

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 913  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H913-PCS10522-STy-67

Short Title: Bipartisan Ethics and Elections Enforcement.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 26, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO ESTABLISH A  
3 BIPARTISAN BOARD OF ETHICS AND ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT AND TO  
4 CLARIFY BOARD APPOINTMENTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding a  
7 new section to read:

8 "**Sec. 11. Bipartisan State Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement.**

9 (1) The Bipartisan State Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement shall be established  
10 to administer ethics and election laws, as prescribed by general law. The Bipartisan State Board  
11 of Ethics and Elections Enforcement shall be located within the Executive Branch for  
12 administrative purposes only but shall exercise all of its powers independently of the Executive  
13 Branch.

14 (2) The Bipartisan State Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement shall consist of eight  
15 members, each serving a term of four years, who shall be qualified voters of this State. Of the  
16 total membership, no more than four members may be registered with the same political  
17 affiliation, if defined by general law. Appointments shall be made as follows:

18 (a) Four members by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the  
19 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, from nominees submitted to the  
20 President Pro Tempore by the majority leader and minority leader of the  
21 Senate, as prescribed by general law. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
22 shall not recommend more than two nominees from each leader.

23 (b) Four members by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives, from nominees submitted to the  
25 Speaker of the House by the majority leader and minority leader of the House  
26 of Representatives, as prescribed by general law. The Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives shall not recommend more than two nominees from each  
28 leader."

29 SECTION 2. Section 6 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
30 rewritten:

31 "**Sec. 6. Separation of powers.**

32 (1) The legislative, executive, and supreme judicial powers of the State government shall  
33 be forever separate and distinct from each other.

34 (2) The legislative powers of the State government shall control the powers, duties,  
35 responsibilities, appointments, and terms of office of any board or commission prescribed by



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1 general law. The executive powers of the State government shall be used to faithfully execute  
2 the general laws prescribing the board or commission."

3 **SECTION 3.** Section 20 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
4 rewritten:

5 **"Sec. 20. Powers of the General Assembly.**

6 (1) Each house shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its own members,  
7 shall sit upon its own adjournment from day to day, and shall prepare bills to be enacted into  
8 laws. The two houses may jointly adjourn to any future day or other place. Either house may, of  
9 its own motion, adjourn for a period not in excess of three days.

10 (2) No law shall be enacted by the General Assembly that appoints a member of the  
11 General Assembly to any board or commission that exercises executive or judicial powers."

12 **SECTION 4.** Section 5 of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
13 rewritten:

14 **"Sec. 5. Duties of Governor.**

15 ...

16 (4) Execution of laws. The Governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.  
17 In faithfully executing any general law enacted by the General Assembly controlling the powers,  
18 duties, responsibilities, appointments, and terms of office of any board or commission, the  
19 Governor shall implement that general law as enacted and the legislative delegation provided for  
20 in Section 6 of Article I of this Constitution shall control.

21 ...

22 (8) Appointments. The Governor shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent  
23 of a majority of the Senators appoint all officers whose appointments are not otherwise provided  
24 for. The legislative delegation provided for in Section 6 of Article I of this Constitution shall  
25 control any executive, legislative, or judicial appointment and shall be faithfully executed as  
26 enacted.

27 ...."

28 **SECTION 5.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall be  
29 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in  
30 November of 2018, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections  
31 in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163A of  
32 the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

33 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

34 Constitutional amendment to establish a bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections to  
35 administer ethics and election laws, to clarify the appointment authority of the Legislative and  
36 the Judicial Branches, and to prohibit legislators from serving on boards and commissions  
37 exercising executive or judicial authority."

38 **SECTION 6.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
39 amendments set out in Sections 1 through 4 of this act, the Bipartisan State Board of Elections  
40 and Ethics Enforcement shall certify the amendments to the Secretary of State, who shall enroll  
41 the amendment so certified among the permanent records of that office.

42 **SECTION 7.** If the amendments are approved by the qualified voters as provided in  
43 this section, Sections 2 through 4 of this act become effective upon certification and Section 1  
44 becomes effective March 1, 2019.

45 **SECTION 8.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
46 law.