

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 413

Short Title: Perquimans Comm'r. Elections.

(Local)

Sponsors: Representative R. Thompson.

Referred to: Local and Regional Government I.

March 10, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE PERQUIMANS
2 COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITY
3 FOR MINORITY CITIZENS TO ELECT CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners shall consist of
7 six members elected from the county at large.

8 Sec. 2. Three commissioners shall be elected in 1994 and every four years
9 thereafter, and three commissioners shall be elected in 1996 and every four years
10 thereafter. For each election, in both the party primary and general election, all eligible
11 candidates for the three offices shall be listed on a single ballot, but each voter shall be
12 allowed to vote for only one candidate. The three candidates receiving the most votes in
13 the primary shall be nominated, and the three candidates receiving the most votes in the
14 general election shall be elected, with no runoffs.

15 Sec. 3. The commissioners elected in 1990 and 1992 are entitled to serve the
16 remainders of the terms for which elected.

17 Sec. 4. Within 30 days of preclearance of this act pursuant to Section 5 of the
18 Voting Rights Act, the present members of the Board of Commissioners shall appoint a
19 person to fill the vacancy created by the increase in the size of the Board. The person
20 appointed to that vacancy shall be representative of the black citizens of Perquimans
21 County. The person who is appointed shall serve a term to expire when the
22 commissioners elected in 1994 take office.

23 Sec. 5. If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the remaining commissioners shall
24 appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy. The appointment to fill the vacancy is for

1 the remainder of the unexpired term. In making appointments to fill vacancies, the
2 remaining Board members should attempt to assure that the Board continues to be
3 representative of all citizens of the county.

4 Sec. 6. Any vacancy on the Board after the effective date of this act shall be
5 filled without regard to the township residency of the vacating commissioner or the
6 person being appointed.

7 Sec. 7. After the commissioners elected in 1996 take office, the Board of
8 Commissioners shall review the election experience under this act, including whether
9 the election system enacted here has improved the opportunity for black voters to elect
10 candidates of their choice, and determine whether any further changes are needed to
11 provide fair representation for all citizens of the county. In making this review, the
12 Board of Commissioners shall consult with the Board of Education.

13 Sec. 8. The following local acts concerning the election of the Perquimans
14 County Board of Commissioners are repealed: Chapter 137, Public-Local Acts of 1939;
15 Chapter 1109, Session Laws of 1959; Chapter 348, Session Laws of 1963; and Chapter
16 104, Sessions Laws of 1989.

17 Sec. 9. This act is effective upon ratification but shall not be implemented
18 until precleared pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act.