

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 565

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

SCHOOLS/BOARDS: Provides relative to school board elections

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:52 and 121(A)(1) and to repeal R.S. 17:52.2, relative to  
3 school board elections; to provide that such elections shall be held at the time of the  
4 gubernatorial election rather than congressional elections; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:52 and 121(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
8 follows:

9 §52. Election and qualification of members; term of office

10 A. There shall be elected by the qualified voters of each parish police jury  
11 ward, or the equivalent thereof, of each parish of the state a member of the school  
12 board of the parish for each police juror in said ward, or the members of a parish  
13 school board shall be elected by the qualified voters in accordance with the school  
14 board reapportionment plan then in effect as authorized by law, or the members of  
15 a parish school board shall be elected in accordance with any special law applicable  
16 to the board, as the case may be. Members of parish school boards shall be elected  
17 at the ~~congressional~~ gubernatorial elections. Members ~~elected in 1986 and thereafter~~  
18 shall serve four-year concurrent terms beginning January ~~1~~ first of the year following  
19 their election. ~~In order to implement the concurrent terms provided for herein, those~~  
20 ~~members of the parish school boards who are elected in 1980 shall serve six-year~~

1 terms beginning January first following their election, those members of the parish  
2 school boards who are elected in 1982 shall serve four-year terms beginning January  
3 first following their election, and those members of the parish school boards who are  
4 elected in 1984 shall serve two-year terms beginning January first following their  
5 election.

6 For purposes of the election of school board members in the election years  
7 1980, 1982, and 1984 the parish school boards of the several parishes, as occasion  
8 may arise on account of the increase in the membership by the creation of additional  
9 wards or the increase of membership for any single ward, shall by proper resolution  
10 maintain the three divisions of the membership of the school boards existing on July  
11 28, 1948, as nearly equal as possible by allotting such new members to one of the  
12 three divisions, and when so allotted the term of office of such new member or  
13 members shall expire at the same time as the terms of the other members of the said  
14 division. Thereafter, the election of additional school board members shall be in  
15 accordance with the provisions herein made applicable to the election of school  
16 board members in the election year 1986.

17 \* \* \*

18 §121. Orleans Parish; election and terms of members; apportionment; qualifications;  
19 compensation; vacancies; prohibited acts

20 A.(1) The school board of Orleans Parish shall consist of five members  
21 elected at large at ~~congressional~~ gubernatorial elections. Candidates shall qualify  
22 and the elections shall be held as provided by the election laws of this state. ~~The~~  
23 ~~members in office on July 1st, 1984, shall serve until their terms expire. Any~~  
24 ~~member elected in the regularly scheduled elections in 1984 shall be elected for a~~  
25 ~~term of four years. Any member elected in the regularly scheduled elections in 1986~~  
26 ~~shall be elected for a term of two years. Members elected at the congressional~~  
27 ~~elections in 1988 and their successors in office shall be elected for four-year~~  
28 concurrent terms.

29 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. R.S. 17:52.2 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

2 Section 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 17:52 and 121, the members of the  
3 school boards elected in the congressional elections in 2018 shall serve five-year terms.  
4 Members of the school boards elected in the congressional elections in 2020 shall serve  
5 three-year terms. Members of school boards elected at subsequent elections shall serve  
6 terms as provided by R.S. 17:52 or 121 as amended by this Act, as applicable.

7 Section 4.(A) Section 3 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon  
8 signature of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of  
9 the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article  
10 III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and  
11 subsequently approved by the legislature, Section 3 and this Section of this Act shall become  
12 effective on the day following such approval.

13 (B) Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2021.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 565 Original

2018 Regular Session

Edmonds

**Abstract:** Moves school board elections from the congressional election date to the gubernatorial election date.

Present law provides for the election of school board members to four-year terms. Provides that such elections are held at the same time as congressional elections except that the Lafayette Parish School Board is elected at the same time as the gubernatorial election.

Proposed law retains present law except to provide that school board members are elected at the same time as the gubernatorial election.

Proposed law provides by way of transition that members elected in 2018 will serve five-year terms and those elected in 2020 will serve three-year terms, and beginning in 2023, all school board members will be elected to four-year terms at the gubernatorial election in accordance with present and proposed law.

Effective in part upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action; effective in part January 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 17:52 and 121(A)(1); Repeals R.S. 17:52.2)