



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

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 8, 2021
Introduced by:	Sen. Lazzara	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S194-CSST-18		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for Senate Bill 194 would retain the staggered terms for members serving on the Board of Aldermen in the Town of North Topsail Beach, and provide that all five seats are up for election in 2021 only.*

CURRENT LAW: The Town of North Topsail Beach, located in Onslow County, was incorporated in 1989 by S.L. 1989-100 and after a referendum. The Town utilizes the council-manager form of government and the Town council consists of six members – five members of the Board of Aldermen and a mayor. The mayor serves a two-year term and the Aldermen serve staggered four-year terms.

To establish the staggering of the five members of the Board of Aldermen, at the first regular municipal election held in 1989, the three candidates who received the highest number of votes were elected to serve 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.

In North Topsail Beach, G.S. 160A-63 governs the filling of vacancies in elected office. The individuals appointed to fill those two vacancies created by resignations 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). Due to the vacancy election, 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: The PCS would provide that for the 2021 election only, all five seats would be on the ballot and the three candidates who receive the highest number of votes would be elected to serve four-year terms and the two candidates who receive the next highest number of votes would be elected to serve two-year terms. In 2023, and every four years after, two members would be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2025, and every four years after, three members would be elected to serve four-year terms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

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