



# HOUSE BILL 520: Union Co. Bd. of Ed/Partisan Election.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Select Committee on Elections. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	June 20, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Arp, Brody, Horn	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Erika Churchill, Kara McCraw, and Jessica Sammons
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 520 would change the method of election of the Union County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan and would alter the process for filling vacancies on the Board, beginning in 2018.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Union County Board of Education consists of nine members elected for staggered four-year terms. One member is elected from each of six single-member residency districts, and three members are elected at-large.

Elections are conducted in even-numbered years using the nonpartisan primary and election method. G.S. 163-294. The election is held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and the nonpartisan primary is held on the fourth Tuesday before the election. G.S. 163-279. Members take office on the first Monday in December following their election, at which time the members elect a chair and vice-chair to serve for a two-year term.

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board, with the appointee serving until the next election of Board members, at which time the remaining unexpired term will be filled by election.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 520 would change the method of election for the Union County Board of Education members from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2018. Candidates would be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers.

Vacancies for positions elected on a partisan basis beginning in 2018 would be filled in accordance with G.S. 115C-37.1, which requires the remaining members of the Board to consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party before filling a vacancy and to appoint that executive committee's nominee, if the recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.

House Bill 520 would not affect terms of office or vacancy procedures for members of the Board elected in 2014 or 2016.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** House Bill 520 would be effective when it becomes law.

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