

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**SB 577-FN**, prohibiting the use of specific color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools.

**Hearing Date:** January 20, 2026

**Time Opened:** 10:14 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:18 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill prohibits certain blue, red, citrus red, yellow, green, and orange color additives from being used in meals offered or made available by public schools.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Altschiller

Rep. Spier

Rep. Burroughs

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Perkins-Kwoka, Senator Prentiss, Melanie Kasparian, Chesley Marvin

**Who opposes the bill:** Katie McLaughlin, New Hampshire School Board Association

**Who is neutral on the bill:** No one.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Suzanne Prentiss**

- Senator Prentiss introduced and testified in support of SB 577-FN on behalf of Senator Perkins-Kwoka.
- Sen. Prentiss said that this bill would ban certain color additives in meals for public school students.
- Sen. Prentiss said that the dyes are unnecessary and pose a risk to our children's physical and behavioral health.
- Sen. Prentiss pointed out that many states have already passed or are currently enacting similar laws. These states include California, Connecticut, Florida,

Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia. She also mentioned that many of these dyes are prohibited in the European Union.

- She stated the additives addressed in this bill are known to cause hyperactivity, inflammation, and cancer.
- She stated that this bill is a sensible and bipartisan solution to the problem.
- Senator Ward asked whether the bottles used to change the color of frosting would be included in the ban. Senator Prentiss said she believes they are, but substitutes are available.
- Senator Sullivan questioned why colors are banned but preservatives are not. Senator Prentiss responded that she would ask Senator Perkins-Kwoka.

### **Chesley Marvin**

- Ms. Marvin testified in support of SB 577-FN.
- She expressed concern with food dyes, UPF, and preservatives, but is satisfied with this first step.
- She said she uses beet juice to color her frosting.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.