



# SENATE BILL 560: Clarify Cleveland Board of Education Election.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	August 3, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. J. Jackson, Britt, Tucker	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** SB 560 would clarify the process for unaffiliated petition filings for the Cleveland County Board of Education, and provide for reduced petition requirements for the 2017 election.

**CURRENT LAW:** Prior to the passage of S.L. 2017-78, members of the Cleveland County Board of Education were elected at large in nonpartisan, plurality elections on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd years.

S.L. 2017-78 changed the election method for the Cleveland County Board of Education from nonpartisan plurality to partisan and directed that the election should be conducted using the process for a partisan municipal election under G.S. 163-291.

G.S. 163-296 establishes the process for nomination of petition of unaffiliated candidates for partisan municipal offices. The statute requires those petitions to be filed noon on the Friday preceding the seventh Saturday before the election. The petition must be signed by four percent (4%) of the whole number of voters qualified to vote in the municipal election.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** SB 560 would clarify that an unaffiliated candidate seeking to be placed on the ballot for the Cleveland County Board of Education be nominated by petition under the process provided in G.S. 163-296.

SB 560 would also provide that, for the 2017 election only, a petition to be placed upon the ballot for the Cleveland County Board of Education would be signed by at least 500 voters of Cleveland County qualified to vote in the Cleveland County Board of Education election (rather than 4% of those qualified to vote in the election).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** SB 560 would become effective when it becomes law.

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