

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE BILL 201

Short Title: Name on Ballot.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Gillespie and Setzer.

Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

March 4, 2003

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO NOTIFY EACH
3 CANDIDATE BEFORE THE BALLOT IS PRINTED HOW THAT
4 CANDIDATE'S NAME WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-165.5 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 163-165.5. Contents of official ballots.**

8 Each official ballot shall contain all the following elements:

- 9 (1) The heading prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The heading
10 shall include the term "Official Ballot".
- 11 (2) The title of each office to be voted on and the number of seats to be
12 filled in each ballot item.
- 13 (3) The names of the candidates as they appear on their notice of
14 candidacy filed pursuant to G.S. 163-106 or G.S. 163-323, or on
15 petition forms filed in accordance with G.S. 163-122. No title,
16 appendage, or appellation indicating rank, status, or position shall be
17 printed on the official ballot in connection with the candidate's name.
18 Candidates, however, may use the title Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms.
19 Nicknames shall be permitted on an official ballot if used in the notice
20 of candidacy or qualifying petition, but the nickname shall appear
21 according to standards adopted by the State Board of Elections. Those
22 standards shall allow the presentation of legitimate nicknames in ways
23 that do not mislead the voter or unduly advertise the candidacy. In the
24 case of candidates for presidential elector, the official ballot shall not
25 contain the names of the candidates for elector but instead shall
26 contain the nominees for President and Vice President which the
27 candidates for elector represent. Before any ballot is distributed, every
28 candidate on the ballot shall be notified how that candidate's name

- 1 shall appear on the ballot. The State Board of Elections shall designate
2 which boards of elections shall give that notice to which candidates.
3 (4) Party designations in partisan ballot items.
4 (5) A means by which the voter may cast write-in votes, as provided in
5 G.S. 163-123.
6 (6) Instructions to voters, unless the State Board of Elections allows
7 instructions to be placed elsewhere than on the official ballot.
8 (7) The printed title and facsimile signature of the chair of the county
9 board of elections."
10 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.