



# HOUSE BILL 18: Allow Absentee Ballots/Fire District Election.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Redistricting and Elections. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	July 1, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Howard, Setzer	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jessica Sammons
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 18 would allow absentee voting in fire district elections.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Any qualified voter of the State may vote by absentee ballot in a statewide primary, general, or special election and any qualified voter of a county is authorized to vote by absentee ballot in any primary or election conducted by the county board of elections. G.S. 163A-1295.

Absentee voting includes the following:

- Ballots cast in-person at an early voting "one-stop" voting site run by a county board of elections, either at the county board's office or another site approved by the county board.
- Ballots cast absentee by mail under the absentee ballot statutes (Part 1 of Article 21 of Chapter 163A).
- Ballots cast under the military and overseas absentee ballot statutes (Part 2 of Article 21 of Chapter 163A).

Absentee ballots are currently not permitted in fire district elections. G.S. 163A-1295(c).

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 18 would authorize qualified voters to vote by absentee ballot in fire district elections.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law, and applies to fire district elections held on or after that date.

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