



HOUSE BILL 308: Alexander Co. Bd. of Ed. Referendum.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Local Government. If favorable, re- refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 21, 2023
Introduced by:	Rep. Elmore	Prepared by:	Hillary Woodard Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H308-CSCH-7		

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 308 would provide for the partisan election of the Alexander County Board of Education, subject to voter approval in a county-wide referendum held at the time of the general election in 2024.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S233, as introduced by Sen. Settle, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

CURRENT LAW: The Alexander County Board of Education (Board) consists of seven members elected from electoral districts to serve staggered four-year terms. Members must reside in the district in which they are seeking election and only qualified voters of that district are eligible to vote. Elections are held in even-numbered years using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292. Elections are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. G.S. 163-279. Members take office on the first Monday in December following their election. G.S. 115C-37(d).

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

BILL ANALYSIS and EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS for House Bill 308 would provide for a county-wide referendum to be conducted by the Alexander County Board of Elections at the 2024 general election to determine if a majority of the voters approve of changing the election method of the Board from nonpartisan to partisan.

If the referendum is approved by a majority of qualified voters of Alexander County, the following changes to the Board would occur:

- Beginning with the election held in 2026, members would be elected on a partisan basis.
- Beginning December 1, 2026, vacancies for members elected on a partisan basis would be filled by the remaining members of the Board, if the Board consults the relevant political party's local executive committee before filling a vacancy and appoints the local executive committee's nominee, and if both of the following apply:
 - The recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.
 - The county executive committee restricts voting to committee members who represent precincts wholly or partly within the appropriate territory.

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