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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1687**
2 Offered January 13, 2025
3 Prefiled January 3, 2025
4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.01, as amended, § 3.01:1, and §§ 3.02:1 and 3.02:2, as amended, of*
5 *Chapter 147 of the Acts of Assembly of 1962, which provided a charter for the City of Virginia Beach, and*
6 *to repeal § 3.02:3 of Chapters 127 and 762 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020, relating to city council;*
7 *voting districts.*
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Patrons—Convirs-Fowler, Askew, Feggans, Clark, Henson and Martinez
9 ──────────
10 Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns
11 ──────────
12 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**
13 **1. That § 3.01, as amended, § 3.01:1, and §§ 3.02:1 and 3.02:2, as amended, of Chapter 147 of the Acts**
14 **of Assembly of 1962 are amended and reenacted as follows:**
15 § 3.01. Division of city into districts.
16 A. The city shall be divided into ~~seven residence~~ *ten single-member election* districts of approximately
17 equal population which shall be numbered one through ~~seven~~ *ten*. The council shall consist of eleven
18 members, ~~including~~ the mayor~~,~~ *elected at large and* one member to be elected by ~~the city at~~ large ~~from the~~
19 ~~residents of each of the seven districts and three members and the mayor to be elected by and from the city at~~
20 ~~large~~ *and from each of the ten single-member election districts.*
21 B. The boundaries ~~and names~~ of such districts shall be established by ordinance ~~on or before March 1,~~
22 ~~1996,~~ and ~~thereafter~~ the boundaries shall be adjusted periodically as may be necessary to ensure that the
23 populations of the districts remain approximately equal.
24 ~~C. The city council shall, no later than January 1, 1996, petition the circuit court to order an advisory~~
25 ~~referendum to be held on the question of whether the council member elected from each district shall be~~
26 ~~elected by the qualified voters of that district rather than at large. The wording of the question shall be~~
27 ~~determined by majority vote of the city council and shall be included in the petition. Upon the filing of the~~
28 ~~petition, the circuit court shall order that an advisory referendum be held on the question in the city at the~~
29 ~~municipal elections to be held in May 1996.~~
30 § 3.01:1. Implementation of districts.
31 A. At the ~~May 1996~~ *November 2024* general election, ~~three~~ *the* members *representing district 1, district 3,*
32 *district 5, district 7, and the mayor* shall be elected ~~by the city at large from the residents of the Blackwater,~~
33 ~~Princess Anne, and Virginia Beach boroughs as such boroughs existed on January 1, 1995~~. The terms of the
34 members so elected shall *commence January 1, 2025, and* expire on ~~July 1, 1998~~ *December 31, 2028.* ~~The~~
35 ~~terms of the mayor and council member elected by and from the city at large in May of 1996 shall expire on~~
36 ~~July 1, 2000.~~
37 B. At the *November 2026* general election ~~in May of 1998~~, the members *representing district 2, district 4,*
38 *district 6, district 8, district 9, and district 10 shall be* elected ~~at large from districts numbered one through~~
39 ~~three shall be elected for terms of two years and the members elected at large from districts numbered four~~
40 ~~through seven shall be elected for terms of four years~~. The terms of the ~~two council~~ members ~~elected by and~~
41 ~~from the city at large in May of 1998 shall expire on July 1, 2002~~ *members so elected shall commence*
42 *January 1, 2027, and expire on December 31, 2030.* ~~Thereafter, all~~
43 *C. All* members shall be elected for terms of four years.
44 § 3.02:1. Election of council members.
45 ~~Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by city council on June 27, 2006, city~~ *City* council *regular* elections
46 shall take place ~~during the general election in November 2008, and during the November general election in~~
47 ~~even years thereafter, for council members whose terms expire at the end of December of that year. Council~~
48 ~~members, including the mayor, whose terms expire as of June 30, 2008, or June 30, 2010, shall continue in~~
49 ~~office until their successors have been elected at the November election and take office on January 1. The~~
50 ~~term of office for each council member shall commence on January 1 next following the date of election and~~
51 ~~shall continue until his successor has been duly elected and qualified~~ *at November general elections*. Each
52 candidate shall state, at the time of filing, whether he is running ~~at large,~~ from the district of his residence or
53 for mayor. Candidates for council shall be nominated only by petition in the manner prescribed by general
54 law.
55 § 3.02:2. Election of mayor.
56 The mayor shall be elected at the general election in November 2008, and each fourth year thereafter, to
57 serve for a term of four years. Candidates for mayor shall run ~~for one of the at-large seats~~ *at large*. A
58 candidate running for mayor shall not run for any other seat.

59   In the event any ~~councilman~~ *council member*, including the mayor, shall decide during his term of office
60   to be a candidate for mayor, he shall tender his resignation as a ~~councilman~~ *council member* not less than ten
61   days prior to the date for the filing of petitions as required by general law. Such resignation shall be effective
62   on December 31, shall constitute the ~~councilman's~~ *council member's* intention to run for mayor, shall require
63   no formal acceptance by the remaining ~~councilmen~~ *council members* and shall be final and irrevocable when
64   tendered.
65   *In the event the mayor shall decide during his term of office to be a candidate for one of the*
66   *single-member election districts, he shall tender his resignation as mayor not less than ten days prior to the*
67   *date for the filing of petitions as required by general law. Such resignation shall be effective on December*
68   *31, shall constitute the mayor's intention to run for one of the single-member election districts, shall require*
69   *no formal acceptance by the remaining council members and shall be final and irrevocable when tendered.*
70   The unexpired portion of the term of any council member who has resigned to run for mayor *or mayor*
71   *who has resigned to run for one of the single-member election districts* shall be filled at the same general
72   election.
73   **2. That § 3.02:3 of Chapters 127 and 762 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020 is repealed.**