



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

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: July 22, 2021
Introduced by: Rep. Saine	Prepared by: Sarah Pilon*
Analysis of: Second Edition	Staff Attorney

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.*

[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 and two members are elected from the county at-large. Members elected from districts must reside in their elected district, but 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. The appointed member serves until the next election to the Board, at which time the remainder of the unexpired term is filled by election.

BILL ANALYSIS: 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. The terms of office for Board members elected in 2018 and 2020 would not be affected.

Vacancies for members elected on a partisan basis in 2022 and thereafter would be filled by method of the remaining members of the Board consulting with the county executive committee of the party of the vacating member, and, if a nomination is made by the executive committee within 30 days of the vacancy, the Board appointing that nomination. G.S. 115C-37.1.

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

*Billy Godwin, Staff Attorney in Legislative Analysis, substantially contributed to this summary.

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