

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

H.B. 17  
Jan 25, 2023  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10012-TCy-16

Short Title: Elect the SBE/SPI as SBE Chair.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Blackwell.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO ELECT  
3 MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TO MAKE THE  
4 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION THE CHAIR OF THE STATE BOARD  
5 OF EDUCATION AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER, AND TO REQUIRE THAT  
6 VACANCY APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE SUBJECT TO  
7 CONFIRMATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Article IX of the Constitution of North Carolina reads as  
10 rewritten:

11 "Sec. 4. State Board of Education.

12 (1) Board. The State Board of Education shall consist of the Lieutenant Governor, the  
13 Treasurer, and ~~eleven members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the~~  
14 ~~General Assembly in joint session. The General Assembly shall divide the State into eight~~  
15 ~~educational districts. Of the appointive members of the Board, one shall be appointed from each~~  
16 ~~of the eight educational districts and three shall be appointed from the State at large.~~  
17 ~~Appointments shall be for overlapping terms of eight years. Appointments to fill vacancies shall~~  
18 ~~be made by the Governor for the unexpired terms and shall not be subject to confirmation.~~  
19 the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a number of elected members equal to the membership  
20 of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States apportioned to the State by  
21 federal law.

22 (2) Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall  
23 be the ~~secretary~~ chair and chief administrative officer of the State Board of Education.

24 (3) Elected members. Elected members of the State Board of Education shall be elected  
25 to overlapping four-year terms of office. Elected members shall be elected from districts  
26 established by the General Assembly by the voters of the districts in the manner prescribed by  
27 law. Vacancies for elected members shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office in the  
28 manner prescribed by law by the General Assembly."

29 SECTION 2. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to  
30 the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November 2024,  
31 which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots,  
32 voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The  
33 question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

34 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

35 A constitutional amendment providing for the following changes to the State Board  
36 of Education, beginning January 1, 2026:



\* D R H 1 0 0 1 2 - T C Y - 1 6 \*

- 1           (1)    The Superintendent of Public Instruction will serve as a member and chair of  
2           the State Board of Education.
- 3           (2)    Except for the Council of State members serving on the State Board of  
4           Education, the voters of the district will elect all members of the State Board  
5           of Education to four-year terms from districts established by the General  
6           Assembly.
- 7           (3)    All vacancies for elected positions on the State Board of Education will be  
8           appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General  
9           Assembly."

10           **SECTION 3.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
11 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the  
12 amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so  
13 certified among the permanent records of that office.

14           **SECTION 4.** If the amendment is approved by the qualified voters as provided in  
15 this act, Section 1 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to terms of office  
16 beginning January 1, 2027. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
17 law.