

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 185

Short Title: Ballot Reform Act of 2013. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Jones, Martin, Conrad, and Steinburg (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Elections, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 4, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ELIMINATE STRAIGHT-PARTY TICKET VOTING AND TO PROVIDE  
3 FAIRNESS IN PLACEMENT OF PARTIES ON THE BALLOT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-165.6(e) reads as rewritten:

6 "(e) No Straight-Party Voting. – Each official ballot shall not contain any place that  
7 allows a voter with one mark to vote for the candidates of a party for more than one office. ~~be~~  
8 ~~arranged so that the voter may cast one vote for a party's nominees for all offices except~~  
9 ~~President and Vice President. A vote for President and Vice President shall be cast separately~~  
10 ~~from a straight party vote. The official ballot shall be prepared so that a voter may cast a~~  
11 ~~straight party vote, but then make an exception to that straight party vote by voting for a~~  
12 ~~candidate not nominated by that party or by voting for fewer than all the candidates nominated~~  
13 ~~by that party. Instructions for general election ballots shall clearly advise voters of the rules in~~  
14 ~~this subsection and of the statutes providing for the counting of ballots."~~

15 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163-182.1(a)(7) is repealed.

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163-165.6(d) reads as rewritten:

17 "(d) Order of Party Candidates on General Election Official Ballot. – Candidates in any  
18 ballot item on a general election official ballot shall appear in the following order:

- 19 (1) Nominees of political parties that reflect at least five percent (5%) of  
20 statewide voter registration, according to the most recent statistical report  
21 published by the State Board of Elections, beginning with the party that the  
22 Governor was elected as the nominee of, then for other parties in  
23 alphabetical order by party and in alphabetical order within the party. In the  
24 case of a multi-seat race, the names of the candidates of that party shall  
25 appear in alphabetical order by party beginning with the letter of the  
26 alphabet that the Governor's last name begins with, then returning to the  
27 letter A after the letter Z.  
28 (2) Nominees of other political parties, in alphabetical order by ~~party and in~~  
29 ~~alphabetical order within the party. In the case of a multi-seat race, the~~  
30 ~~names of the candidates of that party shall appear in alphabetical order by~~  
31 ~~party beginning with the letter of the alphabet that the Governor's last name~~  
32 ~~begins with, then returning to the letter A after the letter Z.~~  
33 (3) Unaffiliated candidates, in alphabetical ~~order.~~ order, beginning with the  
34 letter of the alphabet that the Governor's last name begins with, then  
35 returning to the letter A after the letter Z."



1                   **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective with respect to elections conducted on or  
2 after January 1, 2014.