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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 267  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Loychik

S. Ben Fogle, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Moves elections for state and school district board of education members from the nonpartisan ballot to the partisan ballot.
- Provides for partisan primary elections for state and school district board of education members.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Board of education members on the partisan ballot

The bill moves the following elections from the nonpartisan ballot to the partisan ballot: member of the State Board of Education; member of a board of education of a school district, including local, city, and exempted village school districts; and member of the governing board of an educational service center.

On the partisan ballot, members of the State Board of Education will be listed after judges of courts of appeals. Members of all other boards of education are listed after that, followed by county commissioner and the rest of the county offices. Under current law, board of education candidates appear on the ballot without a party designation. On the partisan ballot, a candidate would have a party designation next to their name.

As under current law, the ballot must contain instructions for the voter for voting for members of a board of education, including directions as to voting for one, two, or more, and whether candidates are to be elected from subdistricts or at large in the case of city school districts.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3505.03 and 3505.04.

Under continuing law, the State Board of Education consists of 19 members; 11 who are elected and eight who are appointed by the Governor. The elected members are elected from 11 districts in the state, each district consisting of three contiguous senate districts.<sup>2</sup>

Local boards of education govern school districts, which in Ohio are independent political subdivisions, of which there are 611.<sup>3</sup> Boards of education for local and exempted village school districts, and governing boards of educational service centers, consist of five members elected at large in the district. City school districts have more flexibility in determining their membership and method of selection.<sup>4</sup>

## Partisan primary elections for board of education members

The bill also provides for partisan primary elections for state and local board of education members. Candidates for those offices may appear on the primary ballots, and are treated as any other partisan candidate on the primary ballot. Under the bill, like all partisan candidates, they would file a declaration of candidacy rather than a nominating petition.<sup>5</sup>

The bill repeals provisions of the law that have special procedures for nominating candidates for the State Board of Education, city, local, and exempted village boards of education, and for the governing board of an educational service center. The repealed provisions include procedures for conducting a nonpartisan primary election for the latter two.<sup>6</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-12-23

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3301.01, not in the bill.

<sup>3</sup> See The Department of Education's "[Facts and Figures](https://education.ohio.gov)," at [education.ohio.gov](https://education.ohio.gov).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3313.01 and 3313.02, not in the bill.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3513.04, with conforming changes in R.C. 3311.053, 3513.052, and 3513.261.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3513.254, 3513.255, 3513.256, and 3513.259, repealed.