



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

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Elections. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 20, 2025
Introduced by:	Rep. B. Jones	Prepared by:	Hillary Woodard
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: 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: 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.

Any vacancy occurring on the Columbus County Board of Education would be filled on a partisan basis, beginning in 2026. Any vacancy occurring on the Board would be filled 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: Effective the first Monday in December 2026, and elections in 2026 conducted accordingly.

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