



# HOUSE BILL 244: Lincoln Co. Bd. of Ed./Partisan Election.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Local Government. If favorable, re- refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 16, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Saine	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Billy R. Godwin Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H244-CSBD-6		

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 244 would change the method of election to the Lincoln County Board of Education (the Board) from nonpartisan to partisan and would alter the method of filling vacancies on the Board beginning in 2022.*

*The proposed committee substitute (PCS) would restore a sentence in the bill that was not intended to be stricken and would make a few technical changes.*

**[As introduced, this bill was identical to S234, as introduced by Sen. Alexander, which is currently in Senate Redistricting and Elections.]**

**CURRENT LAW:** The Lincoln County Board of Education consists of seven members elected for staggered four-year terms. Five members are elected from districts in which the member must reside and two members are elected from the county at large. The qualified voters of the entire county elect all members of the Board. Elections are conducted in even-numbered years on a nonpartisan plurality basis and members take office on the first Monday in December following their election. Vacancies on the Board are filled by appointment by the remaining Board members of a person to serve until the next election of members of the Board at which time the remainder of the unexpired term is filled by election.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS to House Bill 244 would change the method of election to the Board from nonpartisan to partisan beginning with the 2022 election. Beginning in 2022, and quadrennially thereafter, three members of the Board would be elected. In 2024, and quadrennially thereafter, four members of the Board would be elected.

Beginning in 2022, vacancies for those elected on a partisan basis would be filled in accordance with G.S. 115C-37.1(d) which requires the remaining Board members to consult with the county executive committee of the party of the vacating member and appoint the executive committee's nomination provided that nomination is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant. The PCS would not affect the terms of office for Board members elected in 2018 and 2020.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when it becomes law.

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