



HOUSE BILL 843: Municipal Election Schedule & Other Changes.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: House Elections and Ethics Law
Introduced by: Rep. Lewis
Analysis of: PCS to First Edition
H843-CSST-17

Date: April 25, 2017
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OVERVIEW: *The proposed committee substitute for House Bill 843 would address the following:*

- *The municipal election cycle to eliminate an overlap in time frames in certain partisan elections;*
- *Adjust the time of appointment of the county boards of elections.*

Sections 1-2 – Adjust the Municipal Election Schedule

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 163-279 provides that the time for municipal, special, and sanitary district primaries and elections be held in odd-numbered years as follows:

- For nonpartisan plurality elections, elections on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- For partisan elections, elections on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, first primaries on the second Tuesday after Labor Day, and second primaries on the fourth Tuesday before the election.
- For nonpartisan primary and elections, elections on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and primaries on the fourth Tuesday before the election.
- For nonpartisan races using the election and runoff method, elections on the fourth Tuesday before the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and the runoff election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

With each election, the county board of elections is to canvass votes on the 10th day after the election. Each municipality may elect to allow absentee voting. If permitted, the absentee ballots are to be available 30 days prior to the general election. In partisan elections, the time frames overlap if there is a second primary on the fourth Tuesday before the election.

BILL ANALYSIS: Sections 1 and 2 of the PCS would shorten the time period for filing for municipal office by three days and eliminate the second primary, allowing for sufficient time for absentee ballots to be prepared and available within the required timeframe.

Section 3 – Time of Appointment of County Boards of Elections

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CURRENT LAW: The county boards of elections are appointed by the State Board, for two-year terms. For 2017, that appointment is to take place on the second Tuesday in July. In 2019 and thereafter, the appointment would occur on the last Tuesday in June.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would change the time of appointment in 2017 and thereafter to the second Tuesday in June, and make conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.