

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 242
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H242-PCS40232-BD-7

Short Title: Wrightsville Beach Initiative Ordinances.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 2, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH TO
3 INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE TOWN WHO
4 MUST SIGN A PETITION TO THE TOWN BOARD TO PLACE AN ORDINANCE
5 INITIATIVE ON THE BALLOT.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Section 6.1 of the Charter of the Town of Wrightsville Beach, being
8 Chapter 611 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

9 "Sec. 6.1. **Initiative ordinances generally; petitions.** Any proposed ordinance, which the
10 Board may lawfully adopt, may be submitted to the Board by petition ~~signed by the voters of the~~
11 ~~Town.~~ If if the petition accompanying the proposed ordinance is signed by voters of the Town
12 equal in number to at least ~~thirty-five percent (35%)~~ forty percent (40%) of the total number of
13 registered voters ~~voting in~~ residing within the Town of Wrightsville Beach at the time of the last
14 preceding regular municipal election and contains a request that such ordinance be submitted to
15 a vote of the people if not passed by the ~~Board,~~ Board. Upon receipt of a petition, the Board shall
16 either: (i) within 20 days after the Town Clerk and the New Hanover County Board of Elections
17 have certified the sufficiency of the accompanying petition, adopt the ordinance without
18 alteration ~~within 20 days after the Town Clerk and the New Hanover County Board of Elections~~
19 have certified the sufficiency of the accompanying petition; ~~alteration~~ or (ii) within 20 days after
20 the Town Clerk and the New Hanover County Board of Elections have certified the sufficiency
21 of the petition, ~~the Board of Aldermen shall call a special election to be held within six months,~~
22 unless a general election is fixed within six months thereafter, on a date authorized by
23 G.S. 163-287(a). At such ~~special or general~~ election the ordinance shall be submitted without
24 alteration to the registered voters of the Town."

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** Section 6.5 of the Charter of the Town of Wrightsville Beach, being
26 Chapter 611 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

27 "Sec. 6.5. **Sufficiency of petition.** The petition provided for herein shall only be signed by
28 ~~none but legal~~ legal registered voters of the Town. Each petition shall contain, in addition to the names
29 of the petitioners, the street and house number at which each petitioner resides, and ~~his or her the~~
30 age and length of residence in the ~~Town.~~ Town of each petitioner. It shall also be accompanied
31 by the affidavit of one or more legal registered voters of the Town, stating that the signers thereof
32 were, at the time of the signing, legal registered voters of the Town, and stating the number of
33 signers at the time the affidavit was made."

34 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to petitions
35 submitted on or after that date.



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