



HOUSE BILL 118: Buncombe School Bd. Election.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	November 29, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Willis, Arp, Brody	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons and Sarah Pilon
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorneys

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 118 would provide that six of seven members of the Buncombe County Board of Education would be elected from pure election districts, effective in 2024.*

CURRENT LAW: The Buncombe County Board of Education consists of seven members who serve staggered four-year terms. For purposes of electing members of the board, the Buncombe County School Administrative Unit consists of all of Buncombe County outside of and excluding the City of Asheville School Administrative Unit, and is divided into seven districts based upon school attendance zones. Members must reside in their representative districts, but all members are elected at-large in the Buncombe County School Administrative Unit. Members are elected using the nonpartisan plurality method.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 118 would provide for six of the seven members to be elected by election district, with the seventh member to be elected at-large, effective beginning with the 2024 elections. This change would require the Buncombe County Board of Education to establish election districts prior to January 1, 2023. In establishing or revising the districts, the board must adhere to the following criteria:

- Equal population
- Contiguity
- Compact districts
- Municipal boundaries, residences of the current members, and communities of interest could be considered, if the board so chose.
- No election or racial data

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law, and applies to elections conducted on or after January 1, 2024.

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