



SENATE BILL 813: Asheville City Council Districts.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Select Committee on Elections. If **Date:** June 21, 2018
favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of
the Senate

Introduced by: Sen. Edwards

Prepared by: Jessica Sammons

Analysis of: First Edition

Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 813 would amend the Charter for the City of Asheville to provide for the election of five city council members from single-member electoral districts and one city council member elected at-large, beginning with the 2019 municipal election.*

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. The mayor was last elected in 2017 for a term expiring in 2021. Elections are conducted on a nonpartisan basis, and the results are determined using the nonpartisan primary and election method.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 813 would amend the Charter for the City of Asheville to provide, beginning with the 2019 municipal election, for the election of six city council members as follows:

- One member nominated and elected from the City at-large.
- Five members elected from single-member electoral districts. (Please see the attached map for the proposed electoral districts.)

To implement the staggering of four-year terms, in the 2019 election, those persons elected from District 1, District 2, and from the City at-large would stand for election for a four-year term, and those persons elected from District 3, District 4, and District 5 would stand for election for a two-year term.

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

BACKGROUND: S.L. 2017-83 directed the City of Asheville to create six single-member electoral districts for city council members, for use in the 2019 municipal election, by November 1, 2017.

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