



CHAPTER 153A
ARTICLE 20 - CONSOLIDATION AND GOVERNMENTAL STUDY COMMISSIONS

N.C.G.S. § 153A-405.

Referendum; General Assembly action.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 6.1 — sixth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:11 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT e2a20821b512597cca005d25 - 9c3d361edebccf059573238d - 0e23237654ad32df
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§ 153A-405(a) If authorized to do so by the concurrent resolutions that established it, a commission may call a referendum on its proposed plan of governmental consolidation. If authorized or directed in the concurrent resolutions, the ballot question may include the assumption of debt secured by a pledge of faith and credit language and may also include the assumption of the right to issue authorized but unissued faith and credit debt language as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The referendum shall be held in accordance with G.S. 163-287.

§ 153A-405(b) The proposition submitted to the voters shall be substantially in one or more of the following forms and may include part or all of the bracketed language as appropriate and other such modifications as may be needed to reflect the issued debt secured by a pledge of faith and credit of any of the consolidating units or the portion of the authorized but unissued debt secured by a pledge of faith and credit of any of the consolidating units the right to issue which is proposed to be assumed by the consolidated city-county:

- (1) "Shall the County of _____ and the County of _____ be consolidated [and the consolidated unit assume the debt of each secured by a pledge of faith and credit, [the right to issue authorized but unissued debt to be secured by a pledge of faith and credit [(including any such debt as may be authorized for said counties on the date of this referendum)] and any of said authorized but unissued debt as may be hereafter issued,] and be authorized to levy taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on said debt secured by a pledge of faith and credit]?"

☐ YES ☐ NO"

- (2) "Shall the City of _____ and the City of _____ be consolidated [and the consolidated unit assume the debt of each secured by a pledge of faith and credit, [the right to issue authorized but unissued debt to be secured by a pledge of faith and credit [(including any such debt as may be authorized for said cities on the date of this referendum)] and any of said authorized but unissued debt as may be hereafter issued,] and be authorized to levy taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on said debt secured by a pledge of faith and credit]?"

☐ YES ☐ NO"

- (3) "Shall the City of _____ and the County of _____ be consolidated [and the consolidated unit assume the debt of each secured by a pledge of faith and credit, [the right to issue authorized but unissued debt to be secured by a pledge of faith and credit [(including any such debt as may be authorized for said city or county on the date of this referendum)] and any of said authorized but unissued debt as may be hereafter issued,] and be authorized to levy taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on said debt secured by a pledge of faith and credit]?"

☐ YES ☐ NO"

§ 153A-405(c)

The proposition submitted to the voters shall be substantially in one of the following forms:

- (1) "Shall the County of _____ and the County of _____ be consolidated?"

☐ YES ☐ NO"

- (2) "Shall the City of _____ and the City of _____ be consolidated?"

☐ YES ☐ NO"

- (3) "Shall the City of _____ and the County of _____ be consolidated?"

☐ YES ☐ NO"

§ 153A-405(d)

If the proposition is to consolidate two or more counties or to consolidate two or more cities, to be approved it must receive the votes of a majority of those voting in each of the counties or cities, as the case may be. If the proposition is to consolidate one or more cities with a county, to be approved it must receive the votes of a majority

of those voting in the referendum. In addition, no governmental consolidation may become effective until enacted into law by the General Assembly.

§ 153A-405(e)

Subsection (b) of this section applies to any county that has (i) a population over 120,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census and (ii) an area of less than 200 square miles. Subsection (c) of this section applies to all other counties. If any subsection or provision of this section is declared unconstitutional or invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of the section as a whole or any part other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, provided that if the classifications in subsections (b) and (c) of this section are held unconstitutional or invalid then subsection (c) of this section is repealed and subsection (b) of this section shall be applicable uniformly to all counties.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
6 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1973	c. 822, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1995	c. 461, s. 5	AMENDED
03	1995	1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 742, s. 38	AMENDED
04	2013	S.L. 2013-381, s. 10.24	AMENDED
05	2017	S.L. 2017-6, s. 3	AMENDED
06	2018	S.L. 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 6.1	AMENDED

APPARATUS II

1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
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G.S. 163-287

(a)

"shall be held in accordance with"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-405 (2018).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-405(a) (2018).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1973, c. 822, s. 1; 1995, c. 461, s. 5; 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 742, s. 38; 2013-381, s. 10.24; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 6.1.)

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