

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 980
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/18/01**

Short Title: Children in Voting Enclosures.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 5, 2001

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW CHILDREN OF A VOTER TO ACCOMPANY THE VOTER
3 INTO THE VOTING ENCLOSURE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-153 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 163-153. Access to voting enclosure.**

7 In all counties, only the following persons shall be allowed within the voting
8 enclosure while the polls are open to voting:

9 (1) Officers of election, that is, members of the State Board of Elections,
10 members of the county board of elections, directors of elections, and
11 the precinct chief judge, precinct judges of election, and assistants
12 appointed for the precinct under the provisions of G.S. 163-42.

13 (2) Voters in the act of voting.

14 (3) A near relative of a voter, but except as provided in subdivision (3a) of
15 this section only while assisting the voter as authorized in G.S.
16 163-152.

17 (3a) Minor children under the age of 12 of the voter, or minor children
18 under the age of 12 in the care of the voter, but only while
19 accompanying the voter and while under the control of the voter.

20 (4) Any voter of the precinct called upon to assist another voter, but only
21 while assisting him as authorized in G.S. 163-152.

22 (5) Municipal policemen assigned by the municipal authorities to keep the
23 peace at a voting place located within the municipality, but only when
24 requested to come within the voting enclosure by the chief judge and
25 judges for the purpose of preventing disorder; at the request of the
26 chief judge and judges, they shall withdraw from the voting enclosure
27 and remain at least 10 feet from its entrance.

28 (6) Any voter of the precinct while entering and explaining a challenge,
29 and any voter of the county who has challenged a voter in that precinct

- 1 if the challenge is heard at the polls under G.S. 163-87 and 163-88,
2 while entering and explaining a challenge.
3 (7) Observers appointed under the provisions of G.S. 163-45.
4 (8) Persons working at, supervising, or voting in a simulated election for
5 persons ineligible to vote because of their age."
6 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.