

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015**

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**SENATE BILL 860\***

Short Title:   Wilmington/Ordinance Initiative & Referendum. (Local)

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Sponsors:     Senators Lee and Rabon (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:   State and Local Government

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May 11, 2016

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON TO ALLOW  
3 PROPOSED ORDINANCES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL BY  
4 PETITION SIGNED BY ELECTORS OF THE CITY EQUAL IN NUMBER TO  
5 TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS  
6 RESIDING WITHIN THE CITY AT THE TIME OF THE LAST REGULAR MUNICIPAL  
7 ELECTION.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9           **SECTION 1.** Section 5.1 of the Charter of the City of Wilmington, being Chapter 495  
10 of the 1977 Session Laws, as amended by Chapter 367 of the 1983 Session Laws, reads as  
11 rewritten:

12       "Sec. 5.1. Initiative ordinances generally.

13       (a) Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the council by petition signed by electors  
14 of the city equal in number to the percentages hereinafter required. If the petition accompanying  
15 the proposed ordinance is signed by electors of the city equal in number to twenty-five percent  
16 (25%) of the ~~votes cast at the last preceding~~total number of registered voters residing within the  
17 City of Wilmington at the time of the last regular municipal election and contains a request that  
18 such ordinance be submitted to a vote of the people, if not passed by the council, the council shall  
19 either:

- 20           (1) Pass the ordinance without alteration within 20 days after the city clerk and the  
21 New Hanover County Board of Elections have certified the sufficiency of the  
22 accompanying petition; or  
23           (2) Within 20 days after the city clerk and the New Hanover County Board of  
24 Elections have certified the sufficiency of the petition, the council shall call a  
25 special election to be held within six months, unless a general election is fixed  
26 within six months thereafter. At such special or general election the ordinance  
27 shall be submitted without alteration to the vote of the electors of the city.

28       ...."

29           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

