

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 1756-FN, allowing organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption.

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026

Time Opened: 10:00 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:06 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Perkins Kwoka

Bill Analysis: This bill allows organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption.

Sponsors:

Rep. Walker

Rep. Larochelle

Rep. J. MacDonald

Rep. Maggiore

Rep. Potenza

Rep. Bolton

Rep. DeRoy

Who supports the bill: Rep. David Walker, Jim Michaud, Lara McIntyre, Cory Stone, Eric Pauer, Kathleen Reardon

Who opposes the bill: Nathaniel Blair

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative David Walker, Strafford 19

- In 2023 and 2024, several charities were unable to submit their tax exemption applications on time, which caused them to lose their exemptions.
- This bill would allow charitable organizations to apply for a tax exemption once every five years instead of annually.
- Assessors must review the properties annually to ensure the organization continues to serve its charitable purpose.
- Applicants will also need to submit additional paperwork annually or every five years, if requested.

Senator Rochefort asked about line 21 and asked if, after “boards of selectmen,” there should be an “or” instead of “and” in that sentence.

Jim Michaud, Hudson Chief Assessor

- In favor of this bill.
- This retains enough guardrails to retain the ability to look over certain charitable organizations each year, but, for example, the 200-year-old churches will not have to do this every year.
- This is viewed as a decrease in labor within assessor departments.