

Senate Education Finance Committee

Karen Davis 271-7875

SB 583-FN, directing the department of education to create an education funding transparency data and reporting system.

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Time Opened: 12:00 pm

Time Closed: 12:10 pm

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Murphy, Innis, Ward, Rosenwald and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Carson

Bill Analysis: This bill directs the department of education to create an education funding transparency data and reporting system and makes an appropriation therefor.

Sponsors:

Sen. Lang

Sen. Long

Sen. McGough

Sen. Watters

Sen. Avar

Sen. Innis

Sen. McConkey

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Carson

Sen. Rosenwald

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Moffett

Who supports the bill: Sen. Howard Pearl, Sen. Cindy Rosenwald, Sen. David Rochefort, Sen. Mark McConkey, Sen. Tim McGough, Sen. Daniel Innis, Melanie Kasparian, Sharon Iagulli, Barbara Pugh, Jennifer McCarthy, Kim Frye, Kathleen Malsbenden

Who opposes the bill: Glenn Nielsen, Curtis Howland, Priscilla Dube, Timothy Finney, Bridget Detollenacre, Jesse Medeiros, Daniel Richardson, Aubrey Freedman

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Sen. Tim Lang – Prime Sponsor

- This is a bipartisan, bicameral-sponsored bill, which directs the Department of Education (DOE) to create a modern statewide education funding transparency and reporting system.
- There has been a robust discussion today about education funding. This bill is about creating some transparency, because having easier access to data is extremely important.

- Last term (and even this term), Sen. Lang was the architect of the education funding formula, and he was shocked to discover that creating the formula involved himself, Mark Manganiello from DOE and the Legislative Budget Assistant (LBA) office. They traded spreadsheets with each other.
 - We need to get to the 21st century and have models which are reliable sources of real time data. This will enable us to make better decisions. It would also enable citizens to look at data on a multi-year basis.
 - DOE's website, which Sen. Lang uses to access reports, is difficult to navigate to find the information he needs. He wants DOE to have a more modern website.
 - This bill has a fiscal note, so it will be referred to Senate Finance.
 - The appropriation is \$900,00 in the first year and \$500,000 per year after that.
-
- **Q: Sen. Rosenwald** – Does the DOE have the staff for this project? Or will there need to be an additional fiscal note to create new positions?
 - **A: Sen. Lang** – There are staff at DOE that are currently managing the website, so they will manage it in a different way, if this bill passes.
 - **Q: Sen. Altschiller** – In reading the bill, where does the application of transparency apply to the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program?
 - **A: Sen. Lang** – EFA spending flows through the DOE, so there would be transparency in how they report that data.
 - **Q: Sen. Altschiller** – DOE has previously asserted that a third-party contract is out of their control. Are you seeking to override that assertion?
 - **A: Sen. Lang** – It's not an assertion about third-party contracts. It's a fact of law. Based on the way the current contract is written, it is not state data.
 - **Q: Sen. Rosenwald** – Is your recollection different from mine? The DOE and the Attorney General did not say that they can't get the data. They said that the legislature can't compel an executive branch agency to go ask the vendor for it.
 - **A: Sen. Lang** recalls there was a line in the contract that said the data was not owned by the State of New Hampshire. It is owned by the third-party vendor.
 - **Q: Sen. Altschiller** – What taxes do you want to raise to cover the appropriations in this bill?
 - **A: Sen. Lang** – When the budget was being created last year, we said that the first six months were going to be rough. However, business taxes are \$1.8 million above projections. Sen. Lang fully expects revenues will be great by the end of this year.