

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 981

Short Title: Initiative. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blust; Blackwood, Cleveland, Lewis, Moore, Rhodes,  
and Setzer.

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

March 29, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO  
PROVIDE TO THE PEOPLE THE POWER OF INITIATIVE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article XIII of the Constitution of North Carolina is amended  
by adding at the end a new section to read:

**"Sec. 5. Initiative.**

(1) Procedure for proposal. The people may initiate a referendum on proposed  
amendments to this Constitution by presenting to the State Board of Elections a petition  
that sets forth the text of the proposed amendment to the Constitution and is certified to  
have been signed by qualified voters not less in number than twenty percent (20%) of  
the votes for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election. No more than  
fifteen percent (15%) of the signatures may be from any one congressional district. The  
petition shall ask that it be submitted to the qualified voters.

(2) Registration. A petition must be registered with the Secretary of State prior to  
circulation, and no signature shall be valid unless submitted to the State Board of  
Elections within one year after the date of registration.

(3) Submission to voters. The State Board of Elections shall submit the proposed  
constitutional amendment to the qualified voters of the State at the next statewide  
general election held not less than 150 days from the date of certification by the State  
Board of Elections that the petition is valid.

(4) Restricted subjects. No initiative measure may change the provisions of this  
subsection. No initiative measure defeated under this section may be considered again  
under this section until five years from the date of the election have elapsed.

(5) Effectiveness; effective date. An initiative to be effective must be approved  
by a majority of the qualified voters voting in the election thereon. An initiative takes  
effect on the first day of January after the election, unless the proposed amendment  
provides a different effective date.

