

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

**S**

**1**

SENATE BILL 488

Short Title: Registrations Forwarded Promptly.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Senators Forrester; and Carter.

---

Referred to: Election Laws.

---

April 8, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE REGISTRATION OFFICIALS TO FORWARD TO  
2 COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO  
3 REGISTER NO LATER THAN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER THE CLOSE OF  
4 REGISTRATION.  
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 163-67(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) The county boards of elections shall establish, prior to January 1, 1971, a full-  
9 time system of registration, as prescribed by the State Board of Elections, under which  
10 the registration books, process, and records shall be open continuously for the  
11 acceptance of registration applications and for the registration of voters at all reasonable  
12 hours and time consistent with the daily function of all other county offices. In such  
13 counties no registration shall entitle a registrant to vote in any primary, general or  
14 special election unless the registrant shall have made application not later than the  
15 twenty-first day, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, immediately preceding such  
16 primary, general or special election, provided that nothing shall prohibit registrants from  
17 registering to vote in future elections during such period.

18 When full-time registration has been established in a county, the official record of  
19 registration shall be made and kept in the form of an application to register which, as  
20 prescribed by the State Board of Elections, shall contain all information necessary to  
21 show the applicant's qualifications to register. In such a county, no person shall be  
22 registered to vote without first making a written, sworn, and signed application to  
23 register upon the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. If the applicant  
24 cannot write because of physical disability, his name shall be written on the application

1 for him by the election official to whom he makes application, but the specific reason  
2 for the applicant's failure to sign shall be clearly stated upon the face of the application.

3 Registrars, judges of election, and special registration commissioners appointed  
4 under the provisions of G.S. 163-41 may take registration applications from and  
5 administer registration oaths to qualified applicants without regard to the precinct  
6 residence of the registrar, judge of election, special registration commissioner, or  
7 applicant.

8 Applications to register which have been completed by persons who have taken the  
9 required oath shall be forwarded promptly, and in no case more than 48 hours after the  
10 close of registration, to the county board of elections. An application to register shall  
11 constitute a valid registration unless the county board of elections shall notify the  
12 applicant of its rejection within 30 days after its completion; provided that where the  
13 application is completed during the last 51 days prior to the election but at least 21 days,  
14 excluding Saturdays and Sundays, prior to the election, the notification of rejection shall  
15 be made no less than 14 days prior to the election or the application shall constitute a  
16 valid registration. If the application is rejected after the close of the registration books as  
17 provided in G.S. 163-67(a) the board shall notify the applicant at least 14 days before  
18 the election that it has rejected his application. The applicant may appear before the  
19 board and, if he establishes his qualifications to register prior to the election, he shall be  
20 permitted to vote. The loose-leaf binders containing the precinct records and the  
21 duplicate registration record, required by G.S. 163-65(a), shall be kept at all times in a  
22 safe place.

23 For the purpose of receiving registration applications, registrars shall attend the  
24 voting places in their precincts only on such days and at such hours as may be fixed by  
25 the county board of elections: Provided, the county board of elections shall not require  
26 registrars to be present at the voting places for this purpose on any day later than the  
27 twenty-first day, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, prior to a primary or election. In its  
28 discretion, the county board of elections may require no attendance by registrars at the  
29 voting places for the purpose of receiving registration applications.

30 The county board of elections is authorized to make reasonable rules and  
31 regulations, not inconsistent with law and State Board regulations, to insure full-time  
32 registration as provided in this section."

33 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.