



# HOUSE BILL 517: Stokes Co. Bd. Ed./Requested Election Changes.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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**Committee:** House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the **Date:** April 10, 2019  
House  
**Introduced by:** Rep. K. Hall **Prepared by:** Jessica Sammons  
**Analysis of:** First Edition Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 517 would change the method of election of the Stokes County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan, provide for four-year terms for all members, and alter the process for filling vacancies on the Board, beginning in 2020.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Stokes County Board of Education consists of five members elected for staggered terms. Elections are conducted in even-numbered years using the nonpartisan plurality election method. The election is held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In each election, the two individuals receiving the highest number of votes serve a four-year term, and the one individual receiving the next highest number of votes serves a two-year term. Members take office on the first Monday in December following their election.

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board, with the appointee serving until the next election of Board members, at which time the remaining unexpired term will be filled by election. G.S. 115C-37(f).

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 517 would change the method of election for the Stokes County Board of Education members from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2020. Candidates would be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers.

Beginning in 2020, all members would serve four-year terms. To maintain the current staggering of terms, in the 2020 election, three members would stand for election for a four-year term, and in the 2022 election, two members would stand for election for a four-year term.

Vacancies for positions elected on a partisan basis beginning in 2020 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.

House Bill 517 would not affect terms of office or vacancy procedures for members of the Board elected in 2016 or 2018.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochran-Brown  
Director



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