

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-304.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to election of certain governing*
 3 *bodies; single-member districts required.*

4 [H 1483]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 24.2-304.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 24.2-304.1. At-large and district elections; reapportionment and redistricting of districts or wards;**
 9 **limits.**

10 A. Except as otherwise specifically limited by general law or special act, the governing body of each
 11 county, city, or town may provide by ordinance for the election of its members on any of the following bases:
 12 (i) at large from the county, city, or town; (ii) from single-member or multi-member districts or wards, or any
 13 combination thereof; or (iii) from any combination of at-large, single-member, and multi-member districts or
 14 wards. A change in the basis for electing the members of the governing body shall not constitute a change in
 15 the form of county government.

16 B. If the members are elected from districts or wards and other than entirely at large from the locality, the
 17 districts or wards shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory and shall be so constituted as to
 18 give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district or ward. In 1971
 19 and every 10 years thereafter, the governing body of each such locality shall reapportion the representation
 20 among the districts or wards, including, if the governing body deems it appropriate, increasing or diminishing
 21 the number of such districts or wards, in order to give, as nearly as is practicable, representation on the basis
 22 of population.

23 C. For the purposes of redistricting and reapportioning representation in 2021 and every 10 years
 24 thereafter, the governing body of a county, city, or town shall use the most recent decennial population
 25 figures for such county, city, or town from the United States Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the
 26 Division of Legislative Services pursuant to § 24.2-314. The census data for these redistricting and
 27 apportionment purposes will not include any population figure that is not allocated to specific census blocks
 28 within the Commonwealth, even though that population may have been included in the apportionment
 29 population figures of the Commonwealth for the purpose of allocating United States House of
 30 Representatives seats among the states.

31 D. Notwithstanding any other provision of general law or special act, the governing body of a county,
 32 city, or town shall not reapportion the representation in the governing body at any time other than that
 33 required following the decennial census, except as (i) provided by law upon a change in the boundaries of the
 34 county, city, or town that results in an increase or decrease in the population of the county, city, or town of
 35 more than one percent;; (ii) the result of a court order;; (iii) the result of a change in the form of government;;
 36 or (iv) the result of an increase or decrease in the number of districts or wards other than at-large districts or
 37 wards. The foregoing provisions notwithstanding, the governing body subsequent to the decennial
 38 redistricting may adjust district or ward boundaries in order that the boundaries might coincide with state
 39 legislative or congressional district boundaries; however, no adjustment shall affect more than five percent of
 40 the population of a ward or district or 250 persons, whichever is lesser. If districts created by a
 41 reapportionment enacted subsequent to a decennial reapportionment are invalid under the provisions of this
 42 subsection, the immediately preexisting districts shall remain in force and effect until validly reapportioned in
 43 accordance with law.

44 *E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, any local government charter, or any other provision*
 45 *of law, general or special, for municipal elections held after July 1, 2026, every locality with a population of*
 46 *400,000 or greater shall elect its members of the governing body by individual single-member districts. A*
 47 *governing body's presiding officer may be elected at large.*

ENROLLED

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