

SB 574 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/12/2026 1011s

2026 SESSION

26-2004
12/09

SENATE BILL **574**

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units.

SPONSORS: Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Abbas, Dist 22; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. McConkey, Dist 3; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Rep. Thibault, Merr. 25

COMMITTEE: Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission within the department of education to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units (SAUs) for the purposes of identifying opportunities for SAU consolidation and restructuring as well as property tax relief.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units.

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

1 1 New Section; School Administrative Unit Study Commission. Amend RSA 194-C by inserting
2 after section 12 the following new section:

3 194-C:13 School Administrative Unit Study Commission.

4 I. There is established a commission to study the efficiency of existing school system
5 structures. The commission shall be administratively attached to the department of education.

6 II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the commission shall consist of the following members:

7 (a) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

8 (b) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
9 house of representatives.

10 (c) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.

11 (d) A superintendent, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators
12 Association.

13 (e) A member of a local school board, appointed by the New Hampshire School Boards
14 Association.

15 (f) A business office administrator, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of
16 School Business Officials.

17 III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
18 attending to the duties of the commission.

19 IV. The commission shall:

20 (a) Review existing demographic and enrollment shifts statewide;

21 (b) Identify the number of school administrative units (SAUs) statewide, the cost per
22 pupil in each SAU, and how SAUs can adjust their resource allocations to help reduce property
23 taxes;

24 (c) Identify states that have consolidated or restructured their school systems;

25 (d) Examine impediments to consolidations and potential school closures; and

26 (e) Solicit testimony from any person or organization with relevant information or
27 expertise.

28 V. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the
29 members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named senate member.

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1 The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section.
2 Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

3 VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
4 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
5 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

6 2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 194-C:13, relative to the school administrative unit study
7 commission, is repealed.

8 3 Effective Date.

9 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect on November 1, 2026.

10 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.