

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE DRS85108-LM-70 (3/3)**

Short Title: Durham City Manager/Contract Authority. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator McKissick.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF DURHAM TO ALLOW THE  
3 CITY COUNCIL TO DELEGATE TO THE CITY MANAGER THE AUTHORITY TO  
4 SET HEARINGS, GIVE NOTICES, ACCEPT OR REJECT OFFERS, AND TO  
5 DECLARE INTENT, AND TO FURTHER DELEGATE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY  
6 TO THE CITY MANAGER.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 17 of the Charter of the City of Durham, being Chapter 671  
9 of the 1975 Session Laws, as amended by Chapter 1249 of the 1979 Session Laws, Chapter 694  
10 of the 1981 Session Laws, Chapter 458 of the 1983 Session Laws, Chapter 532 of the 1991  
11 Session Laws, Chapter 617 of the 1991 Session Laws, Chapter 761 of the 1991 Session Laws,  
12 Chapter 121 of the 1993 Session Laws, and Chapter 36 of the 1999 Session Laws, reads as  
13 rewritten:

14 "Sec. 17. **Powers and Duties of the City Manager.** – (a) The City Manager shall be  
15 responsible to the City Council for the efficient administration of all the affairs of the City  
16 under his direction and control. It shall be his duty to attend all meetings of the City Council,  
17 with the right to take part in the discussion, but without a vote. He shall be entitled to notice of  
18 all special meetings. He shall recommend to the City Council from time to time such measures  
19 as he shall deem necessary, and shall furnish the City Council with necessary information  
20 respecting any of the departments of the City under his direction and control. The City Manager  
21 shall not be personally interested in any contract in which the City is a party for supplying the  
22 City materials of any kind.

23 The City Manager shall have power, and it shall be his duty, to see that the laws and  
24 ordinances of the City are enforced.

25 He shall have power and authority to revoke licenses, pending action by the City Council.

26 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the City Manager shall have power to  
27 appoint and remove all heads of departments and all subordinate officers and employees of the  
28 City. He shall, except when clearly inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, exercise  
29 supervision and control over all departments and divisions created herein, or that hereafter may  
30 be created by the City Council. He shall see that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of  
31 the City or its inhabitants in any public utility franchise are faithfully kept and performed, and  
32 upon knowledge of any violation thereof, he shall call the attention of the City Council and the  
33 City Attorney to the same. ~~He shall make and execute all contracts on behalf of the City in such  
34 manner as is authorized or provided by resolutions or ordinances passed by the City Council.~~  
35 ~~The City Council may, on such terms as it deems proper, allow the City Manager to authorize~~



1 ~~one or more assistant city managers and deputy city managers to make and execute such~~  
2 ~~contracts.~~ He shall prepare and submit to the City Council a proposed annual budget, after  
3 receiving estimates made by the heads or directors of departments or by any board officer, or  
4 commissioner not within a department. He shall keep the City Council at all times advised as to  
5 the financial needs and condition of the City. He shall from time to time make oral and written  
6 reports to the City Council of the condition and efficiency of the various departments of the  
7 City government under his direction and control. The Council may in its discretion cause such  
8 written reports to be published for the information of citizens. The City Manager shall perform  
9 such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter, or be required of him by ordinance or  
10 resolution of the City Council.

11 (c) The City Manager shall not engage in political campaigns for elective office, nor  
12 attempt to influence the result of such campaigns, except by exercising his right to vote.  
13 Improper campaign activity as described herein by the City Manager shall be a cause for his  
14 immediate suspension or removal from office.

15 (d) The City Council may delegate authority to the City Manager to purchase real  
16 property or any interest in real property, provided:

- 17 (1) The money for the purchase of such real property or interest in real property  
18 is available in the then current budget; and
- 19 (2) The City Manager, within 45 days following the purchase, shall submit to  
20 the City Council a written report setting forth the names of the persons from  
21 whom such property or property interest is purchased, a general description  
22 of the property or interest in property acquired, the purchase price paid  
23 therefor, and the intended use of the property or interest in property.

24 ~~(e) The City Council may authorize the City Manager to make, approve, award, and~~  
25 ~~execute any contract for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment and any~~  
26 ~~contract for construction or repair work provided:~~

- 27 ~~(1) The amount of the contract shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars~~  
28 ~~(\$100,000);~~
- 29 ~~(2) The City Manager shall, within 45 days of the award of such contract, report~~  
30 ~~such award to the City Council, provided however, contracts in an amount~~  
31 ~~less than an amount prescribed by the City Council need not be reported;~~
- 32 ~~(3) The City Manager shall comply with all applicable provisions of Article 8 of~~  
33 ~~Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, and of Section 84 of this Charter. The~~  
34 ~~City Manager may take any action that the City Council is required or~~  
35 ~~authorized to take under Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes in~~  
36 ~~making, approving, awarding, or executing such contracts.~~

37 (f) Where any provision of this Charter or general or local law provides that the City  
38 Council may call, fix, or set public hearings or cause public hearings to be called, fixed, or set;  
39 give, mail, post, or publish notices or cause notices to be given, mailed, posted, or published; or  
40 to accept or reject offers made to the City, the City Council may delegate to the City Manager  
41 or the City Manager's designee the authority to perform any or all of these acts. Where any  
42 provision of this Charter or general or local law provides that before an act described in this  
43 subsection can be performed the City Council must first adopt a resolution stating the City  
44 Council's intent to take the action, the City Council may delegate to the City Manager or the  
45 City Manager's designee the authority to declare that a resolution of intent has been adopted,  
46 and the declaration shall satisfy the requirement that the City Council adopt a resolution of  
47 intent. The City Council may delegate authority to the City Manager as provided by this  
48 subsection in a resolution or ordinance, which may contain any restrictions or conditions the  
49 City Council deems proper.

50 (g) The City Council may, on terms it deems proper, delegate to the City Manager or  
51 the City Manager's designee the authority to solicit and advertise for bids and proposals, to

1 reject bonds, bids, and proposals, to re-advertise to receive bids and proposals, to award  
2 contracts, and to execute contracts. The City Council may provide that the City Manager or the  
3 City Manager's designee when acting pursuant to the authority granted by this subsection is  
4 authorized to take any action that the City Council is required or authorized to take under the  
5 provisions of Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes if that action is with respect to  
6 advertising, making, approving, awarding, and executing contracts, including complying with  
7 the procedures in G.S. 143-129(b) that apply when the lowest responsible bids are in excess of  
8 the funds available for the project or purchase. The City Manager or the City Manager's  
9 designee acting pursuant to the authority granted by this subsection shall comply with any  
10 provisions of law that would otherwise apply to the City Council if it were taking the action.  
11 The City Manager or the City Manager's designee shall make and execute any contracts  
12 authorized by the provisions of this subsection in the manner authorized or provided by the  
13 City Council. The authority granted by this subsection is in addition to, and not in derogation  
14 of, any other authority granted by the provisions of this Charter or any other general or local  
15 law."

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