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**HOUSE BILL NO. 668**

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia, relating to timing of local elections.*

Patron—Marshall

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

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

**1. That § 15.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 15.2-1400. Governing bodies.**

A. The qualified voters of every locality shall elect a governing body for such locality. The date, place, number, term, and other details of the election shall be as specified by law, general or special. Qualification for office is provided in Article 4 (§ 15.2-1522 et seq.) of Chapter 15.

B. The governing body of every locality shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than 11 members.

C. Chairmen, mayors, supervisors, and councilmen are subject to the prohibitions set forth in §§ 15.2-1534 and 15.2-1535.

D. A governing body may punish or fine a member of the governing body for disorderly behavior.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 24.2-222 and 24.2-222.1, any city or town charter, or any other provision of law, general or special, beginning with any election held after January 1, 2022, elections for mayor, members of a local governing body, or members of an elected school board shall be held at the time of the November general election for terms to commence January 1.

F. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, in a locality that imposes district-based or ward-based residency requirements for members of the governing body, the member elected from each district or ward shall be elected by the qualified voters of that district or ward and not by the locality at large.

G. *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, a locality may by ordinance shift the timing of the election of members of the local governing body from an even year to an odd year by extending the existing terms of local governing body members by one year. Such change may occur only after a public hearing and a majority vote of the governing body.*