



# HOUSE BILL 105: Gaston Co. Bd. of Ed. Elect. Partisan.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 10, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Loftis	<b>Prepared by:</b>	William Brewer
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 105 would provide that members of the Gaston County Board of Education be elected on a partisan basis, beginning in 2026.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Gaston County Board of Education (Board) consists of nine members. Two members of the Board are elected from the county at large. Seven members of the Board are elected from six residency districts, with two members elected from the Gastonia Township district, and one member elected from each of the other districts. The residency districts used for the Board are the same residency districts used for the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. For the residency districts, the Board member filling the seat must reside in the district, but elections for the seats are conducted county-wide. Board members are elected in even-numbered years at the time of the general election to serve staggered four-year terms. Elections are conducted using the nonpartisan plurality method.

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board by the appointment of a person to serve until the next election of members to the Board, at which time the remaining unexpired term of the vacating member is filled by election. If a replacement is not chosen with 90 days after the vacancy occurs, then the vacancy will be filled by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. If a vacancy occurs in one of the residency districts, then the vacancy must be filled by an individual residing in the residency district of the vacating member.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 105 would provide that members of the Gaston County Board of Education be elected on a partisan basis, beginning in 2026. Any vacancy occurring on the Board would be filled by the remaining members of the Board in accordance with G.S. 115C-37.1, which requires that the Board appoint the person recommended by the county party's executive committee if the political party of the vacating member makes a recommendation within 30 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Becomes effective the first Monday in December of 2026, and elections in 2026 shall be conducted accordingly.

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