



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

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 18, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Howard, Setzer	Prepared by:	Kristen L. Harris*
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

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.

*Staff Attorney Jessica Sammons substantially contributed to this summary.

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