REGULAR CALENDAR

March 8, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Education to which was referred HB 432-FN, relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Education**
Bill Number:	**HB 432-FN**
Title:	**relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.**
Date:	**March 8, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**Regular Calendar**
Recommendation:	**WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This bill requires annual recertification of income eligibility for awarding of Education Freedom Account (EFA) funds. The EFA program currently requires applicants to certify family income is below 300% of the federal poverty guideline. For a family of four, this is $90,000 per year and the guideline is updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The intent of the EFA program is to provide public school students from low-income families with access to a taxpayer-funded private education alternative. However, in the haste to incorporate the EFA program into the state budget, annual income recertification was omitted. And this omission allows families who were once income-qualified to continue receiving taxpayer money to pay private school costs long after their income has increased due to a change of employment or other circumstances. The bill only requires annual income recertification, regardless of statutory changes to the income eligibility threshold. And nothing in this bill requires the student to change their school or education option. The bill protects the intent of the program and the responsible use of taxpayer money.

Amendment:

Rep. David Luneau

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill is another attack on the successful Education Freedom Accounts program. It requires that the family income must be checked annually against the family income cap. Currently, the income is checked in the initial application process and if they are under the cap, then the children are in the program. The problem with checking the income annually is that income in many jobs, such as real estate, may change from year to year. It would be unfair to the children to treat them like yo-yos and continually allow them in the program and then bounce them out because of the family income change. Children need stability in the education setting that meets their individual needs.

Amendment:

Rep. Glenn Cordelli

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 432-FN, relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This bill requires annual recertification of income eligibility for awarding of Education Freedom Account (EFA) funds. The EFA program currently requires applicants to certify family income is below 300% of the federal poverty guideline. For a family of four, this is $90,000 per year and the guideline is updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The intent of the EFA program is to provide public school students from low-income families with access to a taxpayer-funded private education alternative. However, in the haste to incorporate the EFA program into the state budget, annual income recertification was omitted. And this omission allows families who were once income-qualified to continue receiving taxpayer money to pay private school costs long after their income has increased due to a change of employment or other circumstances. The bill only requires annual income recertification, regardless of statutory changes to the income eligibility threshold. And nothing in this bill requires the student to change their school or education option. The bill protects the intent of the program and the responsible use of taxpayer money.

Rep. David Luneau

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Rep. Glenn Cordelli

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 432-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.

DATE: March 8, 2023

LOB ROOM: 207

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Cordelli Seconded by Rep. Belcher Vote: 10-10

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Luneau Seconded by Rep. Myler Vote: 10-10

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Arlene Quaratiello, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB432

BILL TITLE: ... Participation in EFA Program

DATE: 3/8/23

LOB ROOM: 205-207

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☑ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Cordelli Seconded by Rep. Belcher Vote: 10-10

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☑ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Luneau Seconded by Rep. Nyles Vote: 10-10

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ____ **YES** ____ **NO**

Minority Report? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: Arlene F. Quarles

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/6/2023 12:35:36 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Education

Bill #: HB432 **Motion:** OTP **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** _____

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman		10	
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman		1	
Lekas, Alicia D.		2	
Ford, Oliver J. Clerk		3	
Belcher, Mike S.		4	
Drye, Margaret M.		5	
McDonnell, Valerie E.		6	
Noble, Kristin		7	
Peternel, Katy		8	
Quaratiello, Arlene		9	
Myler, Mel	1		
Cornell, Patricia	2		
Tanner, Linda L.	3		
Luneau, David J.	4		
Ellison, Arthur S.	5		
Woodcock, Stephen L.	6		
Hall, Muriel C.	7		
Balboni, Peggy	8		
S Cascadden, Corinne E.	9		
Damon, Hope	10		
TOTAL VOTE:	10	10	

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/6/2023 12:35:36 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Education

Bill #: HB432 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3/8/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	10		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	1		
Lekas, Alicia D.	2		
Ford, Oliver J. Clerk	3		
Belcher, Mike S.	4		
Drye, Margaret M.	5		
McDonnell, Valerie E.	6		
Noble, Kristin	7		
Peternel, Katy	8		
Quaratiello, Arlene	9		
Myler, Mel		1	
Cornell, Patricia		2	
Tanner, Linda L.		3	
Luneau, David J.		4	
Ellison, Arthur S.		5	
Woodcock, Stephen L.		6	
Hall, Muriel C.		7	
Balboni, Peggy		8	
S Cascadden, Corinne E.		9	
Damon, Hope		10	
TOTAL VOTE:	10	10	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 432-FN

BILL TITLE: **relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.**

DATE: **February 21, 2023**

LOB ROOM: **205-207** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **10:45 am**

Time Adjourned: **10:55 am**

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, A.Lekas, O. Ford, Belcher, Drye, McDonnell, Noble, Peternel, Myler, Cornell, Luneau, Ellison, Woodcock, Hall, Balboni, and Damon

Bill Sponsors:
Rep. Luneau **Rep. Heath** **Rep. Cascadden**

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Luneau - Prime Sponsor
- This bill puts in place an annual income certification process for EFA eligibility.
- Unused funds revert back to the ETF.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Margaret Drye, Clerk

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill #: HB432-FN Date: 2/21/23

Committee: EDUCATION

**** Please Print All Information ****

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	Pro	Con
Sarah Robinson	30 MAX LN CONCORD	4968521	GSP	✓	
Sarah Scott		(603)315-2710	AFP-NH		X
Mary Wilke	24 Bow St Concord NH	603-369-2112	self	✓	
Liz Tentarelli	Newbury		self	✓	
Megan Tuttle	95 Spring St. Concord	224-7751	NEA-NH	✓	
Kate Baker Demers	180 Loudon Rd.	6037650174	CSF	.	X
David Trudeau	Weare	603 5292170	self	X	
Jeremy Frew	Donovan St Concord		NHSAA	X	
Rep Robert Wherry	Hudson		self		X
Rep David Rochefort	Littleton				✓

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB432 on 2023-02-21

Support: 119 Oppose: 19 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Dunham, Bonnie	Merrimack, NH Bsdunham12@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/17/2023 2:06 AM
Finn, Cynthia	Windham, NH cynthiafinnwindhamnh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2023 4:39 PM
Davis, Tod	Nashua, NH todc.18@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/18/2023 4:46 AM
Malsbenden, Kathleen	Newmarket, NH Kmalsbenden@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/19/2023 7:32 AM
Jonas, Gene	Wilton, NH gene@hungrybearfarm.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/19/2023 9:06 AM
Culliton, Penny	Temple, NH pculliton@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/19/2023 10:08 AM
KIMBALL, JEAN	AUBURN, NH JCKNH@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/19/2023 1:17 PM
Dear, Debra	Franklin, NH dosdot22@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/19/2023 1:51 PM
Smith, Julie	Nashua, NH cantdog@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/19/2023 4:51 PM
Willing, Maura	Concord, NH Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/19/2023 10:03 PM
Damon, Claudia	Concord, NH cordsdamon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/19/2023 10:29 PM
Davis, Johnna	Gilford, NH jdavis@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 7:11 AM
Straiton, Marie	Pembroke, NH m.straiton@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 7:24 AM

Satterfield, Peter	Pembroke, NH psatterfield@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 7:31 AM
Reed, Barbara	North Swanzey, NH BDReed74@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:06 AM
Benevides, Eric	Gilford, NH ericbenevides@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:21 AM
Carter, Lilian	Deering, NH lcarter0914@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:29 AM
Steel, Sandy	PLAINFIELD, NH selizabethsteel@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:45 AM
Peterson, Amy	Gilford, NH AmyPetersonNH@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	Yes	2/20/2023 8:52 AM
hatch, sally	concord, NH sallyhatch@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:53 AM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:09 AM
Casino, Joanne	Concord, NH joannecasino@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:11 AM
MacGregor, Leslie	Grantham, NH lsmacgregor@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:12 AM
Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:33 AM
Liscord, Barbara McKusick	Mont Vernon, NH barbmcklis@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:38 AM
Doherty, David	Pembroke, NH ddoherty0845@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:39 AM
Dickler, Jeffrey	Rindge, NH gsgstriker@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:42 AM
Niven, Ruth	Franklin, NH ruthniven@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:48 AM
Sumner, Deborah	Jaffrey, NH dsumner@myfairpoint.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:28 AM
Walker, Deborah Klein	Meredith, NH deb.publichealth@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:33 AM
Kanamine, Ann	Bedford, NH akanamine@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/20/2023 10:36 AM

Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:38 AM
Devore, Gary	Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:45 AM
Englund, Alfrieda	Stoddard, NH ditaenglund43@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 11:07 AM
Keegan, Lucille	Bristol, NH lucillekeegan1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 11:53 AM
Monsein, Marilyn	Sugar Hill, NH msquared3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 12:30 PM
Redmond-Scura, Maureen	Concord, NH mscura@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 12:59 PM
Keeler, Margaret	New London, NH peg5keeler@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 1:02 PM
Wessels, Susan	RINDGE, NH slwessels2010@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 1:18 PM
Keegan, John	BOscawen, NH peoresnada@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 1:40 PM
Ciatto, Susan	Mont Vernon, NH susan.ciatto@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 2:00 PM
Anastasia, Patricia	Londonderry, NH patti.anastasia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 2:18 PM
Hatcher, Phil	Dover, NH phil.hatcher@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 2:35 PM
Liebowitz, Susan	Plainfield, NH supawali@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 2:42 PM
Merlone, Lynn	Rindge, NH prulone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 3:18 PM
Hershey, Jane	Rindge, NH janelhershey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 3:18 PM
Colt, Susannah	Whitefield, NH coltsusannah@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 3:19 PM
Moore, Susan	Franconia, NH susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 3:33 PM
Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 3:39 PM

Verschueren, James	Dover, NH jd.verschueren@gmail.cm	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 3:43 PM
Rhoades, Melanie	Dover, NH melanierhoades@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 4:55 PM
Bracy, Sue	Dunbarton, NH marysuebracy@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 5:41 PM
Bushueff, Catherine	Sunapee, NH agawamdesigns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 5:41 PM
Phillips, Betsey	Bethlehem, NH bphill36@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 5:56 PM
MESERVE, BARBARA	JACKSON, NH ALLSNOWDAYS@YAHOO.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 5:56 PM
Taylor, Gale	Concord, NH galeforcefacilitators@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 6:24 PM
Shanks, Penelope	Keene, NH Penelope.shanks@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 6:40 PM
Benham, Beth	Nottingham, NH deeppeace296@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 6:48 PM
Laker-Phelps, Gail	Chichester, NH lpsart@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 7:37 PM
Taylor, Susan	Huntington, NH sueetaylor342@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:09 PM
Berrien, Skip	Exeter, NH fberrien@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:16 PM
DeRosa, Tom	Concord, NH tom@bfreshconsuling.com	A Lobbyist	yes. every kid.	Oppose	No	No	2/20/2023 8:27 PM
Taylor, David	Plainfield, NH dstaylor342@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 8:29 PM
Varnum, Steve	Concord, NH sfxvarnum@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:13 PM
Perencevich, Ruth	Concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:23 PM
French, Elaine H	Littleton, NH frenche961@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:25 PM
Donnelly, Ryan	Hudson, NH rdonnelly@gsil.org	A Member of the Public	Granite State Independent Living	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:29 PM

FRIEDRICH, ED	Loudon, NH erfriedrich@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 9:44 PM
Spencer, Louise	Concord, NH lpskenstreet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:00 PM
Spencer, Rob	Concord, NH rfspencer@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:05 PM
Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/20/2023 10:11 PM
Brennan, Arthur	Weare, NH arete201314@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:16 PM
Brennan, Jane	Weare, NH janelb@gsinet.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 10:18 PM
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	Dover, NH coraq@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/20/2023 11:03 PM
Allen, Mary Grace	Dover, NH marygracekatherine@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 12:08 AM
Bishop, Nancy	Plaistow, NH nanbis71@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 1:56 AM
Ellermann, Maureen	Concord, NH ellermannf@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 6:44 AM
Miles, Nancy	Hanover, NH nmiles3342@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 6:47 AM
Prohl, Maureen F.	Elkins, NH rmprohl@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 6:59 AM
DeMark, Richard	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:00 AM
DeMark, Harriet	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:00 AM
Nardino, Marie	Andover, NH mdnardino@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:14 AM
morgan, meredith	hanover, NH meredithm@kahres.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:15 AM
Bergevin, Leslie	Loudon, NH Leslie.bergevin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:29 AM
Martin, Lucretia	Hanover, NH Lucretia.L.Martin@Dartmouth.EDU	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:32 AM

Palmer, William	Cornish, NH Wpalmernh@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 7:58 AM
Lenz, Elaine	Meriden, NH eglenz@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 8:14 AM
Lamphier, Regan	Nashua, NH reganburkelamphier@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 8:28 AM
Racusin, Sharon	Hanover, NH sdracusin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 8:56 AM
Ufford, Letitia	Hanover, NH letitia.ufford@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:01 AM
Dube, Priscilla	Concord, NH Priscilla2NH@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:08 AM
Ouellet, Mike	Colebrook, NH Mike.ouellet@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	My constituents	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 9:37 AM
Notter, Jeanine	Merrimack, NH jeanine.notter@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 9:37 AM
Platt, Liz-Anne	CONCORD, NH lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:41 AM
Itse, Daniel	Manchester, NH itsenh@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 9:41 AM
Brown, Nancy	Hopkinton, NH wcbnpb@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:44 AM
Parks, Sharon	Hanover, NH sharondalozparks@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:45 AM
Black, Matthew	Mont Vernon, NH immsb1138@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:49 AM
Chase, Karen	Hanover, NH kpchase@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:59 AM
Gould, Rep. Linda	bedford, NH lgouldr@myfairpoint.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 10:29 AM
Potvin, Shana	BEDFORD, NH shanapotvin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 10:37 AM
Bundy, Linda	Antrim, NH n_bundy@mcttelecom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 10:39 AM
Howes, Debrah	Bow, NH president@aft-nh.org	A Lobbyist	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 10:46 AM

Stapleton, Walter	Claremont, NH waltstapleton@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 10:59 AM
Osborne, Jason	Auburn, NH houserepoffice@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	House Majority Office	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 11:00 AM
Lekas, Tony	Hudson, NH Rep.Tony.Lekas@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Hillsborough District 38	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 11:18 AM
Johnson, Dawn	Laconia, NH staterep@dawnjohnson4nh.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 11:25 AM
Holcombe, Susan	Hanover, NH shholcombe@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 11:38 AM
Hinebauch, Mel	Concord, NH melhinebauch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 11:44 AM
sellers, john	bristol, NH johnyochanan@protonmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 12:11 PM
Corell, Elizabeth	Concord, NH Elizabeth.j.corell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 12:19 PM
Sheehan, Vanessa	Milford, NH vanessa@vanessa4nh.com	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 43 (Milford)	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 12:43 PM
Kiefner, Robert	Concord, NH rskiefner@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 1:11 PM
Blanchard, Sandra	Loudon, NH sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 1:15 PM
Mirando, Anthony	Mirror Lake, NH amirandodc@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 1:18 PM
Holt, David	Somersworth, NH davholt@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 1:24 PM
Nelson, Deborah	Hanover, NH dbaconnelson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 1:26 PM
Rettew, Ann	Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 1:43 PM
Garthwaite, Tammy	Manchester, NH tammy.a.simmons@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 2:20 PM
Garland, Leane	Hanover, NH leanepage@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 2:29 PM
McDonough, Jennifer	Merrimack, NH jen.g.mcdonough@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 3:31 PM

Laplante, Edmond	Richmond, NH EdmondLaplanteforNH@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/21/2023 4:07 PM
Smith, Sara	Pembroke, NH sara.rose.ssmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 5:10 PM
Bass, Patricia	Concord, NH pattybass@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 5:15 PM
Liberman, Sheryl	Merrimack, NH saml54@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 5:28 PM
Baucom, Pam	Walpole, NH ptubridybaucom@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 5:35 PM
Clifford, Virginia	Candia, NH vstmartin@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 6:24 PM
Steel, Laura	Plainfield, NH lfsteel@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 8:39 PM
HOUGHTON, BEVERLY	HANOVER, NH BRANTA213@AOL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 8:57 PM
Richman, Susan	Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:17 PM
Baucom, James	Walpole, NH jamesbaucom@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:23 PM
Morton, Jennifer	Amherst, NH Jennifer.Morton@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:44 PM
Hayes, Randy	Canterbury, NH rcompostr@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 9:58 PM
DONTONVILLE, ROGER	Enfield, NH rwdontonville@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 10:03 PM
Grossman, Kathy	Hollis, NH Kathy@grossmangizmos.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 10:03 PM
Dontonville, Anne	Enfield, NH ardontonville@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 10:06 PM
Renfrew-Hebert, Melanie	Goffstown, NH melanierhnh@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 11:26 PM
boudman, roberta	wolfeboro, NH boudwoman2@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/21/2023 11:27 PM

Cynthia Finn

Dear Education Committee members,
I am writing in opposition to HB 432. Education Freedom Accounts are now empowering NH families to be able to direct their child's state educational funds to institutions that better suit their needs. I am a school board member who is very supportive of the idea that different students have different needs, that one size does not fit all. The majority of NH parents strongly support EFAs, across all demographics, including party affiliation. This new bill appears highly partisan and seeks to undermine the effectiveness of EFAs, overburdening parents and guardians needlessly. Yearly eligibility requirements are an excessive obligation that seeks to compromise the need for school continuity for students enrolled in alternative public and non-public institutions. This type of extreme legislation is poorly thought out and will hurt students whose parents may be straddling the threshold for eligibility, which I firmly believe is too low. Being required to confirm eligibility annually will risk students who are thriving in charter or private schools to be removed regularly if household income fluctuates above the already inadequate threshold. Please vote no on bringing this bill forward. Thank you.
Sincerely,

Cynthia Finn
18 Bell Rd
Windham

Kathleen Malsbenden

I support HB432. This law makes it clear that once a student returns to public school the EFA voucher is terminated and returned the state education trust fund.

These additions to the requirements of the Education Freedom Account are an important means of making sure my tax dollars are spent responsibly.

Patricia Anastasia

If Education Freedom Accounts are really intended to help lower income families, it is not unreasonable to require that these families meet the income requirements for each year they participate in the program. In general, programs with income-based eligibility require regular checks on income eligibility.

James Verschueren

This bill corrects an obvious flaw in the original legislation. Families grow their incomes. When they do, government support becomes less necessary and funds can be devoted to those most in need. Simple example - a family qualifies this year because a parent was laid off from a position. In the next year, a new job is found at an even better salary. They no longer qualify and should not continue to be subsidized, just as one would not subsidize a family on public assistance once they started earning an income above the qualifying amount. OTP for this bill.

Gail Laker-Phelps

To increase the threshold for the already out of control vouchers in New Hampshire will create an uncalled for and unnecessary hardship on New Hampshire taxpayers, who will bear the brunt of this unsustainable proposal! OPPOSE HB 331 and support
NH public education as well as NH taxpayers!

Susan Taylor

The Freedom accounts should be limited based on need not be expanded since they are already way over budget.

Maureen F. Prohl

Academic performance of all EFA students, whose education is funded by tax dollars, should be assessed on the measure used by the Pubic Schools, Statewide testing. Until this is done, there should be no program expansion.

Accountability and transparency.

Priscilla Dube

I strongly support HB 432 as it prevents a family from manipulating income in one year to qualify for an EFA and then not being accountable for income in succeeding years. This loophole must be closed in fairness to the general public in allocating funds it pays for public school education.

Tony Lekas

This bill shows a clear disregard for the education of children. It is unconscionable to force a student from an educational program that is likely working for them and into one that may not just because the family income went up some. I am appalled that this bill was submitted.

Sara Smith

,,,,,,

Susan Richman

Education Freedom Accounts are intended to give choice to families who lack the financial means to access educational alternatives for their child or children. Without a standard for income eligibility, the State of New Hampshire is issuing a blank check to all families to have educational alternatives paid for. That would assume that we have a bottomless treasury. NH's private schools have not wanted for students, and our wealthier families have been able to acquire the education alternatives they want for their children without help from the state. HB432 protects the original purpose of Education Freedom Accounts, leveling the field by ensuring families with less financial means can have educational alternatives for their children.

Jennifer Morton

Education Freedom Accounts are a detriment to our state. Please do not remove the income eligibility requirement.

roberta boudman

HB 432-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0349
02/04

HOUSE BILL ***432-FN***

AN ACT relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.

SPONSORS: Rep. Luneau, Merr. 9; Rep. Heath, Hills. 41; Rep. Cascadden, Coos 5

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill requires annual determination of eligibility for awarding of education freedom account funds.

- -

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 432-FN - AS INTRODUCED

23-0349
02/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Education Freedom Accounts; Definition; Eligible Student. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public elementary or secondary school and whose annual household income at the time the student applies for the program***, and for each school year during the student's participation,*** is less than or equal to 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). [~~No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the student otherwise qualifies.~~] Students in the special school district within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

2 Program Funds. Amend RSA 194-F:2, VII to read as follows:

VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to-quarter [~~and from year-to-year~~] until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program***, the student becomes ineligible,*** or until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless the EFA is closed because of a substantial misuse of funds. Any unused funds shall revert to the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39 [~~and be allocated to fund other EFAs~~].

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

LBA
23-0349
1/5/23

HB 432-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [X] Local [ ] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
Appropriation	$0	$0	$0	$0
Revenue	$0	$0	$0	$0
Expenditures	$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Funding Source:	[ ] General	[X] Education	[ ] Highway	[ ] Other

LOCAL:

Revenue	$0	$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Expenditures	$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

METHODOLOGY:

This bill, effective FY 2024, requires an annual income eligibility determination to access the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program, which may decrease program participation. Under current law, income eligibility is only determined once (when first applying for the program). As of November 2022, 3,110 students were in the EFA program with an annualized cost estimated at $15.2 million with the typical grant averaging $4,900 per student. The average grant for the EFA program is higher than the traditional district cost of an adequate education grant of $4,740, because the EFA program has income limits and participants are more likely to experience poverty that is documented.

The Department of Education states requiring annual income eligibility determination will result in an indeterminable number of students falling out of the program. The Department has provided the following information relative to the different situations in which a student may access the EFA program:

- Students exiting the EFA program and going to non-public or home education option would likely result in a grant elimination of $4,740 for each student. This would result in a net savings to the state beginning in FY 2024.

- Students exiting the EFA program and going to a charter public school would have a net cost to the state of $2,753 to the state; $7,493 (current average charter school rate) – $4,740 (average EFA) = $2,753. This cost could first be incurred beginning in FY 2024.

- Students exiting the EFA program and enrolling in a traditional district system would have a net savings to the state of $4,740 if the student left a community that had a statewide education property tax (SWEPT) grant in excess of the calculated cost of adequate education. The impact on state EFA payments could first be incurred beginning FY 2024, however impacts to adequacy payments to districts would not be first incurred until FY 2025 (as adequacy payments are made on previous year student counts).

- Students enrolling in a school in a non-excess SWEPT community, which makes up approximately 95 percent of students in NH would result in a net neutral cost to the state in adequacy grants and an increase in local revenues. However, this would also result in net savings to the state due to the EFA phase-out grant not being paid. The EFA phase-out grant compensates districts at a rate of 75 cents on the dollar for any student leaving the district and going to the EFA program. Therefore, there would be a savings on average of $3,555 for each student exiting the EFA program and enrolling a district school (75 percent of $4,740). The impact on state EFA payments could first be incurred beginning FY 2024, however impacts to adequacy payments to districts would not be first incurred until FY 2025 (as adequacy payments are made on previous year student counts).

As students potentially leave the EFA program and enroll in traditional district schools, districts may feel pressure to increase their local expenditures to better fit the increased population served. It is unknown the impact this would have on local expenditures, but this could potentially result in an indeterminable increase.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education