



# SENATE BILL 132: Early Voting Sites/Helene Counties.

2023-2024 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	October 24, 2024
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sen. Hanig	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Erika Churchill, Jessica Sammons, Hillary Woodard, and William Brewer, Staff Attorneys
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Conference Committee Substitute (S132-CCSST-7)		

**OVERVIEW:** *The conference committee substitute for Senate Bill 132 would authorize, and require, certain counties to add additional early voting sites for the last week of early voting.*

### CURRENT LAW:

Each county board of elections, by unanimous vote, can authorize one or more sites within the county for early voting. Each site must be part of a Plan for Implementation that is approved both by the county board of elections and the State Board of Elections. For all sites approved for early voting under the Plan for Implementation, the county board of elections must comply with certain requirements regarding locations and days and hours of operation. The early voting period runs for 17 days. Once a Plan for Implementation has been approved, the Plan for Implementation cannot be changed by the county board of elections.

S.L. 2024-51, for certain counties impacted by Helene and its aftermath, authorized those county boards of elections, by bipartisan majority vote, to modify the approved Plan for Implementation if that county board of elections made written findings in a resolution that the modifications are required as a result of Helene and submitted a copy of that resolution to the State Board of Elections. Modifications authorized include substituting sites, removing sites that are unusable, adding or reducing days that any site is open during the early voting period, and extending or reducing hours that any site is open during the early voting period.

For the 2024 election, the early voting period began October 17, 2024, and runs until November 2, 2024.

### BILL ANALYSIS:

The conference committee substitute would require a minimum of at least one early voting site for every 30,000 registered voters, or a portion thereof, in that county. The number of registered voters in each county would be based on the registration file posted on the State Board of Elections website as of October 19, 2024.

The county boards of elections would be required to review its Plan for Implementation for compliance with the requirement and add early voting sites as needed to meet the minimum requirement of at least one early voting site for every 30,000 registered voters, or a portion thereof, in that county. Any county board of elections, even if not required to, would be authorized to add early voting sites. For open meetings needing to comply with the act, a county board of elections would need to give 12 hours of notice for a

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properly noticed meeting; any actions taken by the county board of elections would need to be approved by bipartisan vote of the board.

Each additional early voting site would be required to open no later than Tuesday, October 29, 2024, and remain open until Saturday, November 2, 2024. Each additional early voting site would be required to be open for the same hours of operation as the county board of elections office early voting site that has been operating during the November 2024 election early voting period. If a county board of elections is required to add an additional voting site or sites and is unable to secure staff for the voting site, that county board of elections must immediately notify the State Board of Elections.

This would apply only in the counties of Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law and applies to the November 2024 election only.