

HB 590 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

11Mar2026... 1066h

2025 SESSION

25-0786

11/08

HOUSE BILL **590**

AN ACT relative to cooperative school district school board elections.

SPONSORS: Rep. Andrus, Merr. 5; Rep. Cambrils, Merr. 4; Rep. Colcombe, Hills. 30; Rep. Comtois, Belk. 7; Rep. Perez, Rock. 16; Rep. See, Merr. 26; Rep. Turcotte, Straf. 4; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17

COMMITTEE: Election Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires cooperative school boards to elect representatives from pre-existing districts only from voters within 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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Five

AN ACT relative to cooperative school district school board elections.

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

1 1 Composition of Cooperative School Boards. RSA 195:19-a is repealed and reenacted to read as
2 follows:

3 195:19-a Composition of Cooperative School Boards.

4 The method of selection and terms of members of cooperative school boards shall be as provided
5 in the bylaws or articles of agreement of the cooperative school district, as the case may be; provided,
6 however, that such bylaws and articles of agreement shall be limited to the following requirements:

7 I. The members of the cooperative school board shall be elected by the voters of their pre-
8 existing district and shall be residents of such pre-existing district. Each pre-existing district shall
9 be entitled to elect at least one board member. Apportionment shall provide flexibility to the
10 cooperative school district in meeting requirements of the one-man one-vote doctrine for a pre-
11 existing district or pre-existing districts to support as nearly as possible the pre-existing board
12 representation based upon population and pursuant to RSA 195.

13 II. The state board of education may approve other methods of selection of cooperative school
14 board members, so long as such other method is compatible with proportional representation
15 according to the one-man one-vote principle.

16 III. The terms of the members of the cooperative school board shall be as provided in the
17 bylaws or articles of agreement provided that in no case shall such terms exceed 3 years.

18 IV. Whenever the bylaws or articles of agreement provide for the election of cooperative
19 school board members pursuant to this chapter, said election shall be with the use of the non-
20 partisan ballot system under RSA 669.

21 V. The number of members and composition of cooperative school boards shall be in
22 accordance with this section by July 1, 2026. Members whose terms expire prior to this date shall be
23 elected pursuant to this section.

24 2 Reapportionment; Cooperative School District. Amend RSA 195:19-b to read as follows:

25 195:19-b Reapportionment. Any cooperative school district organized under any of the
26 provisions of RSA 195 or pursuant to any special act may at any regular or special meeting vote to
27 change the number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of members on the board of
28 the district, provided that in no event shall the board exceed 15 members nor terms exceed 3 years[;
29 and may change the apportionment of the board in relation to the pre-existing school districts].

30 ***Apportionment of members of the cooperative school board shall be reviewed and***

HB 590 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

- Page 2 -

1 *reapportioned, if necessary, based upon the latest federal decennial census and pursuant*
2 *to RSA 195:19-a.*

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