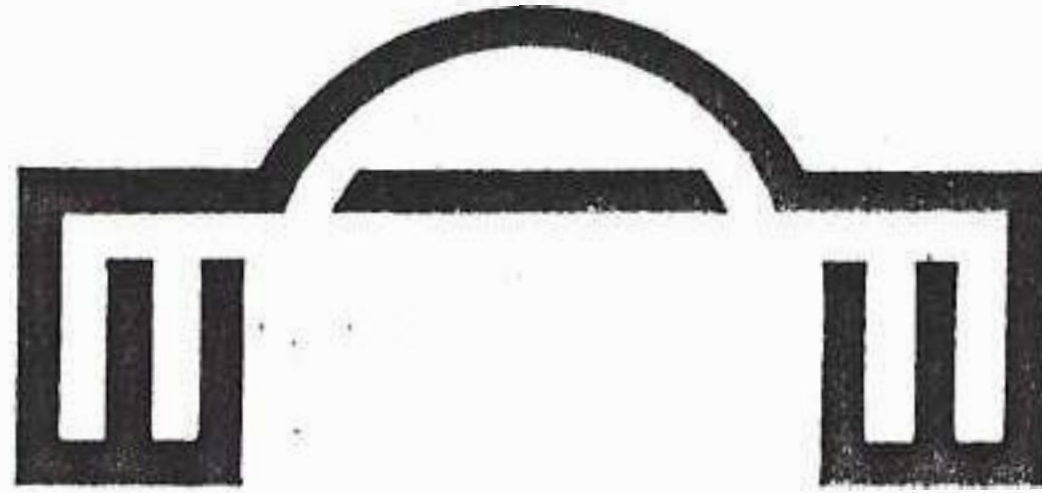




NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INC.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 24, 1982

REPORT ON LEGISLATORS' VOTES IN REDISTRICTING SESSION AVAILABLE

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research has released the votes of each state legislator during the recent April redistricting session. The report is the third issue of a new vote reporting service begun by the Center in February of this year.

The report released Monday shows how all 170 members of the State House and Senate voted on 7 public bills in the April 26-27 extra redistricting session. Entitled "HOW THE LEGISLATORS VOTED," the report includes 29 votes taken on bills to reapportion the state House and Senate. Also included are votes on legislation enacting changes in the date for primary elections.

The authors of the report, Center staffers Jim Bryan and Lacy Maddox, said the vote reporting service will continue to be offered in the next session of the General Assembly, which begins June 2. Maddox said the Center offers the vote reporting service on a subscription basis to citizens, lobbyists, and news media organizations.

The General Assembly met in April in a fourth attempt to draw new legislative districts and set the primary election date. The General Assembly first passed a package of three redistricting plans -- Congressional, state House, and state Senate -- in July 1981. Attorneys for the state advised that the State House and State Senate plans would be open to challenge because of one person/one vote considerations. The legislators then met in October 1981 for a second attempt at redistricting. The U.S. Justice Department rejected all three plans because of adverse effects to minority populations in the 40 North Carolina counties covered under the federal Voting Rights Act. Redistricting plans were again adopted in the February 1982 session. The Congressional redistricting plan was approved on March 11, but on April 19 both the State House and Senate plans were rejected, necessitating a fourth attempt at redistricting. Though the April redistricting plans have now gained approval by the U.S. Justice Department under the Voting Rights Act, legal hurdles remain to be overcome. The State House and State Senate plans have been challenged in three lawsuits. One suit was filed by the NAACP. A second suit was filed by the State Republican Party and a third by residents of Forsyth County who live in townships which have been placed in a district with Guilford County.

The Center for Public Policy Research is an independent nonprofit corporation created to examine the policies and practices of state government. It is supported in part by grants from the Mary Reynolds Babcock and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundations, both based in Winston-Salem. Past efforts by the research group have been studies of legislators who serve on executive branch boards, out-of-field teaching, and the effect of federal budget cuts on North Carolina.

Copies of the voting report may be obtained for \$1.00 by writing the Center at P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602, or by calling Beth Briggs at (919) 832-2839.