



# HOUSE BILL 154: Gastonia Charter Revisions.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Bumgardner	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Nicholas Giddings Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 154 revises and consolidates the Charter of the City of Gastonia.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Charter of the City of Gastonia was last revised and consolidated in 1991.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 154 revises and consolidates the Charter of the City of Gastonia, to conform the Charter to State law changes made since 1991, to include various changes to the Charter made by Session Law and by action of the City Council since 1991, and by making technical changes.

Specifically, the bill makes the following changes to the Charter:

- Section 2.6 – an obsolete reference to protest petitions is removed.
- Section 4.3 – language is added providing for general review authority of City contracts by the City Attorney, and delete repetitive language concerning City Manager review.
- Section 5.2 – language is added specifying that the City Clerk reports to the City Manager.
- Section 5.3 – a technical update, to add language setting out the current interlocal agreement appointing the tax collector of Gaston County as the City's tax collector.
- Several Sections, Article 6 – repeals several sections that previously set out a unique procedure for assessing, waiving, and providing exemptions for special assessments. The assessment procedure in Article 10 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes will now apply to Gastonia.
- Section 7.2 – sets out in the Charter the language from S.L. 1995-320, existing law applicable to Gastonia concerning designation of a rental property owner's agent for service of process.
- Article 8 – repeals two obsolete sections concerning two previously abolished City employee retirement funds.
- Section 9.1 – public enterprise fee and charge lien authority is repealed.
- Section 9.4 – obsolete protest petition language is repealed.
- Section 9.5 – obsolete motor vehicle tax language is repealed. Superseded by G.S. 20-97.
- Section 9.7 – obsolete language about city offering rewards for criminal convictions is repealed.
- Section 9.8 – obsolete language concerning building setback lines is repealed.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law.

*Staff Attorneys Giles Perry, Trina Griffin, and Billy Godwin, substantially contributed to this summary.*

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578