

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1633*

Short Title: Superintendent Appointive. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Carney, Holliman, Lucas, Goforth (Primary Sponsors);
Glazier, Harrison, and Hurley.

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

April 19, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE
2 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL BE APPOINTED BY
3 THE GOVERNOR SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE AND
4 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 4(2) of Article IX of the North Carolina Constitution
8 reads as rewritten:

9 "(2) **Superintendent of Public Instruction.** The Superintendent of Public
10 Instruction shall be the secretary and chief administrative officer of the State Board of
11 Education. The Superintendent shall be appointed by the Governor, after confirmation
12 by joint resolution of the General Assembly, except the General Assembly may provide
13 by law for interim appointments without confirmation. The Superintendent shall serve at
14 the pleasure of the Governor."

15 **SECTION 2.** Section 7(1) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution
16 reads as rewritten:

17 "(1) **Officers.** A Secretary of State, an Auditor, a Treasurer, a ~~Superintendent of~~
18 ~~Public Instruction~~, an Attorney General, a Commissioner of Agriculture, a
19 Commissioner of Labor, and a Commissioner of Insurance shall be elected by the
20 qualified voters of the State in 1972 and every four years thereafter, at the same time
21 and places as members of the General Assembly are elected. Their term of office shall
22 be four years and shall commence on the first day of January next after their election
23 and continue until their successors are elected and qualified."

24 **SECTION 3.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be
25 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a general election on November 6, 2007,
26 which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State.
27 Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the
28 General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

"[] FOR [] AGAINST

Constitutional amendments to make the Superintendent of Public Instruction an appointee of the Governor."

SECTION 4. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendments to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendments so certified among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the amendments shall become effective the earlier of January 1, 2009, and the date a vacancy occurs in the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and no election shall be held for that office in 2008.

SECTION 5. G.S. 115C-18 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-18. Election-Appointment of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be appointed by the Governor, after confirmation by joint resolution of the General Assembly, except for interim appointments without confirmation as provided by subsection (b) of this section. The Superintendent shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall submit an initial nomination to the General Assembly no later than February 15, 2009, to serve beginning April 1, 2009, provided that if a vacancy occurs between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, the Governor shall submit a nomination with 60 days of occurrence of the vacancy. When any vacancy occurs at any other time, the Governor shall submit a nomination to the General Assembly within 60 days of the vacancy.

(b) If at the time of occurrence of a vacancy, the General Assembly has not convened the regular session, the regular session has adjourned sine die or for more than 10 days, the Governor may appoint an interim superintendent to serve until the 60th calendar day after the General Assembly is again in regular session.

(c) No person whose nomination has been rejected by a negative floor vote in either house may be appointed as interim superintendent, and if such person is serving as interim superintendent at the time of the rejection, that person ceases to hold office 30 days later. ~~electd by the qualified voters of the State in 1972 and every four years thereafter at the same time and places as members of the General Assembly are elected. His term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of January next after election and continue until his successor is elected and qualified.~~

~~If the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint another to serve until his successor is elected and qualified. Every such vacancy shall be filled by election at the first election for members of the General Assembly that occurs more than 30 days after the vacancy has taken place, and the person chosen shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term fixed in Article III, Sec. 7 of the Constitution of North Carolina. When a vacancy occurs in the office and the term expires on the first day of January succeeding the next election for members of the General Assembly, the Governor shall appoint to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the office. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office for any of the causes stated herein, the Governor may appoint an interim officer to perform the duties of that office until a person is~~

1 appointed or elected pursuant to Article III, Sec. 7 of the Constitution of North Carolina
2 to fill the vacancy and is qualified.

3 ~~The time of the election of the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be in~~
4 ~~accordance with the provisions of Article 1 of Subchapter I of Chapter 163 of the~~
5 ~~General Statutes.~~

6 ~~The election, term and induction into office of the Superintendent of Public~~
7 ~~Instruction shall be in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 147-4."~~

8 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 147-3(c) reads as rewritten:

9 "(c) The general civil executive officers of this State are as follows:

- 10 (1) A Governor;
- 11 (2) A Lieutenant Governor;
- 12 (3) Private secretary for the Governor;
- 13 (4) A Secretary of State;
- 14 (5) An Auditor;
- 15 (6) A Treasurer;
- 16 (7) An Attorney General;
- 17 ~~(8) A Superintendent of Public Instruction;~~
- 18 (9) The members of the Governor's Council;
- 19 (10) A Commissioner of Agriculture;
- 20 (11) A Commissioner of Labor;
- 21 (12) A Commissioner of Insurance."

22 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 147-4 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 147-4. Executive officers – election; term; induction into office.**

24 The executive department shall consist of a Governor, a Lieutenant Governor, a
25 Secretary of State, an Auditor, a Treasurer, ~~a Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~ an
26 Attorney General, a Commissioner of Agriculture, a Commissioner of Insurance, and a
27 Commissioner of Labor, who shall be elected for a term of four years, by the qualified
28 electors of the State, at the same time and places, and in the same manner, as members
29 of the General Assembly are elected. Their term of office shall commence on the first
30 day of January next after their election and continue until their successors are elected
31 and qualified. The persons having the highest number of votes, respectively, shall be
32 declared duly elected, but if two or more be equal and highest in votes for the same
33 office, then one of them shall be chosen by joint ballot of both houses of the General
34 Assembly. Contested elections shall be determined by a joint ballot of both houses of
35 the General Assembly in such manner as shall be prescribed by law."

36 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 147-11.1 reads as rewritten:

37 **"§ 147-11.1. Succession to office of Governor; Acting Governor.**

38 (a) Lieutenant Governor. –

- 39 (1) The Lieutenant Governor-elect shall become Governor upon the
40 failure of the Governor-elect to qualify. The Lieutenant Governor shall
41 become Governor upon the death, resignation, or removal from office
42 of the Governor. The further order of succession to the office of
43 Governor shall be prescribed by law. A successor shall serve for the

- 1 remainder of the term of the Governor whom he succeeds and until a
2 new Governor is elected and qualified.
- 3 (2) During the absence of the Governor from the State, or during the
4 physical or mental incapacity of the Governor to perform the duties of
5 his office, the Lieutenant Governor shall be Acting Governor. The
6 further order of succession as Acting Governor shall be prescribed by
7 law.
- 8 (b) President of Senate, Speaker of the House and Other Officers. –
- 9 (1) If, by reason of failure to qualify, death, resignation, or removal from
10 office, there is neither a Governor nor a Lieutenant Governor to
11 discharge the powers and duties of the office of Governor, then the
12 President of the Senate shall, upon his resignation as President of the
13 Senate and as Senator, become Governor.
- 14 (2) If, at the time when under subdivision (1) of this subsection the
15 President of the Senate is to become Governor, there is no President of
16 the Senate, or the President of the Senate fails to qualify as Governor,
17 then the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall, upon his
18 resignation as Speaker and as Representative, become Governor.
- 19 (3) If, at the time when under subdivision (2) of this subsection the
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives is to become Governor, there
21 is no Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives fails to qualify as Governor, then that officer
23 of the State of North Carolina who is highest on the following list, and
24 who is not under disability to serve as Governor, shall, upon his
25 resignation of the office which places him in the order of succession,
26 become Governor: Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer,
27 ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction~~, Attorney General, Commissioner
28 of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, and Commissioner of
29 Insurance.
- 30 (c) Acting Governor Generally. –
- 31 (1) If, by reason of absence from the State or physical or mental
32 incapacity, there is neither a Governor nor a Lieutenant Governor
33 qualified to discharge the powers and duties of the office of Governor,
34 then the President of the Senate shall become Acting Governor.
- 35 (2) If, at the time when under subdivision (1) of this subsection the
36 President of the Senate is to become Acting Governor, there is no
37 President of the Senate, or the President of the Senate fails to qualify
38 as Acting Governor, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives
39 shall become Acting Governor.
- 40 (3) If, at the time when under subdivision (2) of this subsection the
41 Speaker of the House of Representatives is to become Acting
42 Governor, there is no Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the
43 Speaker of the House of Representatives fails to qualify as Acting
44 Governor, then that officer of the State of North Carolina who is

1 highest on the following list, and who is not under disability to serve
2 as Acting Governor, shall become Acting Governor: Secretary of
3 State, Auditor, Treasurer, ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~
4 Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of
5 Labor, and Commissioner of Insurance.

6 (d) Governor Serving under Subsection (c). – An individual serving as Acting
7 Governor under subsection (c) of this section shall continue to act for the remainder of
8 the term of the Governor whom he succeeds and until a new Governor is elected and
9 qualified, except that:

10 (1) If his tenure as Acting Governor is founded in whole or in part upon
11 the absence of both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor from the
12 State, then he shall act only until the Governor or Lieutenant Governor
13 returns to the State; and

14 (2) If his tenure as Acting Governor is founded in whole or in part upon
15 the physical or mental incapacity of the Governor or Lieutenant
16 Governor, then he shall act only until the removal of the incapacity of
17 the Governor or Lieutenant Governor.

18 (e) Officers to Which Subsections (b), (c) and (d) Applicable. – Subsections (b),
19 (c), and (d) of this section shall apply only to such officers as are eligible to the office of
20 Governor under the Constitution of North Carolina, and only to officers who are not
21 under impeachment by the House of Representatives at the time they are to become
22 Governor or Acting Governor.

23 (f) Compensation of Acting Governor. – During the period that any individual
24 serves as Acting Governor under subsection (c) of this section, his compensation shall
25 be at the rate then provided by law in the case of the Governor."

26 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 163-1 is amended by deleting the entries in the table for
27 "Superintendent of Public Instruction".

28 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 163-8 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 163-8. Filling vacancies in State executive offices.**

30 If the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor shall become vacant, the
31 provisions of G.S. 147-11.1 shall apply. If the office of any of the following officers
32 shall be vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise than by expiration of term, it shall
33 be the duty of the Governor to appoint another to serve until his successor is elected and
34 qualified: Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~
35 Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, and
36 Commissioner of Insurance. Each such vacancy shall be filled by election at the first
37 election for members of the General Assembly that occurs more than 60 days after the
38 vacancy has taken place, and the person chosen shall hold the office for the remainder
39 of the unexpired four-year term: Provided, that when a vacancy occurs in any of the
40 offices named in this section and the term expires on the first day of January succeeding
41 the next election for members of the General Assembly, the Governor shall appoint to
42 fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the office.

43 Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of any one of these officers for any
44 of the causes stated in the preceding paragraph, the Governor may appoint an acting

1 officer to perform the duties of that office until a person is appointed or elected pursuant
2 to this section and Article III, Section 7 of the State Constitution, to fill the vacancy and
3 is qualified."

4 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 163-278.27(b) reads as rewritten:

5 "(b) Whenever the Board has knowledge of or has reason to believe there has been
6 a violation of any section of this Article, it shall report that fact, together with
7 accompanying details, to the following prosecuting authorities:

8 (1) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the State Senate
9 or State House of Representatives: report to the district attorney of the
10 prosecutorial district in which the candidate for nomination or election
11 resides;

12 (2) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office of
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor,
14 State Treasurer, ~~State Superintendent of Public Instruction~~, State
15 Attorney General, State Commissioner of Agriculture, State
16 Commissioner of Labor, State Commissioner of Insurance, and all
17 other State elective offices, Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the
18 Court of Appeals, judge of a superior court, judge of a district court,
19 and district attorney of the superior court: report to the district attorney
20 of the prosecutorial district in which Wake County is located;

21 (3) In the case of an individual other than a candidate, including, without
22 limitation, violations by members of political committees, referendum
23 committees or treasurers: report to the district attorney of the
24 prosecutorial district in which the individual resides; and

25 (4) In the case of a person or any group of individuals: report to the
26 district attorney or district attorneys of the prosecutorial district or
27 districts in which any of the officers, directors, agents, employees or
28 members of the person or group reside."

29 **SECTION 12.** Sections 5 through 11 of this act become effective only if the
30 voters approve the constitutional amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act. If
31 the voters approve the constitutional amendments, Sections 5 through 11 of this act shall
32 become effective the earlier of January 1, 2009, and the date a vacancy occurs in the
33 office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and no election shall be held for that
34 office in 2008.

35 **SECTION 13.** This act is effective when it becomes law.