

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 98
State and Local Government Committee Substitute Adopted 6/1/05
Third Edition Engrossed 6/1/05
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/13/05**

Short Title: Orange County Voting Centers.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 10, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO
3 CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM IN CHAPEL HILL TOWNSHIP IN WHICH
4 THE METHODS USED IN ONE-STOP VOTING WOULD CONTINUE ON
5 ELECTION DAY AS THE VOTING METHOD, ALL TO BE KNOWN AS
6 VOTING CENTERS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** With the approval of the State Board of Elections, the Orange
9 County Board of Elections may conduct a pilot program in Chapel Hill Township for
10 any or all primaries or elections occurring prior to January 1, 2007, where the
11 requirements of this section prevail over any other requirement concerning voting at
12 one-stop sites or on election day. The pilot program shall consist of continuing one-stop
13 voting as provided in G.S. 163-227.2 on election day as the method of voting. Voting
14 places, whether during the one-stop period or on election day, shall be known as voting
15 centers. The pilot program consists of the following elements:

- 16 (1) Any voter properly registered in Chapel Hill Township may vote at
17 any voting center during the one-stop period established in
18 G.S. 163-227.2 or on election day.
- 19 (2) On election day, the only places open to vote in Chapel Hill Township
20 are those designated as voting centers.
- 21 (3) All voting centers shall have a Web-based or online connection to the
22 voter registration system so that voter registration information and
23 voting history can be checked in a timely manner to ensure against any
24 voter voting more than once.
- 25 (4) Notwithstanding G.S. 163-227.2(e1), the State Board of Elections shall
26 determine which ballots must be made retrievable and identifiable to
27 the county board of elections in order to ensure that the vote count by

- 1 eligible voters is accurate. If any vote need not be identifiable, it shall
2 not be made so, notwithstanding G.S. 163-227.2(e1).
- 3 (5) The Plan of Implementation may provide a different system for voter
4 sign-in than the regular one-stop process which requires completion of
5 an absentee ballot application, but the process must be auditable. As
6 required by G.S. 163-166.7, the voter, before voting, shall sign that
7 voter's name on the pollbook, other voting record, or voter
8 authorization document. As provided by G.S. 163-166.7, if the voter is
9 unable to sign, a voting center official shall enter the person's name on
10 the same document before the voter votes. A voter at a voting center
11 shall be entitled to the same assistance as a voter at a voting place on
12 election day under G.S. 163-166.8.
- 13 (6) A larger number of voting centers may be open on election day than
14 during the earlier part of the one-stop period.
- 15 (7) Election returns shall be reported by regular precinct as well as by
16 voting center. Notwithstanding G.S. 163-132.5G, for primary elections
17 in 2006, those returns by regular precinct shall be reported by May 1,
18 2007, and for the 2006 general election those returns by regular
19 precinct shall be reported by March 1, 2007. G.S. 163-132.5G shall not
20 apply to elections held in 2005 under this act.
- 21 (8) Notwithstanding G.S. 163-227.2(g), the State Board of Elections may
22 allow the county board of elections during the regular one-stop voting
23 period to designate voting centers in commercial buildings that are not
24 public buildings.
- 25 (9) Notwithstanding G.S. 163-227.2(g), on election day any building may
26 be designated as a voting center, but the office of the county board of
27 elections does not have to be designated as a voting center.
- 28 (10) Notwithstanding G.S. 163-227.2(g), officials appointed pursuant to
29 G.S. 163-41, 163-42, and 163-42.1 may be assigned to staff the voting
30 centers. The Plan of Implementation shall provide for appointment of
31 election officials at voting centers so that political parties have a
32 similar opportunity to recommend officials as if there were precinct
33 polling places.
- 34 (11) The Plan of Implementation may for administrative purposes treat the
35 entire township as one precinct with multiple voting places on election
36 day, but a voter must, when appearing to vote, report any change of
37 address.
- 38 (12) Before voting centers may be used under this section, a Plan of
39 Implementation must be approved unanimously by the county board of
40 elections and then approved by the Executive Director of the State
41 Board of Elections. Prior to adoption, the county board of elections
42 shall conduct a public hearing and notify the county chair of each
43 political party under Article 9 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

1 The county board of elections shall develop an outreach and education
2 campaign to inform voters about the changes in voting locations.

3 **SECTION 2.** The State Board of Elections shall closely monitor the pilot
4 program and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its
5 2005 Regular Session in 2006, and to the 2007 Regular Session of the General
6 Assembly.

7 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.