

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

*Jessica Bourque 271-2104*

**HB 590**, relative to cooperative school district school board elections.

**Hearing Date:** March 31, 2026

**Time Opened:** 10:07 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:10 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 requires cooperative school boards to elect representatives from pre-existing districts only from voters within the district.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Andrus

Rep. Cambrils

Rep. Colcombe

Rep. Comtois

Rep. Perez

Rep. See

Rep. Turcotte

Rep. Wood

Sen. Innis

Sen. Pearl

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**Who supports the bill:** 3 people signed in supporting the bill. For a full list of names, please contact committee aide, Jessica Bourque, at [jessica.bourque@gc.nh.gov](mailto:jessica.bourque@gc.nh.gov)

**Who opposes the bill:** 59 people signed in opposed to the bill. For a full list of names, please contact committee aide, Jessica Bourque, at [jessica.bourque@gc.nh.gov](mailto:jessica.bourque@gc.nh.gov)

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Louise Andrus, Merrimack - District 5**

- Has been involved in the Merrimack Valley School District for 14 years. The smaller towns want to elect their own school board members, but it's not possible.
- There is an amendment that she didn't have anything to do with, so she can't speak to that.
- Several years ago, someone from Loudon ran for the school board, but when election day arrived, he lost, and the 20-year incumbent won.
- We need younger people on local boards.

**Senator Lang** asked whether this would change school boards' bylaws and bypass the articles of agreement in cooperative school districts.

**Rep. Andrus** agreed and said that the articles of agreement would need to change.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 2, 2026