

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 1120**

Short Title: H.S. Students as Pollworkers.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; and Insko.

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Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

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April 10, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PERMIT THE APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN HIGH SCHOOL  
2 STUDENTS AS PRECINCT ASSISTANTS.  
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-42 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 163-42. Assistants at polls; appointment; term of office; qualifications; oath of**  
7 **office.**

8 Each county and municipal board of elections is authorized, in its discretion, to  
9 appoint two or more assistants for each precinct to aid the chief judge and judges. Not  
10 more than two assistants shall be appointed in precincts having 500 or less registered  
11 voters. Assistants shall be qualified voters of the county in which the precinct is located.  
12 When the board of elections determines that assistants are needed in a precinct an equal  
13 number shall be appointed from different political parties, unless the requirement as to  
14 party affiliation cannot be met because of an insufficient number of voters of different  
15 political parties within the county.

16 In the discretion of the county board of elections, a precinct assistant may serve less  
17 than the full day prescribed for chief judges and judges in G.S. 163-47(a).

18 The chairman of each political party in the county shall have the right to recommend  
19 from three to 10 registered voters in each precinct for appointment as precinct assistants  
20 in that precinct. If the recommendations are received by it no later than the thirtieth day  
21 prior to the primary or election, the board shall make appointments of the precinct  
22 assistants for each precinct from the names thus recommended. If the recommendations  
23 of the party chairs for precinct assistant in a precinct are insufficient, the county board  
24 of elections by unanimous vote of all of its members may name to serve as precinct  
25 assistant in that precinct registered voters in that precinct who were not recommended  
26 by the party chairs. If, after diligently seeking to fill the positions with registered voters  
27 of the precinct, the county board still has an insufficient number of precinct assistants  
28 for the precinct, the county board by unanimous vote of all of its members may appoint  
29 to the positions registered voters in other precincts in the same county who meet the

1 qualifications other than residence to be precinct officials in the precinct. In making its  
2 appointments, the county board shall assure, wherever possible, that no precinct has  
3 precinct officials all of whom are registered with the same party. In no instance shall the  
4 county board appoint nonresidents of the precinct to a majority of the positions as  
5 precinct assistant in a precinct.

6 In addition, a county board of elections by unanimous vote of all of its members may  
7 appoint any registered voter in the county as emergency election-day assistant, as long  
8 as that voter is otherwise qualified to be a precinct official. The State Board of Elections  
9 shall determine for each election the number of emergency election-day assistants each  
10 county may have, based on population, expected turnout, and complexity of election  
11 duties. The county board by unanimous vote of all of its members may assign  
12 emergency election-day assistants on the day of the election to any precinct in the  
13 county where the number of precinct officials is insufficient because of an emergency  
14 occurring within 48 hours of the opening of the polls that prevents an appointed precinct  
15 official from serving. A person appointed to serve as emergency election-day assistant  
16 shall be trained and paid like other precinct assistants in accordance with G.S. 163-46.  
17 A county board of elections shall apportion the appointments as emergency election-day  
18 assistant among registrants of each political party so as to make possible the staffing of  
19 each precinct with officials of more than one party, and the county board shall make  
20 assignments so that no precinct has precinct officials all of whom are registered with the  
21 same party.

22 A student of at least 17 years of age at the time of any election or primary in which  
23 the student works shall be eligible to be appointed as an election assistant. To be eligible  
24 a student must have all the following qualifications:

- 25 (1) Be a United States citizen.
- 26 (2) Be a resident of the county in which the student is appointed.
- 27 (3) Be enrolled in a secondary educational institution with an exemplary  
28 academic record as determined by that institution.
- 29 (4) Be recommended by the principal or director of the secondary  
30 educational institution in which the student is enrolled.
- 31 (5) Have the consent of a parent, legal custodian, or guardian.

32 No more than two student election assistants shall be assigned to any voting place.  
33 Every student election assistant shall work under the direct supervision of the election  
34 judges. The student election assistants shall attend the same training as any other  
35 election assistant and shall be compensated in the same manner as other election  
36 assistants. Under no circumstances may students ineligible to register to vote be  
37 appointed and act as precinct judges or observers in any election.

38 Before entering upon the duties of the office, each assistant shall take the oath  
39 prescribed in G.S. 163-41(a) to be administered by the chief judge of the precinct for  
40 which the assistant is appointed. Assistants serve for the particular primary or election  
41 for which they are appointed, unless the county board of elections appoints them for a  
42 term to expire on the date appointments are to be made pursuant to G.S. 163-41."

43 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2004.