

February 10, 2009

H 120. PUBLIC MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. Filed 2/10/09. *TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.*

Amends GS 160A-499.1, as enacted by Section 2 of SL 2007-222, to provide that the governing body of a city appropriating funds for a public campaign financing program must report to the State Board of Elections (Board), instead of, as previously required, reporting to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Fiscal Research Division of the Legislative Services Office, and the committees of the House of Representatives and Senate to which election related bills are primarily referred.

Amends Sections 3 of SL 2007-222 to apply the act to other municipalities selected by the Board for participation in a pilot program for the public financing of municipal campaigns (was, Chapel Hill only). Directs the Board to select municipalities whose governing boards have submitted proposals that comply with the criteria of GS 160A-499.1 and to seek diversity of population size, regional location, and demographic composition. Limits the number of municipalities selected according to the Board's resources to administer the pilot program. Requires a report with findings and recommendations by June 30, 2016, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Fiscal Research Division, and election-related legislative committees, with interim reports by June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2014. Amends Section 4 of SL 2007-222 to extend the expiration date of the act from July 1, 2012, to July 1, 2016.

Intro. by Glazier, Goodwin, Harrison, Wilkins. GS 160A, UNCODIFIED

March 4, 2009

H 120. PUBLIC MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. Filed 2/10/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Adds to GS 160A-499.1 new subsection (c) that defines the term "public campaign financing program" as a program that offers support for campaigns for elective offices under the following conditions: (i) the participating candidates demonstrate public support and accept fund-raising and spending limits; (ii) the fund-raising and spending limits promote free and fair elections and are non-discriminatory; (iii) funds provided are restricted to campaign purposes according to State Board of Elections' guidelines; (iv) unspent funds are returned to the sponsoring government; and, (v) if matching funds for electioneering communications may be provided when funds in opposition to a participating candidate or in support of an opposing candidate exceed a certain amount, then the sponsoring government shall make such funds available only if it determines that the opposing communications are susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a certain candidate and when making this determination the sponsoring government must not consider evidence external to the communication itself. Further provides that funds made available through such a program are not subject to the limitations and prohibitions in GS 163-278.13, GS 163.278.15 or GS 163-278.19, but must be reported as if they were contributions in all required campaign reports. Makes conforming changes. Makes technical change by adding as new subsection (d) to GS 160A-499.1 language that the original bill added to SL 2007-222. Repeals sections 1, 3 and 4 of SL 2007-222.

March 16, 2009

H 120. PUBLIC MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. Filed 2/10/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Amends proposed GS 160A-499.1(c) to clarify that funds paid *by a city* under a public campaign financing program (1) are not subject to contribution limitations and prohibitions on corporate contributions and (2) must be reported as if they were contributions in all campaign reports required by law to be filed by the campaigns receiving the payments.

April 1, 2009

H 120. PUBLIC MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. Filed 2/10/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Provides that it is the State Board of Elections, and not local

governing boards, that authorizes release of public funds to eligible candidates. Makes technical changes.

April 8, 2009

H 120. PUBLIC MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. Filed 4/8/09. House Amendment committee substitute changes 4th edition by amending proposed GS 160A-499.1(d) to prohibit the State Board of Elections from selecting municipalities that use the partisan method of election when establishing the pilot program for the public financing of municipal campaigns.

April 21, 2009

H 120. PUBLIC MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. Filed 2/10/09. House amendment makes the following changes to 4th edition, as amended.

Amends proposed GS 160A-499.1(d) to provide that the statute applies to Chapel Hill and any municipality with a total population of more than 50,000 (was, Chapel Hill and other municipalities) that is selected as a pilot program by the State Board of Elections. Directs that the population of a municipality be determined by using the most recent federal decennial census.

June 29, 2010

H 120. CHAPEL HILL PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS (NEW). Filed 2/10/09. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 5th edition. Deletes prior edition and substitutes *AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL TO PROVIDE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING FOR THAT TOWN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS*. Deletes the July 1, 2012, expiration date for such authority from SL 2007-22.