21 NCAC 66 .0610 DISQUALIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(a) Self-disqualification. If for any reason a Board member determines that personal bias or other factors render that member unable to conduct the hearing and perform all duties in an impartial manner, that Board member shall voluntarily decline to participate in the hearing or decision.

(b) Petition for Disqualification. If for any reason any party in a contested case believes that a Board member is personally biased or otherwise unable to conduct the hearing and perform all duties in an impartial manner, the party may file a sworn, notarized affidavit with the Board. The title of such affidavit must bear the notation: AFFIDAVIT OF DISQUALIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBER IN THE CASE OF (Name of Case).

(c) Contents of Affidavit. The affidavit must state all facts the party deems to be relevant to the disqualification of the Board member.

(d) Timeliness of Affidavit. An affidavit of disqualification will be considered timely if filed ten days before commencement of the hearing. Any other affidavit will be considered timely provided it is filed at the first opportunity after the party becomes aware of facts which give rise to a reasonable belief that a Board member may be disqualified under this Rule.

(e) Procedure for Determining Disqualification:

(1) The Board will appoint a Board member to investigate the allegations of the affidavit.

(2) The investigator will report to the Board the findings of the investigation.

(3) The Board shall decide whether to disqualify the challenged individual.

(4) The person whose disqualification is to be determined will not participate in the decision but may be called upon to furnish information to the other members of the Board.

(5) A record of proceedings and the reasons for any decision reached will be maintained as part of the contested case record.

(6) When a Board member is disqualified prior to the commencement of the hearing or after the hearing has begun, such hearing will continue with the remaining members sitting provided that the remaining members still constitute a majority of the Board.

(7) If disqualification of a Board member leaves less than a majority of the Board, the Board shall petition the Office of Administrative Hearings to appoint an administrative law judge to hear the contested case pursuant to G.S. 150B-40(e).

(8) Where a petition for disqualification is filed less than ten days before or during the course of a hearing, the hearing shall continue with the challenged Board member sitting. Petitioner shall have the opportunity to present evidence supporting his petition, and the petition and any evidence relative thereto presented at the hearing shall be made a part of the record. The Board, before rendering its decision, shall decide whether the evidence justifies disqualification. In the event of disqualification, the disqualified member will not participate in further deliberation or decision of the case.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 90-185; 150B-11; 150B-38; 150B-40;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Readopted Eff. September 30, 1977;
Amended Eff. May 1, 1989;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018.