



HOUSE BILL 1153: Iredell-Statesville Bd. of Ed/Election Method.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | Date: | May 26, 2020 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Fraley, McNeely | Prepared by: | Billy R. Godwin Staff Attorney |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 1153 would provide for a voter referendum on November 3, 2020, by the qualified voters of the Iredell-Statesville Schools Administrative Unit on changing the method of election of the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education from partisan to nonpartisan.*

CURRENT LAW: The Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education is a seven-member board whose members are elected by districts on a partisan basis for staggered, four-year terms. On the current Board, three members were elected in 2016 and the remaining four members were elected in 2018. Vacancies on the Board are filled by the remaining members of the Board, provided that the remaining members must consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party and must appoint the executive committee's nominee, if the committee's recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 1153 would authorize a voter referendum to be held on November 3, 2020, on the ballot question of whether to change the method of election of the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education from partisan to nonpartisan plurality. If the referendum is approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the Iredell-Statesville Schools Administrative Unit, partisan elections would begin with the **2022 election** and newly elected members would take office the first Monday in December following their election. The filing period would run from 12:00 noon on the first Friday in July (unless a holiday, then from 12:00 noon the following Monday) until 12:00 noon on the first Friday in August of the year of election. Beginning in 2022, vacancies would be filled by the remaining members of the Board for the remainder of the unexpired term. The bill would not affect the terms of office or vacancy procedures for members elected in 2018 or 2020 under the partisan method.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective when the bill becomes law. Changes to the election method would only be effective upon ratification of the approval by the voters of the referendum

BACKGROUND: The Iredell County Board of Education and the Statesville City of Board of Education merged into the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education pursuant to a Plan of Merger adopted by those respective boards on February 20, 1990, and approved by the Iredell County Board of Commissioners on April 5, 1990.

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Director



Legislative Analysis
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