



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 138: Even-Yr Municipal Elections/Town of Black Mtn.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Redistricting and Elections. **If Date:** May 21, 2019
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 138 would change the regular municipal election cycle from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years for the Town of Black Mountain, and would extend the terms of the current town officers one year to implement the new election schedule.

CURRENT LAW: Generally, municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years. G.S. 163A-1585. In the Town of Black Mountain, officers consist of a mayor and a five-member Board of Alderman serving four-year staggered terms. Elections are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years. Elections are conducted on a nonpartisan basis and the results are determined using the plurality method in G.S. 163A-1616. Newly elected officers take office on the first Monday in December following the election.

Currently, three Board members' terms expire in 2019, and the mayor and two Board members' terms expire in 2021.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 138 would amend the Charter of the Town of Black Mountain to require regular municipal elections to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.

To implement this change, municipal elections would not be conducted in 2019 and the next municipal election would be held in 2020. The current Board members whose terms would expire in 2019 would serve until 2020, and stand for election for a four-year term. The current mayor and Board members whose terms would expire in 2021 would serve until 2022, and stand for election for a four-year term. The mayor and commissioners would be elected every four years thereafter.

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

BACKGROUND: Regular municipal elections in most municipalities are held in odd-numbered years. The following municipalities hold regular municipal elections in even-numbered years:

- Albemarle, Badin, Locust, Misenheimer, New London, Norwood, Oakboro, Red Cross, Richfield, Stanfield (*all municipalities in Stanly County*) (S.L. 2015-253)
- Archdale (*Randolph, Guilford Counties*) (S.L. 2007-41)

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- Asheville (*Buncombe County*) (S.L. 2018-123)
- Dobson (*Surry County*) (S.L. 2012-47)
- Elkin (*Surry, Wilkes Counties*) (S.L. 2014-35)
- Jonesville, Boonville, East Bend (*Yadkin County*) (S.L. 2017-56)
- Lincolnton (*Lincoln County*) (S.L. 2017-62)
- Pilot Mountain (*Surry County*) (S.L. 2012-47)
- Troy, Star (*Montgomery County*) (S.L. 2017-12)
- Winston-Salem (*Forsyth County*) (S.L. 2011-141)