



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 263: City Elections/Trinity and Greensboro

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Redistricting
Introduced by: Rep. Hurley
Analysis of: PCS to First Edition
H263-CSST-60

Date: June 9, 2015
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SUMMARY: *The proposed committee substitute for House Bill 263:*

- *For the City of Trinity, reduces the size of the city council from eight members to five members and reduces the terms for Mayor and city council members from four years to two years.*
- *For the City of Greensboro, establishes 7 single member districts, provides that the Mayor votes only in the case of a tie, and provides that elections for the city council will be determined using the election and run-off method.*

Section 1 – CITY OF TRINITY

CURRENT LAW: The City of Trinity was incorporated in 1997 and is located in Randolph County. Currently, the Trinity City Council consists of eight members who serve staggered four-year terms. The city is divided into four wards, each with two members, and the voters of the entire city elect candidates who reside in that ward. The Mayor is elected by the voters and serves a four-year term.

Four members of the City Council (one from each of the four wards) were elected in 2011, and four members (one from each ward) were elected in 2013.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would decrease the size of the City Council from eight members to five members. One member from each of the four wards would be elected by all the voters in the city, and one member would be elected at-large. Effective the first Monday in December, 2015.

The bill would also decrease the terms of the Mayor and Council members from four years to two years. Terms for Council members would no longer be staggered.

The four seats (one from each ward) that would be up for reelection in 2015 would be eliminated, and the at-large member would be elected in the 2015 election. The four remaining ward seats would be up for reelection in 2017, along with the Mayor's seat.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date and to vacancies occurring on or after that date.

Section 2 – CITY OF GREENSBORO

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 2(a) and (b) of the proposed committee substitute would establish, by local act, that the City of Greensboro operates under the Council-Manager form of government, and also establishes that the City cannot adopt any changes to the form of government in the City of Greensboro until the return of the 2020 federal decennial Census.

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Section 2(c). Currently, the City Council consists of eight members and a mayor, who all serve two year terms. Three of the City Council members, and the mayor, run at large; and five of the City Council members run from districts. Section 2(c) of the pcs would establish seven single member districts, as shown by the map labeled "Greensboro City Council Proposed Districts, House Bill 263" and provide for four year terms for those seven members. The PCS also provides for a four year term for the office of mayor. Effective the first Monday in December, 2015, and the districts will be used to conduct the 2015 municipal election.

Sections 2(d) and 2(e). Currently, the mayor may vote on any matter before the City Council, but does not have a veto of any action taken by the City Council. Sections 2(d) and 2(e) of the pcs would provide that the mayor may vote only in the case of a tie, and vote for the employment, discipline, or dismissal of the city manager or city attorney. Effective the first Monday in December, 2015, and applies to acts of the Mayor of Greensboro on or after that date.

Section 2(f). Currently, according to the School of Government, the City Council uses the nonpartisan primary method of determining election results. Section 2(f) of the PCS would apply the election and run-off method of determining election results to the elections for the City. Under the election and run-off method, the election would be held on the fourth Tuesday before the Tuesday after the first Monday in November; and the runoff election, if required, would be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise noted, effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date, and to vacancies occurring on or after that date. The filing period for the 2015 elections for the City of Trinity and the City of Greensboro are changed to open at 12:00 noon on July 27, 2015, and close at 12:00 noon on August 7, 2015.