

(c) (1) Each member serves for a term of 4 years beginning on the first Tuesday in December after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(2) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms of the members serving on the County Board as of July 1, 1986.

(3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(4) The Governor shall appoint a qualified individual to fill any vacancy on the County Board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(d) (1) The State Board may remove a member of the County Board for:

- (i) Immorality;
- (ii) Misconduct in office;
- (iii) Incompetency; or
- (iv) Willful neglect of duty.

(2) Before removing a member, the State Board shall send the member a copy of the charges against him and give him an opportunity within 10 days to request a hearing.

(3) If the member requests a hearing within the 10-day period:

(i) The State Board promptly shall hold a hearing, but a hearing may not be set within 10 days after the State Board sends the member a notice of the hearing; and

(ii) The member shall have an opportunity to be heard publicly before the State Board in his own defense, in person or by counsel.

(4) A member removed under this subsection has the right to a de novo review of the removal by the Circuit Court for Washington County.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the new members of the Washington County Board of Education provided for under this Act shall be elected at the general election to be held in November 1998.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved May 8, 1997.

---