



HOUSE BILL 344: Gubernatorial Team Ticket

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Elections	Date:	April 14, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Jones, Lambeth, Malone, McGrady	Prepared by:	Kelly Tornow
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *House Bill 344 would amend the Constitution of North Carolina to have the Governor and Lieutenant Governor run as a team on the general election ballot beginning in 2020.*

CURRENT LAW: Article III, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution provides that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are elected every four years, serve terms of four years which commence on the first day of January next after their election, and continue until their successors are elected and qualified.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor file and run for office separately. An individual elected to the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor must be:

- A qualified voter of this State. (Article VI, Section 6)
- At least 30 years old. (Article III, Section 2)
- A citizen of the United States for at least five years. (Article III, Section 2)
- A resident of this State for two years immediately preceding the election. (Article III, Section 2)

No person elected to the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor is eligible for election to more than two consecutive terms to the same office. Upon failure of the Governor-elect to qualify or upon the death, resignation, or removal from office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor becomes Governor.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 344 would amend the North Carolina Constitution to require that candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor must run together on one ticket, beginning with the 2020 general election. The proposed constitutional amendment would be on the ballot for the statewide general election in November of 2018.

House Bill 344 would also make conforming statutory changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law. The conforming statutory changes would become effective only if the constitutional amendment is approved by the qualified voters, and if so approved, would become effective January 1, 2020, and apply beginning with the 2020 election cycle.

