

26103642D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 810**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 4.01, as amended, of Chapter 576 of the Acts of Assembly of 1978, which*  
5 *provided a charter for the City of Newport News, relating to city council; compensation.*

6 Patron—Downey

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 4.01, as amended, of Chapter 576 of the Acts of Assembly of 1978 is amended and reenacted**  
10 **as follows:**11 § 4.01. Composition; compensation of ~~councilmen~~ *council members* and mayor; appointment of council  
12 member to office of profit.13 The council shall consist of seven members elected as provided in Chapter 3. The compensation of  
14 council members and the mayor shall be established by ordinance ~~within the salary ranges permitted by state~~  
15 ~~statute. Before adopting any ordinance to increase the compensation of the members of council, the council~~  
16 ~~shall appoint a citizen compensation committee to perform a detailed analysis of the official duties of council~~  
17 ~~members, comparing compensation with similar positions in the public and private sectors to provide a~~  
18 ~~transparent and data-driven justification for salary recommendations. The council may adopt an ordinance~~  
19 ~~establishing compensation for council members in any amount up to, but not exceeding, the amount~~  
20 ~~recommended by the citizen compensation committee.~~ The compensation of council members as being paid  
21 on the effective date of this charter section shall remain in effect until the appropriate ordinance setting  
22 salaries is adopted by council; provided, however, that no such ordinance shall take effect until after the next  
23 council election following the effective date of this act. No member of the council shall, during the term for  
24 which he was elected and one year thereafter, be appointed to any office of profit under the government of the  
25 city.

INTRODUCED

HB810