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## HOUSE BILL NO. 2494

Offered January 14, 2009

A BILL to amend and reenact § 4 of Chapter IV, as amended, § 1 of Chapter XVIII, as amended, and § 1 of Chapter XXII of Chapter 431 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950, which provided a charter for the City of Hopewell, and to amend Chapter XVIII of Chapter 431 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950 by adding sections numbered 2 and 3, relating to a regional free library system and bond issues.

Patrons—Ingram and Morrissey; Senators: Marsh and Quayle

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

1. That § 4 of Chapter IV, as amended, § 1 of Chapter XVIII, as amended, and § 1 of Chapter XXII of Chapter 431 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950 are amended and reenacted and that Chapter XVIII of Chapter 431 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950 is amended by adding sections numbered 2 and 3 as follows:

Chapter IV

Council

§ 4. Election and terms of president (ex officio mayor), vice-president (ex officio vice-mayor) and members of boards and commissions; quorums; journal; etc. (a) On the first Tuesday in July next following the regular municipal election, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the newly elected council shall proceed to choose by majority vote of all the members thereof one of their number to be president, who shall be ex officio mayor, and another as vice-president, who shall be ex officio vice-mayor, of the council, each of whom shall serve for a period of two years from the first day of the July in which such election is held and until their successor or successors have been elected and qualified.

(b) Appointment of boards and commissions; enumeration, term. The school board, library board, and dock commission shall each consist of five members; *provided, however, that in the event the council elects to participate in a regional free library system in lieu of establishing a local library board as provided for in Chapter XXII, Section 1, the council shall appoint such members of the board of such regional free library system as are permitted under the inter-jurisdictional contract establishing the regional library system as that contract may be amended from time to time.*

The council shall appoint the members of such boards and commissions as are provided for in this charter, or as may be established by the council or by general law on a date and for such terms as may be established by ordinance.

The members of the boards and commissions shall serve until their successors have been appointed and qualified.

(c) Elections to be by viva voce vote; rules of procedure; punishment of members for misconduct, etc.; quorum; eligibility of members for other office; journal of proceedings. All elections by the council shall be viva voce and the vote recorded in the journal of the council.

The council may determine its own rules of procedure; in the absence of established rules of procedure, Robert's "Rules of Order" shall prevail. Council may punish its members for misconduct and may compel the attendance of members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance. It shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of all the members of the council shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

No person, now a member or who may hereafter be elected to the council, shall during his tenure of office, or during the term for which he was elected as such member, be eligible to any office to be filled by the council by election or appointment.

Chapter XVIII

Bond Issues

§ 1. Bonds, within the limits provided by general law, ~~may~~ shall be issued by ~~said city~~ the City of Hopewell, upon the affirmative vote of a majority vote of all members of council, and the issuance, execution and terms thereof shall be governed by ~~§ 15.1-170 et seq., inclusive,~~ in a referendum of voters pursuant to §§ 15.2-2610 and 15.2-2611 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.

§ 2. The following bonds shall be exempted from the requirement to be approved by a referendum of voters: (i) bonds issued for improvements to existing public buildings; (ii) bonds not exceeding \$10 million, as adjusted for inflation based upon increases in the annual All Items Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers, as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, issued for economic development purposes as determined by the city council; (iv) refunding bonds; and (v) tax and

59 *revenue anticipation obligations that mature within one year from the date of their issue. Such bonds so*  
60 *excepted may be issued upon an affirmative vote of a majority of all members of city council.*

61 § 3. *The issuance, execution, and terms of such bonds shall be governed by Chapter 26 (§ 15.2-2600*  
62 *et seq.) of Title 15.2, of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.*

63 Chapter XXII

64 Library Board

65 § 1. ~~There~~*At the election of city council, shall be (i) a library board of the City of Hopewell which*  
66 *that shall consist of five members, who shall be residents of the City of Hopewell, who shall be*  
67 *appointed by a majority of the city council as hereinbefore provided, whose qualifications shall be such*  
68 *and who shall perform such duties as the city council may prescribe, or (ii) the City of Hopewell shall*  
69 *join and participate in a regional free library system pursuant to §§ 42.1-37 to 42.1-45, inclusive, of the*  
70 *Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.*