LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

HB75

Bill as Introduced

HB 75 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0179
02/04

HOUSE BILL ***75***

AN ACT to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

SPONSORS: Rep. Aron, Sull. 4; Rep. Rollins, Sull. 3; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 6; Rep. Guthrie, Rock. 15; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 13; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill increases the minimum value threshold of county personal property subject to competitive bidding.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 75 - AS INTRODUCED

23-0179
02/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

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

1 County Commissioners; Competitive Bidding on Sales of Personal Property. Amend RSA 28:8-a to read as follows:

28:8-a Competitive Bidding on Sales of Personal Property. Any sale of personal property made by a county where the estimated value thereof is in excess of [~~$300~~] ***$3,000*** shall be by competitive bidding, provided that the county commissioners by unanimous vote may waive the provisions for such bidding. In case the commissioners so vote a copy of such action shall be recorded in their offices with a statement of the reasons therefor and such record shall be open to public inspection.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 75 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

05/11/2023 1741s

2023 SESSION

23-0179
02/04

HOUSE BILL ***75***

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

SPONSORS: Rep. Aron, Sull. 4; Rep. Rollins, Sull. 3; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 6; Rep. Guthrie, Rock. 15; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 13; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

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

1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district***;

2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

4 Application; Strafford County. The changes in Strafford County commissioner districts established by this act shall not affect constituencies or terms of office of commissioners presently in office. The commissioner districts established by this act shall be in effect for the purpose of electing commissioners at the 2024 state general election. If there shall be a vacancy in a commissioner district for any reason prior to the 2024 state general election, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in law for Strafford County commissioners that existed for the 2022 state general election.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 75 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

05/11/2023 1741s
29Jun2023... 2229CofC

2023 SESSION

23-0179
02/04

HOUSE BILL ***75***

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

SPONSORS: Rep. Aron, Sull. 4; Rep. Rollins, Sull. 3; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 6; Rep. Guthrie, Rock. 15; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 13; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

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.

05/11/2023 1741s
29Jun2023... 2229CofC

23-0179
02/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

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

1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district***;

2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

4 Application; Strafford County. The changes in Strafford County commissioner districts established by this act shall not affect constituencies or terms of office of commissioners presently in office. The commissioner districts established by this act shall be in effect for the purpose of electing commissioners at the 2024 state general election. If there shall be a vacancy in a commissioner district for any reason prior to the 2024 state general election, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in law for Strafford County commissioners that existed for the 2022 state general election.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

CHAPTER 177
HB 75 - FINAL VERSION

05/11/2023 1741s
29Jun2023... 2229CofC

2023 SESSION

23-0179
02/04

HOUSE BILL ***75***

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

SPONSORS: Rep. Aron, Sull. 4; Rep. Rollins, Sull. 3; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 6; Rep. Guthrie, Rock. 15; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 13; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

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.

CHAPTER 177
HB 75 - FINAL VERSION

05/11/2023 1741s
29Jun2023... 2229CofC

23-0179
02/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

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

177:1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district***;

177:2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

177:3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

177:4 Application; Strafford County. The changes in Strafford County commissioner districts established by this act shall not affect constituencies or terms of office of commissioners presently in office. The commissioner districts established by this act shall be in effect for the purpose of electing commissioners at the 2024 state general election. If there shall be a vacancy in a commissioner district for any reason prior to the 2024 state general election, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in law for Strafford County commissioners that existed for the 2022 state general election.

177:5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: August 04, 2023
Effective Date: October 03, 2023

Amendments

Sen. Gray, Dist 6
April 27, 2023
2023-1552s
02/08

Amendment to HB 75

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district***;

2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect ~~60 days after its passage.~~ For the 2024 ~~Effect.~~ ~~at the next~~ gen Election Cycle ~~after its passage~~

APPROVED

2023-1552s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

UNAPPROVED

Election Law and Municipal Affairs
May 2, 2023
2023-1607s
02/08

Amendment to HB 75

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district***;

2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

4 Application; Strafford County. The changes in Strafford County commissioner districts established by this act shall not affect constituencies or terms of office of commissioners presently in office. The commissioner districts established by this act shall be in effect for the purpose of electing commissioners at the 2024 state general election. If there shall be a vacancy in a commissioner district for any reason prior to the 2024 state general election, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in law for Strafford County commissioners that existed for the 2022 state general election.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2023-1607s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs
May 3, 2023
2023-1630s
02/10

Amendment to HB 75

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district;***

2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect for the 2024 general election cycle.

2023-1630s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

Sen. Gray, Dist 6
May 10, 2023
2023-1741s
02/08

Floor Amendment to HB 75

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Strafford County; Elected for 2-Year Term; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(c) to read as follows:

(c) Strafford county-[~~3 county commissioners by all the voters of the county~~] ***one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner district***;

2 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 662:4 to read as follows:

662:4 County Commissioner Districts. [~~Except for Strafford county where 3 county commissioners shall be elected at large,~~] For the purposes of choosing county commissioners, the counties shall be divided into districts as follows:

3 Strafford County; County Commissioner Districts. Amend RSA 662:4, IX to read as follows:

IX. ***Strafford: District 1, the towns of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, wards 1, 5, and 6, of the city of Rochester, and wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the city of Somersworth; District 2, wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Dover, and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Rollinsford; District 3, Barrington, wards 5 and 6 of the city of Dover, Madbury, wards 2, 3, and 4 of the city of Rochester, and the town of Strafford.***

X. Sullivan: District 1, the town of Cornish and the city of Claremont; District 2, the towns of Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield; District 3, the towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington.

4 Application; Strafford County. The changes in Strafford County commissioner districts established by this act shall not affect constituencies or terms of office of commissioners presently in office. The commissioner districts established by this act shall be in effect for the purpose of electing commissioners at the 2024 state general election. If there shall be a vacancy in a commissioner district for any reason prior to the 2024 state general election, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in law for Strafford County commissioners that existed for the 2022 state general election.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2023-1741s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair
Sen Keith Murphy, Vice Chair
Sen Daryl Abbas, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: March 13, 2023

HEARINGS

Tuesday	03/21/2023
(Day)	(Date)

Election Law and Municipal Affairs	Legislative Office Building 103	9:30 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

9:30 a.m.	**HB 75**	to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.
9:35 a.m.	**HB 83**	relative to county commissioners' authority on county buildings.
9:40 a.m.	**HB 87**	relative to county responsibility for capital building projects.
9:45 a.m.	**HB 72**	relative to the tenure of public librarians.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

HB 75

Rep. Aron	Rep. Rollins	Rep. Stapleton	Rep. Guthrie
Rep. Potucek	Rep. Cloutier		

HB 83

Rep. Aron	Rep. Rollins	Rep. C. McGuire	Rep. Stapleton
Rep. Cloutier			

HB 87

Rep. Aron	Rep. Stapleton	Rep. Plett	Rep. Guthrie
Rep. Rollins	Rep. Cloutier	Rep. Potucek	

HB 72

Rep. C. Harvey

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray
Chairman

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair
Sen Keith Murphy, Vice Chair
Sen Daryl Abbas, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: April 27, 2023

HEARINGS

Tuesday	05/02/2023
(Day)	(Date)

Election Law and Municipal Affairs	Legislative Office Building 103	10:30 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

10:30 a.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

10:31 a.m. Hearing on proposed Amendment #1552s, relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners, to **HB 75**, to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:
HB 75
Rep. Aron
Rep. Potucek
Rep. Rollins
Rep. Cloutier
Rep. Stapleton
Rep. Guthrie

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray
Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

Amendment #1552s to HB 75, to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

Hearing Date: May 2, 2023

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Murphy, Abbas, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

Sponsors:

Rep. Aron	Rep. Rollins	Rep. Stapleton
Rep. Guthrie	Rep. Potucek	Rep. Cloutier

Who supports the bill: Rep. Claudine Burnham, Rep. Michael Granger, Rep. James Connor, Rep. Kelley Potenza, Janice Woods, Seamus Casey, John Allard, Carol Petrusewicz, Luci Gardner, Esther Sawyer, Timothy Lafortune

Who opposes the bill: Kate Horgan-NH Association of Counties, Rep. Timothy Horrigan

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator James Gray

- HB 270 would have changed the districts in Strafford County to align with the other counties and elect county commissioners by district.
- All of the commissioners that he spoke with said this change would be beneficial to them.
- It will help to ensure that the various portions of the county are well represented.
- The lower portion of Strafford County is the most populous and the northern residents feel set aside.
- On the map that was created the deviation is 4.68% which he believes is exceptionally good.
- He tried moving the districts around to get a better deviation and he could not.
- The yellow district on the map has a deviation of 0.70, the darker blue has a negative 2.08, and the light blue district has a deviation of positive 2.78.
- The lower two districts give the total deviation of 4.86%.
- Originally, he had questions on whether or not they could make this change because of the ten year restrictions on redistricting.
- The Senate Council assured him that it was acceptable to do.
- He believes it is a good idea that will ensure that any particular city in a district had a least one representative that they did elect.
- Senator Soucy asked if HB 270 was retained in the House.
    - Senator Gray replied that, yes it was.
- Senator Soucy questioned if that bill is retained and this will take effect 60 days after its passage what is the sudden urgency to do this.
    - Senator Gray replied that even if HB 270 gets a favorable vote out of the retention, they will already be in the because if this passes then they will already be in the period of the next election cycle when the bill would take effect. It would be possible to do it then but if it can be done sooner it will be better. Many in the House were disappointed that HB 270 went to reconsideration.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if there is a reason they should be revisiting one of the redistricting conversations when they already voted last year.

- Senator Gray replied that there are those that think that Strafford County is better off one way as opposed to another. Since this level of redistricting started in the House, Strafford County has been reconsidered. He consulted with the Senate Legal Counsel before he drafted this amendment and was assured there is no constitutional problem with it. Today is just as good a day as any other to take care of this change.

Rep. Claudine Burnham

- She has lived in Milton for 27 years and is the current Chair of the Milton Select Board.
- Milton and Milton Mills Villages are combined as a small town of 4,482 residents.
- In March of 2020, Milton voters overwhelmingly voted to institute a 2% tax cap in accordance with RSA 32:5.
- Since the 2021 budget they have worked hard to honor that and by reducing their budget, were able to return $1.4 million through the reduction of their tax rate.
- In 2021 Milton's County tax was $1,203,364.00, which was about 21% of their operating budget.
- As Milton continued to streamline their 2022 budget, keeping under the 2% tax cap, they were horrified to receive the new county amount of $1,450,797.00.
- This was an increase of $247,433 and three times higher than any previous increase.
- They had to scramble to set the tax rate, get it approved by DRA, and issue tax bills hoping that the revenue would flow before the county tax payment deadline.
- This increase hits hard on a small town.
- With further increases proposed by county commissioners, Milton and other small towns will be forced to exceed their tax cap to offset the new amounts.
- It is difficult to set a budget when you do not know how much of an increase will be coming.
- The county does not honor small town tax caps.
- It was only recently when the Select Board raised these concerns that a county commissioner and administrator explained the increases.
- One of their commissioners has been a commissioner for 40 years and she has never met him.
- Redistricting the commissioners position, gives Milton and other small towns in Strafford County an opportunity to have a voice that speaks for them.

Representative Michael Granger

- This amendment is necessary because Strafford County is the only county that is not separated into districts.
- This has been brought up many times with the last time being in 2006.
- The primary reason it did not pass then, was because they were all served by the same newspaper which is not a relevant problem today.
- The biggest problem now is that the county commissioners do not worry about the small towns because there is not enough of a voting base to make an impact on their elections.
- Commissioner Maglaras has been in the same position for forty years and he has just recently been to Milton for the first time in an exceedingly long time.
- In the Strafford County delegation they heard a brief overview of the proposed budget and it was major increases across the board
- When it was pointed out that Milton and Middleton have tax caps, the response from the commissioners was that they did not know that.
- Hillsborough and all the other counties had changed to electing district commissioners instead of at large, before 1980.
- Most of the counties switched during an off year and not during the redistricting years.
- Senator Soucy asked why this was not brought up during redistricting
  - Rep. Granger replied that Rep. Turcotte would know more about that but he believes that redistricting was so time consuming and expansive they did not want to add more work to the pile.
- Senator Soucy asked if he would believe that she attended the redistricting hearing in Strafford County and at that time there was no mention made regarding commissioner districts.

- Rep. Granger replied, okay.

Representative Kelley Potenza

- It is not true that it is only the Republicans in Strafford County that are supporting this and she could give the Committee some names of Democrats if needed.
- She believes this is not really about redistricting, it is about Strafford being different than every other county in NH.
- They are the only county that uses at large voting rather than by districts.
- This system is great for the commissioners but not so good for the people.
- Strafford County is made up of three cities and ten towns.
- In the election of 2022, the cities of Dover, Somersworth and the town of Durham, the leading Democrat vote getter had received 8,929 more votes than the leading Republican.
- By comparison, in Rochester, the leading Republican candidate got 48 more votes than the leading Democrat candidate.
- In the other nine towns the party vote difference was only about 60 votes.
- She believes this clearly shows that Somersworth, Dover and Durham are electing the commissioners.
- That is not representative of the other ten towns and is not fair to the voters.
- Most of the attention at the county level is given to the three cities.
- She questions why there is such a political dominance from one political party among county commissioners.
- The small towns pay more than eleven million which is one-third of the county taxes required to finance the county budget.
- They should have equal representation.
- For the proposed county homeless shelter, Somersworth, Dover and Rochester, were notified and included in the idea and concept.
- After hours of research she could not find anything that showed that the other nine towns were publicly notified.
- The presentation for the proposed $170 million, which is actually now $139 million, new county nursing home, was only given to Rochester, Dover, Somersworth and Durham.
- This amendment will require Strafford County to be divided into three districts for the county commissioners race.
- If passed, there will be no more "at large," the small towns will finally get their own county commissioner instead of having one picked for them by the cities

Representative James Connor

- He agreed with the former speakers that the smaller towns do not receive any representation.
- He believes that Dover and Durham elect the county commissioners.
- If they have to have a special election, they will have one.
- The city of Rochester just got done with a special election.
- This will give more people voting power so they have a say in who the commissioners are.
- This is not going to get worked out when there is a 2 to 1 ratio.
- Senator Soucy asked how would they determine which one of the two commissioners would represent the district in a special election if this passes.
    - Rep. Connor replied that it would have to be a countywide special election to see which one of the two commissioners would be elected.
- Senator Soucy asked if he means there would be two elections, a countywide election for one district and a special election for one.
    - Rep. Connor replied that there would only be one special election.
- Senator Soucy commented that she does not understand how they would move forward given how the lines are drawn in the amendment.
    - Rep. Connor replied that they both would have to run and the voters would choose who they want.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Rep. Timothy Horrigan

- This amendment would put Durham in a district with part of Dover and the towns of Durham, Lee and Rollinsford.
- He is concerned that it is not a contiguous district as required.
- If the goal is to make a district with all of the small towns together this does not do that.
- Every one of these districts has part of Dover or Rochester in it.
- He does not think this change is needed and the county should stay as is.
- The only support for this in the House Committee hearing was from certain small towns.
- The town of Milton is only 4,000 people out of over 100,000 in the county.
- He believes the 2% tax cap is much more aggressive than the cities tax caps and they have always honored them.
- This issue should have been taken up a year ago when they did redistricting.
- There is concern on the House side that it is not legal to do this now.
- Making this change was never brought up by the Republicans last year and it is all Republicans who are in favor of it.
- It was never brought up in advance of the hearing on HB270.
- The cities do get a disproportionate amount of the county services but they have a disproportionate share of the income.
- He feels this has been sprung on the other towns and cities in the county fairly abruptly.
- If this bill passes there will be two incumbents in one district and a third incumbent in a district that would be open .
- He believes this will create an awkward situation especially because this takes effect 60 days after passage.
- They would have to decide what happens to the two commissioners who are now in the same district.

Kate Horgan – NH Association of Counties

- The purpose of retaining this in committee was to allow the county commissioners and the county delegation the time to work through any issues, find common ground and potentially move forward with a bill next year.
- The Association asks that the Senate allow that process to happen.
- There are other counties that elect district wide.
- They have districts but every voter, votes for every county commissioner.
- Sullivan and Carroll Counties elect their commissioners county wide.
- It is not uncommon for a county office to be elected county wide.
- The offices of Deeds, Sheriff, Treasurer, Probate and County Attorney are all elected county wide.
- Strafford County is the smallest county and takes only thirty minutes to drive across it.
- The counties do not have a standardized way of electing their officers.
- Some counties have districts, some vote at large by district, some vote only for the commissioner in their district and others have a floating four year term that exists.
- Counties pick what works best for them which requires collaborating with the delegation members, the public and with the county commissioners.
- She believes that if this goes into effect within sixty days, they have to have a special election.
- For the past eleven years the tax in Milton has gone up less than two percent.

TJM
Date Hearing Report completed: May 5, 2023

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

Amendment #1552s to HB 75, to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

Hearing Date: May 2, 2023

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Murphy, Abbas, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

Sponsors:

Rep. Aron	Rep. Rollins	Rep. Stapleton
Rep. Guthrie	Rep. Potucek	Rep. Cloutier

Who supports the bill: Rep. Claudine Burnham, Rep. Michael Granger, Rep. James Connor, Rep. Kelley Potenza, Janice Woods, Seamus Casey, John Allard, Carol Petrusewicz, Luci Gardner, Esther Sawyer, Timothy Lafortune

Who opposes the bill: Kate Horgan-NH Association of Counties, Rep. Timothy Horrigan

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator James Gray

- HB 270 would have changed the districts in Strafford County to align with the other counties and elect county commissioners by district.
- All of the commissioners that he spoke with said this change would be beneficial to them.
- It will help to ensure that the various portions of the county are well represented.
- The lower portion of Strafford County is the most populous and the northern residents feel set aside.
- On the map that was created the deviation is 4.68% which he believes is exceptionally good.
- He tried moving the districts around to get a better deviation and he could not.
- The yellow district on the map has a deviation of 0.70, the darker blue has a negative 2.08, and the light blue district has a deviation of positive 2.78.
- The lower two districts give the total deviation of 4.86%.
- Originally, he had questions on whether or not they could make this change because of the ten year restrictions on redistricting.
- The Senate Council assured him that it was acceptable to do.
- He believes it is a good idea that will ensure that any particular city in a district had a least one representative that they did elect.
- Senator Soucy asked if HB 270 was retained in the House.
    - Senator Gray replied that, yes it was.
- Senator Soucy questioned if that bill is retained and this will take effect 60 days after its passage what is the sudden urgency to do this.
    - Senator Gray replied that even if HB 270 gets a favorable vote out of the retention, they will already be in the because if this passes then they will already be in the period of the next election cycle when the bill would take effect. It would be possible to do it then but if it can be done sooner it will be better. Many in the House were disappointed that HB 270 went to reconsideration.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if there is a reason they should be revisiting one of the redistricting conversations when they already voted last year.

- Senator Gray replied that there are those that think that Strafford County is better off one way as opposed to another. Since this level of redistricting started in the House, Strafford County has been reconsidered. He consulted with the Senate Legal Counsel before he drafted this amendment and was assured there is no constitutional problem with it. Today is just as good a day as any other to take care of this change.

Rep. Claudine Burnham

- She has lived in Milton for 27 years and is the current Chair of the Milton Select Board.
- Milton and Milton Mills Villages are combined as a small town of 4,482 residents.
- In March of 2020, Milton voters overwhelmingly voted to institute a 2% tax cap in accordance with RSA 32:5.
- Since the 2021 budget they have worked hard to honor that and by reducing their budget, were able to return $1.4 million through the reduction of their tax rate.
- In 2021 Milton's County tax was $1,203,364.00, which was about 21% of their operating budget.
- As Milton continued to streamline their 2022 budget, keeping under the 2% tax cap, they were horrified to receive the new county amount of $1,450,797.00.
- This was an increase of $247,433 and three times higher than any previous increase.
- They had to scramble to set the tax rate, get it approved by DRA, and issue tax bills hoping that the revenue would flow before the county tax payment deadline.
- This increase hits hard on a small town.
- With further increases proposed by county commissioners, Milton and other small towns will be forced to exceed their tax cap to offset the new amounts.
- It is difficult to set a budget when you do not know how much of an increase will be coming.
- The county does not honor small town tax caps.
- It was only recently when the Select Board raised these concerns that a county commissioner and administrator explained the increases.
- One of their commissioners has been a commissioner for 40 years and she has never met him.
- Redistricting the commissioners position, gives Milton and other small towns in Strafford County an opportunity to have a voice that speaks for them.

Representative Michael Granger

- This amendment is necessary because Strafford County is the only county that is not separated into districts.
- This has been brought up many times with the last time being in 2006.
- The primary reason it did not pass then, was because they were all served by the same newspaper which is not a relevant problem today.
- The biggest problem now is that the county commissioners do not worry about the small towns because there is not enough of a voting base to make an impact on their elections.
- Commissioner Maglaras has been in the same position for forty years and he has just recently been to Milton for the first time in an exceedingly long time.
- In the Strafford County delegation they heard a brief overview of the proposed budget and it was major increases across the board
- When it was pointed out that Milton and Middleton have tax caps, the response from the commissioners was that they did not know that.
- Hillsborough and all the other counties had changed to electing district commissioners instead of at large, before 1980.
- Most of the counties switched during an off year and not during the redistricting years.
- Senator Soucy asked why this was not brought up during redistricting
  - Rep. Granger replied that Rep. Turcotte would know more about that but he believes that redistricting was so time consuming and expansive they did not want to add more work to the pile.
- Senator Soucy asked if he would believe that she attended the redistricting hearing in Strafford County and at that time there was no mention made regarding commissioner districts.
  - Rep. Granger replied, okay.

Representative Kelley Potenza

- It is not true that it is only the Republicans in Strafford County that are supporting this and she could give the Committee some names of Democrats if needed.
- She believes this is not really about redistricting, it is about Strafford being different than every other county in NH.
- They are the only county that uses at large voting rather than by districts.
- This system is great for the commissioners but not so good for the people.
- Strafford County is made up of three cities and ten towns.
- In the election of 2022, the cities of Dover, Somersworth and the town of Durham, the leading Democrat vote getter had received 8,929 more votes than the leading Republican.
- By comparison, in Rochester, the leading Republican candidate got 48 more votes than the leading Democrat candidate.
- In the other nine towns the party vote difference was only about 60 votes.
- She believes this clearly shows that Somersworth, Dover and Durham are electing the commissioners.
- That is not representative of the other ten towns and is not fair to the voters.
- Most of the attention at the county level is given to the three cities.
- She questions why there is such a political dominance from one political party among county commissioners.
- The small towns pay more than eleven million which is one-third of the county taxes required to finance the county budget.
- They should have equal representation.
- For the proposed county homeless shelter, Somersworth, Dover and Rochester, were notified and included in the idea and concept.
- After hours of research she could not find anything that showed that the other nine towns were publicly notified.
- The presentation for the proposed $170 million, which is actually now $139 million, new county nursing home, was only given to Rochester, Dover, Somersworth and Durham.
- This amendment will require Strafford County to be divided into three districts for the county commissioners race.
- If passed, there will be no more "at large," the small towns will finally get their own county commissioner instead of having one picked for them by the cities

Representative James Connor

- He agreed with the former speakers that the smaller towns do not receive any representation.
- He believes that Dover and Durham elect the county commissioners.
- If they have to have a special election, they will have one.
- The city of Rochester just got done with a special election.
- This will give more people voting power so they have a say in who the commissioners are.
- This is not going to get worked out when there is a 2 to 1 ratio.
- Senator Soucy asked how would they determine which one of the two commissioners would represent the district in a special election if this passes.
    - Rep. Connor replied that it would have to be a countywide special election to see which one of the two commissioners would be elected.
- Senator Soucy asked if he means there would be two elections, a countywide election for one district and a special election for one.
    - Rep. Connor replied that there would only be one special election.
- Senator Soucy commented that she does not understand how they would move forward given how the lines are drawn in the amendment.
    - Rep. Connor replied that they both would have to run and the voters would choose who they want.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Rep. Timothy Horrigan

- This amendment would put Durham in a district with part of Dover and the towns of Durham, Lee and Rollinsford.
- He is concerned that it is not a contiguous district as required.
- If the goal is to make a district with all of the small towns together this does not do that.
- Every one of these districts has part of Dover or Rochester in it.
- He does not think this change is needed and the county should stay as is.
- The only support for this in the House Committee hearing was from certain small towns.
- The town of Milton is only 4,000 people out of over 100,000 in the county.
- He believes the 2% tax cap is much more aggressive than the cities tax caps and they have always honored them.
- This issue should have been taken up a year ago when they did redistricting.
- There is concern on the House side that it is not legal to do this now.
- Making this change was never brought up by the Republicans last year and it is all Republicans who are in favor of it.
- It was never brought up in advance of the hearing on HB270.
- The cities do get a disproportionate amount of the county services but they have a disproportionate share of the income.
- He feels this has been sprung on the other towns and cities in the county fairly abruptly.
- If this bill passes there will be two incumbents in one district and a third incumbent in a district that would be open .
- He believes this will create an awkward situation especially because this takes effect 60 days after passage.
- They would have to decide what happens to the two commissioners who are now in the same district.

Kate Horgan – NH Association of Counties

- The purpose of retaining this in committee was to allow the county commissioners and the county delegation the time to work through any issues, find common ground and potentially move forward with a bill next year.
- The Association asks that the Senate allow that process to happen.
- There are other counties that elect district wide.
- They have districts but every voter, votes for every county commissioner.
- Sullivan and Carroll Counties elect their commissioners county wide.
- It is not uncommon for a county office to be elected county wide.
- The offices of Deeds, Sheriff, Treasurer, Probate and County Attorney are all elected county wide.
- Strafford County is the smallest county and takes only thirty minutes to drive across it.
- The counties do not have a standardized way of electing their officers.
- Some counties have districts, some vote at large by district, some vote only for the commissioner in their district and others have a floating four year term that exists.
- Counties pick what works best for them which requires collaborating with the delegation members, the public and with the county commissioners.
- She believes that if this goes into effect within sixty days, they have to have a special election.
- For the past eleven years the tax in Milton has gone up less than two percent.

TJM
Date Hearing Report completed: May 5, 2023

Speakers

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: March 21, 2023 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

HB 75 **An Act** to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

PRIME: Representative Aron

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*

✓ Kate Hargen NHAC	Support ☒	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☒ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: May 2, 2023 **Time:** 10:31 a.m.

Amendment #1552s to HB 75 Relative to the Strafford county commissioners – Senator Gray

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*

	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Kate Hogan NHAC	☐	☒		☑	☐
Claudine Burnham Rep Dist 2	☑	☐		☑	☐
Michael Granger Strafford 2	☑	☐		☑	☐
James Connor	☑	☐		☑	☐
Rep Timothy Horrigan	☐	☒		☒	☐
Rep. Kelley Potenza	☒	☐		☒	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐

Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB75 on 202

Support: 7 Oppose: 0

Name	Title	Representing	Position
Casey, Seamus	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Allard, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Petrusewicz, Carol	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Gardner, Luci	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
WOODS, JANICE	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Sawyer, Esther	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Lafortune, Timothy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

Testimony

Amendment 1552 House Bill 270 – Relative to election of Strafford County Commissioners
Election Law and Municipal Affairs Room 103, LOB
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
Time: 2:30pm

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As a current vice chair of the Milton Board of Selectman and a tax paying resident of Milton for 27 years, I have many reasons why I believe that we should redistrict the Strafford County Commissioner elected position. Milton and Milton Mills Villages are combined as a small town of 4,482 residents, providing about 2,777 taxpayers. In March of 2020, Milton voters overwhelming voted in a Petition Warrant Article to institute a 2% tax cap in accordance with RSA 32:5. Since our 2021 budget, our Budget Committee and Select Board have worked endlessly to honor our residents with reducing our budget, returning $1.4 million of unassigned fund balance through the reduction of our tax rate, while still maintaining our DRA recommendations of 5 to 16 percent of our operating budget for unanticipated emergencies.

In 2021, Milton's County tax was in the amount of $1,203,364 which was about 21% of our operating budget to be added to our Town tax rate. As Milton continued to streamline their 2022 budget keeping under the 2% tax cap during an inflationary fiscal year, the Board and Budget Committee were horrified to receive in October the new county amount of $1,450,797 to be paid by December 17, 2022. This was an increase of $247,433 with a rate of 21% more than the previous year.

This tax bill was three times higher than any previous increase and placed our town office on high alert in the last days of our fiscal year, trying to set the tax rate, getting it approved by the DRA and finally issuing the tax bills to the residents in hopes that tax revenue would flow quickly before the County tax payment deadline. As a small town, the Select Board are fiscally responsible for the town budget and retaining our staff within that budget. However, with further increases proposed by the Strafford County Commissioners, Milton and other small towns will be forced to exceed their tax cap to offset these proposed amounts which are set after SB2 fiscal year budgets are voted in.

How much should small towns anticipate in County tax increases, when the County does not honor small town tax caps? It was only recently, since this concern was raised, that Milton was addressed by the County Commissioner and Administrator about the explanation of these increases.

By redistricting the Commissioners position, it gives Milton and other small towns in Strafford County an opportunity to have a voice that speaks for them and a face to which a voter can feel confident in voting.

Thank you for your consideration on this amendment,

Representative Claudine Burnham
Strafford District 2, Milton/Rochester Ward 5

Tricia Melillo

From: harringt@metrocast.net
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 8:01 AM
To: James Gray; Keith Murphy; Daryl Abbas; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: Amendment to HB 75

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Sen. Gray has proposed amendment 1552 to HB 75. This would bring the election of County Commissioners in Strafford in line with how it is done in all other counties. Right now Strafford County elects 3 at large Commissioners insuring that almost all the time all 3 come from one of the cities in Strafford County. I can only remember one case where someone from the towns was elected Commissioner and he only served one term. I represent the towns of Barrington, Middleton, New Durham and Strafford and we would like to see multiple districts so there would be a chance of electing someone from one of these towns or one of the other rural towns in Strafford County.

Rep Mike Harrington
Strafford District 3

President
Wendy Piper
Grafton County Commissioner

Vice President
Cathy Stacey
Rockingham Register of Deeds

At Large Member
Toni Pappas
Hillsborough County Commissioner

At Large Member
Ross Cunningham
Merrimack County Administrator

Association of Counties

11 South Main Ste. 200
Concord, NH 03301

info@nhcouties.org

www.nhcounties.org

Immediate Past President
Chuck Weed
Cheshire County Commissioner

Treasurer
Charles Nickerson
Rockingham Finance Director

Bylaws Chair
Chris Coates
Cheshire County Administrator

March 10, 2023

Senator Gray
Chair
Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee
NH Senate
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Gray and Members of the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee,

HB 75 will increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding from $300 to $3,000. This bill is a simple update to the statues to ensure that thresholds for competitive bidding in county government reflect the inflation that has occurred over recent years. The last time that this statue was updated was the late 1990's and therefore this increase would assist counties in completing their work on behalf of the public.

Thank you for your attention and please reach out to Kate Horgan at khorgan@dupontgroup.com with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Wendy Piper

Wendy Piper
President
NH Association of Counties

President
Wendy Piper
Grafton County Commissioner

Vice President
Cathy Stacey
Rockingham Register of Deeds

At Large Member
Toni Pappas
Hillsborough County Commissioner

At Large Member
Ross Cunningham
Merrimack County Administrator

Association of Counties

11 South Main Ste. 200
Concord, NH 03301

info@nhcouties.org

www.nhcounties.org

Immediate Past President
Chuck Weed
Cheshire County Commissioner

Treasurer
Charles Nickerson
Rockingham Finance Director

Bylaws Chair
Chris Coates
Cheshire County Administrator

May 2, 2023

The Honorable James Gray
Chairman
Election Law and Municipal Affairs
NH State House
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Gray and Members of the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

The NH Association of Counties would like to express its opposition to Amendment 2023-1552, relative to the election of Strafford County Commissioners.

This amendment is a replica of HB 270 that the House Municipal and County Government Committee retained in committee, the purpose of retaining was to allow the 2 sides to come together and see if common ground could be found. The Association would ask that the Senate allow that process to happen.

County Commissioner districts are set during the redistricting process every ten years. In 2022, the NH Legislative undertook that process and set that Strafford County would not have districts and would elect their county commissioners county wide. This bill would overturn this process.

Strafford County is geographically the smallest county and dividing it into districts equitably is extremely difficult without dividing every city in the county into multiple districts. Dividing cities between county commissioner districts is very rare and only occurs in one other county. Due to the small size of Strafford County, each voter should have the right to vote on all the Commissioners as decisions at the county level directly impact all residents of Strafford County.

Finally, among the ten counties there are a variety of ways to elect your county commissioners, and each county has worked with their delegations historically to decide which system works best for the voters of their county. For example, Sullivan and Carroll County also allow for all voters to vote for all 3 commissioners regardless of where they live. Other counties have set districts and the residents of that district vote for their district commissioner with some counties

having a floating 4-year term. It is vital that each county elects their commissioners in the most beneficial manner for their county.

The NH Association of Counties would urge your opposition to amendment and would ask you to vote Inexpedient to Legislate. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Horgan at KHorgan@dupontgroup.com.

Sincerely,

Wendy Piper

Wendy Piper
President
NH Association of Counties

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee 3/14/23
HB 75 relative to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding

Dear Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Members,

This testimony introduces HB75 to your committee.

This bill increases the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

RSA 28:8-a was adopted in 1959. Based on an inflation calculator, the current value of an item worth $300 in 1959 is $3,054. https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/

It makes sense, therefore, to update this statute to reflect the true value of property because of inflation.

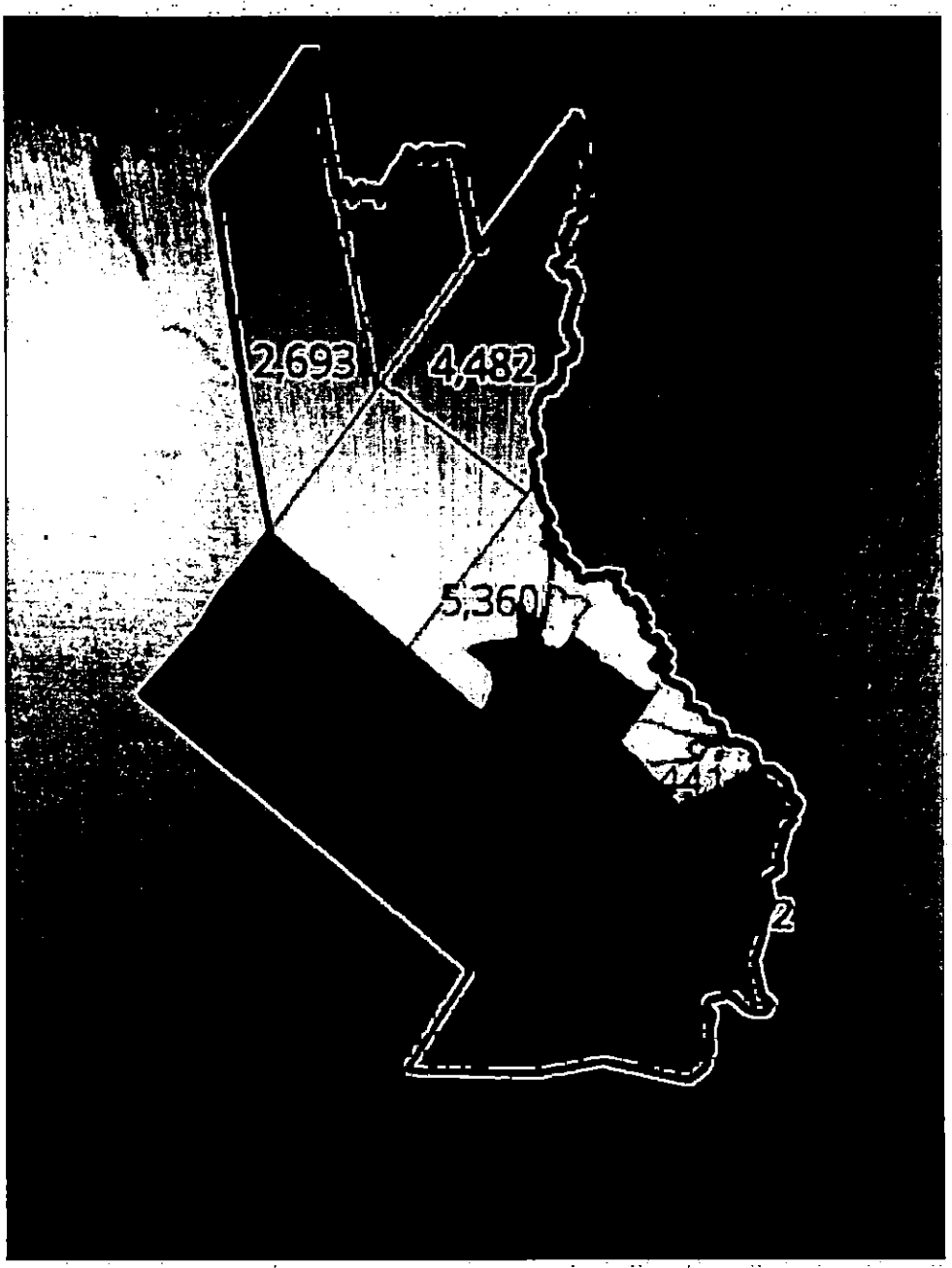
I hope you will vote to update this RSA, as it passed the House unanimously.

Thank you,

Judy Aron - NH State Representative -Sullivan County District 4 - Acworth, Goshen. Langdon, Lempster, Washington - 266 Forest Rd., South Acworth, NH 03607 - 603-843-5908

Debra Martone

From: James P Gray <jpgray@metrocast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Debra Martone
Subject: Map



Jim
James P Gray
Sent from my iPhone

Voting Sheets

Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2023 Session

Bill HB 75

Hearing date: 3/21/23

Executive Session date: 4/18/23

Motion of: OTP **Vote:** 4-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	✓		✓	
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Abbas	X				
Sen. Soucy	X		✓	✓	
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X			✓	

Motion of: Reconsideration 5/2/23 **Vote:** 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X		✓	✓	
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X	✓		✓	
Sen. Abbas	X			✓	
Sen. Soucy	X				✓
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X				✓

Motion of: _____ **Vote:** _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X				
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X				
Sen. Abbas	X				
Sen. Soucy	X				
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X				

Reported out by: Sen. Gray

Notes: _____

Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2023 Session

3/21/23 HB75

Hearing date: 5/2/23 Amendment

Bill HB 75

Executive Session date: 5/2/23

Motion of: OTP **Vote:**

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X		✓		
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X	✓			
Sen. Abbas	X				
Sen. Soucy	X				
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X				

Motion of: 1552s with Changes **Vote:** 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	✓		✓	
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X		✓	✓	
Sen. Abbas	X			✓	
Sen. Soucy	X				✓
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X				✓

Motion of: OTP/A **Vote:** 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Abbas	X			✓	
Sen. Soucy	X				✓
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X				✓

Reported out by: Sen. Gray

Notes:

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 75**

AN ACT to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 4-0

Senator James Gray
For the Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 75**

AN ACT to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 3-2

AMENDMENT # 1630s

Senator James Gray
For the Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of HB75

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: (New Title) relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners.

Official Docket of **HB75.**:

Date	Body	Description
12/23/2022	H	**Introduced** 01/04/2023 and referred to Municipal and County Government
1/5/2023	H	Public Hearing: 01/11/2023 02:15 pm LOB 301-303
1/11/2023	H	Executive Session: 01/19/2023 10:30 am LOB 301-303
1/25/2023	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass 01/25/2023 ***(Vote 19-0; CC)*** **HC 9** P. 4
2/2/2023	H	**Ought to Pass**: MA VV 02/02/2023 **HJ 4**
3/7/2023	S	Introduced 02/22/2023 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; **SJ 9**
3/9/2023	S	==CANCELLED== **Hearing:** 03/14/2023, Room 103, LOB, 09:15 am; **SC 13**
3/13/2023	S	==RESCHEDULED== **Hearing:** 03/21/2023, Room 103, LOB, 09:30 am; **SC 14**
4/27/2023	S	**Hearing:** 05/02/2023, Room 103, LOB, 10:31 am, on proposed amendment **#2023-1552s**; **SC 20**
5/3/2023	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment **#2023-1630s**, 05/11/2023; **SC 21**
5/11/2023	S	Committee Amendment **#2023-1630s**, AF, VV; 05/11/2023; **SJ 14**
5/11/2023	S	Sen. Gray Floor Amendment **#2023-1741s**, **RC** 14Y-10N, AA; 05/11/2023; **SJ 14**
5/11/2023	S	**Ought to Pass with Amendment** 2023-1741s, **RC** 14Y-10N, MA; OT3rdg; 05/11/2023; **SJ 14**
6/15/2023	H	House Concurs with Senate Amendment 2023-1741s (Rep. L. Turcotte): MF DV 185-188 06/15/2023 **HJ 15**
6/15/2023	H	House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendment 2023-1741s (Rep. L. Turcotte): MF DV 185-188 06/15/2023 **HJ 15**
6/15/2023	H	Lay HB75 on Table (Rep. Weber): MF DV 186-188 06/15/2023 **HJ 15**
6/15/2023	H	House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendment 2023-1741s and Requests CofC (Rep. L. Turcotte): MA DV 188-186 06/15/2023 **HJ 15**
6/15/2023	H	Speaker Appoints: Reps. L. Turcotte, Pauer, Lascelles, Stavis 06/15/2023 **HJ 15**
6/15/2023	S	Sen. Gray Accedes to House Request for Committee of Conference, MA, VV; 06/15/2023; **SJ 19**
6/15/2023	S	President Appoints: Senators Gray, Abbas, Soucy; 06/15/2023; **SJ 19**
6/21/2023	H	Conference Committee Meeting: 06/21/2023 02:00 pm LOB 301-303
6/19/2023	S	Conferee Change; Senator Bradley Replaces Senator Abbas; **SJ 20**
6/21/2023	H	Conferee Change: Rep. S. Smith Replaces Rep. Stavis 06/21/2023 **HJ 16**
6/22/2023	S	Conferee Change; Senator Carson Replaces Senator Soucy; **SJ 20**
6/22/2023	S	Conference Committee Report Filed, **#2023-2229c**; 06/29/2023
6/29/2023	S	Special Order to HB 75 to the end of the House Bills, Without Objection, MA; 06/29/2023; **SJ 20**
6/29/2023	S	Conference Committee Report **#2023-2229c**; **RC** 14Y-10N, Adopted; 06/29/2023; **SJ 20**
6/29/2023	H	Lay on Table (Rep. Weber): MF DV 185-186 06/29/2023 **HJ 17**

6/29/2023	H	Conference Committee Report 2023-2229c: Adopted, DV 186-185 06/29/2023 **HJ 17**
7/18/2023	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/29/2023); **SJ 20**
7/19/2023	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/29/2023 **HJ 17**

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

June 22, 2023
2023-2229-CofC
02/08

Committee of Conference Report on HB 75, to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

Recommendation:

That the House recede from its position of nonconcurrence with the Senate amendment, and concur with the Senate amendment, and that the Senate and House each pass the bill as amended by the Senate.

The signatures below attest to the authenticity of this Report on HB 75, to increase the threshold of county owned personal property subject to competitive bidding.

Conferees on the Part of the Senate	Conferees on the Part of the House
Sen. Gray, Dist. 6	Rep. L. Turcotte, Straf. 4
Sen. Bradley, Dist. 3	Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36
Sen. Carson, Dist. 14	Rep. Lascelles, Hills. 14
	Rep. S. Smith, Sull. 3

2023-2229-CofC

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes how county commissioners are elected in Strafford county and sets the county commissioner districts in Strafford county.

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 75 **Senate Committee:** ELMA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

X Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

X Bill version as it came to the committee
X All Calendar Notices
X Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
X Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
X Hearing Report
N/A Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

X - amendment # 1552s X - amendment # 1630s
X - amendment # 1607s ___ - amendment # ___

X Executive Session Sheet
X Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

X - amendment # 1741s ___ - amendment # ___
___ - amendment # ___ ___ - amendment # ___

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

N Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference): 2229 CofC
___ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)
___ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

X as amended by the senate ___ as amended by the house
X final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Tricia Mello 7/26/23
Committee Aide **Date**

Senate Clerk's Office AL