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## SENATE BILL NO. 547

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections  
on January 21, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Edwards)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-307.1, relating to super precincts; pilot program in City of Salem.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-307.1 as follows:

§ 24.2-307.1. Requirements for county and city super precincts; pilot program.

A. For purposes of this section:

"Super precinct" means the territory established by a county or city and approved by the State Board pursuant to the pilot program, to be served by one vote center.

"Vote center" means the structure that contains the one place provided for each super precinct at which the qualified voters who are residents of the super precinct may vote in a May general or June primary election.

B. The State Board shall authorize and supervise a pilot program in the city of Salem, permitting the use of super precincts in May general and June primary elections in order to study the efficacy and cost savings of super precincts in such elections.

C. The city of Salem may apply for participation in the pilot program by submitting a proposal to the State Board. The proposal shall be on a form and include such information as prescribed by the Commissioner of Elections, including (i) the number of super precincts to be established in the county or city and the boundaries of each such super precinct and (ii) the location of vote centers to be established in each super precinct. Prior to submission to the State Board, the proposal shall be approved by a majority of the local governing body and by unanimous consent of the local electoral board.

D. In order to be eligible for approval by the State Board, the proposal shall meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Each super precinct shall be composed entirely from whole precincts established pursuant to § 24.2-307.

2. Each super precinct shall serve no more than 18,000 registered voters.

3. No super precinct may have more than one vote center.

4. Registered voters may vote only at the vote center that serves the super precinct in which they reside.

E. The provisions of § 24.2-307 shall not apply to the vote centers or super precincts established for purposes of participation in the pilot program. The provisions of subsection A of § 24.2-310 shall not apply to the vote centers established for purposes of participation in the pilot program, but all provisions of this title governing polling places shall apply to such vote centers unless otherwise provided in this section.

F. No proposal under the pilot program shall be authorized without the unanimous approval of the State Board. If the city of Salem's proposal for participation in the super precinct pilot program has been unanimously approved by the State Board, the governing body shall establish such super precincts and vote centers by ordinance.

G. The State Board shall promulgate standards and guidelines for the proper operation of super precincts and vote centers.

H. The State Board shall publish a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program by August 15 of any year in which the city of Salem in the pilot program.

2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on December 31, 2024.