

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 3
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40011-LU-14A

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 RIGHT TO PETITION
3 FOR CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF
4 COMMISSIONERS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

9 The people may initiate a referendum on proposed alterations authorized by this Part. An
10 initiative petition shall bear the signatures and resident addresses of a number of qualified voters
11 of the county equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the whole number of voters who are registered
12 to vote in the county according to the most recent figures certified by the State Board of Elections
13 or 3,000, whichever is less. The petition shall, with reference to the pertinent provisions of
14 G.S. 153A-58, contain the precise text of the resolution necessary to implement the proposed
15 changes. The petition may not propose changes in the alternative, or more than one integrated set
16 of alterations. Upon receipt of a valid initiative petition, the county board of elections shall call
17 a special election on the question of adopting the alterations proposed therein and shall give
18 public notice of the special election in accordance with G.S. 163-287. The date of the special
19 election shall be the date of the next countywide election, whether primary, general, or special,
20 held more than 90 days after receipt of the petition. If a majority of the votes cast in the special
21 election are in favor of the proposed changes, the resolution is adopted. Alterations adopted under
22 this section shall continue in force for at least two years after the beginning of the term of office
23 of the officers elected under the new manner of election. No initiative petition may be filed (i)
24 within one year and six months following the effective date of a resolution adopting alterations
25 pursuant to this Part, nor (ii) within one year and six months following the date of any election
26 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 **SECTION 2.** This act applies to Beaufort County only.

33 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

