

Testimony Against SB0417

Please vote against SB0417.

This bill appears to be just an update to the basic administration functions of the state and local boards of election. However, given the disagreements some local boards have been having with the State Board regarding compliance with Federal Laws such as the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), having the State Board Administrator review the local Director for compliance with State laws, regulations, and policies, it seems like the State Board is trying to squash any future dissent by the local Boards (See Section 2-103 (b)(5) on page 3, lines 20-23).

The State Board should be able to provide input to each local board's Director, but I believe the performance review of the local board director should be handled solely by the local board. The State Superintendent of Education does not do 24 performance reviews of the 24 local superintendents of education. The local school board does these reviews.

Also, there is no fiscal report showing how the recently appointed State Administrator is going to handle 24 new performance reviews in addition to his existing duties.

Despite the disclaimer in Section 2-202 (c) on page 5, lines 13-15, I believe requiring the local boards of election to confer with the State Administrator when appointing a local director is just another step in giving the state more power over the local boards (see section 2-202 (b)(3) on page 4, lines 15-16).

The only changes contained in this bill that seem acceptable to me are in section 2-206, items 10-13 on pages 6 and 7.

All the other changes take away the autonomy of the local boards of elections.

Please vote against bill HB0459, or only keep the proposed changes to section 2-206.

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<https://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra>