

# 2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

20101236D

## HOUSE BILL NO. 494

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 3, 2020

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-4101 of the Code of Virginia, relating to city reversion to town status.*

Patron—Marshall

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

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

#### **1. That § 15.2-4101 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

##### **§ 15.2-4101. Ordinance petitioning court for town status; notice of motion.**

A. Any city in this Commonwealth with a population at the time of the latest United States decennial census of less than 50,000 people, after fulfilling the requirements of Chapter 29 (§ 15.2-2900 et seq.), may by ordinance passed by a recorded ~~majority~~ *three-fourths* vote of all the members thereof, petition the circuit court for the city, alleging that the city meets the criteria set out in § 15.2-4106 for an order granting town status to the city. The circuit court with which the petition is filed shall notify the Supreme Court, which shall appoint a special court to hear the case as prescribed by Chapter 30 (§ 15.2-3000 et seq.) of this title.

B. Before instituting a proceeding under this chapter for a grant of town status, a city shall serve notice on the county attorney, or if there is none, on the attorney for the Commonwealth, and on the chairman of the board of supervisors of the adjoining county that it will, on a given day, petition the circuit court for a grant of town status. The notice served on each official shall include a certified copy of the ordinance. A copy of the notice and ordinance, or a descriptive summary of the notice and ordinance and a reference to the place within the city or adjoining county where copies of the notice and ordinance may be examined, shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks in some newspaper having general circulation in the city and adjoining county. The notice and ordinance shall be returned after service to the clerk of the circuit court. Certification by the owner, editor or manager of the newspaper publishing the notice and ordinance shall be proof of publication.

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