



NCRGEA **Government Relations** **Update**

NCRGEA Government Relations Update #20-14

June 12, 2020

On Thursday, the North Carolina legislature came to a bipartisan agreement that will ensure that our elections allow everyone to vote safely.

House Bill 1169, the Bipartisan Elections Act of 2020, passed on Thursday by a vote of 105-14. The bill expands methods to securely request absentee ballots for voters while putting a total prohibition on all-mail elections in North Carolina. Under the terms of the bill, absentee ballot requests may be submitted by email, fax, or a new online portal. Federal funds will be allocated both for supporting in-person voting and increased absentee ballot costs. The bill also provides flexibility for recruiting precinct officials.

Discussion on the bill was not without opposition. Members in both the House and Senate voiced concerns about a provision that expanded eligible voter id forms of identifications. Those members believe this is an attempt to provide legal standing to overturn a current injunction barring the use of voter id and require voter id in the November election. While these concerns created a brisk discussion, the bill ended up passing handedly.

Legislative leadership praised the lawmaking process as the best stage to find comprehensive solutions for election issues.

"The legislative process is the proper forum to consider elections funding and reforms, and this General Assembly has worked together in a bipartisan manner to ensure the effective administration of our elections in 2020," House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) said.

Stay Tuned!

Richard Rogers
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