



# HOUSE BILL 477: Four-Year Terms/Town of Bethel.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b> Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b> June 24, 2020
<b>Introduced by:</b> Rep. K. Smith	<b>Prepared by:</b> Jessica Sammons
<b>Analysis of:</b> Fourth Edition	Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 477 would extend the Town of Bethel's term of office for mayor and commissioners from two-year terms to four-year terms, beginning in 2021.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S198, as introduced by Sen. D. Davis, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

**CURRENT LAW:** The Town of Bethel is located in Pitt County, and has a population of 1,577. The Charter of the Town of Bethel provides that officers for the Town consist of a mayor and five commissioners, elected at-large for two-year terms.

Municipal elections in the Town are conducted in odd-numbered years on a nonpartisan basis, and the results are determined using the plurality method in G.S. 163-292. Election for mayor and commissioners are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. G.S. 163-279. Terms of office for both the mayor and commissioners begin on the first Monday in December following their election.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 477 would amend the Charter of the Town of Bethel to extend the term of office for the mayor and commissioners from two years to four years, effective with the 2021 election. From 2021 on, municipal elections in the Town would be held every four years.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law.

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