



HOUSE BILL 294: Jackson Co Bd of Ed Election Partisan.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 24, 2025
Introduced by:	Rep. Clampitt	Prepared by:	William Brewer
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 294 would provide that members of the Jackson County Board of Education be elected on a partisan basis, beginning in 2026.*

CURRENT LAW: The Jackson County Board of Education (Board) consists of five members elected from single-member residency districts. Each candidate to the Board must reside in the district in which he or she seeks to serve, but elections 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. Members take office on the first Monday in December following the election.

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board. If the vacancy occurs during the first two years of the term, the appointee serves until the next election of Board members, at which time the remaining unexpired term will be filled by election. If the vacancy occurs during the last two years of the term, the appointee serves for the remainder of the unexpired term. G.S. 115C-37(f).

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 294 would provide that members of the Jackson County Board of Education would 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 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 of the occurrence of the vacancy.

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

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Legislative Analysis
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