



HOUSE BILL 3: Craven Bd of Ed/Partisan Electoral Districts.

2021-2022 General Assembly

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Committee: | Senate State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate | Date: | August 25, 2021 |
| Introduced by: | Rep. Kidwell | Prepared by: | Erika Churchill and Hillary Woodard |
| Analysis of: | Second Edition | | Committee Co-counsel |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 3 would change the method of election for members of the Craven County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan and would require that members be elected from districts.*

CURRENT LAW: The Craven County Board of Education consists of seven members, with one member elected from each of the seven districts. In primary elections, only voters who reside in the district may vote for candidates for that district. In general elections, all voters who reside in the county may vote for candidates for each district. Elections occur in even-numbered years and are conducted using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292. Members serve four-year staggered terms and take office the first Monday in December of the year in which elected. Vacancies are filled by the remaining members, with the appointee serving until the next election of members, at which time the remaining unexpired term is filled by election. G.S. 115C-37(f).

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 3 would:

- Change the method of election for the members from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2022.
- Provide that only voters who reside in the district may vote for candidates for that district in both general and primary elections.

Additionally, beginning in December 2022, a vacancy for members elected on a partisan basis would be filled in accordance with G.S. 115C-37.1, which requires the remaining members of the Board to consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party before filling a vacancy and to appoint that executive committee's nominee, if the recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.

The terms of members of the Craven County Board of Education elected in 2018 or 2020, or members appointed to fill a vacancy of a member elected in 2018 or 2020 are not affected and members will continue to serve until a successor has been elected or qualified.

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

**Sarah Pilon substantially contributed to this summary.*

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578