



HOUSE BILL 21: Revise McDowell County Bd of Educ. Districts.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: House Elections and Ethics Law. If favorable, **Date:** April 10, 2019
re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of
the House

Introduced by: Rep. Dobson **Prepared by:** Jessica Sammons
Analysis of: First Edition Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 21 would revise the residency districts of the McDowell County Board of Education to provide that one member of the Board must reside in the West Marion Elementary School attendance zone. The bill would become effective when it becomes law.*

CURRENT LAW: The McDowell County Board of Education consists of nine members elected in November of even-numbered years for staggered four-year terms. Elections are conducted on a nonpartisan basis, and results are determined by a plurality. Members are elected county-wide from six residency districts. The current residency districts are based on elementary school attendance zones as follows:

- One member must reside in each of the following five elementary school attendance zones:
 - Glenwood Elementary School
 - Nebo Elementary School
 - North Cove Elementary School
 - Old Fort Elementary School
 - Pleasant Gardens Elementary School
- Four members must reside within the Marion District. *(The Marion District represents three elementary school attendance zones: Marion Elementary School, West Marion Elementary School, and Eastfield Global Magnet School.)*

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 21 would revise the residency districts of the McDowell County Board of Education as follows:

- One member must reside in each of the following six elementary school attendance zones:
 - Glenwood Elementary School
 - Nebo Elementary School
 - North Cove Elementary School
 - Old Fort Elementary School
 - Pleasant Gardens Elementary School
 - West Marion Elementary School
- Three members must reside within the Marion Elementary School or Eastfield Global Magnet School attendance zones.

A change in attendance zone boundaries would not affect the ability of a person to complete their term of office. Any person appointed to fill a Board vacancy would be required to reside in the attendance zone served by the departing member. In the event an elementary school name is changed, the McDowell

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County Board of Election would be required to adopt a policy to state the residency district is based on the corresponding attendance zone of the renamed school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act is effective when the bill becomes law.