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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 168**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 6, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia, relating to election of certain governing*  
5 *bodies; conversion to single-member districts.*

6 Patron—Askew

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 15.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 15.2-1400. Governing bodies.**11 A. The qualified voters of every locality shall elect a governing body for such locality. The date, place,  
12 number, term, and other details of the election shall be as specified by law, general or special. Qualification  
13 for office is provided in Article 4 (§ 15.2-1522 et seq.) of Chapter 15.14 B. The governing body of every locality shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than 11  
15 members.16 C. Chairmen, mayors, supervisors, and councilmen are subject to the prohibitions set forth in  
17 §§ 15.2-1534 and 15.2-1535.

18 D. A governing body may punish or fine a member of the governing body for disorderly behavior.

19 E. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 24.2-222 and 24.2-222.1, any city or town charter, or any other  
20 provision of law, general or special, beginning with any election held after January 1, 2022, elections for  
21 mayor, members of a local governing body, or members of an elected school board shall be held at the time  
22 of the November general election for terms to commence January 1.23 F. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, in a locality that imposes district-based  
24 or ward-based residency requirements for members of the governing body, the member elected from each  
25 district or ward shall be elected by the qualified voters of that district or ward and not by the locality at large.26 G. *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, the governing body of a locality that  
27 has been subject to a court order imposing a remedial election system under either the federal Voting Rights  
28 Act of 1965 or Chapter 1.1 (§ 24.2-125 et seq.) of Title 24.2, even if such order is later vacated, may adopt an  
29 ordinance to convert one or more at-large seats of such body to single-member districts. Members of such  
30 governing body in office on the effective date of such ordinance shall complete their terms of office.*

INTRODUCED

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