

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**HB 1373**, relative to background check disqualifications for applicants seeking educator credentials.

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2026

**Time Opened:** 10:15 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:21 a.m.

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill extends criminal history record checks for applicants seeking educator credentials by adding additional crimes to the record check.

---

**Sponsors:**

Rep. Litchfield

Rep. Nadeau

Rep. Thibault

Rep. Noble

Rep. Drye

Sen. Gannon

---

**Who supports the bill:** Steve Applebee (New Hampshire Department of Education)

**Who opposes the bill:** Cory Stone, Stephanie Thornton, Jennifer Favreau, Kathleen Malsbenden, Jenny Bourgeois, Heather Gollnick, Lisa Willis, Thomas Stewart, Heather Wilcauskas, Susan Peterson, Cynthia Rodenhauer Stewart, Louise Pajak, Lorraine Drake, Stan Duncan, Victoria Diehl, and Tami Lanzillo Zeimetz.

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

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Rick Ladd, *Grafton- District 5***

- Representative Ladd introduced House Bill 1373 on behalf of Representative Litchfield.

**Steve Applebee, *New Hampshire Department of Education***

- Mr. Applebee explained that House Bill 1373 adds certain offenses that are checked during background screenings for potential educators and provided a list of those specific offenses.

- He established that the offenses to be considered include negligent homicide, second-degree assault, domestic violence, felony robbery, felony forgery, and felony false academic documentation.
- He stated that felony false academic documentation occurs when student assessments and records are falsified.
- Mr. Applebee testified that the legislation does not merely cover charges; they are charges with bail or convictions.

