

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2343*

Short Title: Durham Ward Boundaries. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Hall; Luebke, Michaux, and Wilkins.

Referred to: Local Government II.

May 21, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM TO REVISE
2 ELECTION WARD BOUNDARIES.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of the Charter of the City of Durham, being Chapter
5 671 of the 1975 Session Laws, as amended by Ordinance 12281 of the City of Durham,
6 adopted May 7, 2001, under G.S. 160A-104 and G.S. 160A-106, reads as rewritten:

7 "Sec. 4. Election Wards.–

8 (a) The territory located within the corporate limits of the City shall continue to
9 be divided into three numbered election ~~wards~~ wards, which shall be shown on the map
10 showing the city limits maintained by the city clerk pursuant to the provisions of general
11 law. ~~A written description or map showing the current boundaries of the respective three~~
12 ~~election wards shall be maintained in the office of the City Clerk, and shall be available~~
13 ~~for public inspection.~~

14 (b) Such ward boundaries may be amended periodically pursuant to the
15 provisions of ~~General Law~~ general law.

16 ~~Whenever areas are hereafter annexed and made a part of the City, the City Council~~
17 ~~shall by ordinance redefine and rearrange the three election wards so as to include such~~
18 ~~annexed areas. Such ordinance shall be adopted at least seven days prior to the opening~~
19 ~~of the registration books for the municipal election next succeeding the date of any~~
20 ~~annexation and shall provide for three election wards of approximately equal~~
21 ~~population. In redefining and rearranging the election ward lines, the City Council shall~~
22 ~~follow as nearly as practical, existing ward lines.~~

23 (c) Within six months of the release of official United States decennial census
24 figures (but not later than seven calendar days before the opening of filing under
25 G.S. 163-294.2 for the next regular municipal election after release of the figures), the
26 city council shall by ordinance, using such figures and taking into account the election
27 ward boundaries in existence at the time, revise the three election wards so that they are
28 of approximately equal population, as determined in the discretion of the city council.
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1 (d) The council shall allocate to the election wards, or by ordinance provide
2 procedures for the city manager to allocate to the election wards, areas that are annexed
3 to the city after the ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and such
4 allocation shall be made before the effective date of each annexation.

5 (e) This section is supplementary to the provisions of general law. In case of
6 conflict or inconsistency, this section controls.

7 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.