

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H.B. 481  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30226-LU-109

Short Title: Voter Initiative for Beaufort County.

(Local)

Sponsors: Representative Kidwell.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THE VOTERS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY A SIMILAR RIGHT TO  
3 PETITION FOR CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
4 COMMISSIONERS AS TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1.(a) Part 4 of Article 4 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is  
7 amended by adding a new section to read:

8 "§ 153A-60.1. Alteration by voter initiative.

9 (a) The people may initiate a referendum on proposed alterations authorized by this Part.  
10 An initiative petition shall bear the signatures and resident addresses of a number of qualified  
11 voters of the county equal to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the whole number of voters who  
12 are registered to vote in the county according to the most recent figures certified by the State  
13 Board of Elections or 5,000, whichever is less. The petition shall, with reference to the pertinent  
14 provisions of G.S. 153A-58, contain the precise text of the resolution necessary to implement the  
15 proposed changes. The petition may not propose changes in the alternative, or more than one  
16 integrated set of alterations. Upon receipt of a valid initiative petition, the county board of  
17 elections shall call a special election on the question of adopting the alterations proposed therein  
18 and shall give public notice of the special election in accordance with G.S. 163A-1592. The date  
19 of the special election shall be the date of the next countywide election, whether primary, general,  
20 or special, held more than 90 days after receipt of the petition. If a majority of the votes cast in  
21 the special election are in favor of the proposed changes, the resolution is adopted. Alterations  
22 adopted under this section shall continue in force for at least two years after the beginning of the  
23 term of office of the officers elected under the new manner of election. No initiative petition may  
24 be filed (i) within one year and six months following the effective date of a resolution adopting  
25 alterations pursuant to this Part, nor (ii) within one year and six months following the date of any  
26 election on alterations that were defeated by the voters.

27 The restrictions imposed by this section on filing initiative petitions shall apply only to  
28 petitions concerning the same subject matter.

29 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the submission of more than one  
30 proposition for alterations on the same ballot so long as no proposition offers a different plan  
31 under the same option as another proposition on the same ballot.

32 (b) Notwithstanding G.S. 120-30.9E, the Attorney General shall make any submissions  
33 under this section."

34 SECTION 1.(b) This section applies to Beaufort County only.

35 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

