

Comment Report

SSB 1148

A bill for an act relating to the confirmation by the senate of certain appointees.(See SF 423.)

Subcommittee Members: Smith, R.-CH, Boulton, Brown

Date: 02/16/2021

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: RM 111

Name: Mike Marshall

Comment: The Iowa Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board is, by law, an independent and bipartisan state agency. Like its legislative counterparts, the Senate and House Ethics Committees, no political party may hold more than three of the six Board positions. As a result, the Board has a history and reputation for reaching bipartisan, consensus decisions. Senate confirmation of Board appointments fosters that bipartisanship, as the confirmation process itself nearly always requires some degree of bipartisanship. The Ethics Board is concerned that excluding its members from the confirmation process will imperil the bipartisan nature of the Board and undermine public confidence in the evenhandedness of the Board's work. The Ethics Board therefore respectfully requests that section 5 (page 2, lines 1228) be deleted from SSB 1148.