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To: State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Committee

From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff
Office of Public Instruction

Subject: Request to amend the Election Law Clean-up bill draft (LC 30)

The Office of Public Instruction is requesting the following changes to Sections 12 and 13 of the Election Law Clean-up bill draft (LC 30).

- 1) In Section 12 (2) delete the sentence, "A copy of the notice must be provided to the superintendent of public instruction within 3 days after the cancellation."
- 2) Delete Section 13 from the bill draft.

Section 12, as drafted, requires a school district to notify the Office of Public Instruction if the trustees cancel an election. Section 13 requires a school district to send its resolution calling for a school district election to the superintendent of public instruction, in addition to the county election administrator, no later than 3 days after the resolution is passed.

The initial reasoning behind these proposals to notify the superintendent of public instruction of election resolutions and cancellations was for OPI to help school districts manage voting lists, especially in the case of late registration. The expectation was that OPI would provide a service to school districts that contact the agency asking if another district is holding an election.

After further consideration, the Office of Public Instruction is concerned that the proposed notification requirements would place an unnecessary burden on school districts. Furthermore, OPI will not know with confidence if the agency has received all of the notifications in a timely manner. OPI and school districts would be at risk of making decisions based on incomplete information.

The information that school districts would be submitting to OPI would be valuable for a fairly short period of time prior to the election. Yet, the OPI could find itself following up with school districts for weeks and months after the election even after the original purpose of the data collection has expired.

For these reasons, the Office of Public Instruction respectfully requests that the above referenced language in Sections 12 and 13 be removed from the LC 30 bill draft.