

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 824

Short Title: Improve Gender Equity Reporting Statute.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko; Alexander, Coates, Earle, Fisher, and Harrison.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

March 15, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENDER EQUITY REPORTING STATUTE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 143-157.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-157.1. Reports on gender-proportionate appointments to statutorily created decision-making regulatory bodies.

(a) Appointments. – In appointing members to any statutorily created decision-making or regulatory board, commission, council, or committee of the State, the appointing authority should select, from among the most qualified persons, those persons whose appointment would promote membership on the board, commission, council, or committee that accurately reflects the proportion that each gender represents in the population of the State as a whole or, in the case of a local board, commission, council, or committee, in the population of the area represented by the board, commission, council, or committee, as determined pursuant to the most recent federal decennial census, unless the law regulating such appointment requires otherwise. If there are multiple appointing authorities for the board, commission, council, or committee, they may consult with each other to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(b) Reports generally. – ~~Except as provided at the end of this section, each~~ Each appointing authority described in subsection (a) shall submit a report to the Secretary of State annually ~~by December 1~~ which discloses the number of appointments made during the preceding year ~~from each gender~~ and the number of appointments of each gender made, expressed both in numerical terms and as a percentage of the total membership of the board, commission, council, or committee. ~~A copy of the report shall be submitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.~~ In addition, each appointing authority shall designate a person responsible for retaining all applications for appointment, who shall ensure that information describing each applicant's gender and qualifications is available for public inspection during reasonable hours. Nothing in this section requires disclosure of an applicant's identity or of any other information made confidential by law. ~~In those cases~~

1 ~~where a county or a city is the appointing authority, all the reports referred to above~~
2 ~~shall be filed with the clerk to the board of county commissioners or the city clerk~~
3 ~~whichever is applicable. Such reports shall be reported annually by December 1 to the~~
4 ~~governing boards of the respective county or city and to the Secretary of State. The~~
5 ~~Secretary of State shall prescribe the form used to report these appointments and may~~
6 ~~accept these reports by electronic means. Reports by appointing authorities shall be due~~
7 ~~in the Department of the Secretary of State on or before September 1. From these~~
8 ~~reports, the Secretary of State shall generate an annual composite report that shall be~~
9 ~~published by December 1. Copies of the report shall be submitted to the Governor, the~~
10 ~~Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.~~

11 (c) State Reporting. – Each State appointing authority that makes appointments
12 to a statutorily created decision-making or regulatory board, commission, council, or
13 committee shall file a report with the Secretary of State as prescribed in subsection (b).
14 The Secretary shall submit to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore by July 1 of each year the names of all
16 State boards, commissions, councils, or committees that an appointing authority must
17 report on pursuant to this section.

18 (d) Local Units of Government Reporting. – In those cases where a county or a
19 city is the appointing authority, then the clerk of that body shall submit this information
20 to the Secretary of State. Appointments to the following local, municipal, or county
21 boards must be reported: ABC Board, Adult Care Home Community Advisory
22 Committee, Airport Authority, Child Fatality Prevention Team, Civil Service Board,
23 Community Relations Committee, Council of Government, Criminal Justice Partnership
24 Task Force, Emergency Planning Committee, Board of Equalization and Review,
25 Health Board, Hospital Board, Housing Board, Human Relations Commission,
26 Industrial Facilities & Pollution Control Authority, Industrial Revenue Bond, Juvenile
27 Crime Prevention Council, Library Board of Trustees, Local Community College
28 Board, Local Economic Development Committee, Mental Health Board, Nursing Home
29 Board, Partnership for Children, Planning Board, Recreation Board, Social Services
30 Board, Public Transportation Authority, Travel & Tourism Committee, Water or Sewer
31 Authority, Workforce Development Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning and
32 Zoning Board, Board of Adjustment, Historic Preservation Commission,
33 Redevelopment Commission, City Board of Education (if there is a city administrative
34 unit), Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Rural Planning Organization."

35 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
36 of the Secretary of State the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for the 2007-2008
37 fiscal year to provide for computer programming and related expenses so that
38 appointing authorities may file their reports due pursuant to G.S. 143-157.1 by online,
39 electronic means.

40 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.