



HOUSE BILL 116: Columbus Co. Bd. of Ed. Partisan.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Election Law. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 4, 2025
Introduced by:	Rep. B. Jones	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H116-CSBKe-1		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 116 would change the election method for the Columbus County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan and alter the process for filling vacancies on that board, beginning in 2026.*

CURRENT LAW: The Columbus County Board of Education consists of five members, with one member elected from each of the five residency districts. Elections occur in even-numbered years at the time of the general election and are conducted in accordance with the nonpartisan plurality election method. Members must reside in the district in which they are elected to serve but are elected county-wide. 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 appointment of a qualified voter residing in the district of the vacating member by the remaining members of the board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to House Bill 116 would change the method of election for the members of the Columbus County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2026.

Effective the first Monday in December 2026, 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective the first Monday in December 2026, and elections in 2026 conducted accordingly.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
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