

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 778

Short Title: Voter Registration Study.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Michaux; and Burton.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 7, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO
2 STUDY THE CONFORMANCE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S VOTER
3 REGISTRATION SYSTEM TO THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT
4 OF 1993.
5

6 Whereas, the General Assembly of North Carolina enacted major reforms in
7 voter registration during the 1992 Regular Session of the 1991 General Assembly: voter
8 registration by mail, a more streamlined system of voter registration by drivers license
9 examiners, and a close of registration books three weeks before the election instead of
10 the current four; and

11 Whereas, those reforms were enacted to be put into effect by the time of the
12 1994 elections; and

13 Whereas, in the spring of 1993 the Congress was moving toward passage of
14 the National Voter Registration Act, which the President had indicated he intended to
15 sign; and

16 Whereas, the National Voter Registration Act was likely to mandate that
17 North Carolina and other states adopt some form of voter registration by mail and at
18 drivers license offices, as well as make other changes in its voter registration system;
19 and

20 Whereas, in the spring of 1993 it appeared that the national act would grant
21 powers to the Federal Elections Commission to design a standard registration-by-mail
22 form and perhaps to promulgate rules for the enforcement of the act so that, even after
23 the President signed the act, it could be months before the State would know what it
24 would need to do to comply; and

1 Whereas, in some versions of the national bill, the State appeared to have
2 options for compliance: for example, either following the directives of the bill or opting
3 out by allowing election-day registration; Now, therefore,
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission may study issues related to
6 the conformance of the State's voter registration system to the federal law.

7 Sec. 2. The issues the Legislative Research Commission may study include,
8 but are not limited to, the following:

- 9 (1) How North Carolina should redraft its election statutes to comply with
10 the federal law and at the same time ensure a voter registration system
11 that is convenient and efficient for both citizens and election
12 administrators.
- 13 (2) How North Carolina's mail-in registration form should relate to the
14 interstate form designed by the Federal Election Commission.
- 15 (3) How North Carolina should adapt its technology to its voter
16 registration system within the limits of the National Voter Registration
17 Act.
- 18 (4) How North Carolina can best reach out to its citizens who do not
19 participate in the election process.

20 Sec. 3. In appointing members of a committee to conduct the study
21 authorized by this act, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint at least
22 one member who is a county election supervisor, and the President Pro Tempore of the
23 Senate shall appoint at least one member who serves on a county board of elections.

24 Sec. 4. The Legislative Research Commission may make its
25 recommendations and submit an interim report to the 1993 General Assembly, Regular
26 Session 1994, and may make a final report to the 1995 General Assembly.

27 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.