

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 887

Short Title: Automatic and Online Voter Registration. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hawkins, Dahle, Hunt, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION AT DRIVERS
3 LICENSE OFFICES, PUBLIC AGENCIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND
4 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
5 AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO IMPLEMENT AN
6 OUTREACH CAMPAIGN INFORMING CITIZENS ABOUT AUTOMATIC VOTER
7 REGISTRATION; AND TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE CRITERIA TO
8 REGISTER TO VOTE OR CHANGE VOTER REGISTRATION ONLINE.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10
11 **PART I. AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION**

12 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 163-82.3 reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 163-82.3. Voter registration application forms.** ~~forms~~; **automatic voter registration at**
14 **certain agencies.**

15 (a) Form Developed by State Board of Elections. – The State Board of Elections shall
16 develop an application form for voter registration. Any person may use the form to apply to do
17 any of the following:

18 ...

19 (c) ~~Agency Application Form.~~ Application. – The county board of elections where an
20 applicant resides shall accept as application for any of the purposes set out in subsection (a) of
21 this section ~~a form~~ automatic voter registration developed pursuant to G.S. 163-82.19 or
22 G.S. 163-82.20."

23 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 163-82.6 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 163-82.6. Acceptance of application forms.**

25 (a) How the Form May Be Submitted. – The county board of elections shall accept any
26 form described in G.S. 163-82.3 if the applicant submits the form by mail, facsimile transmission,
27 transmission of a scanned document, or in ~~person.~~ person or by automatic voter registration
28 pursuant to G.S. 163-82.19, 163-82.20, 115D-5, or 116-11. The applicant may delegate the
29 submission of the form to another person. Any person who communicates to an applicant
30 acceptance of that delegation shall deliver that form so that it is received by the appropriate
31 county board of elections in time to satisfy the registration deadline in subdivision (1) or (2) of
32 subsection (d) of this section for the next election. It shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor for any
33 person to communicate to the applicant acceptance of that delegation and then fail to make a
34 good faith effort to deliver the form so that it is received by the county board of elections in time
35 to satisfy the registration deadline in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (d) of this section for



1 the next election. It shall be an affirmative defense to a charge of failing to make a good faith
 2 effort to deliver a delegated form by the registration deadline that the delegatee informed the
 3 applicant that the form would not likely be delivered in time for the applicant to vote in the next
 4 election. It shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to sell or attempt to sell a completed
 5 voter registration form or to condition its delivery upon payment.

6 ...

7 (d) Registration Deadlines for a Primary or Election. – In order to be valid for a primary
 8 or election, the ~~form~~ form must comply with one of the following:

- 9 (1) If submitted by mail, must be postmarked at least 25 days before the primary
 10 or election, except that any mailed application on which the postmark is
 11 missing or unclear is validly submitted if received in the mail not later than 20
 12 days before the primary or ~~election~~ election.
- 13 (2) If submitted in person, by facsimile transmission, ~~or~~ by transmission of a
 14 scanned document, or by automatic voter registration, must be received by the
 15 county board of elections by a time established by that board, but no earlier
 16 than 5:00 P.M., on the twenty-fifth day before the primary or ~~election~~ election.
- 17 (3) If submitted through a delegatee who violates the duty set forth in subsection
 18 (a) of this section, must be signed by the applicant and given to the delegatee
 19 not later than 25 days before the primary or election, except as provided in
 20 subsection (f) of this section.

21"

22 SECTION 1.3. G.S. 163-82.19 reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 163-82.19. Voter Automatic voter registration at drivers license offices; coordination on**
 24 **data interface.**

25 (a) Automatic Voter Registration at Drivers License Offices. – ~~The Beginning January 1,~~
 26 2022, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, pursuant to the rules adopted by in consultation with
 27 the State Board of Elections, modify its forms so that implement a method by which any eligible
 28 person who applies for original issuance, renewal or correction of a drivers license, or special
 29 identification card issued under G.S. 20-37.7 may, on a part of the form, complete an application
 30 to register shall be automatically registered to vote, or able to update the voter's registration if
 31 the voter has changed his or her address or moved from one precinct to another or from one
 32 county to another. The person taking the application shall ask if the applicant is a citizen of the
 33 United States. If the applicant states that the applicant is not a citizen of the United States, or
 34 declines to answer the question, the person taking the application shall inform the applicant that
 35 it is a felony for a person who is not a citizen of the United States to apply to register to vote. The
 36 application shall state in clear language the penalty for violation of this section. The necessary
 37 forms shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The form must ask for the previous
 38 voter registration address of the voter, if any. If a previous address is listed, and it is not in the
 39 county of residence of the applicant, the appropriate county board of elections shall treat the
 40 application as an authorization to cancel the previous registration and also process it as such
 41 under the procedures of G.S. 163-82.9. If a previous address is listed and that address is in the
 42 county where the voter applies to register, the application shall be processed as if it had been
 43 submitted under G.S. 163-82.9. inform the applicant of the following:

- 44 (1) That the applicant shall be registered to vote or have the applicant's voter
 45 registration record updated, as applicable, unless the applicant declines.
- 46 (2) The qualifications to vote under G.S. 163-55.
- 47 (3) That the applicant should not register if the applicant does not meet the
 48 qualifications described under subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- 49 (4) That any person who willfully and knowingly and with fraudulent intent gives
 50 false information on the application is guilty of a Class I felony.

1 (5) That if the applicant declines to register to vote, the fact that the applicant has
2 declined to register will remain confidential and be used for voter registration
3 purposes only.

4 (6) Information regarding the address confidentiality program under Chapter 15C
5 of the General Statutes, including how to register for the program and how
6 voter registration may impact participation in the program.

7 (a1) Requirements. – If the applicant does not decline voter registration, the person taking
8 the application shall require the applicant to provide all information requested of the applicant
9 under G.S. 163-82.4, including declaring a preference to be affiliated with a political party or a
10 preference to be an unaffiliated voter. If the applicant fails to declare a political party affiliation,
11 the applicant's political affiliation shall be designated as unaffiliated. The applicant shall provide
12 an electronic signature as required under G.S. 163-82.6(c), subject to the penalty of perjury, by
13 which the applicant attests that the information provided by the applicant is true and the applicant
14 meets all qualifications to become a registered voter.

15 (a2) When Registration Effective. – Registration shall become effective as provided in
16 G.S. 163-82.7. Applications to register to vote accepted at a drivers license office under this
17 section until the deadline established in G.S. 163-82.6(d)(2) shall be treated as timely made for
18 an election, and no person who completes an application at that drivers license office shall be
19 denied the vote in that election for failure to apply earlier than that deadline.

20 (a3) ~~All applications shall be forwarded by the Transmittal from Department of~~
21 Transportation to Board of Elections. – The Department of Transportation shall electronically
22 transmit the applications of applicants who have not declined voter registration to the appropriate
23 board of elections not later than five business days after the date of acceptance, according to rules
24 which shall be promulgated by the State Board of Elections. Those rules shall provide for a
25 paperless, instant, electronic transfer of applications to the appropriate board of elections.

26 (a4) Confidentiality of Declination to Register. – No information relating to a declination
27 to register to vote in connection with a voter registration application at a Division of Motor
28 Vehicles office may be used for any purpose other than voter registration. The State Board shall
29 ensure that information acquired for purposes of automatic voter registration under this section
30 is kept confidential in accordance with G.S. 163-82.4(c), including compliance with any voter
31 registration requirements under G.S. 163-82.10.

32 (b) ~~Any Ineligible Applications Prohibited. – If a person who is ineligible to vote~~
33 becomes registered to vote pursuant to this section, the presumption shall be that the person's
34 registration is deemed officially authorized and shall not be attributed to any fault of the person.
35 However, any person who willfully and knowingly and with fraudulent intent gives false
36 information on the application [described in subsection (a) of this section] described under this
37 section is guilty of a Class I felony.

38 ...

39 (d) No Requirement to Determine Eligibility. – Nothing in this section shall be construed
40 as requiring the Department of Transportation to determine eligibility for voter registration and
41 voting."

42 **SECTION 1.4.** G.S. 163-82.20 reads as rewritten:

43 "**§ 163-82.20. Voter registration at other public agencies; automatic voter**
44 **registration.**

45 (a) Voter Registration Agencies. – Every office in this State which accepts:

46 ...

47 (b) Duties of Voter Registration Agencies. – Agencies; Automatic Voter Registration
48 Information. – A Beginning January 1, 2023, a voter registration agency described in subsection
49 (a) of this section shall, unless the applicant declines, in writing, to register to vote; in consultation
50 with the State Board, provide, with each application for service or assistance, and with each
51 recertification, renewal, or change of address relating to such service or assistance, an application

1 process for automatic voter registration. The person taking the application shall inform the
2 applicant of the following:

- 3 (1) ~~Distribute with each application for service or assistance, and with each~~
4 ~~recertification, renewal, or change of address relating to such service or~~
5 ~~assistance:~~
6 a. ~~The voter registration application form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a)~~
7 ~~or (b); or~~
8 b. ~~The voter registration agency's own form, if it is substantially~~
9 ~~equivalent to the form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a) or (b) and has~~
10 ~~been approved by the State Board of Elections, provided that the~~
11 ~~agency's own form may be a detachable part of the agency's paper~~
12 ~~application or may be a paperless computer process, as long as the~~
13 ~~applicant is required to sign an attestation as part of the application to~~
14 ~~register.~~
15 That the applicant shall be registered to vote or have the applicant's voter
16 registration record updated, as applicable, unless the applicant declines.
17 (2) Provide a form that contains the elements required by section 7(a)(6)(B) of
18 the National Voter Registration Act; and The qualifications to vote under
19 G.S. 163-55.
20 (3) ~~Provide to each applicant who does not decline to register to vote the same~~
21 ~~degree of assistance with regard to the completion of the registration~~
22 ~~application as is provided by the office with regard to the completion of its~~
23 ~~own forms. That the applicant should not register if the applicant does not meet~~
24 ~~the qualifications described under subdivision (2) of this subsection.~~
25 (4) That any person who willfully and knowingly and with fraudulent intent gives
26 false information on the application is guilty of a Class I felony.
27 (5) That if the applicant declines to register to vote, the fact that the applicant has
28 declined to register will remain confidential and be used for voter registration
29 purposes only.
30 (6) Information regarding the address confidentiality program under Chapter 15C
31 of the General Statutes, including how to register for the program and how
32 voter registration may impact participation in the program.

33 (b1) Requirements. – If the applicant does not decline voter registration, the person taking
34 the application shall require the applicant to provide all information requested of the applicant
35 under G.S. 163-82.4, including declaring a preference to be affiliated with a political party or a
36 preference to be an unaffiliated voter. If the applicant fails to declare a political party affiliation,
37 the applicant's political affiliation shall be designated as unaffiliated. The applicant shall provide
38 an electronic signature as required under G.S. 163-82.6(c), subject to the penalty of perjury, by
39 which the applicant attests that the information provided by the applicant is true and the applicant
40 meets all qualifications to become a registered voter.

41 (c) Employment Security Law Applicants. – Provided that voter registration agencies
42 designated under subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall only be required to provide the services
43 set out in this subsection to applicants for new claims, reopened claims, and changes of address
44 under Chapter 96 of the General Statutes, the Employment Security Law.

45 (d) Home Registration for Disabled. – If a voter registration agency provides services to
46 a person with disability at the person's home, the voter registration agency shall provide the
47 services described in subsection (b) of this section at the person's home. However, the agency is
48 not required to provide automatic voter registration at the person's home.

49 ...

50 (f) Confidentiality of Declination to Register. – No information relating to a declination
51 to register to vote in connection with an application made at a voter registration agency may be

1 used for any purpose other than voter registration. The State Board shall ensure that information
2 acquired for purposes of automatic voter registration under this section is kept confidential in
3 accordance with G.S. 163-82.4(c), including compliance with any voter registration requirements
4 under G.S. 163-82.10.

5 (g) Transmittal From Agency to Board of Elections. – ~~Any voter registration application~~
6 ~~completed at a voter registration agency shall be accepted by that agency in lieu of the applicant's~~
7 ~~mailing the application. Any such application so received shall be transmitted.~~ The agency shall
8 electronically transmit the applications of applicants who did not decline voter registration to the
9 appropriate board of elections not later than five business days after acceptance, according to
10 rules which shall be promulgated by the State Board of Elections.

11 ...

12 (i) Ineligible Applications Prohibited. – No person shall make application to register to
13 vote under this section if that person is ineligible on account of age, citizenship, lack of residence
14 for the period of time provided by law, or because of conviction of a felony. However, if a person
15 who is ineligible to vote becomes registered to vote pursuant to this section, the presumption
16 shall be that the person's registration is deemed officially authorized and shall not be attributed
17 to any fault of the person.

18 (j) No Requirement to Determine Eligibility. – Nothing in this section shall be construed
19 as requiring agencies to determine eligibility for voter registration and voting."

20 **SECTION 1.5.(a)** G.S. 163-82.20A reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 163-82.20A. Voter registration upon restoration of citizenship.**

22 The State Board of Elections, the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the
23 Department of Public Safety, and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall jointly develop
24 and implement educational programs and procedures for persons to apply to register to vote at
25 the time they are restored to citizenship and all filings required have been completed under
26 Chapter 13 of the General Statutes. Those procedures shall be designed to do both of the
27 following:

- 28 (1) Inform the person that the restoration of rights removes the person's
29 disqualification from voting, but that in order to vote the person must register
30 to vote.
- 31 (2) Provide an opportunity to that person to register to ~~vote~~ vote, including
32 informing the person of automatic voter registration in accordance with
33 G.S. 163-82.19 or G.S. 163-82.20.

34 At a minimum, the program shall include a written notice to the person whose citizenship has
35 been restored, informing that person that the person may now register to vote, with a voter
36 registration form enclosed with the notice."

37 **SECTION 1.5.(b)** G.S. 163-82.20A, as amended by subsection (a) of this section,
38 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 163-82.20A. Voter registration upon restoration of citizenship.**

40 The State Board of Elections, the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the
41 Department of Public Safety, and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall jointly develop
42 and implement educational programs and procedures for persons to apply to register to vote at
43 the time they are restored to citizenship and all filings required have been completed under
44 Chapter 13 of the General Statutes. Those procedures shall be designed to do both of the
45 following:

- 46 (1) Inform the person that the restoration of rights removes the person's
47 disqualification from voting, but that in order to vote the person must register
48 to vote.
- 49 (2) Provide an opportunity to that person to register to vote, including informing
50 the person of automatic voter registration in accordance with ~~G.S. 163-82.19~~
51 ~~or 163-82.20.~~ G.S. 163-82.19, 163-82.20, 115D-5, or 116-11.

1 At a minimum, the program shall include a written notice to the person whose citizenship has
2 been restored, informing that person that the person may now register to vote, with a voter
3 registration form enclosed with the notice."

4 **SECTION 1.6.** G.S. 115D-5 reads as rewritten:

5 "**§ 115D-5. Administration of institutions by State Board of Community Colleges;**
6 **personnel exempt from North Carolina Human Resources Act; extension**
7 **courses; tuition waiver; in-plant training; contracting, etc., for establishment**
8 **and operation of extension units of the community college system; use of existing**
9 **public school facilities.**~~facilities; automatic voter registration.~~

10 (a) The State Board of Community Colleges may adopt and execute such policies,
11 regulations and standards concerning the establishment, administration, and operation of
12 institutions as the State Board may deem necessary to insure the quality of educational programs,
13 to promote the systematic meeting of educational needs of the State, and to provide for the
14 equitable distribution of State and federal funds to the several institutions.

15 ...

16 (z) Automatic Voter Registration. – Beginning January 1, 2023, the State Board of
17 Community Colleges, in consultation with the State Board of Elections, shall provide each person
18 who is enrolled and registering for courses as a student in a State community college the option
19 for automatic voter registration as follows:

20 (1) Information provided to student. – In providing an automatic voter registration
21 application process, the person taking the application shall inform the student
22 of the following:

23 a. That the student shall be registered to vote or have the student's voter
24 registration record updated, as applicable, unless the student declines.

25 b. The qualifications to vote under G.S. 163-55.

26 c. That the student should not register if the student does not meet the
27 qualifications described under sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.

28 d. That any person who willfully and knowingly and with fraudulent
29 intent gives false information on the application is guilty of a Class I
30 felony.

31 e. That if the student declines to register to vote, the fact that the student
32 has declined to register will remain confidential and be used for voter
33 registration purposes only.

34 f. Information regarding the address confidentiality program under
35 Chapter 15C of the General Statutes, including how to register for the
36 program and how voter registration may impact participation in the
37 program.

38 (2) Requirements. – If the student does not decline voter registration, the person
39 taking the application shall require the student to provide all information
40 requested of the student under G.S. 163-82.4, including declaring a preference
41 to be affiliated with a political party or a preference to be an unaffiliated voter.
42 If the student fails to declare a political party affiliation, the student's political
43 affiliation shall be designated as unaffiliated. The student shall provide an
44 electronic signature as required under G.S. 163-82.6(c), subject to the penalty
45 of perjury, by which the student attests that the information provided by the
46 student is true, and the student meets all qualifications to become a registered
47 voter.

48 (3) Confidentiality of declination to register. – No information relating to a
49 declination to register to vote in connection with an application made at a State
50 community college may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.
51 The State Board shall ensure that information acquired for purposes of

1 automatic voter registration under this section is kept confidential in
 2 accordance with G.S. 163-82.4, including compliance with any voter
 3 registration requirements under G.S. 163-82.10.

4 (4) Transmittal from State community college to board of elections. – The State
 5 community college shall electronically transmit the applications of students
 6 who did not decline voter registration to the appropriate board of elections not
 7 later than five business days after acceptance, according to rules which shall
 8 be promulgated by the State Board.

9 (5) Twenty-five-day deadline for an election. – Applications to register accepted
 10 by a State community college shall entitle a registrant to vote in any primary,
 11 general, or special election unless the registrant shall have made application
 12 later than the twenty-fifth calendar day immediately preceding the primary,
 13 general, or special election, provided that nothing shall prohibit State
 14 community colleges from continuing to accept applications during that period.

15 (6) Ineligible applications prohibited. – No person shall make application to
 16 register to vote under this subsection if that person is ineligible because of age,
 17 citizenship, lack of residence for the period of time provided by law, or
 18 conviction of a felony. However, if a person who is ineligible to vote becomes
 19 registered to vote pursuant to this subsection, the presumption shall be that the
 20 person's registration is deemed officially authorized and shall not be attributed
 21 to any fault of the person.

22 (7) No requirement to determine eligibility. – Nothing in this subsection shall be
 23 construed as requiring State community colleges to determine eligibility for
 24 voter registration and voting."

25 **SECTION 1.7.** G.S. 116-11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

26 **"§ 116-11. Powers and duties generally.**

27 The powers and duties of the Board of Governors shall include the following:

28 ...

29 (15) Automatic voter registration. – Beginning January 1, 2023, the Board of
 30 Governors, in consultation with the State Board of Elections, shall provide
 31 each person who is enrolled and registering for courses as a student in a State
 32 college or university in The University of North Carolina System the option
 33 for automatic voter registration as follows:

34 a. Information provided to student. – In providing an automatic voter
 35 registration application process, the person taking the application shall
 36 inform the student of the following:

37 1. That the student shall be registered to vote or have the student's
 38 voter registration record updated, as applicable, unless the
 39 student declines.

40 2. The qualifications to vote under G.S. 163-55.

41 3. That the student should not register if the student does not meet
 42 the qualifications described under sub-sub-subdivision 2. of
 43 this sub-subdivision.

44 4. That any person who willfully and knowingly and with
 45 fraudulent intent gives false information on the application is
 46 guilty of a Class I felony.

47 5. That if the student declines to register to vote, the fact that the
 48 student has declined to register will remain confidential and be
 49 used for voter registration purposes only.

50 6. Information regarding the address confidentiality program
 51 under Chapter 15C of the General Statutes, including how to

- 1 register for the program and how voter registration may impact
2 participation in the program.
- 3 b. Requirements. – If the student does not decline voter registration, the
4 person taking the application shall require the student to provide all
5 information requested of the student under G.S. 163-82.4, including
6 declaring a preference to be affiliated with a political party or a
7 preference to be an unaffiliated voter. If the student fails to declare a
8 political party affiliation, the student's political affiliation shall be
9 designated as unaffiliated. The student shall provide an electronic
10 signature as required under G.S. 163-82.6(c), subject to the penalty of
11 perjury, by which the student attests that the information provided by
12 the student is true, and the student meets all qualifications to become
13 a registered voter.
- 14 c. Confidentiality of declination to register. – No information relating to
15 a declination to register to vote in connection with an application made
16 at a State college or university in The University of North Carolina
17 System may be used for any purpose other than voter registration. The
18 State Board shall ensure that information acquired for purposes of
19 automatic voter registration under this section is kept confidential in
20 accordance with G.S. 163-82.4, including compliance with any voter
21 registration requirements under G.S. 163-82.10.
- 22 d. Transmittal from State college or university to board of elections. –
23 The State college or university in The University of North Carolina
24 System shall electronically transmit the applications of students who
25 did not decline voter registration to the appropriate board of elections
26 not later than five business days after acceptance, according to rules
27 which shall be promulgated by the State Board.
- 28 e. Twenty-five-day deadline for an election. – Applications to register
29 accepted by a State college or university in The University of North
30 Carolina System shall entitle a registrant to vote in any primary,
31 general, or special election unless the registrant shall have made
32 application later than the twenty-fifth calendar day immediately
33 preceding the primary, general, or special election, provided that
34 nothing shall prohibit State colleges or universities in The University
35 of North Carolina System from continuing to accept applications
36 during that period.
- 37 f. Ineligible applications prohibited. – No person shall make application
38 to register to vote under this subdivision if that person is ineligible
39 because of age, citizenship, lack of residence for the period of time
40 provided by law, or conviction of a felony. However, if a person who
41 is ineligible to vote becomes registered to vote pursuant to this
42 subdivision, the presumption shall be that the person's registration is
43 deemed officially authorized and shall not be attributed to any fault of
44 the person.
- 45 g. No requirement to determine eligibility. – Nothing in this subdivision
46 shall be construed as requiring State colleges or universities in The
47 University of North Carolina System to determine eligibility for voter
48 registration and voting."

49 **SECTION 1.8.** The State Board of Elections shall establish and implement an
50 education and outreach campaign to inform voters of the automatic voter registration procedures
51 established pursuant to this act.

1 **SECTION 1.9.** Sections 1.1 through 1.3 and Section 1.5(a) of this Part become
2 effective January 1, 2022. Sections 1.4, 1.5(b), 1.6, and 1.7 of this Part become effective January
3 1, 2023. The remainder of this Part is effective when it becomes law.
4

5 **PART II. ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION**

6 **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 163-82.5 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 163-82.5. Distribution of application forms.**

8 (a) The State Board of Elections shall make the forms described in G.S. 163-82.3
9 available for distribution through governmental and private entities, with particular emphasis on
10 making them available for organized voter registration drives.

11 (b) The State Board shall make the forms available for completion and submission on a
12 secure internet website in accordance with this Article."

13 **SECTION 2.2.** Article 7A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by
14 adding a new section to read:

15 **"§ 163-82.5A. Online voter registration.**

16 (a) An individual who meets all of the following criteria may register to vote or change
17 voter registration online:

18 (1) The individual is eligible to register to vote.

19 (2) The individual possesses one of the following that is current and valid:

20 a. North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Chapter 20 of
21 the General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional
22 license.

23 b. Special identification card for nonoperators issued under G.S. 20-37.7.

24 (b) The State Board shall establish a secure internet website to permit individuals
25 described in subsection (a) of this section to complete and submit voter registration applications
26 online.

27 (c) The secure internet website established under subsection (b) of this section shall allow
28 an individual described in subsection (a) of this section to submit:

29 (1) An application for any of the following:

30 a. Voter registration.

31 b. Reporting of a change of name, address, or party affiliation. If the
32 individual is already registered to vote and the change of address is to
33 another county, it shall be treated as an application to register to vote.

34 (2) Information to establish that the individual is eligible under this section to
35 register online.

36 (3) The individual's email address.

37 (d) Upon receipt of an individual's application under subsection (c) of this section, the
38 county board of elections, in conjunction with the State Board, shall verify the North Carolina
39 drivers license or social security number in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, update the statewide
40 registration database and search for possible duplicate registrations, and proceed under
41 G.S. 163-82.7 to verify the person's address.

42 (e) If the State Board verifies the North Carolina drivers license or social security number
43 in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall transfer the digital
44 signature of the applicant in the Division of Motor Vehicles' records to the State Board.

45 (f) If the State Board cannot verify the North Carolina drivers license or social security
46 number in accordance with G.S. 163-82.12, the State Board shall so notify the individual
47 submitting the application by email, if provided, and in accordance with this Article. That
48 individual shall be offered an opportunity to register in accordance with G.S. 163-82.6 or
49 G.S. 163-82.6A, as applicable."

50 **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 163-82.10(a1) reads as rewritten:

1 "(a1) Personal Identifying Information. – Full or partial social security numbers, dates of
2 birth, the identity of the public agency at which the voter registered under G.S. 163-82.20, any
3 electronic mail address submitted under this Article, Article 20, or Article 21A of this Chapter,
4 photocopies of identification for voting, any electronic data associated with online voter
5 registration under G.S. 163-82.5A, and drivers license numbers, whether held by the State Board
6 or a county board of elections, are confidential and shall not be considered public records and
7 subject to disclosure to the general public under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Cumulative
8 data based on those items of information may be publicly disclosed as long as information about
9 any individual cannot be discerned from the disclosed data. Disclosure of information in violation
10 of this subsection shall not give rise to a civil cause of action. This limitation of liability does not
11 apply to the disclosure of information in violation of this subsection as a result of gross
12 negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing that would otherwise be actionable."

13 **SECTION 2.4.** This Part becomes effective December 1, 2021.
14

15 **PART III. ELIMINATE WET INK REGISTRATION**

16 **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 163-82.6(c) reads as rewritten:

17 "(c) Signature. – The form shall be valid only if signed by the applicant. ~~An electronically~~
18 ~~captured signature, including signatures on applications generated by computer programs of~~
19 ~~third party groups, shall not be valid on a voter registration form, except as provided in Article~~
20 ~~21A of this Chapter. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, an An electronically~~
21 captured image of the signature of a voter on an electronic voter registration form offered by a
22 State agency shall be considered a valid signature for all purposes for which a signature on a
23 paper voter registration form is used."
24

25 **PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

26 **SECTION 4.1.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
27 law.