



SENATE BILL 181: Wake County Commissioner Districts

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Elections	Date:	March 31, 2015
Introduced by:	Sen. Barefoot	Prepared by:	R. Erika Churchill and Kelly Quick, Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	Fourth Edition		

SUMMARY: *Senate Bill 181 would increase the size of the Wake County Board of Commissioners from seven to nine members, and would alter the districts to coincide with the districts of the Wake County Board of Education.*

CURRENT LAW: Currently, the Wake County Board of Commissioners consists of seven members. The county is divided into seven residence districts, meaning that members must reside in and represent their districts, but the qualified voters of the entire county nominate and elect all members of the board.

Members are elected on a partisan basis for staggered four-year terms. Elections occur in November of even-numbered years, and the Board takes office on the first Monday in December. Members from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7 were elected in 2014 and their terms expire in December 2018. Members from Districts 4, 5, and 6 were elected in 2012 and their terms expire in December 2016.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Effective with the 2016 election, Senate Bill 181 would increase the size of the Wake County Board of Commissioners from seven members to nine members as follows:

- In the 2016 election, members from Districts 4, 5, and 6 would be elected from the same districts used in the 2014 election and would serve two-year terms.
- In the 2016 election and every four years thereafter, two members must reside and run in the two lettered districts established under Section 5 of S.L. 2013-110 and used by the Wake County Board of Education.
- In the 2018 election and every four years thereafter, seven members must reside and run in the seven numbered districts established under S.L. 2013-110 and used by the Wake County Board of Education.

Effective when it becomes law, Senate Bill 181 would also prevent the Wake County Board of Commissioners from altering the structure of the Board prior to the return of the 2020 census.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as noted above, effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: Session Law 2013-110 redistricts the Wake County Board of Education. Section 5 of the act establishes the boundaries for the seven numbered districts (1-7) and two lettered districts (A and B).

