



HOUSE BILL 308: Alexander Co. Bd. of Ed. Referendum.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Redistricting and Elections. If **Date:** May 31, 2023
favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of
the Senate

Introduced by: Rep. Elmore
Analysis of: Third Edition

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Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 308 would provide for the partisan election of the Alexander County Board of Education, subject to voter approval in a county-wide referendum held at the time of the general election in 2024.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S233, as introduced by Sen. Settle, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

CURRENT LAW: The Alexander County Board of Education (Board) consists of seven members elected from four districts to serve staggered four-year terms. Two members are elected from District 1, two members are elected from District 2, one member is elected from District 3, and two members are elected from District 4. Members must reside in the district in which they are seeking election and only qualified voters of that district are eligible to vote.

Elections for members of the Board are held in even-numbered years using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292. Elections are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. G.S. 163-279. Members take office on the first Monday in December following their election. G.S. 115C-37(d).

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

BILL ANALYSIS and EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 308 would provide for a county-wide referendum to be conducted by the Alexander County Board of Elections at the 2024 general election to determine if a majority of the voters approve of changing the election method of the Board from nonpartisan to partisan.

If the referendum is approved by a majority of qualified voters of Alexander County, the following changes to the Board would occur:

- Beginning with the election held in 2026, members would be elected on a partisan basis.
- Beginning December 1, 2026, vacancies for members elected on a partisan basis would be filled by the remaining members of the Board, if the Board consults the relevant political party's local executive committee before filling a vacancy and appoints the local executive committee's nominee, and if both of the following apply:
 - The recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.
 - The county executive committee restricts voting to committee members who represent precincts wholly or partly within the appropriate territory.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



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Legislative Analysis
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