

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL DRS35100-ST-13

Short Title: Ensure Orderly 2019 Elections.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hise and Daniel (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATORY
3 REQUIREMENTS OF S.L. 2018-144 IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT
4 ADMINISTRATION OF UNEXPECTED SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

5 Whereas, in November 2018, the voters of North Carolina approved a constitutional
6 amendment requiring every voter offering to vote in person to present photographic identification
7 before voting; and

8 Whereas, the approved constitutional amendment became effective upon certification
9 of the November 6, 2018, election results; and

10 Whereas, the General Assembly of North Carolina enacted S.L. 2018-144 in
11 December 2018, setting forth the general laws governing the requirements of photographic
12 identification for voting in person and the exceptions thereto, and setting forth a time line of
13 implementation for the 2019 elections and thereafter; and

14 Whereas, S.L. 2018-144 also contained reforms to the process of absentee voting by
15 mail and those reforms require rule making and other implementation efforts from the State
16 Board of Elections; and

17 Whereas, in February 2019, the need for a special congressional election to fill a
18 vacancy in the United States House of Representatives has arisen due to unforeseen
19 circumstances, and the Governor has determined a schedule for such special election; and

20 Whereas, in March 2019, the State Board of Elections issued an order to conduct a
21 new election in a separate United States House of Representatives district and has determined a
22 schedule for such new election; and

23 Whereas, the schedule of the two additional elections generates concerns about the
24 ability of the county boards of election and the State Board of Elections to ensure uniformity in
25 the requirement to present photographic identification before voting in person; and

26 Whereas, the absentee voting by mail reforms in S.L. 2018-144 require rule making
27 and other administrative procedures on the part of the State Board of Elections which will not be
28 completed prior to the two additional 2019 congressional elections; and

29 Whereas, the State Board of Elections needs legislative clarity regarding absentee
30 voting by mail in order to conduct the two additional 2019 congressional elections in an orderly
31 fashion; Now, therefore,

32 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

33 **SECTION 1.(a)** S.L. 2018-144 shall not apply to any election held in 2019 for which
34 the filing period opens prior to the date set forth in Section 1.5(a)(8) of S.L. 2018-144.



1 **SECTION 1.(b)** Notwithstanding Section 1(a) of this act, all implementation and
2 educational efforts set forth in S.L. 2018-144 during 2019 by the State and counties shall
3 continue.

4 **SECTION 2.** Section 2 of S.L. 2018-146 is repealed.

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