ADOPTED

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 747

AMENDMENT NO. **A2**

(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S747-ATE-3 [v.5]

Amends Title [NO]   Date _____,2023
Second Edition

<u>Senator Mohammed</u>

1 moves to amend the bill on page 1, lines 19 and 27, by deleting "<u>basis.</u>"" and substituting "<u>basis.</u>
2 <u>This subsection does not prohibit the in-kind donation or use of a voting site, if that voting site</u>
3 <u>is used for the purpose of conducting elections.</u>"" on each of those lines;

4

5

6 and on page 5, line 13, by deleting "Monday" and substituting "~~Monday~~<u>Tuesday</u>";

7

8

9

10

11 and on page 7, lines 34-36, by rewriting the lines to read:

12

13   "<u>(2)</u>   <u>The means by which the voter's marked absentee ballot must be returned to</u>
14   <u>the county board of elections.</u>
15   <u>(3)</u>   <u>The date and time the voter's completed absentee ballot must be received by</u>
16   <u>the county board of elections in order to be counted.</u>";

17

18

19 and on page 9, lines 15-16, by inserting the following between the lines:

20

21   "<u>(4)</u>   <u>The container-return envelope is not witnessed as required by</u>
22   <u>G.S. 163-231(a).</u>
23   <u>(5)</u>   <u>Any other requirement in executing the container-return envelope under State</u>
24   <u>or federal law.</u>";

25

26

27 And on page 10, line 33, by inserting at the end of that line the following:

28

29 "<u>Failure to include a printed witness name does not invalidate the application and certificate if</u>
30 <u>the identity of an individual can solely be identified by the witness's signature.</u>";

31

32

S747-ATE-3-V-5

ADOPTED

1
2
3
4 and on page 18, line 50, by deleting "quarterly" and substituting "semi-annually";
5
6
7
8 and on page 21, lines 17-29, by rewriting the lines to read:
9
10   "b.   If, within 30 days of the date on which notice was sent of the removal
11   of a voter's name from registration records pursuant to sub-subdivision
12   a. of this subdivision, the voter notifies the county board of elections
13   of the voter's objection to the removal, the chair of the county board
14   of elections shall enter a challenge under G.S. 163-85(c)(7), and the
15   notice provided to the county board of elections by the receipt of the
16   report from the State Board pursuant to this subdivision shall establish
17   a rebuttable presumption in the preliminary hearing heard pursuant to
18   G.S. 163-85(d) that the person is not a citizen of the United States. The
19   voter may appear with evidence to rebut the presumption, including
20   any of the following: (i) birth certificate, (ii) citizenship naturalization,
21   or (iii) other federal documentation of citizenship.";
22
23
24 and on page 22, line 40, by deleting "**SECTION 31.**" and substituting "**SECTION 31.(a)**";
25
26
27
28 and on page 22, lines 48-49, by inserting between the lines the following:
29
30   "**SECTION 31.(b)** The State Board of Elections shall educate the public on the
31 changes to the deadline for returning completed applications and marked mail-in absentee ballots
32 to the county boards of elections contained in this legislation by mailing information regarding
33 the deadline to North Carolina residential addresses of registered voters, in the same manner as
34 the Judicial Voter Guide, prior to the municipal election in 2023, prior to the primary in 2024,
35 and prior to the general election in 2024.";
36
37
38 and on page 23, lines 6-7, by rewriting the lines to read:
39
40   "**SECTION 33.(a)** The State Board of Elections shall select ten counties in the State
41 in which to conduct a pilot program during the primary held in 2024 for signature verification on
42 executed mail-in absentee ballots. In selecting the ten counties for the pilot, the State Board of
43 Elections shall seek diversity of population size, regional location, and demographic

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 747

ADOPTED

AMENDMENT NO. **A2**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S747-ATE-3 [v.5]

Page 3 of 4

1　composition. The pilot program shall consist of county boards of elections using signature
2　verification software to check the signatures of voters noted on all executed mail-in absentee
3　ballots received by the county boards of elections in the 2024 primary. The State Board of
4　Elections shall select the signature verification software and ensure that the software is available
5　for all ten counties to use in the 2024 primary. The State Board shall assist the selected county
6　boards of elections in implementing the signature verification software, including assisting the
7　selected county boards of elections in any training needed on how the software is to be used for
8　signature matching on executed mail-in absentee ballots.
9　　　　**SECTION 33.(b)**　The State Board of Elections shall closely monitor the pilot
10　program established in this section.　The selected county boards of elections shall report to the
11　State Board of Elections its findings on the use of the signature verification software during the
12　2024 primary, including all of the following:
13　　　　(1)　Whether the signature matching software was used for all returned mail-in
14　　　　　　absentee ballots, and what the voter signature on the executed mail-in absentee
15　　　　　　ballot was matched against.
16　　　　(2)　How many executed mail-in absentee ballots were counted by the county
17　　　　　　board of elections in the 2024 primary.
18　　　　(3)　How many executed mail-in absentee ballots were flagged by the signature
19　　　　　　matching software, and any information known on how close of a match the
20　　　　　　signatures must be for the signature match software to not flag the voter's
21　　　　　　signature.
22　　　　(4)　Information on how the signature matching software worked to flag an
23　　　　　　executed mail-in absentee ballot with a signature that did not match the
24　　　　　　signature on file for the voter, including any known information on the rate of
25　　　　　　error in the software.
26　　　　**SECTION 33.(c)**　In implementing the pilot program established in this section, no
27　executed mail-in absentee ballot shall be rejected by the county board of elections for failing any
28　signature verification.　All executed mail-in absentee ballots that are otherwise eligible to be
29　counted in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes shall be counted.
30　　　　**SECTION 33.(d)**　The State Board of Elections shall report its findings, along with
31　any recommendations, to the General Assembly on or before May 1, 2024. The report shall be
32　delivered to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee and shall also include the
33　following:
34　　　　(1)　A compilation of the information reported from the selected county boards of
35　　　　　　elections as required by subsection (b) of this section.
36　　　　(2)　The estimated cost to implement signature verification for mail-in absentee
37　　　　　　ballots statewide.
38　　　　(3)　Any suggested law changes to fully implement signature verification
39　　　　　　statewide for mail-in absentee ballots, including suggestions on a process for
40　　　　　　how a voter can cure a deficiency related to signature verification of mail-in
41　　　　　　absentee ballots.
42　　　　(4)　Any other information relevant to signature verification of mail-in absentee
43　　　　　　ballots.

ADOPTED

AMENDMENT NO. __A2__
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S747-ATE-3 [v.5]

1   **SECTION 34.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
2 law and applies to elections held on or after that date.".

SIGNED   _____
                              Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED   _____
           Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____   FAILED _____   TABLED _____