

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

SB 487, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member.

Hearing Date: February 3, 2026

Time Opened: 10:58 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:06 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Innis, Murphy, McGough, Fenton and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Ricciardi

Bill Analysis: This bill allows credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member.

Sponsors:

Sen. Innis

Sen. McGough

Sen. Murphy

Rep. Hunt

Rep. Potucek

Rep. Thibault

Rep. Burroughs

Rep. J. Sullivan

Who supports the bill: Senator Daniel Innis, Senator Tim McGough, Jessica Avery (Cooperative Credit Union Association), Scott McKnight (Triangle Credit Union), Curtis Howland, Timothy Finney, Rosina Lis, Pamela Harders

Who opposes the bill: Leigh Hutchinson

Who is neutral on the bill: Emelia Galdieri (NH Banking Department)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Daniel Innis

- This bill was filed at the request of the Cooperative Credit Union Association and New Hampshire credit unions.
- A similar bill, SB 25, passed the Senate last year. When an unrelated amendment was attached to it by the House, it died.
- If passed, New Hampshire would join 16 other states that allow the membership of state-chartered credit unions to vote to allow their board members to be compensated.
- To ensure compliance and good governance, the job of a credit union board member continues to require more work and higher levels of expertise.

- Compensating board members for their time and expertise has proven to attract quality candidates.
- This bill is enabling legislation; it would not force a credit union to compensate their board members.

Jessica Avery, Director of Advocacy, Cooperative Credit Union Association, and Scott McKnight, President, Triangle Credit Union

- Credit union board members are responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance, maintaining governance standards, and upholding fiduciary duties in an ever-changing environment.
- Compensation is an incentive and mechanism to increase accountability for financial responsibility, improve performance, and foster more engagement with governance.
- At Triangle Credit Union, their board meets 11 times per year. When committee meetings are added, there are an additional 37 monthly or quarterly meetings. Mr. McKnight said this can be tough on members who have families or those who need a babysitter.
- This bill would modernize the framework for New Hampshire credit unions, and it would ensure their long-term success and stability.
- Credit unions have an essential role in the lives of over 820,000 residents, and they contribute \$1.9 billion to the state's economy.
- This bill would not mandate compensation for board members; instead, it would empower credit unions to decide for themselves through a democratic member vote, not a board vote.
- Ms. Avery said this approach respected the cooperative structure of credit unions, while also ensuring decisions are made democratically and in the best interest of members.
- Fair compensation allows them to attract and retain talented leaders to help navigate today's increasingly competitive professional and financial landscape.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented:

Emelia Galdieri, Commissioner, New Hampshire Banking Department

- Approximately 20 other states allow credit union members to be compensated.
- Under federal law, federally chartered credit unions can compensate only one board member.
- Commissioner Galdieri said this bill could provide state-chartered credit unions with a slight competitive advantage over federally chartered ones.

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 6, 2026