

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PETITION PROCESS FOR  
VACANCIES FILLED BY CITY COUNCIL IN 2018 OR 2019  
(PETITION PROCESS)**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** Section 1 of Chapter 1248 of the Session Laws of 1971 reads as rewritten:

**SECTION 1.** Any seat that meets all of the following shall be subject to a special primary and election, to be conducted using the process described in Section 1 of Chapter 1248 of the Session Laws of 1971, as amended by a prior act:

(1) A vacancy for that seat occurs in 2018 or 2019.

(2) The vacancy was filled by the city council using the appointment process set forth in G.S. 160A-63.

(3) The Forsyth County Board of Elections receives a petition calling for a special primary and election signed by at least one percent (1%) of the total number of registered voters in the ward in which the seat represents, as reflected by the voter registration records of the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement as of January 1 of the year in which the petition is received. The chair or director of the Forsyth County Board of Elections shall verify signatures on the petition no later than 15 business days after receipt of the petition as provided in G.S. 163A-1005(a)(1)b.

(4) The unexpired term of office for the seat is twelve months or more, as of the date the petition signed by at least 1% of the residents of the ward is received by the Forsyth County Board of Elections.

**SECTION 1.(b)** The City Council of the City of Winston-Salem shall reimburse the Forsyth County Board of Elections for the actual cost involved in the administration of any special primary and election conducted under this section.

**SECTION 1.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to any seat that was vacated in 2018 or 2019.

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