

JL:WG:clk
DJ 166-012-3

APR 20 1971

Mr. Alex K. Brock
Executive Secretary
North Carolina State Board
of Elections
Suite 801 Raleigh Building
5 West Hargett Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Dear Mr. Brock:

This is in reference to your submission pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 of documents relating to Chapter 163 of the General Statutes of North Carolina amended during the 1965 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The Attorney General will not at this time object to the implementation of any of the enactments submitted, except that the Attorney General does object to the implementation of that portion of Chapter 750 (Senate Bill 457) which imposes literacy requirements in connection with voter registration. This provision is contrary to Section 201 of the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970. Of course, this objection applies only to that part of the amended version of Section 163-37(a) requiring an applicant for voter registration to make a "written" and "signed" statement.

As you may know, Section 3 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 offers you the alternative of initiating an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment that the provision objected to does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division