

Filling of BOCES Board Vacancies By Appointment

S.3014-A (Young)/A.1407-B (Paulin)

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ON ACTIVE LIST

THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS this proposal to make selection of board members to Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) more efficient in the event of vacancies on such boards.

This proposed legislation would ensure that seats on Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) do not sit vacant and that the BOCES do not incur the added expense and difficulty of a special election by providing for temporary appointment of a new board member in the event of a vacancy and eliminating current date restrictions for such appointments.

BOCES perform many important functions in educating students and delivering services to their component school districts.

Currently, BOCES board members are selected by their component district boards, all meeting on the same date. However, in the event of a BOCES board vacancy, the process for filling the vacant seat differs depending upon the date. Vacancies occurring prior to January 1 must be filled by special election within 45 days. Vacancies after January 1 may be immediately filled by appointment until the next annual election. This process is confusing and a special election can result in added expenses to the BOCES and component districts.

This legislation would allow BOCES board vacancies occurring prior to January 1 to be filled by appointment, subject to any objections by component school districts within 10 days of notice of such appointment. The appointment would last until the next regular annual election.

This bill will help to fill BOCES board vacancies more quickly and ensure that a full board is in place to make decisions. It will also help BOCES and their component districts avoid the unnecessary and costly process of holding a special election.

THE COUNCIL Supports this legislation and urges lawmakers to adopt it immediately.