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Offered January 19, 2012 A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.1 of Chapter 177 of the Acts of Assembly of 1999, which provided a

SENATE BILL NO. 608

charter for the Town of Gate City, in Scott County, relating to elections.

Patron—Carrico

Referred to Committee on Local Government

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

- 1. That § 3.1 of Chapter 177 of the Acts of Assembly of 1999 is amended and reenacted as follows:
 - § 3.1. Election, qualification and term of office.
- A. The Town of Gate City shall be governed by a town council, composed of a mayor and five other members, all of whom shall be qualified voters of the town.
- B. There shall be an election of a mayor and five other members of council in May of each even-numbered year, and every two years thereafter at the regular May municipal election date. At such elections, a mayor and five additional council members shall be elected to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified The mayor and five council members shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the town, and their terms of office shall be for four years, subject, however, to provisions for the terms for the years 2012 and 2014. An election shall be held on the first Tuesday in May 2012 to elect a mayor and five council members. The mayor and the three council members receiving the highest number of votes in such election shall serve terms of four years from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2016, and thereafter until their successors have been elected and qualify; the two council members receiving the next highest number of votes in such election shall serve for terms of two years from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014, and for terms of four years thereafter until their successors have been elected and qualify. Thereafter, elections shall be held on the first Tuesday of May of each even-numbered year to fill the vacancies for the council members and mayor whose terms of office expire in that year or to fill the vacancy of any member who has resigned or been removed from office during his term. The mayor and council members shall take office thereafter on July 1 of the year in which they have been elected.
- C. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council and shall be recognized as head of the town government for ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for the purposes of military law. He shall vote only in cases where the votes of the council are evenly divided.
- 2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.