

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**HB 1270**, clarifying the definition of part-time teacher.

**Hearing Date:** March 10, 2026

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

**Time Closed:** 10:25 a.m.

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill clarifies the definition of part-time teacher by requiring a superintendent or school principal approval of part-time teachers' expertise to teach in a subject area. The bill also clarifies the ethical standards which part-time teachers must abide by.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Drye

Rep. Nadeau

Rep. Notter

Rep. Freeman

Rep. Mooney

Rep. Litchfield

Rep. Belcher

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Ward

Sen. Sullivan

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**Who supports the bill:** 6 People signed in support of HB 1270. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide ([trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov](mailto:trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov)).

**Who opposes the bill:** 118 People signed in opposition to HB 1270. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide ([trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov](mailto:trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov)).

**Who is neutral on the bill:** 1 Person signed in neutrality to HB 1270. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide ([trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov](mailto:trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov)).

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Mike Belcher, *Carroll 4***

- Representative Mike Belcher introduced and testified in support of House Bill 1270 on behalf of Representative Drye.
- Rep. Belcher stated that the bill loosened the requirements for a part-time teacher.
- He stated that the bill was passed by voice vote in the House and was bipartisan.

- Senator Altschiller asked what led to the need for the bill. Rep. Belcher responded that loosening the definition allows experts in relevant areas to teach specific classes.
- Senator Altschiller asked if the Department of Education made this request. He responded that it was a request from the department.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:**

**Steve Applebee, *Department of Education***

- Mr. Applebee stated that this bill is a request from the Department and clarifies two specific issues. On line 13, it was unclear who would make determinations regarding qualifications, and this bill explicitly states it is the responsibility of the local district. It also requires part-time teachers to adhere to the code of conduct and ethics, with the penalty of having their criminal history record check clearance revoked.
- He stated the original intent of the underlying policy was to allow districts to use college professors to teach in high schools.
- Senator Altschiller asked Mr. Applebee to clarify the differences between lines 14 and 15 and lines 16 and 17. Mr. Applebee responded that the latter are clearer and more direct. He added that, although part-time teachers are currently expected to follow the code of conduct and ethics, this bill ensures that the code applies to part-time teachers as well, so the department can take action and impose sanctions on those who violate it.
- Senator Altschiller asked whether a criminal history check performed in one district would be valid in another. He clarified that the code of conduct is enforceable, but the code of ethics is not. He confirmed that the criminal history check clearance, issued by the Department, is valid statewide. This would prevent individuals found in violation from trying to work in a different district.
- Senator Altschiller asked if it would be a good idea to clarify that the code of conduct is the enforceable piece and that is also reflected in the rules.
- Senator Altschiller inquired about why the code of conduct and ethics are kept separate. He explained that the code of ethics is aspirational, while the code of conduct is enforceable. He also clarified that a serious violation of the code of ethics could potentially result in a violation of the code of conduct.
- Senator Prentiss asked whether this change makes the current policy actionable. He confirmed that Senator Prentiss's interpretation was correct.