

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1995**

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**SENATE BILL 971**

Judiciary I/Constitution Committee Substitute Adopted 5/9/95

Third Edition Engrossed 5/11/95

Select Review Committee On Senate Bill 971 Committee Substitute No. 2 Adopted 6/13/95

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House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/11/95

Short Title: Judicial Appt./Voter Retention.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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May 3, 1995

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO PROVIDE  
3 FOR GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME  
4 COURT AND JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, LEGISLATIVE  
5 CONFIRMATION, AND RETENTION BY VOTE OF THE PEOPLE, TO  
6 PROVIDE FOR ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES WITHIN THEIR  
7 DISTRICTS, TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS ON JUDICIAL CAMPAIGNS,  
8 AND TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PROMOTE  
9 JUDICIAL ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY WITHIN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
10 DIVISION OF THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY PROVIDING FOR  
11 FULL EIGHT-YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE WHEN VACANCIES ARISE AND AN  
12 ELECTION IS HELD OTHER THAN AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE PRIOR  
13 TERM FOR CERTAIN SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 Section 1. Section 16 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
2 rewritten:

3 ~~"Sec. 16. Terms of office and election of Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the~~  
4 ~~Court of Appeals, and Judges of the Superior Court. Selection and tenure of Justices of~~  
5 ~~the Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Appeals; election of Judges of the Superior~~  
6 ~~Court.~~

7 ~~Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and regular (1) Judges~~  
8 ~~of the Superior court shall be elected by the qualified voters and shall hold office for~~  
9 ~~terms of eight years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Justices of the~~  
10 ~~Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Appeals shall be elected by the qualified~~  
11 ~~voters of the State. Regular Judges of the Superior Court may be elected by the qualified~~  
12 ~~voters of the State or by the voters of their respective districts, as the General Assembly~~  
13 ~~may prescribe.~~

14 (2) General principles. Justices and judges of the Appellate Division should be  
15 selected for and continue to hold office solely upon the basis of personal and professional  
16 fitness to administer right and justice wisely, according to law, and without favor, denial,  
17 or delay, to all persons who come into the courts. While their continuation in office  
18 should be periodically subject to approval by the people, both their initial selection and  
19 continuation in office should be free, so far as may be, from the influences and  
20 necessities of partisan political activity.

21 (3) Nomination, confirmation, appointment retention election, and terms of  
22 justices and judges. On and after January 1, 1996, when a vacancy occurs in the office of  
23 Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division, the Governor shall  
24 nominate a person to fill the vacancy. Prior to appointment, such nominations by the  
25 Governor shall be subject to confirmation of the General Assembly by a majority of the  
26 members of each house present and voting prior to appointment. For the purposes of this  
27 section, creation of a new judgeship within the Appellate Division creates a vacancy.

28 Each house of the General Assembly shall vote on confirmation within 60 calendar  
29 days of the date of nomination, except that no day shall be included within that  
30 calculation if it is:

31 (a) Between sine die adjournment of one regular session and convening of  
32 the next regular session; or

33 (b) During any period when the General Assembly has adjourned a regular  
34 session for more than 30 days jointly as provided under Section 20 of  
35 Article II of this Constitution.

36 If a nomination is made during either of the periods listed in subdivision (a) or (b)  
37 of this subsection, the Governor may convene the General Assembly in extra session for  
38 the purpose of considering confirmation of the nomination. No action of that extra  
39 session shall be valid after the second calendar day of that session, and that extra session  
40 may not consider any matters other than rules for the extra session, confirmation of the  
41 nomination, and adjournment sine die. The nomination may not be confirmed in any  
42 extra session other than one called under this subsection.

1       The term of office by appointment as Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the  
2 Appellate Division extends through June 30 after the next statewide election for members  
3 of the General Assembly that is held more than 18 months after the nomination is  
4 confirmed. At that election, a person holding by appointment the office of Chief Justice,  
5 Associate Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division who desires to continue in office  
6 shall be subject to approval by nonpartisan ballot, by a majority of the votes cast on the  
7 issue of the Justice's or Judge's retention. A Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of  
8 the Appellate Division then approved for retention serves a regular term.

9       The regular term of office of the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and Judges of the  
10 Appellate Division is eight years and expires on June 30.

11       At the last statewide election for members of the General Assembly held before the  
12 expiration of a regular term of office, a Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the  
13 Appellate Division who desires to continue in office shall be subject to approval by  
14 nonpartisan ballot, by a majority of the votes cast on the issue of the Justice's or Judge's  
15 retention.

16       If the voters fail to approve the retention in office of a Chief Justice, Associate  
17 Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division serving an appointed or regular term, the  
18 office shall become vacant at the end of the term of office, and it shall be filled by  
19 nomination, confirmation, and appointment as prescribed in this section. In such case,  
20 the Governor may only nominate a person of the same political affiliation as the justice or  
21 judge who has not been retained in office. For the purpose of this section, the political  
22 affiliation of a nominee for justice or judge is determined as of 24 months preceding the  
23 date of the vacancy for which the nomination is made.

24       Voting in a retention election on the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and Judges of  
25 the Appellate Division shall be the qualified voters of the whole State.

26       (4) Transition provisions. The term of office of a person who has been elected  
27 before January 1, 1996, to the office of Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the  
28 Appellate Division for a term which extends beyond January 1, 1996, and who is in  
29 office on January 1, 1996, is extended through June 30 of the year following the eighth  
30 year after the date any such justice or judge was last elected to the office. If the person so  
31 elected continues to serve for the remainder of the term, that person may stand for  
32 retention in the office for a succeeding regular term as provided in this section. If the  
33 person continues to serve for the remainder of the term but does not stand for retention  
34 election, a vacancy is created in the office upon expiration of the term, and this vacancy  
35 shall be filled by nomination, confirmation, and appointment as provided in this section.

36       The term of office of a person who has been appointed before January 1, 1996, to the  
37 office of Chief Justice, Associate Justice, or Judge of the Appellate Division for a term  
38 which extends beyond January 1, 1996, and who is in office on January 1, 1996, shall end  
39 on June 30, 1999. If the person so appointed continues to serve for the remainder of the  
40 term, that person may stand for retention in the office for a regular term as provided by  
41 this section at the statewide election for members of the General Assembly held in 1998.

42       Upon the death, resignation, removal, or retirement of any incumbent justice or judge  
43 on or after January 1, 1996, and before the expiration of his term of office, the resulting

1 vacancy shall be filled by nomination, confirmation, and appointment as provided in this  
2 section.

3 Vacancies in judicial offices in the Appellate Division occurring before January 1,  
4 1996, and not filled by that date, shall be filled by nomination, confirmation, and  
5 appointment as provided in this section.

6 From the date any incumbent described in this subsection is continued in office by  
7 retention vote for a term next succeeding the term in progress on January 1, 1996, or is  
8 succeeded in office by another person, the office is held subject to the provisions of this  
9 section.

10 (5) The General Assembly may implement this section by general law."

11 Sec. 1.1. Section 16 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
12 rewritten:

13 "Sec. 16. Terms of office and election of Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the  
14 Court of Appeals, and Judges of the Superior Court.

15 Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and regular Judges of  
16 the Superior court shall be elected by the qualified voters and shall hold office for terms  
17 of eight years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Justices of the  
18 Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Appeals shall be elected by the qualified  
19 voters of the State. Regular Judges of the Superior Court ~~may shall~~ be elected by the  
20 qualified voters of the State ~~or by the voters of their respective districts, as the General~~  
21 ~~Assembly may prescribe districts."~~

22 Sec. 2. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to the  
23 qualified voters of the State at a statewide election on November 7, 1995, which election  
24 shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting  
25 systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.  
26 The reasonable additional costs of conducting the election shall be reimbursed by the  
27 State. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

28 **"[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST**

29 Constitutional amendment to replace the present practice of selecting justices  
30 and judges of the Appellate Division by gubernatorial appointment, followed by partisan  
31 elections, with a method by which justices and judges of the Appellate Division will be  
32 nominated by the Governor, confirmed by the General Assembly, and then serve for  
33 limited terms after which the question of the justice's or judge's retention in office is  
34 regularly submitted for approval or disapproval by nonpartisan vote of the people at  
35 general elections."

36 Sec. 2.1. (a) The amendment set out in Section 1.1 of this act shall be  
37 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide election on November 7,  
38 1995, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the  
39 State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of  
40 the General Statutes. The reasonable additional costs of conducting the election shall be  
41 reimbursed by the State. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall  
42 be:

43 **"[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST**

1 Constitutional amendment to provide for election of superior court judges in  
2 their districts."

3 (b) If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set  
4 out in Section 1.1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendment to  
5 the Secretary of State. The amendment becomes effective upon this certification. The  
6 Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the permanent records  
7 of that office.

8 Sec. 3. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
9 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the  
10 amendment to the Secretary of State. The amendment becomes effective upon this  
11 certification. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the  
12 permanent records of that office.

13 Sec. 3.1. Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
14 Article to read:

15 **"ARTICLE 1A.**

16 **"APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES,**  
17 **RETENTION ELECTIONS.**

18 **"§ 7A-4.1. Nomination of justices and judges by Governor and confirmation by**  
19 **General Assembly.**

20 (a) The office of Chief Justice and Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of the  
21 Court of Appeals are filled by nomination by the Governor subject to confirmation by the  
22 General Assembly in accordance with Section 16 of Article IV of the Constitution.

23 (b) Nominees are subject to confirmation as provided in this subsection. A  
24 nominee is confirmed by passage of a joint resolution of the General Assembly. The  
25 Governor may withdraw a nomination at any time.

26 **"§ 7A-4.2. Confirmation procedures.**

27 (a) A legislative committee to which the issue of confirmation is referred may  
28 conduct an investigation of the nominee. The investigation may include an evaluation of  
29 the nominee's ethical conduct, the nominee's knowledge of and application of the law, the  
30 nominee's management of the courts over which he has presided, the nominee's work  
31 habits, the nominee's health, and the nominee's judicial demeanor. The nominee or judge  
32 shall be given an opportunity to present to the committee any information that the  
33 nominee determines to be appropriate.

34 (b) The committee shall be allowed to inspect the files of the Judicial Standards  
35 Commission by request of the chairman of the committee. Notwithstanding the  
36 provisions of G.S. 7A-377, the files of the Judicial Standards Commission shall be made  
37 available to the committee. Testimony and other evidence presented to the committee is  
38 privileged in any action for defamation.

39 **"§ 7A-4.3. Governor to issue commissions to justices and judges.**

40 Every person duly nominated by the Governor as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,  
41 Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, or Judge of the Court of Appeals and duly  
42 confirmed by the General Assembly shall be appointed by the Governor and shall procure

1 from the Governor a commission attesting that fact, which the Governor shall issue upon  
2 receipt of a certification by the Secretary of State of the joint resolution of confirmation.

3 When a judge is retained in office by vote of the people, the Governor shall issue a  
4 commission attesting that fact, which the Governor shall issue upon receipt of a  
5 certification by the Secretary of State of the results of the election.

6 **"§ 7A-4.4. No elections in 1996.**

7 No partisan election as previously provided by law for Chief Justice or Associate  
8 Justice of the Supreme Court, or Judge of the Court of Appeals, shall be held in 1996 or  
9 thereafter.

10 **"§ 7A-4.5. Retention elections.**

11 (a) As provided by Section 16 of Article IV of the Constitution of North Carolina,  
12 a Chief Justice or Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of  
13 Appeals desiring to continue in office shall be subject to approval by nonpartisan ballot,  
14 by a majority of votes cast on the issue of the justice's or judge's retention.

15 (b) A person subject to subsection (a) of this section shall indicate the desire to  
16 continue in office by filing a notice to that effect with the State Board of Elections no  
17 later than 12:00 noon on the first business day of July in the year of the election. The  
18 notice shall be on a form approved by the State Board of Elections. Notice can be  
19 withdrawn at any time prior to the deadline for filing notice under this subsection.

20 (c) Retention elections shall be conducted and canvassed in accordance with rules  
21 of the State Board of Elections in the same general manner as general elections under  
22 Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, except that the retention election is nonpartisan. The  
23 form of the ballot shall be determined by the State Board of Elections.

24 (d) Retention elections shall be placed at the top of the ballot above all other  
25 elections or matters for decision, whether partisan, nonpartisan, or otherwise.

26 (e) If a person who has filed a notice calling a retention election dies or is removed  
27 from office prior to the time that the ballots are printed, the retention election is  
28 cancelled. If a person who has filed a notice calling a retention election dies or is  
29 removed from office after the ballots are printed, the State Board of Elections may cancel  
30 the election if it determines that the ballots can be reprinted without significant expense.  
31 If the ballots cannot be reprinted, then the results of the election shall be ineffective."

32 Sec. 3.2. (a) Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
33 section to read:

34 **"§ 7A-41.2. Nomination and election of regular superior court judges.**

35 Candidates for the office of regular superior court judge shall be both nominated and  
36 elected by the qualified voters of the superior court district for which the election is  
37 sought."

38 (b) G.S. 163-1 is amended in the table by deleting the word "State" in the column  
39 entitled "Jurisdiction" under the entry for "Judges of the superior courts", and substituting  
40 "Superior Court District".

41 (c) G.S. 163-140(a) reads as rewritten:

42 "(a) Kinds of General Election Ballots; Right to Combine. – For purposes of  
43 general elections, there shall be seven kinds of official ballots entitled:

- 1 (1) Ballot for presidential electors
- 2 (2) Ballot for United States Senator
- 3 (3) Ballot for member of the United States House of Representatives
- 4 (4) State ballot
- 5 (5) County ballot
- 6 (6) Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 793, s. 56.
- 7 (7) Ballot for constitutional amendments and other propositions submitted
- 8 to the people.

9 Use of official ballots shall be limited to the purposes indicated by their titles. The  
10 printing on all ballots shall be plain and legible but, unless large type is specified by this  
11 section, type larger than 10-point shall not be used in printing ballots. All general election  
12 ballots shall be prepared in such a way as to leave sufficient blank space beneath each  
13 name printed thereon in which a voter may conveniently write the name of any person for  
14 whom he may desire to vote.

15 Unless prohibited by this section, the board of elections, State or county, charged by  
16 law with printing ballots may, in its discretion, combine any two or more official ballots.  
17 Whenever two or more ballots are combined, the voting instructions for the State ballot  
18 set out in subsection (b)(4) of this section shall be used, except that if the two ballots  
19 being combined do not contain a multi-seat race, then the second sentence of instruction  
20 b. shall not appear on the ballot.

21 Contests in the general election for seats in the State House of Representatives and  
22 State Senate shall be on ballots that are separate from ballots containing non-legislative  
23 contests, except where the voting system used makes separation of ballots impractical.  
24 State House and State Senate contests shall be on the same ballot, unless one is a single-  
25 seat contest and the other a multi-seat contest.

26 ~~If the State Board of Elections divides the State ballot into two or more ballots, all~~  
27 All candidates for superior court shall appear on the same ballot except that the ~~State~~  
28 ~~Board of Elections~~ appropriate board of elections may divide the election of superior  
29 court judges into two ballots ~~either because of length of the ballot or to provide a separate~~  
30 ballot for multi-seat races but only superior court judges shall be on those ~~ballots, and all~~  
31 ~~candidates for the Appellate Division shall appear on the same ballot~~ ballots."

32 (d) G.S. 163-140(b)(4) reads as rewritten:

33 "(4) State Ballot: Beneath the title and general instructions set out in this  
34 subsection, the ballot for single-seat contests for State officers, and for  
35 all State officers where mechanical voting machines are used (~~including~~  
36 ~~judges of the superior court~~) shall be divided into parallel columns  
37 separated by distinct black lines. The State Board of Elections shall  
38 assign a separate column to each political party having candidates for  
39 State offices and one to unaffiliated candidates, if any. At the head of  
40 each party column the party's name shall be printed in large type, and at  
41 the head of the column for unaffiliated candidates shall be printed in  
42 large type the words 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' Below the party name in  
43 each column shall be printed a circle, one-half inch in diameter, around

1 which shall be plainly printed the following instruction: 'For a straight  
2 ticket, mark within this circle.' With distinct black lines, the State  
3 Board of Elections shall divide the columns into horizontal sections and,  
4 in the customary order of office, assign a separate section to each office  
5 or group of offices to be filled. On a single line at the top of each  
6 section shall be printed a direction as to the number of candidates for  
7 whom a vote may be cast. If candidates are to be chosen for different  
8 terms to the same office, the term in each instance shall be printed as  
9 part of the title of the office.

10 The name or names of each political party's candidate or candidates  
11 for each office listed on the ballot shall be printed in the appropriate  
12 office section of the proper party column, and the names of unaffiliated  
13 candidates shall be printed in the appropriate office section of the  
14 column headed 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' At the left of each name shall  
15 be printed a voting square, and in each column all voting squares shall  
16 be arranged in a perpendicular line.

17 On the face of the ballot, above the party and unaffiliated column  
18 division, the following instructions shall be printed in heavy black type,  
19 and the words 'you must also' in instruction c. shall be underlined:

- 20 'a. To vote for all candidates of one party (a straight ticket), make a  
21 cross (X) mark in the circle of the party for whose candidates you  
22 wish to vote.
- 23 b. You may vote a split ticket by not marking a cross (X) mark in  
24 the party circle, but by making a cross (X) mark in the square  
25 opposite the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.
- 26 c. You may also vote a split ticket by marking a cross (X) mark in  
27 the party circle and then making a cross (X) mark in the square  
28 opposite the name of any candidate you choose of a different  
29 party. In any multi-seat race where a party circle is marked and  
30 you vote for candidates of another party, you must also make a  
31 cross (X) mark opposite the name of any candidate you choose of  
32 the party for which you marked the party circle to assure your  
33 vote will count.
- 34 d. If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get  
35 another.'

36 On the bottom of the ballot shall be printed an identified facsimile of  
37 the signature of the Chairman of the State Board of Elections. If the  
38 State ballot contains no multi-seat race, then the second sentence of  
39 instruction b. shall not appear on the ballot."

40 (e) G.S. 163-140(b)(5) reads as rewritten:

41 "(5) County Ballot: Beneath the title and general instructions set out in this  
42 subsection, the ballot for single-seat contests for county officers  
43 (including district attorney for the prosecutorial district in which the



1 county is situated, district judge for the district court district in which  
2 the county is situated, regular resident superior court judge for the  
3 superior court district in which the county or part thereof is situated, and  
4 members of the General Assembly in the senatorial and representative  
5 districts in which the county is situated), and for all county offices  
6 where mechanical voting machines are used, shall be divided into  
7 parallel columns separated by distinct black lines. The county board of  
8 elections shall assign a separate column to each political party having  
9 candidates for the offices on the ballot and one to unaffiliated  
10 candidates, if any. At the head of each party column the party's name  
11 shall be printed in large type and at the head of the column for  
12 unaffiliated candidates shall be printed in large type the words  
13 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' Below the party name in each column shall be  
14 printed a circle, one-half inch in diameter, around which shall be plainly  
15 printed the following instruction: 'For a straight ticket, mark within this  
16 circle.' With distinct black lines, the county board of elections shall  
17 divide the columns into horizontal sections and, in the customary order  
18 of office, assign a separate section to each office or group of offices to  
19 be filled. On a single line at the top of each section shall be printed the  
20 title of the office, and directly below the title shall be printed a direction  
21 as to the number of candidates for whom a vote may be cast. If  
22 candidates are to be chosen for different terms to the same office, the  
23 term in each instance shall be printed as part of the title of the office.

24 The name or names of each political party's candidate or candidates  
25 for each office listed on the ballot shall be printed in the appropriate  
26 office section of the proper party column, and the names of unaffiliated  
27 candidates shall be printed in the appropriate office section of the  
28 column headed 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' At the left of each name shall  
29 be printed a voting square, and in each column all voting squares shall  
30 be arranged in a perpendicular line.

31 On the face of the ballot, above the party and unaffiliated column  
32 division, the following instructions shall be printed in heavy black type,  
33 and the words 'you must also' in instruction c. shall be underlined:

- 34 'a. To vote for all candidates of one party (a straight ticket), make a  
35 cross (X) mark in the circle of the party for whose candidates you  
36 wish to vote.
- 37 b. You may vote a split ticket by not marking a cross (X) mark in  
38 the party circle, but by making a cross (X) mark in the square  
39 opposite the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.
- 40 c. You may also vote a split ticket by marking a cross (X) mark in  
41 the party circle and then making a cross (X) mark in the square  
42 opposite the name of any candidate you choose of a different  
43 party. In any multi-seat race where a party circle is marked and

1                   you vote for candidates of another party, you must also make a  
2                   cross (X) mark opposite the name of any candidate you choose of  
3                   the party for which you marked the party circle to assure your  
4                   vote will count.

- 5                   d.       If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get  
6                   another.'

7                   On the bottom of the ballot shall be printed an identified facsimile of  
8                   the signature of the chairman of the county board of elections. If the  
9                   county ballot contains no multi-seat race, then the second sentence of  
10                  instruction b. shall not appear on the ballot."

11                  (f) G.S. 163-192 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 163-192. State Board of Elections to prepare abstracts and declare results of**  
13 **primaries and elections.**

14                  (a) After Primary. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the primary election, the  
15 State Board of Elections shall prepare separate abstracts of the votes cast:

- 16                  (1) For Governor and all State officers, justices of the Supreme Court,  
17                  judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~judges of the superior court,~~ and United  
18                  States Senators.  
19                  (2) For members of the United States House of Representatives for the  
20                  several congressional districts in the State.  
21                  (3) For district court judges for the several district court districts in the  
22                  State.  
23                  (3a) For superior court judges for the several superior court districts in the  
24                  State.  
25                  (4) For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.  
26                  (5) For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State  
27                  composed of more than one county.  
28                  (6) For members of the State House of Representatives in the several  
29                  representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.

30                  Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state  
31                  the total number of votes cast for each candidate of each political party for each of the  
32                  various offices canvassed by the State Board of Elections. They shall also state the name  
33                  or names of the person or persons whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and  
34                  judicially determine by the count to be nominated for each office.

35                  Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State  
36                  Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State  
37                  affixed thereto.

38                  (b) After General Election. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the general  
39                  election, the State Board of Elections shall prepare abstracts of the votes cast:

- 40                  (1) For President and Vice-President of the United States, when an election  
41                  is held for those offices.

- 1 (2) For Governor and all State officers, justices of the Supreme Court,  
2 judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~judges of the superior court,~~ and United  
3 States Senators.
- 4 (3) For members of the United States House of Representatives for the  
5 several congressional districts in the State.
- 6 (4) For district court judges for the several district court districts as defined  
7 in G.S. 7A-133 in the State.
- 8 (4a) For superior court judges for the several superior court districts in the  
9 State.
- 10 (5) For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.
- 11 (6) For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State  
12 composed of more than one county.
- 13 (7) For members of the State House of Representatives in the several  
14 representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.
- 15 (8) For and against any constitutional amendments or propositions  
16 submitted to the people.

17 Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state  
18 the names of all persons voted for, the office for which each received votes, and the  
19 number of legal ballots cast for each candidate for each office canvassed by the State  
20 Board of Elections. They shall also state the name or names of the person or persons  
21 whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and judicially determine by the count  
22 to be elected to each office.

23 Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State  
24 Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State  
25 affixed thereto.

26 (c) Disposition of Abstracts of Returns. – The State Board of Elections shall file  
27 with the Secretary of State the original abstracts of returns prepared by it under the  
28 provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and also the duplicate county  
29 abstracts transmitted to the State Board of Elections under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
30 177. Upon the request of the Legislative Services Office, the Secretary of State shall  
31 submit a copy of the original abstracts to that Office."

32 Sec. 3.3. For the purpose of Section 1 of this act, terms of justices and judges  
33 covered by Section 2 of Chapter 98 of the 1995 Session Laws are as provided by that act.

34 Sec. 3.4. G.S. 7A-10(a) reads as rewritten:

35 "(a) The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and six associate justices,  
36 ~~elected by the qualified voters of the State for terms of eight years~~selected as provided by  
37 Article 1A of this Chapter. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each justice shall  
38 take an oath of office. Four justices shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the  
39 business of the court. Sessions of the court shall be held in the city of Raleigh, and  
40 scheduled by rule of court so as to discharge expeditiously the court's business."

41 Sec. 3.5. G.S. 7A-16 reads as rewritten:

42 "**§ 7A-16. Creation and organization.**

~~The Court of Appeals is created effective January 1, 1967. It shall consist initially of six judges, elected by the qualified voters of the State for terms of eight years. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one of the judges as Chief Judge, to serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Before entering upon the duties of his office, a judge of the Court of Appeals shall take the oath of office prescribed for a judge of the General Court of Justice.~~

~~The Governor on or after July 1, 1967, shall make temporary appointments to the six initial judgeships. The appointees shall serve until January 1, 1969. Their successors shall be elected at the general election for members of the General Assembly in November, 1968, and shall take office on January 1, 1969, to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term which began on January 1, 1967.~~

~~Upon the appointment of at least five judges, and the designation of a Chief Judge, the court is authorized to convene, organize, and promulgate, subject to the approval of the Supreme Court, such supplementary rules as it deems necessary and appropriate for the discharge of the judicial business lawfully assigned to it.~~

~~Effective January 1, 1969, the number of judges is increased to nine, and the Governor, on or after March 1, 1969, shall make temporary appointments to the additional judgeships thus created. The appointees shall serve until January 1, 1971. Their successors shall be elected at the general election for members of the General Assembly in November, 1970, and shall take office on January 1, 1971, to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term which began on January 1, 1969.~~

~~Effective January 1, 1977, the number of judges is increased to 12; and the Governor, on or after July 1, 1977, shall make temporary appointments to the additional judgeships thus created. The appointees shall serve until January 1, 1979. Their successors shall be elected at the general election for members of the General Assembly in November, 1978, and shall take office on January 1, 1979, to serve the remainder of the unexpired term which began on January 1, 1977.~~

The Court of Appeals shall consist of 12 judges, selected as provided in Article 1A of this Chapter. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one of the judges as Chief Judge to serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Before entering upon the duties of his office, a judge of the Court of Appeals shall take the oath of office prescribed for a judge of the General Court of Justice.

The Court of Appeals shall sit in panels of three judges each. The Chief Judge insofar as practicable shall assign the members to panels in such fashion that each member sits a substantially equal number of times with each other member. He shall preside over the panel of which he is a member, and shall designate the presiding judge of the other panel or panels.

Three judges shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the court, except as may be provided in G.S. 7A-32.

In the event the Chief Judge is unable, on account of absence or temporary incapacity, to perform the duties placed upon him as Chief Judge, the Chief Justice shall appoint an acting Chief Judge from the other judges of the Court, to temporarily discharge the duties of Chief Judge."

1           Sec. 3.6. G.S. 163-106(c) reads as rewritten:

2           "(c) Time for Filing Notice of Candidacy. – Candidates seeking party primary  
3 nominations for the following offices shall file their notice of candidacy with the State  
4 Board of Elections no earlier than 12:00 noon on the first Monday in January and no later  
5 than 12:00 noon on the first Monday in February preceding the primary:

6           Governor

7           Lieutenant Governor

8           All State executive officers

9           ~~Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals~~

10          Judges of the superior courts

11          Judges of the district courts

12          United States Senators

13          Members of the House of Representatives of the United States

14          District attorneys

15          Candidates seeking party primary nominations for the following offices shall file their  
16 notice of candidacy with the county board of elections no earlier than 12:00 noon on the  
17 first Monday in January and no later than 12:00 noon on the first Monday in February  
18 preceding the primary:

19          State Senators

20          Members of the State House of Representatives

21          All county offices."

22          Sec. 3.7. G.S. 163-106(d) reads as rewritten:

23          "(d) Notice of Candidacy for Certain Offices to Indicate Vacancy. – In any primary  
24 in which there are ~~two or more vacancies for Chief Justice and associate justices of the~~  
25 ~~Supreme Court, two or more vacancies for judge of the Court of Appeals, or two~~  
26 vacancies for United States Senator from North Carolina or two or more vacancies for the  
27 office of district court judge to be filled by nominations, each candidate shall, at the time  
28 of filing notice of candidacy, file with the State Board of Elections a written statement  
29 designating the vacancy to which he seeks nomination. Votes cast for a candidate shall be  
30 effective only for his nomination to the vacancy for which he has given notice of  
31 candidacy as provided in this subsection.

32          A person seeking party nomination for a specialized district judgeship established  
33 under G.S. 7A-147 shall, at the time of filing notice of candidacy, file with the State  
34 Board of Elections a written statement designating the specialized judgeship to which he  
35 seeks nomination."

36          Sec. 3.8. G.S. 163-107(a) reads as rewritten:

37          "(a) Fee Schedule. – At the time of filing a notice of candidacy, each candidate  
38 shall pay to the board of elections with which he files under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
39 106 a filing fee for the office he seeks in the amount specified in the following tabulation:

40                 Office Sought     Amount of Filing Fee

41

42                 Governor One percent (1%) of the annual

43

salary of the office sought

1	Lieutenant Governor	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
2		
3	All State executive offices	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
4		
5	<del>All Justices, Judges, and—</del>	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
6	<u>Superior Court Judges,</u>	
7	<u>District Court Judges,</u>	
8	District Attorneys of the	
9	General Court of Justice	
10	United States Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
11		
12	Members of the United States	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
13	House of Representatives	
14	State Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
15		
16	Member of the State House of	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
17	Representatives	
18	All county offices not	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
19	compensated by fees	
20	County commissioners, if	Ten dollars (\$10.00)
21	compensated entirely by fees	
22	Members of county board of	Five dollars (\$5.00)
23	education, if compensated	
24	entirely by fees	
25	Sheriff, if compensated	Forty dollars(\$40.00), plus one
26	entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
27		office above four thousand
28		dollars (\$4,000)
29	Clerk of superior court, if	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one
30	compensated entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
31		office above four thousand
32		dollars (\$4,000)
33	Register of deeds, if	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one
34	compensated entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
35		office above four thousand
36		dollars(\$4,000)
37	Any other county office, if	Twenty dollars (\$20.00), plus one
38	compensated entirely by fees	percent (1%) of the income of the
39		office above two thousand dollars
40		(\$2,000)
41	All county offices compensated	One percent (1%) of the first
42	partly by salary and partly	annual salary to be received
43	by fees (exclusive of fees)." Sec. 3.9. G.S. 163-107.1(b) reads as rewritten:	

1       "(b) If the candidate is seeking the office of United States Senator, Governor,  
2 Lieutenant Governor, or any State executive officer, Justice of the Supreme Court or  
3 Judge of the Court of Appeals, the petition must be signed by 10,000 registered voters  
4 who are members of the political party in whose primary the candidate desires to run,  
5 except that in the case of a political party as defined by G.S. 163-96(a)(2) which will be  
6 making nominations by primary election, the petition must be signed by ten percent  
7 (10%) of the registered voters of the State who are affiliated with the same political party  
8 in whose primary the candidate desires to run, or in the alternative, the petition shall be  
9 signed by no less than 10,000 registered voters regardless of the voter's political party  
10 affiliation, whichever requirement is greater. The petition must be filed with the State  
11 Board of Elections not later than 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the filing deadline  
12 before the primary in which he seeks to run. The names on the petition shall be verified  
13 by the board of elections of the county where the signer is registered, and the petition  
14 must be presented to the county board of elections at least 15 days before the petition is  
15 due to be filed with the State Board of Elections. When a proper petition has been filed,  
16 the candidate's name shall be printed on the primary ballot."

17       Sec. 3.10. G.S. 163-111(c)(1) reads as rewritten:

18       "(1) A candidate who is apparently entitled to demand a second primary,  
19 according to the unofficial results, for one of the offices listed below,  
20 and desiring to do so, shall file a request for a second primary in writing  
21 or by telegram with the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board  
22 of Elections no later than 12:00 noon on the seventh day (including  
23 Saturdays and Sundays) following the date on which the primary was  
24 conducted, and such request shall be subject to the certification of the  
25 official results by the State Board of Elections. If the vote certification  
26 by the State Board of Elections determines that a candidate who was not  
27 originally thought to be eligible to call for a second primary is in fact  
28 eligible to call for a second primary, the Executive Secretary-Director of  
29 the State Board of Elections shall immediately notify such candidate  
30 and permit him to exercise any options available to him within a 48-  
31 hour period following the notification:

32           Governor,

33           Lieutenant Governor,

34           All State executive officers,

35           ~~Justices, Judges, or Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges~~

36           or District Attorneys of the General Court of Justice,

37           United States Senators,

38           Members of the United States House of Representatives,

39           State Senators in multi-county senatorial districts, and

40           Members of the State House of Representatives in multi-county  
41 representative districts."

42       Sec. 3.11. G.S. 163-177 reads as rewritten:

43       "**§ 163-177. Disposition of duplicate abstracts.**

1 Within six hours after the returns of a primary or election have been canvassed and  
2 the results judicially determined, the chairman of the county board of elections shall mail,  
3 or otherwise deliver, to the State Board of Elections the duplicate-original abstracts  
4 prepared in accordance with G.S. 163-176 for all offices and referenda for which the  
5 State Board of Elections is required to canvass the votes and declare the results including:

6 President and Vice-President of the United States

7 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and all other State executive officers

8 United States Senators

9 Members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress

10 ~~Justices, Judges, and Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges and District~~

11 Attorneys of the General Court of Justice

12 State Senators in multi-county senatorial districts

13 Members of the State House of Representatives in multi-county representative  
14 districts

15 Constitutional amendments and propositions submitted to the voters of the State.

16 One duplicate abstract prepared in accordance with G.S. 163-176 for all offices and  
17 referenda for which the county board of elections is required to canvass the votes and  
18 declare the results (and which are listed below) shall be retained by the county board,  
19 which shall forthwith publish and declare the results; the second duplicate abstract shall  
20 be mailed to the chairman of the State Board of Elections, to the end that there be one set  
21 of all primary and election returns available at the seat of government.

22 All county offices

23 State Senators in single-county senatorial districts

24 Members of the State House of Representatives in single-county representative  
25 districts

26 Propositions submitted to the voters of one county.

27 If the chairman of the county board of elections fails or neglects to transmit duplicate  
28 abstracts to the chairman of the State Board of Elections within the time prescribed in this  
29 section, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Provided, that the penalty shall not apply if  
30 the chairman was prevented from performing the prescribed duty because of sickness or  
31 other unavoidable delay, but the burden of proof shall be on the chairman to show that his  
32 failure to perform was due to sickness or unavoidable delay."

33 Sec. 3.12. G.S. 163-192 reads as rewritten:

34 **"§ 163-192. State Board of Elections to prepare abstracts and declare results of**  
35 **primaries and elections.**

36 (a) After Primary. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the primary election,  
37 the State Board of Elections shall prepare separate abstracts of the votes cast:

38 (1) For Governor and all State officers, ~~justices of the Supreme Court,~~  
39 ~~judges of the Court of Appeals,~~ judges of the superior court, and United  
40 States Senators.

41 (2) For members of the United States House of Representatives for the  
42 several congressional districts in the State.



- 1 (3) For district court judges for the several district court districts in the  
2 State.
- 3 (4) For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.
- 4 (5) For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State  
5 composed of more than one county.
- 6 (6) For members of the State House of Representatives in the several  
7 representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.

8 Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state  
9 the total number of votes cast for each candidate of each political party for each of the  
10 various offices canvassed by the State Board of Elections. They shall also state the name  
11 or names of the person or persons whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and  
12 judicially determine by the count to be nominated for each office.

13 Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State  
14 Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State  
15 affixed thereto.

16 (b) After General Election. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the general  
17 election, the State Board of Elections shall prepare abstracts of the votes cast:

- 18 (1) For President and Vice-President of the United States, when an election  
19 is held for those offices.
- 20 (2) For Governor and all State officers, ~~justices of the Supreme Court,~~  
21 ~~judges of the Court of Appeals,~~ judges of the superior court, and United  
22 States Senators.
- 23 (3) For members of the United States House of Representatives for the  
24 several congressional districts in the State.
- 25 (4) For district court judges for the several district court districts as defined  
26 in G.S. 7A-133 in the State.
- 27 (5) For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.
- 28 (6) For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State  
29 composed of more than one county.
- 30 (7) For members of the State House of Representatives in the several  
31 representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.
- 32 (8) For and against any constitutional amendments or propositions  
33 submitted to the people.

34 Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state  
35 the names of all persons voted for, the office for which each received votes, and the  
36 number of legal ballots cast for each candidate for each office canvassed by the State  
37 Board of Elections. They shall also state the name or names of the person or persons  
38 whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and judicially determine by the count  
39 to be elected to each office.

40 Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State  
41 Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State  
42 affixed thereto.

1 (c) Disposition of Abstracts of Returns. – The State Board of Elections shall file  
2 with the Secretary of State the original abstracts of returns prepared by it under the  
3 provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and also the duplicate county  
4 abstracts transmitted to the State Board of Elections under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
5 177. Upon the request of the Legislative Services Office, the Secretary of State shall  
6 submit a copy of the original abstracts to that Office."

7 Sec. 3.13. G.S. 163-194 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 163-194. Governor to issue commissions to certain elected officials.**

9 Every person duly elected to one of the offices listed below, upon obtaining a  
10 certificate of his election from the Secretary of State under the provisions of G.S. 163-  
11 193, shall procure from the Governor a commission attesting his election to the specified  
12 office, which the Governor shall issue upon production of the Secretary of State's  
13 certificate:

14 Members of the United States House of Representatives,  
15 ~~Justices, Judges, and Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges and District~~  
16 ~~Attorneys of the General Court of Justice."~~

17 Sec. 3.14. G.S. 163-1 is amended in the table by deleting the entries for  
18 "Justices and Judges of the Appellate Division".

19 Sec. 3.15. G.S. 163-9 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 163-9. Filling vacancies in State and district judicial offices.**

21 Vacancies occurring in the ~~offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court~~  
22 ~~of Appeals, and office of~~ judge of the superior court for causes other than expiration of  
23 term shall be filled by appointment of the Governor. An appointee shall hold his place  
24 until the next election for members of the General Assembly that is held more than 60  
25 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time an election shall be held to fill the unexpired  
26 term of the office: Provided, that when the unexpired term of the office in which the  
27 vacancy has occurred expires on the first day of January succeeding the next election for  
28 members of the General Assembly, the Governor shall appoint to fill that vacancy for the  
29 unexpired term of the office.

30 Vacancies in the office of district judge which occur before the expiration of a term  
31 shall not be filled by election. Vacancies in the office of district judge shall be filled in  
32 accordance with G.S. 7A-142."

33 Sec. 3.16. Section 3.1 and Sections 3.3 through 3.15 of this act are effective  
34 only if the constitutional amendment proposed by Section 1 of this act is approved by the  
35 qualified voters in accordance with Section 2 of this act. Section 3.2 of this act is  
36 effective only if the constitutional amendment proposed by Section 1.1 of this act is  
37 approved by the qualified voters in accordance with Section 2.1 of this act.

38 Sec. 3.17. G.S. 163-9 as rewritten by Chapter 98 of the 1995 Session Laws  
39 reads as rewritten:

40 **"§ 163-9. Filling vacancies in State and district judicial offices.**

41 (a) Vacancies occurring in the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, judge of  
42 the Court of Appeals, and judge of the superior court for causes other than expiration of  
43 term shall be filled by appointment of the Governor. An appointee to the office of Justice

1 of the Supreme Court or judge of the Court of Appeals shall hold office until January 1  
2 next following the election for members of the General Assembly that is held more than  
3 60 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time an election shall be held for an eight-year  
4 term and until a successor is elected and qualified. Except for judges specified in  
5 subsection (b) of this section, an An appointee to the office of judge of superior court  
6 shall hold his place the office until the next election for members of the General  
7 Assembly that is held more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time an  
8 election shall be held to fill the unexpired term of the office. When the unexpired term of  
9 the office in which the vacancy has occurred expires on the first day of January  
10 succeeding the next election for members of the General Assembly, the Governor shall  
11 appoint to fill that vacancy for the unexpired term of the office.

12 Vacancies in the office of district judge which occur before the expiration of a term  
13 shall not be filled by election. Vacancies in the office of district judge shall be filled in  
14 accordance with G.S. 7A-142.

15 (b) Appointees for judges of the superior court from any district:

16 (1) With only one resident judge; or

17 (2) In which no county is subject to section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of  
18 1965,

19 shall hold the office until the next election of members of the General Assembly that is  
20 held more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time an election shall be held  
21 to fill an eight-year term."

22 Sec. 3.18. If any provision of this act is held invalid by a court of competent  
23 jurisdiction, or is unenforceable under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the  
24 invalidity does not affect other provisions of this act that can be given effect without the  
25 invalid provision.

26 Sec. 3.19. G.S. 7A-376 reads as rewritten:

27 "**§ 7A-376. Grounds for censure or removal.**

28 Upon recommendation of the Commission, the Supreme Court may censure or  
29 remove any judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to  
30 perform his duties, habitual intemperance, conviction of a crime involving moral  
31 turpitude, or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial  
32 office into disrepute. No speech, campaign advertisement, literature, or conduct in the  
33 course of a campaign by a judicial candidate in the campaign of that candidate is conduct  
34 prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute if  
35 such act is lawful for a candidate for nonjudicial office. Upon recommendation of the  
36 Commission, the Supreme Court may remove any judge for mental or physical incapacity  
37 interfering with the performance of his duties, which is, or is likely to become,  
38 permanent. A judge removed for mental or physical incapacity is entitled to retirement  
39 compensation if he has accumulated the years of creditable service required for  
40 incapacity or disability retirement under any provision of State law, but he shall not sit as  
41 an emergency justice or judge. A judge removed for other than mental or physical  
42 incapacity receives no retirement compensation, and is disqualified from holding further  
43 judicial office."

1           Sec. 4. Notwithstanding G.S. 163-107(c), in 1996 only, if at the time filing of  
2 notices for candidacy for the offices of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice of the  
3 Supreme Court, or Judge of the Court of Appeals, is to open under G.S. 163-106(c), the  
4 provisions of this act that provide that those offices are no longer elective have not been  
5 approved under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, then notices of candidacy for  
6 that office shall not be filed with the State Board of Elections earlier than the third  
7 Monday in January.

8           Sec. 4.1. The General Assembly shall appropriate from the General Fund to  
9 the State Board of Elections for fiscal year 1995-96 sufficient funds to reimburse the  
10 counties for the reasonable additional costs of conducting the election provided by  
11 Section 2 of this act.

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