



SENATE BILL 674: Surry Co./Mt. Airy/Elkin City/Bd. Ed Partisan.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: House Elections and Ethics Law. If favorable, **Date:** June 19, 2019
re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of
the House

Introduced by: Sens. Berger, Ballard **Prepared by:** Kara McCraw*
Analysis of: Second Edition **Committee Counsel**

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 674 would change the method of election of the Boards of Education of Surry County, Mount Airy City Schools Administrative Unit, and Elkin City Administrative Unit from nonpartisan to partisan and would alter the process for filling vacancies on the Boards, beginning in 2020.

CURRENT LAW:

The Boards of Education of Surry County, the Mount Airy City Schools Administrative Unit, and the Elkin City Administrative Unit are currently all elected in nonpartisan elections, and the results are determined using the plurality method. The following chart sets out the current law governing each Board of Education:

Board of Education	Number of Members; Term of Office	Districts vs. At-large Members	Date of Election	Date New Members Take Office	How Vacancies Are Filled
Surry County	5 members; staggered four-year terms	Elected school unit-wide from single-member residency districts	Primary election	July	Majority vote of remaining Board members for remainder of unexpired term
Mount Airy City Schools	7 members; staggered four-year terms	One member elected at-large; six members elected school unit-wide from four residency districts	General election	First Monday in December	Majority vote of remaining Board members for remainder of unexpired term
Elkin City Administrative Unit	5 members; staggered four-year terms	Elected school unit-wide from three residency districts	General election	First Monday in December	Majority vote of remaining Board members within 30 days of vacancy

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 674 would change the method of election for the Board members from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2020. Elections would be conducted using the partisan primary and

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election method, and candidates would be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers. Newly-elected members would take office the first Monday in December following their election.

Vacancies for positions elected on a partisan basis beginning in 2020 would be filled by the remaining members of the Board, provided that the remaining members of the Board must consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party before filling a vacancy and must appoint that executive committee's nominee, if the recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.

In selecting a nominee to fill the vacancy, the county executive committee must restrict voting to those committee members who represent precincts wholly or partially within the county or city administrative unit.

Terms of office or vacancy procedures for members elected in 2014 or 2016 would not be affected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.

**This committee summary was substantially contributed to by Jessica Sammons, Committee Counsel.*