



SENATE BILL 150: Make McDowell Co. Bd. of Ed. Elect. Partisan.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Redistricting and Elections. If **Date:** March 1, 2023
favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of
the Senate

Introduced by: Sen. Daniel **Prepared by:** Jessica Sammons and
Analysis of: First Edition Hillary Woodard
Committee Co-counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 150 would change the method of election for members of the McDowell County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan.*

CURRENT LAW: The McDowell County Board of Education (Board) consists of nine members elected in November of even-numbered years for staggered four-year terms. Elections are conducted using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292. Members are elected by the qualified voters of the entire county from residency districts.

One member must reside in each of the following six elementary school attendance zones:

- Glenwood Elementary School
- Nebo Elementary School
- North Cove Elementary School
- Old Fort Elementary School
- Pleasant Gardens Elementary School
- West Marion Elementary School

Three members must reside within either the Marion Elementary School or Eastfield Global Magnet School attendance zone.

Board vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board 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. The appointee must reside in the elementary attendance zone in which the vacancy occurs.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would change the method of election of members of the Board from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2024.

Beginning in 2024, 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 term of any member appointed to fill a vacancy of a member elected on a nonpartisan basis in 2020 or 2022 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.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
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