

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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SENATE BILL DRS35003-ST-1C*

Short Title: Ballot Designations/Referenda. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hise and Brown (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DESIGNATIONS TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT FOR
3 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND OTHER REFERENDA.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 163A-1114(h) reads as rewritten:

6 "(h) Order of Precedence for Referenda. – ~~The~~Without referencing a numerical order or
7 other reference of order by category or within a category, the referendum questions to be voted
8 on shall be arranged on the official ballot in the following order:

- 9 (1) Proposed amendments to the North Carolina Constitution, in the
10 chronological order in which the proposals were approved by the General
11 Assembly. Proposed amendments shall be designated by only the ~~short~~
12 ~~caption provided by the Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission~~
13 ~~under Article 4A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes.~~phrase
14 "Constitutional Amendment" prior to setting forth the referendum question.
15 (2) Other referenda to be voted on by all voters in the State, in the chronological
16 order in which the proposals were approved by the General Assembly.
17 (3) Referenda to be voted on by fewer than all the voters in the State, in the
18 chronological order of the acts by which the referenda were properly
19 authorized."

20 **SECTION 1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to ballots
21 used in the 2018 general election and thereafter. No numerical order or other reference of order
22 for referenda, by category or within a category, shall appear on the 2018 general election ballot.
23 Any captions adopted by the Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission pursuant to
24 G.S. 147-54.10(a) prior to this bill becoming law are null and void and shall not appear on the
25 ballot used in the 2018 general election.

26 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 147-54.10(a) reads as rewritten:

27 "(a) At least 75 days before an election in which a proposed amendment to the
28 Constitution, or a revised or new Constitution, is to be voted on, the Commission shall prepare
29 an explanation of the amendment, revision, or new Constitution in simple and commonly used
30 language. ~~The explanation shall include a short caption reflecting the contents, that shall not~~
31 ~~include a numerical or other reference of order, to be used on the ballot and the printed summary."~~

32 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
33 law.

