



SENATE BILL 285: Equal Representation for Asheville.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Elections and Ethics Law	Date:	June 21, 2017
Introduced by:	Sen. Edwards	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill and Jessica Sammons, Committee Co-Counsel
Analysis of:	Third Edition		

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 285 would direct the City of Asheville to create six single-member electoral districts for city council members, for use in the 2019 municipal elections, by November 1, 2017; otherwise, Senate Bill 285 would direct the General Assembly to establish such electoral districts during the 2018 Regular Session.

CURRENT LAW: The City Council of the City of Asheville consists of six members and a mayor, all elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Each odd-numbered year, three members of the city council are elected. Elections are conducted on a nonpartisan basis, and the results are determined using the nonpartisan primary and election method.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 285 would direct the City of Asheville, by November 1, 2017, to amend its charter to create six single-member electoral districts for the election of City Council members. These districts would be used during the 2019 municipal election cycle. The member would be required to reside in, and be elected from, that district.

The districts must comply with State and federal law and with all of the following requirements:

- Be reasonably compact and geographically diverse.
- Be contiguous.
- Have a population deviation of no more than plus or minus 5%.

By November 15, 2017, the City would be required to file a copy of its charter amendments and a report of the completed plans to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

If the City of Asheville does not establish six single-member electoral districts, the bill would direct the North Carolina General Assembly to establish electoral districts for the City of Asheville in the 2018 Short Session.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that.

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