 Primary Election and \$600,000 for the 2008 General Election.

Potential Sources of Funding:

The State Board of Elections has not spent Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the required matching state appropriation for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds as quickly as required by the federal HAVA legislation. One-stop voting in which a presidential election is on the ballot is an allowable expense for HAVA and MOE funds. As a result, no General Fund appropriation will be necessary to appropriate funds for any 2008 one-stop voting purpose, including voter registration as required by this bill. The HAVA and MOE funds will be available for the 2008 Primary and General Elections, but are anticipated to be expended prior to the 2012 elections. A General Fund appropriation or County appropriations will be necessary to fund one-stop voting beyond the 2008 elections.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** State Board of Elections

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

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**DATE:** April 3, 2007



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**