

## The Daily Bulletin: 2017-10-17

### PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 656 (2017-2018) [ELECTORAL FREEDOM ACT OF 2017](#). Filed Apr 4 2017, *AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF A "POLITICAL PARTY" BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY AND FOR UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATES TO OBTAIN BALLOT ACCESS ELIGIBILITY; TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES RECOGNIZED IN A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STATES IN THE PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; TO CHANGE TIMING OF FILING OF PETITIONS; TO REDUCE THE THRESHOLD FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PLURALITY TO THIRTY PERCENT; AND TO ELIMINATE JUDICIAL PRIMARIES FOR THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION.*

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF A "POLITICAL PARTY" BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY AND FOR UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATES TO OBTAIN BALLOT ACCESS ELIGIBILITY; TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES RECOGNIZED IN A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STATES IN THE PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; TO CHANGE TIMING OF FILING OF PETITIONS; TO REDUCE THE THRESHOLD FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PLURALITY TO THIRTY PERCENT; AND TO ELIMINATE JUDICIAL PRIMARIES FOR THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION. Enacted October 17, 2017. Effective January 1, 2018.

**Intro. by Brock.**

GS 163

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Government, Elections](#)

S 698 (2017-2018) [INCREASE VOTER ACCOUNTABILITY OF JUDGES](#). Filed Oct 17 2017, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FREQUENT ELECTION OF JUDGES BY CREATING TWO-YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES.*

Subject to approval by voters at the statewide primary election in 2018, amends the following constitutional provisions, effective July 1, 2018, if approved.

Amends Section 10 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution by requiring that District Judges be elected for terms of two years, instead of four. Adds that all terms of office for persons elected as District Judges before July 1, 2018, expire on December 31, 2018, and all terms of office for persons appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected term for the office of District Judge expire December 31, 2018. Requires that all District Judges be elected to a two-year term of office beginning with the general election held in 2018.

Amends Section 16 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution by requiring that Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and regular Judges of the Superior Court be elected to terms of two years, instead of eight. Adds that all terms of office for persons elected before July 1, 2018, to the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, or regular Judge of the Superior Court will expire December 31, 2018. Requires that all Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and regular Judges of the Superior Court be elected to a two-year term of office beginning with the general election held in 2018.

Amends Section 19 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution to require that all vacancies in the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, and Judge of the Superior Court be filled by appointment of the Governor for the remainder of the term of office (was, vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor and the appointee holds the place until the next election for members of the General Assembly that is held more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs, at which time elections must be held to fill the office). Makes additional conforming changes.

**Intro. by Rabon.**

CONST

[View summary](#)

**Constitution, Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Government,  
Elections**

## **ACTIONS ON BILLS**

### **PUBLIC BILLS**

#### **S 656: ELECTORAL FREEDOM ACT OF 2017.**

*House: Veto Overridden*

*Ch. SL 2017-214*

#### **S 697: AMEND ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION.**

*House: Withdrawn From Cal*

*House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

#### **S 698: INCREASE VOTER ACCOUNTABILITY OF JUDGES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**No local actions on bills**

[Print Version](#)