

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017**

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**SENATE BILL 285
Select Committee on Elections Committee Substitute Adopted 4/25/17
Third Edition Engrossed 4/26/17**

Short Title: Equal Representation for Asheville.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DIRECTING THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE TO CREATE ELECTORAL
2 DISTRICTS AND, IF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ARE NOT TIMELY CREATED,
3 PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THOSE DISTRICTS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Creation of Electoral Districts. – By November 1, 2017, the City of
7 Asheville shall amend its charter to create six single-member electoral districts governing the
8 nomination and election of City Council members. Electoral districts established pursuant to
9 this section shall be for use in the 2019 municipal elections. The City shall create districts that
10 comply with State and federal law and (i) are reasonably compact and geographically diverse,
11 (ii) are contiguous, and (iii) have a population deviation of no more than plus or minus five
12 percent (5%). A candidate who seeks office shall represent the district in which the candidate
13 resides. Only the qualified voters in the district shall nominate and elect candidates residing in
14 the district. The mayor shall be nominated and elected from the City at large in accordance with
15 G.S. 160A-101(8)a. Upon creating electoral districts, the City shall file a copy of its charter
16 amendments in accordance with G.S. 160A-111 and submit a report of the completed plans to
17 the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
18 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 15, 2017.

19 **SECTION 2.** If the City of Asheville fails to create electoral districts as required
20 by Section 1 of this act, the North Carolina General Assembly, in the 2018 Regular Session of
21 the 2017 General Assembly, shall establish electoral districts for the City of Asheville.

22 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections
23 held on or after that date.

