

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

HB 1574-FN, relative to the extension of free and reduced price breakfast and lunch for students under the age of 22 and making an appropriation therefor.

Hearing Date: March 10, 2026

Time Opened: 9:30 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:38 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 breakfast and lunch aid for all students that are the age of 21 who previously qualified for the National School Lunch Program or National School Breakfast Program at the age of 20. The bill also permits participating schools as eligible to receive reimbursements for school breakfasts and lunches that are provided to qualifying students and makes an appropriation for such purpose.

Sponsors:

Rep. Weinstein
Rep. Sorensen

Rep. Cornell

Rep. Selig

Who supports the bill: 153 People signed in support of HB 1574-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: 2 People signed in opposition to HB 1574-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Toni Weinstein, *Rockingham 10*

- Representative Weinstein introduced and testified in support of House Bill 1574-FN.
- Rep. Weinstein clarified that students with an IEP can stay in high school until age 22. She explained the state made this change to allow students to remain in the transitional program until 22 to comply with IEDA.

- She clarified that federal funding for free and reduced-price meals ends at age 21 for students, leaving a gap for those who need an extra year of schooling.
- She expressed that this legislation ensures all students are treated fairly and equally.
- The bill, as amended, fixed many of the issues that were identified by the department.

Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

- Representative Popovici Muller testified in support of House Bill 1574-FN.
- He stated that this bill was justified because there was a clearly demonstrated need.
- He stated that there was bipartisan support in the House to improve the bill as introduced and backing for the bill as amended.
- He highlighted that the bill was waived from finance because of the minor fiscal impact that is estimated to be \$60,000.

Representative Timothy Horrigan

- Representative Horrigan testified in support of House Bill 1574-FN.
- Rep. Horrigan stated that, despite the minimal fiscal impact, the benefits will be significant for the affected students.
- He stated that this bill is a move in the right direction.

Riona Corr, NH Hunger Solutions

- Ms. Corr testified in support of House Bill 1574-FN and appreciated the bipartisan effort in the House.
- She clarified that those eligible for the free and reduced federal program would be the students this legislation targets.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.