



SENATE BILL 813: Asheville City Council Districts.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 26, 2018
Introduced by:	Sen. Edwards	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Second Edition		

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 813 would amend the Charter of the City of Asheville to provide for the following, effective beginning with the 2020 municipal election:

- Continued election of six city council members, with five members from single-member electoral districts and one member at-large.
- Election of the mayor and city council members at the primary election for county officers in even-numbered years.

CURRENT LAW: Officers for the City of Asheville consist of six council 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 of the City of Asheville to provide for the following, beginning with the 2020 municipal election:

- 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.)
- The election of the six city council members and the mayor at the primary election for county officers in even-numbered years, to take office at the first regular meeting in December following the election. Elections would be determined by a plurality of the votes cast.

To implement even-year municipal elections, no regular municipal elections would be conducted in 2019. The terms of office for the all city council members would be extended one year to place the elections in the appropriate even year.

In the 2020 election, the members elected from District 1, District 2, and from the City at-large would stand for election for a four-year term. In the 2022 election, the mayor and the members from District 3, District 4, and District 5 would stand for election for a four-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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Legislative Analysis
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