SESSION 1991

SENATE BILL 910* Redistricting Committee Substitute Adopted 6/25/91 Third Edition Engrossed 7/15/91 House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/30/92 Fifth Edition Engrossed 7/8/92

Short Title: Precinct Change Amendments.

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 13, 1991

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO MAKE STATUTORY CHANGES TO THE PRECINCT BOUNDARY
3	PROGRAM TO PREPARE FOR THE UNITED STATES CENSUS FOR THE
4	YEAR 2000 AND TO FACILITATE THE REPORTING OF ELECTION DATA
5	TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE.
6	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
7	Section 1. Article 12A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes reads as
8	rewritten:
9	''ARTICLE 12A.
10	"PRECINCT BOUNDARIES.
11	"§ 163-132.1: Repealed by Session Laws 1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1074, s. 2.
12	" <u>§ 163-132.1A. Precinct boundaries for certain counties.</u>
13	(a) The boundaries of precincts for the counties listed in subsection (b) of this
14	section are those recorded in the Legislative Services Office's automated redistricting
15	system as of May 1, 1991, except as changed in accordance with G.S. 163-132.3, and
16	except in Caldwell County, the boundaries of Lenoir #3, North Catawba, Gamewell #1,
17	and Gamewell #2 Precincts shall be as provided on the precinct map of the county
18	adopted by the Caldwell County Board of Elections and in effect on January 1, 1992,
19	unless changed in accordance with G.S. 163-132.3.

(Public)

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1		section shall apply only to the following counties: Alamance,
2		rke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Chatham, Chowan, Cleveland,
3		erland, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston,
4		ford, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Iredell, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir,
5		Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pender, Pitt, Randolph,
6		eson, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Surry, Union, Wake,
7	-	ayne, Wilkes, Wilson, and Yancey.
8	-	Establishment of precinct boundaries for 1990 Census.—Precinct
9		daries for other counties.
10	. ,	Legislative Services Office as soon as it receives the U.S. Census
11		l census block maps to be used in the 1990 U.S. Census shall send the
12	-	of those maps to county boards of elections. shall send as directed by the
13		ned in subsection (g) of this section the relevant copies of the U.S.
14		s official census block maps of the 1990 U.S. Census to each county
15		ns. After Not later than 90 days after receiving copies of those maps,
16	the county board	ds of election board of elections shall:
17	(1)	Alter, where necessary, precinct boundaries to be coterminous with
18		township boundaries, municipal boundaries, census block boundaries,
19		or a combination of those boundaries provided those of:
20		a. Townships, as certified by the county manager, or the chairman
21		of the board of county commissioners if there is not a county
22		manager, on the official map of the county;
23		b. The census blocks established under the latest U.S. Census;
24		c. Named roads and streets and drainage features of 40 feet or
25		more in width, as certified by the North Carolina Department of
26		Transportation on its highway maps or the planning department
27		of the relevant county;
28		<u>d.</u> <u>Municipalities, as certified by the city clerk on the official map</u>
29		of the city; or
30		e. <u>A combination of these boundaries;</u>
31		<u>Provided</u> that if, as a result of the alteration, the polling place is no
32		longer in the precinct, it may continue to be the polling place as long
33		as the lot or tract on which the polling place is situated adjoins the
34		precinct;
35	(1a)_	Alter, where necessary, precinct boundaries so that each precinct is
36		composed solely of contiguous territory, except where the operation of
37		G.S. 163-132.5A has caused a precinct to be divided into two or more
38		non-contiguous areas. territory;
39		(2) Mark all precinct boundaries on the maps sent by the
40		Legislative Services Office, showing the precinct boundaries in
41		effect as of the time of marking, but with any changes effective at a
42		later time as provided by subsection (d) of this section; and
43	(3)	File at a time deemed necessary by the Executive Secretary-Director of
44		the State Board of Elections with the State Board and the Legislative

Services Office the maps identifying the precinct boundaries. 1 The 2 Executive Secretary-Director may require a county board of elections 3 to file a written description of the boundaries of any precinct or part 4 thereof 5 Provided, where a precinct boundary has been or is to be altered because of the 6 operation of G.S. 163-132.5A, the boundary on the map shall be shown as in effect on 7 the date reported through the U.S. Census Bureau's 1988 Boundary and Annexation 8 Survey of the underlying municipal boundary on the map, but the fact that the boundary 9 has been or is to be moved because of an intervening annexation shall be reported to the 10 Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and Legislative Services Office. 11 12 (b) The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the 13 Legislative Services Office shall examine the returned maps and their written 14 descriptions. After its examination of the maps and their written descriptions, the 15 Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive Secretary-Director of the State 16 Board of Elections its opinion as to whether all precinct boundaries are coterminous with 17 current township boundaries, current municipal boundaries, census block boundaries, or a combination of those boundaries, the county board of elections has complied with the 18 19 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, with notations as to where those boundaries 20 do not comply with these standards. If the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that all precinct boundaries are coterminous with current township 21 22 boundaries, current municipal boundaries, census block boundaries, or a combination of those 23 boundaries, the county board of elections has complied with the provisions of subsection 24 (a) of this section, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board shall approve the maps and written descriptions as filed and these precincts shall be the official precincts. 25 26 Additionally, the Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive Secretary-Director 27 of the State Board of Elections its opinion as to whether each precinct is composed solely of 28 contiguous territory. 29 If the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board does not find that the (c) filed precinct boundaries are coterminous with the current township boundaries, current 30 municipal boundaries, census block boundaries, or a combination of those boundaries, 31 determines that the county board of elections has not complied with the provisions of 32 subsection (a) of this section, he shall not approve those precinct boundaries but shall 33 34 alter the precinct boundaries so that each precinct consists solely of contiguous territory and that each precinct's boundaries are coterminous with those boundaries set forth in 35 subsection (a)(1) of this section nearest to those existing precinct boundaries. to be 36 37 coterminous with the census block boundaries, municipal boundaries or township 38 boundaries nearest to those existing precinct boundaries and these These altered 39 precincts shall then be the official precincts. If the Executive Secretary-Director of the 40 State Board finds that a precinct does not consist solely of contiguous territory, he shall 41 alter the precinct boundary so that it consists solely of contiguous territory, except 42 where the non-contiguity is caused by the operation of G.S. 163-132.5A.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

43 (d) The changes in precinct boundaries under subsections (b) and (c) of this 44 section shall be made effective not later than January 1, 1992.<u>1997</u>; unless the change

1991

1	would result in placing a precinct in more than one State House of Representatives,
2	State Senate, or Congressional district, in which case it shall be made effective not later
3	<u>than January 1, 2002.</u>
4	(e) After the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board approves or alters
5	the precincts filed by the county boards and before January 2, 1990, no county board of
6	elections may establish, alter, discontinue, or create any precinct except for the
7	following:
8	(1) Changes resulting from G.S. 163-132.5A;
9	(2) Division of one precinct into two or more precincts; or
10	(3) With the consent of the Executive Secretary-Director of the State
11	Board of Elections, changes of boundaries that the U.S. Census Bureau
12	has identified for the Legislative Services Office as not being
13	coterminous with census block boundaries, township boundaries,
14	municipal boundaries, or a combination of these boundaries, provided
15	that the boundaries are made so coterminous. The Executive
16	Secretary-Director shall consult with the Legislative Services Office
17	prior to consenting to precinct changes under this subdivision.
18	(f) The State shall request that the U.S. Census Bureau provide summaries of
19	census data by precinct, and shall participate in the 1990 Census Redistricting Data
20	Program. When the State files with the Census Bureau precinct maps, those boundaries
21	shall be those effective at the date of submission, but with any change with a postponed
22	effective date made under subsection (d) of this section or made under G.S. 163-
23	132.5A. In any case where the precinct includes non-contiguous portions because of the
24	operation of G.S. 163-132.5A, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of
25	Elections shall designate those areas for census data purposes as separate precincts.
26	(g) <u>The Legislative Services Office shall send maps, under subsection (a) of this</u>
27	section, to the counties named below by the dates indicated:
28	(1) Maps to be sent not later than January 1, 1993, to the following
29	counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort,
30	Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Currituck,
31	Cherokee, Clay, Franklin, Gates, and Hoke;
32	(2) <u>Maps to be sent not later than January 1, 1994, to the following</u>
33	counties: Columbus, Dare, Davie, Graham, Haywood, Hertford, Hyde,
34	Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Martin, Mitchell, Montgomery,
35	$\frac{\text{Northampton, and Pasquotank; and}}{\text{Northampton, to the cent net later then Lemma 1, 1005, to the following}}$
36	(3) Maps to be sent not later than January 1, 1995, to the following
37	counties: Macon, McDowell, Moore, Pamlico, Perquimans, Person,
38	Polk, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance,
39 40	(b) This section shall apply only to the following counties: Alexander
40 41	(h) This section shall apply only to the following counties: Alexander,
41 42	<u>Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden,</u> Carteret, Caswell, Cherokee, Clay, Columbus, Currituck, Dare, Davie, Franklin, Gates,
42 43	Graham, Greene, Haywood, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon,
43 44	Madison, Martin, McDowell, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Northampton, Pamlico,
	waanson, warun, wiebowen, witchen, wongomery, woore, worunampton, Fallineo,

1991

1	Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Polk, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Swain,
2	Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Watauga, and Yadkin.
3	"§ 163-132.3. Alterations to precinct boundaries after January 1, 1990. approved
4	precinct boundaries.
5	(a) No county board of elections of a county listed in G.S. 163-132.1A (b), after
6	January 1, 1990, and no county board of elections of a county listed in G.S. 163-
7	132.2(h), after its precinct boundaries are approved pursuant to G.S. 163-132.2, may
8	change any precinct boundary unless the proposed new precinct consists solely of
9	<u>contiguous territory and its</u> new boundaries are coterminous with those of:
10	(1) Townships, municipalities, Townships, as certified by the county
11	manager, or the chairman of the board of county commissioners if
12	there is not a county manager, on the official map of the county; the
13	(2) <u>The census blocks established under the latest U.S. Census, or Census; (2) Nemod reads and structs and drainage factures of 40 fact or more in</u>
14	(3) Named roads and streets and drainage features of 40 feet or more in width as partified by the North Carolina Department of Transportation
15	width, as certified by the North Carolina Department of Transportation
16 17	on its highway maps or the planning department of the relevant
17	(4) <u>County;</u> (4) <u>Municipalities, as certified by the city clerk on the official map of the</u>
18 19	(4) <u>Municipalities, as certified by the city clerk on the official map of the</u> city; or
20	(5) a-A combination of these boundaries.
20 21	The county boards of elections shall report precinct boundary changes by filing with
21	the Executive Secretary Director of the State Board-Legislative Services Office on current
22	official census maps or maps certified by the North Carolina Department of
23 24	<u>Transportation or the county's planning department</u> the new boundaries of these
25	precincts. The Executive Secretary-Director may require a county board of elections to
26	file a written description of the boundaries of any precinct or part thereof. No newly
27	created or altered precinct boundary occurring after January 1, 1990, is effective until
28	approved by the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board as being coterminous
29	with the boundaries of townships, municipalities, census blocks established by the then latest
30	U.S. Census, or a combination of those boundaries. in compliance with this subsection.
31	(b) The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the
32	Legislative Services Office shall examine the maps of the proposed new or altered
33	precincts and any required written descriptions. After its examination of the maps and
34	their written descriptions, the Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive
35	Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections its opinion as to whether all of the
36	proposed precinct boundaries are in compliance with subsection (a) of this section, with
37	notations as to where those boundaries do not comply with these standards. If the
38	Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that all precinct boundaries
39	are in compliance with this section, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board
40	shall approve the maps and written descriptions as filed and these precincts shall be the
41	official precincts.
42	(c) If the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board determines that the
43	proposed precinct boundaries are not in compliance with subsection (a) of this section,
44	he shall not approve those precinct boundaries. He shall notify the county board of

elections of his disapproval specifying the reasons. The county board of elections may 1 2 then resubmit new precinct maps and written descriptions to cure the reasons for their 3 disapproval. "§ 163-132.4. Directives. 4 The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections may promulgate 5 6 directives concerning its duties and those of the county boards of elections under this 7 Article. 8 "§ 163-132.5. Cooperation of State and local agencies. 9 The State Budget Office, the Department of Transportation and county and 10 municipal planning departments shall cooperate and assist the Legislative Services Office, the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections and the county 11 12 boards of elections in the implementation of this Article. "§ 163-132.5A. Precinct boundaries. 13 14 (a) Whenever an annexation ordinance adopted under Parts 1, 2, or 3 of Article 15 4A of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, or a local act of the General Assembly 16 annexing property to a municipality, becomes effective during the period beginning 17 with the date of the annexation as reported through the U.S. Census Bureau's 1988 18 Boundary and Annexation Survey and ending October 31, 1989, and any part of the 19 boundary of the area being annexed which is actually contiguous to the city is also a precinct boundary for elections administered by the county board of elections then the 20 21 annexed area is automatically moved into the 'city precinct', provided that if the annexed area is adjacent to more than one city precinct, the board of elections shall 22 place the area in any one or more of the adjacent city precincts. The county board of 23 24 elections may delay the effective date of any change under this subsection to a date not later than January 1, 1992. 25 26 (b)Repealed by Session Laws 1989, c. 770, s. 75.3. (1987, c. 715, s. 4; 1987 27 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1074, s. 2; 1989, c. 440, s. 3, c. 770, s. 75.3.) "§ 163-132.5B. Exemption from Administrative Procedure Act. 28 29 The State Board of Elections is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 150B of the 30 General Statutes while acting under the authority of this Article. Appeals from a final 31 decision of the Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections under this Article shall be taken to the State Board of Elections within 30 days of that decision. 32 The State Board shall approve, disapprove or modify the Executive Secretary's decision 33 within 30 days of receipt of notice of appeal. Failure of the State Board to act within 30 34 35 days of receipt of notice of appeal shall constitute a final decision approving that of the Executive Secretary. Appeals from a final decision of the State Board under this Article 36 shall be taken to the Superior Court of Wake County. 37

- 38 "§ 163-132.5C. Local acts and township lines.
- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, a county board of elections
 need not have the approval of any other county board or commission to make precinct
 boundary changes required by this Article.
- 42 (b) Notwithstanding G.S. 163-128, precinct boundaries established, retained or
 43 changed under this Article, or changed to follow a district line where a precinct has been
 44 <u>divided in a districting plan, may cross township lines.</u>

1991

1	"§ 163-132.5D. Retention of precinct maps.
2	The Executive Secretary-Director of the State Board of Elections shall retain the
3	maps and written descriptions which he approves pursuant to G.S. 163-132.3.
4	" <u>§ 163-132.5E. Precinct maps and voter statistics filed with the Legislative</u>
5	<u>Services Office.</u>
6	(a) No later than January 31 of each year, the chairman of each county board of
7	elections shall file with the Legislative Services Office a map showing the county's
8	precincts as of January 1 of that year.
9	(b) Not later than January 31 of each year, the chair of each county board of
10	elections shall file with the Legislative Services Office a list of each precinct in the
11	county as of January 1 of that year and the number of registered voters, in each precinct,
12	by political party and race; and, no later than January 31 of each year beginning in 1996,
13	with a numerical breakdown as to the race of registered voters of each political party.
14	(c) The Legislative Services Office shall develop and send by mail to each
15	county board of elections by September 15 of each year a standard electronic data
16	format that can be used in the following year by county boards of election as an
17	alternative method of filing the list required by subsection (b) of this section. The
18	standard electronic data format shall be for data provided in international standard
19	ASCII file format on 9-track magnetic tape, 8-millimeter magnetic tape, 5 1/4 inch
20	diskettes, or 3 1/2 inch diskettes. The standard electronic data format shall contain the
21	name of the precinct, and for each precinct the total number of registered voters, the
22	number of registered voters by party affiliation, the number of registered voters by race,
23	and a numerical breakdown as to the race of registered voters in each political party.
24	" <u>§ 163-132.5F. U.S. Census data by precinct.</u>
25	The State shall request the U.S. Census Bureau for each decennial census to provide
26	summaries of census data by precinct and shall participate in any U.S. Bureau of the
27	Census' program to effectuate this provision.
28	"§ 163t This Article applies only to counties with a population of 55,000 or over,
29	according to the 1980 decennial federal census and to any other county
30	whose board of elections adopts not later than October 1, 1988, a
31	resolution indicating a desire to participate in the program established
32	by this Article, which resolution shall only become effective if received by the Eventuing Secretary Director and approved by him on an before
33 34	the Executive Secretary-Director and approved by him on or before October 15, 1988 The Executive Secretary Director shall approve the
54 35	October 15, 1988. The Executive Secretary-Director shall approve the resolution if, after consultation with the Legislative Services Office, he
35 36	determines that available resources exist to map the precincts of the
30 37	county applying while doing the work for the mandated counties. A
38	county approved to participate in the program may discontinue its
39	participation if it so indicates by a resolution received by the Executive
40	Secretary-Director on or before February 1, 1989. Counties voluntarily
41	participating in this Article are bound by all the provisions of this
42	Article.
43	"§§ 163-133, 163-134: Reserved for future codification purposes."
44	Sec. 2. G.S. 163-192 reads as rewritten:

1	"§ 163-192. St	tate Board of Elections to prepare abstracts and declare results of
2	prim	aries and elections.
3	(a) After	Primary At the conclusion of its canvass of the primary election, the
4	State Board of H	Elections shall prepare separate abstracts of the votes cast:
5	(1)	For Governor and all State officers, justices of the Supreme Court,
6		judges of the Court of Appeals, judges of the superior court, and
7		United States Senators.
8	(2)	For members of the United States House of Representatives for the
9		several congressional districts in the State.
10	(3)	For district court judges for the several district court districts in the
11		State.
12	(4)	For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.
13	(5)	For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State
14		composed of more than one county.
15	(6)	For members of the State House of Representatives in the several
16		representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.
17		epared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state
18		r of votes cast for each candidate of each political party for each of the
19		canvassed by the State Board of Elections. They shall also state the
20		s of the person or persons whom the State Board of Elections shall
21	•	dicially determine by the count to be nominated for each office.
22	-	epared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State
23		ons in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State
24	affixed thereto.	
25	. ,	General Election At the conclusion of its canvass of the general
26		te Board of Elections shall prepare abstracts of the votes cast:
27	(1)	For President and Vice-President of the United States, when an
28		election is held for those offices.
29	(2)	For Governor and all State officers, justices of the Supreme Court,
30		judges of the Court of Appeals, judges of the superior court, and
31		United States Senators.
32	(3)	For members of the United States House of Representatives for the
33		several congressional districts in the State.
34	(4)	For district court judges for the several district court district as defined
35	(5)	in G.S. 7A-133 in the State.
36	(5)	For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.
37	(6)	For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State
38	(7)	composed of more than one county.
39	(7)	For members of the State House of Representatives in the several
40	(0)	representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.
41	(8)	For and against any constitutional amendments or propositions
42	Abstracts or	submitted to the people.
43	Abstracts pr	epared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state

44 the names of all persons voted for, the office for which each received votes, and the

number of legal ballots cast for each candidate for each office canvassed by the State 1 2 Board of Elections. They shall also state the name or names of the person or persons whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and judicially determine by the count 3 4 to be elected to each office. 5 Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State 6 Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State 7 affixed thereto. 8 Disposition of Abstracts of Returns. - The State Board of Elections shall file (c)9 with the Secretary of State the original abstracts of returns prepared by it under the 10 provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and also the duplicate county abstracts transmitted to the State Board of Elections under the provisions of G.S. 163-11 12 177. Upon the request of the Legislative Services Office, the Secretary of State shall 13 submit a copy of the original abstracts to that Office." 14 Sec. 3. The Legislative Services Commission may use funds otherwise 15 available to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this act for which the Legislative 16 Services Office is responsible. 17 Sec. 4. G.S. 163-195 reads as rewritten: 18 "§ 163-195. Secretary of State to record abstracts and general election results. 19 The Secretary of State shall record the State, district, and county abstracts (a) 20 filed with him by the State Board of Elections in a book to be kept by him for that 21 purpose. 22 (b) Within seven days after the county board of elections meets to canvass the 23 returns for the general election, the chairman of that board shall mail, or otherwise 24 deliver, to the Secretary of State results of elections for: 25 President and Vice President of the United States Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and all other State executive officers 26 27 United States Senators 28 Members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress 29 Justices, Judges, and District Attorneys of the General Court of Justice 30 **State Senators** 31 Members of the State House of Representatives 32 Constitutional amendments and propositions submitted to the voters of the 33 State. The chairman shall deliver the results in a format prescribed by the Secretary of 34 35 State. The chairman shall use the same format to amend the results to reflect any recounts or changes in the data that he learns of later after the initial results are sent in. 36 In prescribing the format for any county, the Secretary of State shall, to the extent 37 38 practicable, work within the limits of that county's existing reporting system. 39 The Secretary of State shall compile the results he receives in a document and 40 deliver copies to the State Senate and the State House of Representatives within 90 days 41 after the general election. The Secretary of State shall amend the document to correct 42 any inaccuracies that later counts reveal in the data, and shall provide the House and Senate with the corrected data." 43

1991

1	Sec. 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 163-132.3, as amended by
2	Section 1 of this act, the validity of the boundaries of a precinct of a county subject to
3	G.S. 163-132.1A which consists of noncontiguous territory as of January 1, 1992, shall
4	not be affected by the provisions of G.S. 163-132.3; provided, however, that any change
5	to the boundaries of that precinct after that date shall be subject to G.S. 163-132.3, as
6	amended by this act. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, not later than January 1,
7	1997, the relevant county board of elections shall change any nonconforming precinct to
8	eliminate noncontiguous territory in a precinct.
9	Sec. 6. This act becomes effective July 1, 1992.