SENATE BILL 667:
Elections Omnibus Revisions.

2016-2017 General Assembly

Committee:	House Elections	**Date:**	June 30, 2016
Introduced by:	Sen. Apodaca	**Prepared by:**	Erika Churchill and
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition		Kara McCraw
	S667-CSST-128		Committee Co-Counsel

SUMMARY: The PCS for SB 667 removes the prior contents of that bill and adds new provisions related to elections and election administration.

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for SB 667 would make the following changes:

Section 1: Currently, county boards of elections conduct canvasses on the 10th day after general elections conducted in November in even-numbered years, and seven days after all other elections. The PCS would require all canvasses to be held 10 days after the election.

Section 2: The PCS would require the State to be a party to all actions related to the validity or constitutionality of a local act enacted by the General Assembly, and for the Attorney General to represent the State in those actions.

Section 3: The PCS would require candidates for judge on the Court of Appeals to be listed in order on the ballot in the same manner as candidates for partisan races, so that candidates are listed in alphabetical order in each group in the following order: 1) candidates from the party of the Governor, 2) candidates from other parties with more than 5% statewide voter registration, 3) candidates from all other political parties, 4) unaffiliated candidates.

Section 4: The PCS would require that proposed Constitutional amendments by designated only by a short caption provided by the Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission that does not include a reference to numerical or other order.

Section 5: The PCS would state the intent of the General Assembly to provide for even-numbered year municipal elections, beginning with the 2020 election cycle. The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee (JLEOC) would study this change and make a final report before the convening of the 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Section 6: The PCS would change the filing period for municipal offices for the City of Reidsville to be as provided in the General Statutes.

Sections 7-9: Currently, counties are required to report election results by voting tabulation districts (VTDs) established for the 2010 Census within 60 days of the election. Effective September 1, 2016, the PCS would require county boards to report election results by the precinct within 30 days of the election.

The PCS would repeal the statute establishing VTDs for the 2010 Census and that elections results reporting requirement, and establish a new statute providing for participation in the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program. The State's voting precincts as of January 1, 2018 to be reported to the Census Bureau for use in the 2020 Census as voting districts. To develop those voting precincts as of January 1, 2018:

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- The State Board of Elections (SBE) would be required to develop a proposed voting districts map by September 1, 2016 to be submitted to the JLEOC and Legislative Services Office (LSO) by December 1, 2016.

- By November 1, 2017, county boards of elections (county boards) would report requested changes in precinct boundaries to the SBE based on criteria developed by the SBE. The SBE would consult with the LSO in order to submit a statewide map of updated precinct boundaries to the Census Bureau for the Phase 2 Voting District Project.

- After receiving the voting districts geography for the 2020 Census from the Census Bureau, the Executive Director of the SBE and LSO would determine if adjustments are needed to precinct boundaries in order the geography to be identical.

Effective January 1, 2020, the PCS would provide the county boards can only change precincts with the approval of the SBE. The SBE would be required to set uniform standards for precincts that meet certain requirements, including coinciding with census block boundaries, contiguity, efficiency and accuracy in election administration, and the ability to reallocate out of precinct ballots to the precinct where the voter is registered for election results reporting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, the PCS would become effective when it becomes law, and applies to elections on or after that date.