

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 1014
May 6, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE BILL DRH40466-ST-34B

Short Title: 2020 Census VTD Verification Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO CONTINUE
3 PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 VOTING DISTRICT VERIFICATION PROJECT WITH
4 THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF THE CENSUS AND TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS
5 TO REVIEW PRECINCT LINES IN ADVANCE OF THE 2030 CENSUS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163A-1065 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 163A-1065. Participation in the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program of the United**
9 **States Census Bureau.**

10 (a) Participation. – The State of North Carolina shall participate in the 2020 Census
11 Redistricting Data Program, conducted pursuant to P.L. 94-171, of the United States Bureau of
12 the Census, so that the State will receive 2020 Census data by voting districts.

13 (b) Reporting of Voting Districts. – ~~The Executive Director of the State Board Legislative~~
14 ~~Services Officer shall report to the Bureau of the Census this State's voting precincts as of January~~
15 ~~1, 2018, precincts, which shall be based upon the 2010 Census block boundaries, to be used in~~
16 ~~developing the geography for the 2020 Census as voting districts. Before making that report, the~~
17 ~~Executive Director shall consult with the Legislative Services Office concerning the accuracy of~~
18 ~~the information to be reported. The Executive Director Legislative Services Officer shall submit~~
19 ~~the report to the Bureau of the Census in time to comply with the deadlines of that Bureau for the~~
20 ~~2020 Census Redistricting Data Program. The Executive Director, with the assistance of the~~
21 ~~county boards of elections, Legislative Services Officer shall participate in the Bureau of the~~
22 ~~Census's verification program and notify the Bureau of the Census of any errors in the entry of~~
23 ~~the voting districts in time for those errors to be corrected.~~

24 (c) Additional Rules. – ~~The Executive Director and the Legislative Services Officer shall~~
25 ~~develop a systematic method for review and input by the Legislative Services Office prior to~~
26 ~~provide a copy of the submission required by subsection (b) of this section section to the~~
27 ~~Executive Director."~~

28 **SECTION 2.** Section 7(c) of S.L. 2016-109 is repealed.

29 **SECTION 3.** Section 7(d) of S.L. 2016-109 reads as rewritten:

30 "**SECTION 7.(d)** On or before July 1, 2019, the Executive Director of the State Board of
31 Elections shall provide each county board of elections with a copy of the submission provided in
32 accordance with G.S. 163A-1065 with respect to that county. The county boards of election,
33 shall, on or before November 1, 2017, October 1, 2019, report to the Executive Director of the
34 State Board of Elections and the Legislative Services Officer any requested changes to in the
35 precinct boundaries to be used in elections held on or after January 1, 2018. The State Board of
36 Elections shall develop criteria for the county boards of elections to use in developing proposed



* D R H 4 0 4 6 6 - S T - 3 4 B *

1 ~~precinct boundaries, shall notify the county boards of elections of the requirement to submit~~
2 ~~proposed changes, and shall facilitate the county boards of elections in developing proposed~~
3 ~~boundary changes. The State Board of Elections shall consult with the Legislative Services Office~~
4 ~~about the proposed changes to precinct boundaries in a timely and systemic manner in order to~~
5 ~~accommodate submitting a statewide map of updated precinct boundaries reported to the Bureau~~
6 ~~of the Census for the Phase 2 Voting District Project. Upon receipt of the responses from the~~
7 ~~county boards of elections regarding the voting districts geography from the Bureau of the Census~~
8 ~~for the 2020 Census, the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections and the Legislative~~
9 ~~Services Office Officer, in conjunction with the Executive Director of the State Board, shall~~
10 ~~determine if any alterations to the precinct boundaries are needed in order to comply with~~
11 ~~G.S. 163-132.3(a1)(1), as enacted by Section 8(a) of this act, needed."~~

12 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 163A-1071 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 163A-1071. Alterations to approved precinct boundaries.**

14 (a) No county board of elections may change any precinct boundary unless approved by
15 the Executive Director of the State Board.

16 (b) ~~The~~ To be used by the Executive Director and the county boards of elections in
17 changing precinct boundaries in accordance with this section, the State Board shall set uniform
18 standards for precinct boundaries that the county boards of elections shall follow. Any uniform
19 standards for precinct boundaries set by the State Board shall comply with all of the following:

20 (1) Precinct boundaries shall coincide with Census block ~~boundaries~~ boundaries,
21 as set forth in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles associated with the most recent
22 federal decennial census.

23 (2) Precincts shall consist solely of contiguous territory.

24 (3) Precincts shall consist of territory and population that allows for efficient and
25 accurate administration of elections, taking into consideration available
26 polling places and access to polling places.

27 (4) The county shall be able to reallocate any out of precinct ballots cast by a voter
28 to the precinct associated with that voter's voter registration for purposes of
29 reporting the results of an election.

30 (c) The county board of elections shall report every change in precinct boundary to the
31 Executive Director in a format required by the Executive Director.

32 No newly created or altered precinct boundary is effective until approved by the Executive
33 Director ~~of the State Board~~ as being in compliance with this section.

34 (d) ~~The Executive Director of the State Board~~ shall examine the maps of the proposed
35 new or altered precincts and any required written descriptions. If the Executive Director ~~of the~~
36 ~~State Board~~ determines that all precinct boundaries are in compliance with this section, the
37 Executive Director ~~of the State Board~~ shall approve the maps and written descriptions as filed
38 and these precincts shall be the official precincts for voting.

39 (e) If the Executive Director ~~of the State Board~~ determines that the proposed precinct
40 boundaries are not in compliance with subsection (b) of this section, the Executive Director shall
41 not approve those proposed precinct boundaries. The Executive Director shall notify the county
42 board of elections of the disapproval specifying the reasons. The county board of elections may
43 then resubmit new proposed precinct maps and written descriptions to cure the reasons for the
44 disapproval."

45 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2020.

46 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
47 law.