



SENATE BILL 674: Surry Co./Mt. Airy/Elkin City/Bd. Ed Partisan.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 23, 2019
Introduced by:	Sens. Berger, Ballard	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 674 would change the method of election of the Boards of Education of Surry County, Mount Airy City Schools, and Elkin City Administrative Unit from nonpartisan to partisan and would alter the process for filling vacancies on the Boards, beginning in 2020.*

CURRENT LAW:

The Boards of Education of Surry County, the Mount Airy City Schools Administrative Unit, and the Elkin City Administrative Unit are currently all elected in nonpartisan elections, and the results are determined using the plurality method. The following chart sets out the current law governing each Board of Education:

Board of Education	Number of Members; Term of Office	Districts vs. At-large Members	Date of Election	Date New Members Take Office	How Vacancies Are Filled
Surry County	5 members; staggered four-year terms	Elected county-wide from single-member districts	Primary election	July	Majority vote of remaining Board members for remainder of unexpired term
Mount Airy City Schools	7 members; staggered four-year terms	One member elected at-large; six members elected district-wide from four districts	General election	First Monday in December	Majority vote of remaining Board members for remainder of unexpired term
Elkin City Administrative Unit	5 members; staggered four-year terms	Elected district-wide from three districts	General election	First Monday in December	Majority vote of remaining Board members within 30 days of vacancy

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 674 would change the method of election for the Board members from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2020. Elections would be conducted using the partisan primary and election method, and candidates would be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers. Newly-elected members would take office the first Monday in December following their election.

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Senate Bill 674

Page 2

Vacancies for positions elected on a partisan basis beginning in 2020 would be filled by the remaining members of the Board, provided that the remaining members of the Board must consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party before filling a vacancy and must appoint that executive committee's nominee, if the recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.

For the Boards of Education of the Mount Airy City Schools Administrative Unit and the Elkin City Administrative Unit, in selecting a nominee to fill the vacancy, the county executive committee must restrict voting to those committee members who represent precincts wholly or partially within the city administrative unit.

Terms of office or vacancy procedures for members elected in 2014 or 2016 would not be affected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.