



HOUSE BILL 328: Same Reqs/Officials/Early Vote & Election Day.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Elections and Ethics Law. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | Date: | April 25, 2019 |
| Introduced by: | Rep. Speciale | Prepared by: | Jessica Sammons |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | Staff Attorney |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 328 would require all individuals staffing early "one-stop" voting sites to meet the same qualifications and requirements as individuals appointed to serve as a precinct official at a primary or general election.*

CURRENT LAW: Generally, early voting is a term used to describe in-person absentee voting at "one-stop" voting sites. Currently, 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 (CBOE).

Absentee voting may take place at a "one-stop" voting site run by a county board of elections, either at the county board's office or another site designated by the CBOE. Sites must be approved by the CBOE and the State Board as part of the Plan for Implementation, which must include plans for providing adequate security of the ballots and provisions to avoid allowing individuals to vote duplicate ballots. Each individual staffing one of these sites must be one of the following:

- A member of the CBOE.
- A full-time employee of the CBOE.
- An employee of the CBOE who has been given training equivalent to that given to a full-time employee.

"Precinct official" includes chief judges, judges, and assistants appointed by the CBOE to staff each precinct. G.S. 163A-815. Precinct officials must comply with the following requirements:

- Be a registered voter in the county in which their assigned precinct is located.
- Not be a candidate or relative of a candidate in the election for which they are serving.
- Not be an elected government official, hold office with a political party, or be manager or treasurer for a candidate or political party.
- Not serve at the same precinct as a spouse, child, spouse of a child, or sibling.
- Attend an instructional meeting conducted by the chairman of the CBOE and the director of elections prior to each primary and general election.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
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BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 328 would require each individual staffing one of the "one-stop" voting sites to meet the same qualifications and requirements as individuals serving as a precinct official at a primary or general election. Individuals staffing these sites would not be required to be a resident of a specific precinct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law, and applies to elections conducted on or after that date.