

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 893

Short Title: Allow Early Voting/Last Saturday/Flexibility. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hawkins, Russell, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Elections and Ethics Law, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 22, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO RESTORE VOTING HOURS FOR ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING SITES ON THE LAST SATURDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION AND TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING HOURS OF OPERATION FOR ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING SITES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 163A-1300(b), as amended by Section 1.4(b) of S.L. 2018-144, reads as rewritten:

"(b) Not earlier than the third Wednesday before an election, in which absentee ballots are authorized, in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than ~~7:00 P.M. on the last Friday~~ 5:00 P.M. on the last Saturday before that election, the voter shall appear in person only at the office of the county board of elections, except as provided in G.S. 163A-1303. A county board of elections shall conduct one-stop voting on the last Saturday before the election from 7:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. on that Saturday. That voter shall enter the voting enclosure at the board office through the appropriate entrance and shall at once state his or her name and place of residence to an authorized member or employee of the board and present photo identification in accordance with G.S. 163A-1145.1. In a primary election, the voter shall also state the political party with which the voter affiliates and in whose primary the voter desires to vote, or if the voter is an unaffiliated voter permitted to vote in the primary of a particular party under G.S. 163A-989, the voter shall state the name of the authorizing political party in whose primary he wishes to vote. The board member or employee to whom the voter gives this information shall announce the name and residence of the voter in a distinct tone of voice. After examining the registration records, an employee of the board shall state whether the person seeking to vote is duly registered. If the voter is found to be registered that voter may request that the authorized member or employee of the board furnish the voter with an application form as specified in G.S. 163A-1391. The voter shall complete the application in the presence of the authorized member or employee of the board, and shall deliver the application to that person."

SECTION 2. G.S. 163A-1303, as amended by Section 3.4(g) of S.L. 2018-144, reads as rewritten:

"§ 163A-1303. Sites and hours for one-stop voting.

...

(c) For all sites approved for one-stop voting under this section, a county board of elections shall provide the following:

...



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1 (4) If the county board of elections opens one-stop sites on Saturdays other than
2 the last Saturday before the election during the period required by
3 G.S. 163A-1300(b), then all one-stop sites shall be open for the same number
4 of hours uniformly throughout the county on those Saturdays.

5 ...

6 (c1) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, a county board of elections by
7 unanimous vote of all its members may submit a request to the State Board to reduce or vary the
8 number of hours established by subsection (c) of this section for a primary or general election.
9 The reduction or variation shall take effect for that primary or general election only if approved
10 by unanimous vote of all members of the State Board.

11"

12 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held
13 on or after that date.