

HB 1374 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3033

12/09

HOUSE BILL **1374**

AN ACT relative to the procedures for withdrawal from a cooperative school district.

SPONSORS: Rep. Mary Murphy, Hills. 27; Rep. Colcombe, Hills. 30; Rep. Ford, Rock. 3; Rep. Peoples, Hills. 14; Rep. D. McGuire, Merr. 14; Rep. Porcelli, Rock. 19; Rep. P. Brown, Rock. 14; Sen. Ward, Dist 8

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the procedure for withdrawal from a cooperative school district to allow a majority of voters in a single withdrawing district to elect to withdraw. The bill also clarifies that a supermajority of voters in the withdrawing district voting in favor of withdrawal shall constitute conclusive evidence of the withdrawal of the district.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to the procedures for withdrawal from a cooperative school district.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Vote on Withdrawal; Withdrawing District Only; Supermajority Requirement Modified.
2 Amend RSA 195:29 to read as follows:

3 195:29 Vote on Withdrawal. If the state board approves the plan for withdrawal, the board shall
4 cause the withdrawal plan to be published once in some newspaper generally circulated within the
5 cooperative school district. Upon receipt of a written notice of the board's approval of the withdrawal
6 agreement, the school board of the cooperative district shall cause the withdrawal plan to be filed
7 with the clerk of the cooperative school district and submitted to the voters of the **withdrawing**
8 district as soon as may reasonably be possible at an annual or special meeting called for the purpose,
9 the voting to be by ballot with the use of the checklist, after reasonable opportunity for debate in
10 open meeting. The article in the warrant for the **withdrawing** district meeting and the question on
11 the ballot to be used at the meeting shall be in substantially the following form:

12 "Shall the school district accept the provisions of RSA 195 (as amended) providing for the withdrawal
13 of the preexisting district of _____ from the _____ cooperative school district in accordance
14 with the provisions of the proposed withdrawal plan filed with the school district clerk?"

15 Yes _____ No _____

16 I. If a majority of voters present and voting in the withdrawing preexisting district vote in
17 the negative, against withdrawal, then the withdrawal process is terminated.

18 II. If a **3/5 supermajority** [~~majority~~] of the voters present and voting in the withdrawing
19 preexisting district shall vote in the affirmative, in favor of withdrawal [~~and a majority of the voters~~
20 ~~present and voting in the entire cooperative district shall vote in the affirmative, in favor of~~
21 ~~withdrawal~~], the clerk of the cooperative school district shall forthwith send to the state board of
22 education a certified copy of the warrant, certificate of posting, evidence of publication, and minutes
23 of the meeting.

24 [~~III. If a 3/5 supermajority of the voters present and voting in the withdrawing preexisting~~
25 ~~district vote in the affirmative, in favor of the withdrawal, the clerk of the cooperative school district~~
26 ~~shall forthwith send to the state board of education a certified copy of the warrant, certificate of~~
27 ~~posting, evidence of publication, and minutes of the meeting unless a 3/5 supermajority of the voters~~
28 ~~present and voting in the entire cooperative district vote in the negative, against withdrawal.]~~

29 [~~IV.~~] **III.** If the state board of education finds that a [~~majority~~] **3/5 supermajority** of the
30 voters present and voting, in the withdrawing preexisting district [~~and the entire cooperative~~
31 ~~district, or by the alternative supermajority vote under paragraph III,~~] have voted in favor of the

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1 withdrawal plan, it shall issue its certificate to that effect and such certificate shall be conclusive
2 evidence of the withdrawal of the preexisting district and the continuation of the cooperative school
3 district as of the date of its issuance, or the dissolution of a 2-district cooperative if the cooperative
4 was formed by 2 preexisting districts. A withdrawal plan shall be prepared and it shall provide for
5 the disposition of property held within the cooperative and a statement of assumption of liabilities.

6 2 Procedure for Review; Withdrawal Plan Submission; Withdrawing District Only. Amend RSA
7 195:25, VI to read as follows:

8 VI. If the state board approves the withdrawal plan, whether submitted by the committee or
9 by minority report, the plan shall be submitted to the voters of the [~~cooperative~~] **withdrawing**
10 school district in accordance with RSA 195:29.

11 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.