

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 466
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/18/15

Short Title: Stokesdale Fire District Assessment.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 2, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE GUILFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THE STOKESDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS THEREIN THE QUESTION OF INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE SPECIAL TAX FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITHIN THAT DISTRICT FROM TEN CENTS ON THE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS VALUATION TO FIFTEEN CENTS ON THE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS VALUATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN SUCH DISTRICT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 69-25.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 69-25.1. Election to be held upon petition of voters.

Upon the petition of thirty-five percent (35%) of the resident freeholders living in an area lying outside the corporate limits of any city or town, which area is described in the petition and designated as "

(Here insert name)

Fire District," the board of county commissioners of the county shall call a special election in said district for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters therein the question of levying and collecting a special tax on all taxable property in said district, of not exceeding fifteen cents (15¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property, for the purpose of providing fire protection in said district. The county tax office shall be responsible for checking the freeholder status of those individuals signing the petition and confirming the location of the property owned by those individuals. Unless specifically excluded by other law, the provisions of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes concerning petitions for referenda and special elections shall apply. If the voters reject the special tax under the first paragraph of this section, then no new election may be held under the first paragraph of this section within two years on the question of levying and collecting a special tax under the first paragraph of this section in that district, or in any proposed district which includes a majority of the land within the district in which the tax was rejected.

~~Upon the petition of thirty five percent (35%) of the resident freeholders living in an area which has previously been established as a fire protection district and in which there has been authorized by a vote of the people a special tax not exceeding ten cents (10¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property within the area, the~~
The board of county commissioners shall of Guilford County shall call a special election in said area that portion of the area encompassing the Stokesdale Fire Protection District that lies in Guilford County for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters therein the question of increasing the



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1 allowable special tax for fire protection within said district from ten cents (10¢) on the one
2 hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation to fifteen cents (15¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00)
3 valuation on all taxable property within such district. Special elections on the question of
4 increasing the allowable tax rate for fire protection shall not be held within the same district at
5 intervals less than two years."

6 **SECTION 1.(b)** This section applies to Guilford County only.

7 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 69-25.1 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 69-25.1. Election to be held upon petition of voters.**

9 Upon the petition of thirty-five percent (35%) of the resident freeholders living in an area
10 lying outside the corporate limits of any city or town, which area is described in the petition
11 and designated as " _____

12 (Here insert name)

13 Fire District," the board of county commissioners of the county shall call a special election in
14 said district for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters therein the question of levying
15 and collecting a special tax on all taxable property in said district, of not exceeding fifteen cents
16 (15¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property, for the purpose of providing
17 fire protection in said district. The county tax office shall be responsible for checking the
18 freeholder status of those individuals signing the petition and confirming the location of the
19 property owned by those individuals. Unless specifically excluded by other law, the provisions
20 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes concerning petitions for referenda and special elections
21 shall apply. If the voters reject the special tax under the first paragraph of this section, then no
22 new election may be held under the first paragraph of this section within two years on the
23 question of levying and collecting a special tax under the first paragraph of this section in that
24 district, or in any proposed district which includes a majority of the land within the district in
25 which the tax was rejected.

26 ~~Upon the petition of thirty five percent (35%) of the resident freeholders living in an area~~
27 ~~which has previously been established as a fire protection district and in which there has been~~
28 ~~authorized by a vote of the people a special tax not exceeding ten cents (10¢) on the one~~
29 ~~hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property within the area, the~~ The board of county
30 commissioners ~~shall of Rockingham County shall~~ call a special election in ~~said area that~~
31 portion of the area encompassing the Stokesdale Fire Protection District that lies in
32 Rockingham County for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters therein the question
33 of increasing the allowable special tax for fire protection within said district from ten cents
34 (10¢) on the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation to fifteen cents (15¢) on the one hundred
35 dollars (\$100.00) valuation on all taxable property within such district. Special elections on the
36 question of increasing the allowable tax rate for fire protection shall not be held within the
37 same district at intervals less than two years."

38 **SECTION 2.(b)** This section applies to Rockingham County only.

39 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 69-25.9 reads as rewritten:

40 "**§ 69-25.9. Procedure when area lies in more than one county.**

41 In the event that an area ~~petitioning for a tax election under this Article~~ lies in more than
42 ~~one county~~ county, ~~said petition shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners of all~~
43 ~~the counties in which said area lies and~~ the election shall be called ~~which shall be conducted~~
44 jointly by the county board of elections and the cost of same shall be shared equally by all
45 counties.

46 Upon passage, the tax herein provided shall be levied and collected by each county on all of
47 the taxable property in its portion of the fire protection district; the tax collected shall be paid
48 into a special fund and used for the purpose of providing fire protection for the district."

49 **SECTION 3.(b)** This section applies to Guilford and Rockingham Counties only.

50 **SECTION 4.** The special elections authorized by Sections 1 and 2 shall be held on
51 the same date in each county.

1 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires December 1,
2 2016, or upon conclusion of the special elections authorized by this act.