

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

SB 217, relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects.

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Time Opened: 9:30 a.m. **Time Closed:** 9:36 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 cities and towns to provide public notice of historical tax rates and proposed building projects.

Sponsors:

Sen. Sullivan
Sen. Watters
Rep. Notter

Sen. Pearl
Rep. Boehm
Rep. Sweeney

Sen. Ward
Rep. Rice

Who supports the bill: Senator Victoria Sullivan

Who opposes the bill: Brodie Deshaies

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Victoria Sullivan, District 20, Prime Sponsor

- This bill does two things:
 - Every town must post the previous 10 years' tax rates on their official town website.
 - Requires towns to post the tax impact of certain proposed projects publicly.
- The taxes involved are county taxes, local education taxes, state education taxes, town taxes, and precinct taxes.
- People want to see the tax impact of large, proposed projects up front.

Senator Long asked about the school building projects in Manchester.

- Senator Sullivan said that the Manchester school building project is part of the impetus of this bill. That project was broken down into phases, which caused a lot of ambiguity regarding the tax impact.

- Senator Sullivan would like to see this information accessible statewide.

Senator Long discussed line 18, which says, “If the following _____ project passes, this will result in an average estimated tax impact of \$X.XX per resident.” and asked if that number would include Federal grants like the Education Adequacy Grant.

- Senator Sullivan said the information that would be posted is what the impact of a project is on the taxpayers.
- There are a lot of misconception that the impacts are because of what is happening at the state level, which is inaccurate if you look at the data.
- This increases transparency and clarity.

Senator Long followed up and asked about current bonding which includes the school district funding through the State which doesn’t affect taxes.

- Senator Sullivan said that it would be listed as having no impact.

Senator Lang asked if it would be appropriate to amend the bill on lines 18 and 19 to “per \$1000” instead of “per resident”.

- Senator Sullivan said she would be very open to that.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 20, 2025