



# SENATE BILL 759: Watauga County Board of Commissioners/LST- 2.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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| <b>Committee:</b>     | Senate Redistricting and Elections | <b>Date:</b>        | October 20, 2023 |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Sen. Hise                          | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Hillary Woodard  |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | First Edition                      |                     | Staff Attorney   |

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 759 would establish electoral districts for the Watauga County Board of Commissioners.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Watauga County Board of Commissioners (Board) consists of five members, elected at-large on a partisan basis. Members serve staggered terms, with elections held in even-numbered years at the time of the general election for county officers. Every two years, three of the five commissioners are up for election. The candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is elected to serve a two-year term and the remaining members are elected to serve four-year terms.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 759 would establish five single-member electoral districts for the Board. One member from each district would be elected and each member would be required to reside in the district from which they are elected. Members would be elected by the qualified voters residing in that district to serve staggered four-year terms.

In order to implement the staggering of terms, in 2024 and every four years after, the members elected from Districts 3, 4, and 5 would serve a four-year term. In 2026 and every four years after, the members elected from Districts 1 and 2 would serve a four-year term.

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

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