

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE DRS35205-LBx-252A (3/11)

Short Title: Education Governance Amendment.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA CONCERNING
3 THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Article IX of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
6 rewritten:

7 "**Sec. 4. State Board of Education.**

8 (1) Board. The State Board of Education shall consist of the ~~Lieutenant Governor,~~
9 ~~President of the Senate,~~ the Treasurer, three members appointed by the Senate, three members
10 appointed by the House of Representatives, the chief executive officer of The University of
11 North Carolina, the chief executive officer of the other system of public institutions of higher
12 education as provided by law, and eleven-eight members appointed by the Governor, subject to
13 confirmation by the General Assembly in joint session. The General Assembly shall divide the
14 State into eight educational districts. Of the Governor's appointive members of the Board, one
15 shall be appointed from each of the eight educational districts and three shall be appointed from
16 the State at large. Appointments made by the Governor shall be for overlapping terms of eight
17 years. Appointments made by the Senate and by the House of Representatives shall be for
18 overlapping terms of four years. Appointments to fill vacancies in the appointments of the
19 Governor shall be made by the Governor for the unexpired terms and shall not be subject to
20 confirmation. ~~be subject to confirmation, but the General Assembly may provide by law for~~
21 interim appointments pending confirmation.

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

24 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
25 the qualified voters of the State at the general election on November 6, 2012, which election
26 shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting
27 systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The
28 question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

29 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

30 Constitutional amendment increasing the size and changing the composition of the
31 State Board of Education."

32 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the
33 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the
34 amendments to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendments so



1 certified among the permanent records of that office. The amendment becomes effective as
2 follows:

- 3 (1) Terms of office expiring in 2013 and later years end on June 30.
- 4 (2) Initial appointees of the Senate and House of Representatives begin their
5 terms July 1, 2013.
- 6 (3) The President of The University of North Carolina and the President of the
7 North Carolina System of Community Colleges begin their ex officio service
8 July 1, 2013.
- 9 (4) The terms of the at-large members of the State Board of Education appointed
10 by the Governor terminate June 30, 2013.

11 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-10 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 115C-10. Appointment of Board.**

13 (a) The State Board of Education shall consist of the ~~Lieutenant Governor, President of~~
14 ~~the Senate,~~ the State Treasurer, three members appointed by the Senate, three members
15 appointed by the House of Representatives, the President of The University of North Carolina,
16 the President of the North Carolina System of Community Colleges, and ~~four~~ eight members
17 appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly in joint session.

18 (b) Not more than two public school employees paid from State or local funds may
19 serve as appointive members of the State Board of Education. No spouse of any public school
20 employee paid from State or local funds and no spouse of any employee of the Department of
21 Public Instruction may serve as an appointive member of the State Board of Education.

22 (c) Of the ~~appointive gubernatorially appointed~~ members of the State Board of
23 Education, one shall be ~~appointed~~ from each of the eight educational ~~districts and three shall be~~
24 appointed as members at large ~~districts~~. Appointments shall be for terms of eight years and
25 shall be made in four classes. Appointments to fill vacancies in appointments by the Governor
26 shall be made by the Governor for the unexpired terms and shall ~~not be subject to confirmation.~~
27 confirmation by the General Assembly in joint session, but the Governor may make interim
28 appointments to remain effective until the 20th legislative day after the date the vacancy occurs.

29 (d) The Governor shall transmit to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of
30 Representatives, on or before the sixtieth legislative day of the General Assembly, the names of
31 the persons appointed by the Governor and submitted to the General Assembly for
32 confirmation; thereafter, pursuant to joint resolution, the Senate and the House of
33 Representatives shall meet in joint session for consideration of an action upon such
34 appointments.

35 (e) In 2013, the House of Representatives shall appoint four members, two of whom
36 will serve two years and two of whom will serve four years; in 2013 the Senate shall appoint
37 four members, two of whom will serve two years and two of whom will serve four years.
38 Successors shall serve four-year terms. Any vacancy occurring among the members elected by
39 either house of the General Assembly before the expiration of term shall be filled when the
40 General Assembly next convenes. The vacancy shall be filled by election by the same house
41 that elected the vacating member, and the replacement member shall serve for the remainder of
42 the unexpired term of that member.

43 (f) At each session of the General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year, the Speaker
44 of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall assign to
45 either a standing or select committee of that house the duty of receiving from the members of
46 that house nominations of persons to be considered by that house for election to the State
47 Board. The chairs of the two committees shall jointly determine a common final date for
48 receiving nominations from members of that house and a common date for reporting to their
49 respective houses their nominations for the State Board. Each committee shall screen the
50 proposed candidates for nomination as to their qualifications, background, lack of statutory
51 disabilities, and willingness and ability to serve if elected. Each senator and each member of

1 the House of Representatives may nominate only one candidate. When the nominating process
2 is closed, each committee shall list all candidates and shall separately vote "aye" or "no" on
3 each candidate to determine whether that person shall be listed as a nominee of the committee.
4 The vote of a majority of those members of the committee present and voting shall determine
5 the nominees of the committee. An individual cannot be a candidate for nomination to more
6 than one place. If a sufficient number of candidates is submitted to each committee, then each
7 committee shall nominate at least two persons for each place to be filled by that house,
8 otherwise each committee shall nominate at least one person for each place to be filled by that
9 house. No person may simultaneously be a candidate for election by both houses, and if one is
10 nominated in both houses, the prospective nominee shall determine by which house that
11 prospective nominee shall be nominated and so advise the chairs of both committees. The two
12 houses shall, by joint resolution, fix a common date and time for the election of members of the
13 State Board. At the election session in each house, the committee shall report its list of
14 nominees with the term of office indicated for each nominee. The ballot in the House of
15 Representatives shall also include the names of all other persons nominated by a member of
16 that house who are determined by the committee to be qualified for the offices, with the
17 committee's list of nominees being clearly set out on the ballot. No additional nominations shall
18 be received from the floor. Each house shall then proceed to an election of the State Board. In
19 order to be chosen, a nominee shall receive the votes of a majority of all members present and
20 voting. When each house has chosen one person for each place to be filled on the State Board,
21 the chair of the committee shall make a motion for the simultaneous election of those persons
22 by that house to the indicated positions and for the indicated terms. The vote shall then be
23 called electronically. If a majority of those voting shall vote "aye," persons named in the
24 motion shall be declared to have been elected. Each house may adopt rules consistent with this
25 section with respect to the election by that house of members of the State Board.

26 (g) No person may be appointed by either house to more than three consecutive terms
27 of four years on the State Board."

28 **SECTION 5.** Section 4 of this act becomes effective only if the constitutional
29 amendment proposed by Section 1 of this act is approved by the qualified voters as provided by
30 Sections 2 and 3 of this act.

31 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.