



SENATE BILL 356: Constitutional Amendment/Photo ID.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by: Sens. Jackson, Perry, Lazzara

Analysis of: Third Edition

Date:

June 26, 2024

Prepared by:

Erika Churchill,
Jessica Sammons,
Hillary Woodard,
William Brewer,
Staff Attorneys

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 356 would propose amendments to the North Carolina Constitution revising the language regarding the requirement for all voters to present photo identification prior to voting, which would be on the November 5, 2024, ballot.*

CURRENT LAW: Section 2 and Section 3 of Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution require that any voter offering to vote in person must present photo identification before voting. The General Assembly must enact laws establishing the requirements of such photo identification, which may include exceptions for this requirement.

G.S. 163-166.16 establishes the requirements for photo identification when offering to vote in person, setting forth the types of acceptable photo identification and exceptions including religious objections, reasonable impediments, and natural disasters. G.S. 163-230.1 also requires a voter casting a mail-in absentee ballot to submit a copy of their photo identification, or an affidavit of an exception, with their returned application and ballot.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would submit to the voters of North Carolina the question of whether to amend the State's Constitution to require photo identification for all voters, regardless of method of voting. The ballot question would be considered at the statewide general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and the ballot question would read:

"Constitutional amendment to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting."

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the amendments to the North Carolina Constitution are approved by the voters in the November 2024 election, the amendments would become effective upon certification of the results of the referendum.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578