



SENATE BILL 194: Re-Stagger Terms/Aldermen/N.Topsail Beach.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Redistricting and Elections. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	March 30, 2021
Introduced by:	Sen. Lazzara	Prepared by:	Sarah Pilon and Hillary Woodard
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorneys

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 194 would reestablish the staggered terms for members serving on the Board of Aldermen in the Town of North Topsail Beach.

CURRENT LAW: The Town of North Topsail Beach, located in Onslow County, was incorporated in 1989 after a referendum. The Town utilized the council-manager form of government. The Town council consists of six members – five aldermen and a mayor. The mayor is elected every two years. The aldermen serve staggered four-year terms.

To establish the staggering of the five aldermen, at the first regular municipal election held in 1989, the three candidates who received the highest number of votes were elected for four-year terms and the two candidates who received the next highest number of votes were elected to serve two-year terms. Since that time, the aldermen have been elected to serve staggered four year terms.

In the 2017 municipal election, three aldermen and the mayor were elected to serve four and two year terms, respectively. In the 2019 municipal election, two aldermen and the mayor were elected to serve four and two year terms, respectively. Since the 2019 municipal election, the two aldermen elected in that election have resigned, with one to take the Mayorship. According to G.S. 160A-63, the statute governing the filling of vacancies in cities, the individuals appointed to fill those two vacancies would serve until the 2021 election, at which time an election would be held to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term (i.e. until 2023). Following this statute, all five members of the Board of Aldermen would be up for election in 2021, with three running for a four year term and two running for a two year term.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 194 would amend the Charter for the Town of North Topsail Beach to stagger terms of the members of the Board of Aldermen. Under the terms of the bill, for the regular municipal election occurring in 2021, the three candidates who receive the highest number of votes will be elected to serve four-year terms and the two candidates who receive the next highest number of votes will be elected to serve two-year terms. Then, in 2023 and every four years after, two members will be elected to serve four-year terms. Then, in 2025, and every four years after, three members will be elected to serve four-year terms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

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