



HOUSE BILL 971: Winston-Salem Deannexation.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House State and Local Government II. If favorable, re-refer to Finance | Date: | June 4, 2018 |
| Introduced by: | Rep. Conrad | Prepared by: | Cindy Avrette |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | Staff Attorney |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 971¹ would remove a 2.06 acre tract of land from the corporate limits of the City of Winston-Salem.*

CURRENT LAW: Under Section 1 of Article VII of the NC Constitution, the General Assembly is empowered to "provide for the organization and government and the fixing of boundaries of counties, cities, and towns, and other governmental subdivisions, and, except as otherwise prohibited by this Constitution, may give such powers and duties to counties, cities and towns, and other governmental subdivisions as it may deem advisable." Pursuant to this Section, the General Assembly enacted Article 4A of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes which governs municipal annexations. In addition, the General Assembly may annex property by local act. The General Assembly has not enacted any method for municipalities to *deannex* property; that power remains with the General Assembly.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 971 would deannex a 2.06 acre tract of land from the corporate limits of the City of Winston-Salem. The deannexation would not affect any property tax liens or special assessments by the City on the deannexed property outstanding as of June 30, 2018.

BACKGROUND: The deanexation comes at the request of the property owner; the City neither favors nor opposes the request. The property was voluntarily annexed, through satellite annexation, into the City's limits in 2007 at the request of the property owner, who was required to live inside the city limits to hold the position of chief information officer. The land owner is no longer employed by the City; he retired in 2015. The property will lose city services, such as garbage collection and police service; the property does not have sewer service.² The property is not adjacent to the City's limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective June 30, 2018, and apply to tax years beginning July 1, 2018.

¹ As introduced, this bill is identical to Senate Bill 752, sponsored by Senators Krawiec and Lowe, and currently in Senate Finance Committee.

² Information obtained from a news article written by Wesley Young, and published in the Winston-Salem Journal on June 2, 2018.

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