

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1178

Short Title: Promote Voting by High School Students. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Bell; K. Alexander, Faison, Glazier, Hall, Harrison, Mackey, Pierce, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

April 8, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROMOTE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP EFFORTS BY ENCOURAGING
3 VOTING BY ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-82.23 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 163-82.23. Voter registration at public high schools.**

7 Every public high school shall make available to its students and others who are eligible to
8 register to vote the application forms described in G.S. 163-82.3, and shall keep a sufficient
9 supply of the forms so that they are always available. ~~A local board of education may, but is not~~
10 ~~required to, designate high school employees to assist in completing the forms. Only employees~~
11 ~~who volunteer for this duty may be designated by boards of education."~~

12 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-81(g1) reads as rewritten:

13 "(g1) Modifications to the social studies curriculum to instruct students on participation in
14 the democratic process and to give them hands-on experience in participating in the democratic
15 process:

- 16 (1) The State Board of Education shall modify the high school social studies
17 curriculum to include instruction in civic and citizenship education. The
18 State Board shall require as part of the curriculum instruction to students
19 regarding voter eligibility, including age and United States citizenship, and
20 instruction in the process of completing voter registration forms. This
21 instruction shall not encourage or in any way try to influence students to
22 register to vote with a particular affiliation. The State Board of Education is
23 strongly encouraged to include, at a minimum, the following components in
24 the high school civic and citizenship education curriculum:
25 a. That students write to a local, State, or federal elected official about
26 an issue that is important to them;
27 b. Instruction on the importance of voting and otherwise participating in
28 the democratic process;
29 c. Information about current events and governmental structure; and
30 d. Information about the democratic process and how laws are made."

31 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

32 "(53) Assist with Student Voter Registration. – Local boards of education shall
33 ensure that voter registration forms are distributed in a timely manner prior
34 to the voter registration deadline for each primary and general election to all
35 enrolled students 17 years of age and older, in compliance with
36 G.S. 163-28.23. Local boards of education shall require that schools submit



1 completed forms on the student applicant's behalf to the county board of
2 elections, and that schools report to the county board of elections, by the
3 twentieth day before a primary or election, the number of students who have
4 received voter applications and the number of completed applications which
5 have been submitted by the school."

6 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
7 the 2009-2010 school year.