

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

SB 653, enabling counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets.

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

Time Opened: 9:15 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:18 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Lang, Rochefort, Perkins Kwoka and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill enables counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets.

Sponsors:

Sen. Lang

Who supports the bill: Senator Lang

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: Kate Horgan (NH Association of Counties)

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Lang, Prime Sponsor

- Many of the same people serve in both the legislature and on the county commission. This results in significant budgeting work throughout the budget year because both the state and the counties are working on their budgets simultaneously.
- This bill would allow a county to vote to change its budget year to the off year of the state budget.
- The county commissioners would vote to put it on the ballot, then the county voters would decide on the issue.

Kate Horgan, NH Association of Counties

- No position but offered to answer any questions the committee might have.

Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if the NH Association of Counties has any concerns with this bill.

Ms. Horgan said not as drafted.

jab

Date Hearing Report completed: February 11, 2026