

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Senator Natasha Marcus Files the Voter Fraud Prevention Act

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Senator Natasha Marcus Files the Voter Fraud Prevention Act

Raleigh, NC – Senator Natasha Marcus (SD-41) introduced Senate Bill 748, the Voter Fraud Prevention Act, a bill designed to address the lack of recourse for voters affected by post-election party switches. Sen. Marcus filed this legislation with Senator Michael Garrett (SD-27) and Senator Sydney Batch (SD-17). Several Mecklenburg County residents participated in this morning's press conference at the Legislative Building, including constituents from House District 112, where a legislator recently switched parties earlier this session.

"It's time we did something to give voters tools to hold their elected representatives accountable and give political donors the right to seek a refund if their contributions are based on a false impression of the candidate," Sen. Marcus remarked. Twice in the last 20 years, a member of the General Assembly has switched parties following their election. Sen. Marcus demonstrated her commitment to the integrity of North Carolina voters by filing legislation intended to give voters the chance to respond following what Sen. Marcus described as a "a blatant bait and switch." She said, "Sometimes voters don't know much more than a candidate's party affiliation when they make their choice; that designation should mean something."

The single-page bill is composed of two parts aimed at holding politicians accountable to their constituents. Part one of SB748 would trigger a special election within 90 days if a seated state legislator switched their party affiliations. Part two mandates that donors to such a legislator's campaign committee may request a refund for contributions made, which then must be refunded within 30 days. Regarding the section detailing contribution refunds, Sen. Marcus said, "To use an analogy from my own life, if you pay for sweet tea at the drive-thru and end up with unsweet tea, you should be able to get your money back."

Though the need for this bill was highlighted by the actions of legislators this session, the bill would only apply for future party switches. Sen. Marcus stated, "If a player on Ted Lasso's AFC Richmond team suddenly switched jerseys and started scoring for the opposing team, the fans would demand that Coach Lasso replace that player. Justifiably so. The same should be true for voters whose elected representative switches teams and starts helping the other side."

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