

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 568
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 4/17/03

Short Title: Superintendent of Pub. Instruction Appointed.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 31, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO MAKE THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AN APPOINTEE OF THE
GOVERNOR AND TO MAKE CORRESPONDING STATUTORY CHANGES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Section 4(2) of Article IX of the North Carolina Constitution reads as rewritten:

"(2) **Superintendent of Public Instruction.** The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be the secretary and chief administrative officer of the State Board of Education. The Superintendent shall be appointed by the Governor."

SECTION 2. Section 7(1) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution reads as rewritten:

"(1) **Officers.** A Secretary of State, an Auditor, a Treasurer, ~~a Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~ an Attorney General, a Commissioner of Agriculture, a Commissioner of Labor, and a Commissioner of Insurance shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State in 1972 and every four years thereafter, at the same time and places as members of the General Assembly are elected. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of January next after their election and continue until their successors are elected and qualified."

SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-18 reads as rewritten:

"§ **115C-18. Election-Appointment of Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be appointed by the Governor. ~~elected by the qualified voters of the State in 1972 and every four years thereafter at the same time and places as members of the General Assembly are elected. His term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of January next after election and continue until his successor is elected and qualified.~~

~~If the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint another to serve until his successor is elected and qualified. Every such vacancy shall be filled by~~

1 ~~election at the first election for members of the General Assembly that occurs more than~~
2 ~~30 days after the vacancy has taken place, and the person chosen shall hold the office~~
3 ~~for the remainder of the unexpired term fixed in Article III, Sec. 7 of the Constitution of~~
4 ~~North Carolina. When a vacancy occurs in the office and the term expires on the first~~
5 ~~day of January succeeding the next election for members of the General Assembly, the~~
6 ~~Governor shall appoint to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the office. Upon the~~
7 ~~occurrence of a vacancy in the office for any of the causes stated herein, the Governor~~
8 ~~may appoint an interim officer to perform the duties of that office until a person is~~
9 ~~appointed or elected pursuant to Article III, Sec. 7 of the Constitution of North Carolina~~
10 ~~to fill the vacancy and is qualified.~~

11 ~~The time of the election of the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be in~~
12 ~~accordance with the provisions of Article 1 of Subchapter I of Chapter 163 of the~~
13 ~~General Statutes.~~

14 ~~The election, term and induction into office of the Superintendent of Public~~
15 ~~Instruction shall be in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 147-4."~~

16 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 147-3(c) reads as rewritten:

17 "(c) The general civil executive officers of this State are as follows:

- 18 (1) A Governor;
- 19 (2) A Lieutenant Governor;
- 20 (3) Private secretary for the Governor;
- 21 (4) A Secretary of State;
- 22 (5) An Auditor;
- 23 (6) A Treasurer;
- 24 (7) An Attorney General;
- 25 ~~(8) A Superintendent of Public Instruction;~~
- 26 (9) The members of the Governor's Council;
- 27 (10) A Commissioner of Agriculture;
- 28 (11) A Commissioner of Labor;
- 29 (12) A Commissioner of Insurance."

30 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 147-4 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 147-4. Executive officers – election; term; induction into office.**

32 The executive department shall consist of a Governor, a Lieutenant Governor, a
33 Secretary of State, an Auditor, a Treasurer, ~~a Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~ an
34 Attorney General, a Commissioner of Agriculture, a Commissioner of Insurance, and a
35 Commissioner of Labor, who shall be elected for a term of four years, by the qualified
36 electors of the State, at the same time and places, and in the same manner, as members
37 of the General Assembly are elected. Their term of office shall commence on the first
38 day of January next after their election and continue until their successors are elected
39 and qualified. The persons having the highest number of votes, respectively, shall be
40 declared duly elected, but if two or more be equal and highest in votes for the same
41 office, then one of them shall be chosen by joint ballot of both houses of the General
42 Assembly. Contested elections shall be determined by a joint ballot of both houses of
43 the General Assembly in such manner as shall be prescribed by law."

44 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 147-11.1 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 147-11.1. Succession to office of Governor; Acting Governor.**

2 (a) Lieutenant Governor. –

3 (1) The Lieutenant Governor-elect shall become Governor upon the
4 failure of the Governor-elect to qualify. The Lieutenant Governor shall
5 become Governor upon the death, resignation, or removal from office
6 of the Governor. The further order of succession to the office of
7 Governor shall be prescribed by law. A successor shall serve for the
8 remainder of the term of the Governor whom he succeeds and until a
9 new Governor is elected and qualified.

10 (2) During the absence of the Governor from the State, or during the
11 physical or mental incapacity of the Governor to perform the duties of
12 his office, the Lieutenant Governor shall be Acting Governor. The
13 further order of succession as Acting Governor shall be prescribed by
14 law.

15 (b) President of Senate, Speaker of the House and Other Officers. –

16 (1) If, by reason of failure to qualify, death, resignation, or removal from
17 office, there is neither a Governor nor a Lieutenant Governor to
18 discharge the powers and duties of the office of Governor, then the
19 President of the Senate shall, upon his resignation as President of the
20 Senate and as Senator, become Governor.

21 (2) If, at the time when under subdivision (1) of this subsection the
22 President of the Senate is to become Governor, there is no President of
23 the Senate, or the President of the Senate fails to qualify as Governor,
24 then the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall, upon his
25 resignation as Speaker and as Representative, become Governor.

26 (3) If, at the time when under subdivision (2) of this subsection the
27 Speaker of the House of Representatives is to become Governor, there
28 is no Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the Speaker of the
29 House of Representatives fails to qualify as Governor, then that officer
30 of the State of North Carolina who is highest on the following list, and
31 who is not under disability to serve as Governor, shall, upon his
32 resignation of the office which places him in the order of succession,
33 become Governor: Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer,
34 ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction~~, Attorney General, Commissioner
35 of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, and Commissioner of
36 Insurance.

37 (c) Acting Governor Generally. –

38 (1) If, by reason of absence from the State or physical or mental
39 incapacity, there is neither a Governor nor a Lieutenant Governor
40 qualified to discharge the powers and duties of the office of Governor,
41 then the President of the Senate shall become Acting Governor.

42 (2) If, at the time when under subdivision (1) of this subsection the
43 President of the Senate is to become Acting Governor, there is no
44 President of the Senate, or the President of the Senate fails to qualify

1 as Acting Governor, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 shall become Acting Governor.

- 3 (3) If, at the time when under subdivision (2) of this subsection the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives is to become Acting
5 Governor, there is no Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the
6 Speaker of the House of Representatives fails to qualify as Acting
7 Governor, then that officer of the State of North Carolina who is
8 highest on the following list, and who is not under disability to serve
9 as Acting Governor, shall become Acting Governor: Secretary of
10 State, Auditor, Treasurer, ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~
11 Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of
12 Labor, and Commissioner of Insurance.

13 (d) Governor Serving under Subsection (c). – An individual serving as Acting
14 Governor under subsection (c) of this section shall continue to act for the remainder of
15 the term of the Governor whom he succeeds and until a new Governor is elected and
16 qualified, except that:

- 17 (1) If his tenure as Acting Governor is founded in whole or in part upon
18 the absence of both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor from the
19 State, then he shall act only until the Governor or Lieutenant Governor
20 returns to the State; and
21 (2) If his tenure as Acting Governor is founded in whole or in part upon
22 the physical or mental incapacity of the Governor or Lieutenant
23 Governor, then he shall act only until the removal of the incapacity of
24 the Governor or Lieutenant Governor.

25 (e) Officers to Which Subsections (b), (c) and (d) Applicable. – Subsections (b),
26 (c), and (d) of this section shall apply only to such officers as are eligible to the office of
27 Governor under the Constitution of North Carolina, and only to officers who are not
28 under impeachment by the House of Representatives at the time they are to become
29 Governor or Acting Governor.

30 (f) Compensation of Acting Governor. – During the period that any individual
31 serves as Acting Governor under subsection (c) of this section, his compensation shall
32 be at the rate then provided by law in the case of the Governor."

33 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 163-1 is amended by deleting the entries in the table for
34 "Superintendent of Public Instruction".

35 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 163-8 reads as rewritten:
36 "**§ 163-8. Filling vacancies in State executive offices.**

37 If the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor shall become vacant, the
38 provisions of G.S. 147-11.1 shall apply. If the office of any of the following officers
39 shall be vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise than by expiration of term, it shall
40 be the duty of the Governor to appoint another to serve until his successor is elected and
41 qualified: Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~
42 Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, and
43 Commissioner of Insurance. Each such vacancy shall be filled by election at the first
44 election for members of the General Assembly that occurs more than 60 days after the

1 vacancy has taken place, and the person chosen shall hold the office for the remainder
2 of the unexpired four-year term: Provided, that when a vacancy occurs in any of the
3 offices named in this section and the term expires on the first day of January succeeding
4 the next election for members of the General Assembly, the Governor shall appoint to
5 fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the office.

6 Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of any one of these officers for any
7 of the causes stated in the preceding paragraph, the Governor may appoint an acting
8 officer to perform the duties of that office until a person is appointed or elected pursuant
9 to this section and Article III, Section 7 of the State Constitution, to fill the vacancy and
10 is qualified."

11 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 163-278.27(b) reads as rewritten:

12 "(b) Whenever the Board has knowledge of or has reason to believe there has been
13 a violation of any section of this Article, it shall report that fact, together with
14 accompanying details, to the following prosecuting authorities:

- 15 (1) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the State Senate
16 or State House of Representatives: report to the district attorney of the
17 prosecutorial district in which the candidate for nomination or election
18 resides;
- 19 (2) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office of
20 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor,
21 State Treasurer, ~~State Superintendent of Public Instruction~~, State
22 Attorney General, State Commissioner of Agriculture, State
23 Commissioner of Labor, State Commissioner of Insurance, and all
24 other State elective offices, Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the
25 Court of Appeals, judge of a superior court, judge of a district court,
26 and district attorney of the superior court: report to the district attorney
27 of the prosecutorial district in which Wake County is located;
- 28 (3) In the case of an individual other than a candidate, including, without
29 limitation, violations by members of political committees, referendum
30 committees or treasurers: report to the district attorney of the
31 prosecutorial district in which the individual resides; and
- 32 (4) In the case of a person or any group of individuals: report to the
33 district attorney or district attorneys of the prosecutorial district or
34 districts in which any of the officers, directors, agents, employees or
35 members of the person or group reside."

36 **SECTION 10.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall
37 be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election on
38 November 4, 2003, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing
39 elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with
40 Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and
41 ballots shall be:

42 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

43 Constitutional amendments to make the Superintendent of Public Instruction
44 an appointee of the Governor."

1 **SECTION 11.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
2 amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall
3 certify the amendments to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the
4 amendments so certified among the permanent records of that office. The amendments
5 set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall become effective the earlier of January 1,
6 2005, and the date that a vacancy occurs in the office of Superintendent of Public
7 Instruction. The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall also apply to
8 the 2004 election.

9 **SECTION 12.** Sections 3 through 9 of this act become effective only if the
10 voters approve the constitutional amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act. If
11 the voters approve the constitutional amendments, Sections 3 through 9 of this act shall
12 become effective on the earlier of January 1, 2005, and the date that a vacancy occurs in
13 the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. If the voters approve the
14 constitutional amendments, Sections 3 through 9 of this act shall also apply to the 2004
15 election.

16 **SECTION 13.** This act is effective when it becomes law.