

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017**

**SESSION LAW 2017-26
HOUSE BILL 764**

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS REGARDING EXPANSION OF A METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT AND TO MAKE ADDITIONAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS PARALLEL TO THE PROCESS TO EXPAND A METROPOLITAN WATER AND SEWERAGE DISTRICT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 162A-68 reads as rewritten:

"§ 162A-68. Procedure for inclusion of additional political subdivision or unincorporated area; notice and hearing; elections; actions to set aside proceedings.

(a) If, at any time subsequent to the creation of a district, there shall be filed with the district board (i) a resolution of the governing body of a political subdivision, subdivision requesting inclusion in the district all or part of such political subdivision or (ii) a petition, petition signed by not less than fifty-one per centum (51%) of the qualified voters resident within an unincorporated area, area requesting inclusion in the district of such political subdivision or unincorporated area, and if the district board shall favor the inclusion in the district of such political subdivision or unincorporated area, new territory, the district board shall notify the board or boards of commissioners of the county or counties within which the district lies and shall file with the board or boards of commissioners and with the Environmental Management Commission a report setting forth the plans of the district for extending sewerage service to the political subdivision or unincorporated area, new territory. The report shall include:

- (1) A map or maps of the district and adjacent territory showing the present and proposed boundaries of the district; the existing major sewer interceptors and outfalls; and the proposed extension of such interceptors and outfalls.
- (2) A statement setting forth the plans of the district for extending sewerage services to the territory proposed to be included, which plans shall:
 - a. Provide for extending sewerage service to the territory included on substantially the same basis and in the same manner as such services are provided within the rest of the district prior to inclusion of the new territory.
 - b. Set forth a proposed time schedule for extending sewerage service to the territory proposed to be included.
 - c. Set forth the estimated cost of extending sewerage service to the territory proposed to be included; the method by which the district proposes to finance the extension; the outstanding existing indebtedness of the district, if any; and the valuation of assessable property within the district and within the territory proposed to be included.
 - d. Contain a declaration of intent of the district board to conform with the plans set forth in the report in extending sewerage services to the territory proposed to be included; and a certification by the chairman



of the district board to the effect that the matters and things set forth in the report are true to his knowledge or belief.

...
(i) Immediately following the inclusion of any additional political subdivision within an existing district, members representing such additional political subdivision shall be appointed to the district board in the manner provided in this section:

(1) Any additional unincorporated area that is included within an existing district shall be represented by the members representing the county in which the unincorporated area lies as follows:

a. If inclusion of the additional unincorporated area extends the district into more than one county, members representing the unincorporated area in the new county shall be appointed immediately following the inclusion of the additional area. Upon the inclusion of the additional area, the board members appointed in accordance with G.S. 162A-67(a)(1) or G.S. 162A-67(a)(1a) shall continue to serve on the district board. The board of commissioners of the county in which the largest portion of the district lies shall appoint qualified voters residing in the county and district as their successors such that the county in which the largest portion of the district lies shall always have three members on the district board. The board of commissioners of the county in which the lesser portion of the district lies shall appoint to the district board two qualified voters residing in the county and district to serve a term of three years and shall appoint qualified voters residing in the county and district as their successors such that the county in which the lesser portion of the district lies shall always have two members on the district board. For purposes of this subdivision, the county in which the largest portion and lesser portion of the district lies shall be determined with reference to the land area of the district lying within the county as a percentage of land area of the entire district at the time such appointment or reappointment is made.

b. If the inclusion of the additional unincorporated area has the effect of changing the county in which the largest portion of the district lies, new members representing the county comprising the larger portion of the district shall be appointed in accordance with G.S. 162A-67(a)(2) immediately following the inclusion, and no reappointment shall be made by the county in which the lesser portion of the district lies upon expiration of the first term of a member representing that county following the inclusion.

(1a) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, when the territory of the district is expanding into new territory, any county without representation on the district board shall be represented by three additional members who are qualified voters residing within the new territory, appointed by the county board of commissioners governing the new territory.

~~Following~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, following the inclusion of any additional political subdivision within an existing district, the political subdivisions added shall appoint members to the district board in accordance with G.S. 162A-67(a)(4) only if the governing body of the political subdivision owns or operates a public system for the collection of wastewater at the time of such appointment.

(j) The terms of office of the members first appointed under subsection (i) of this section to represent such additional political subdivision or area may be varied for a period not to exceed six months from the terms provided for in G.S. 162A-67, so that the appointment of successors to such members may more nearly coincide with the appointment of successors to members of the existing board; and all successor members shall be appointed for the terms provided for in G.S. 162A-67."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to any expansion of a metropolitan sewerage district on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 30th day of May, 2017.

s/ Daniel J. Forest
President of the Senate

s/ Sarah Stevens
Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved 11:11 a.m. this 8th day of June, 2017