

HB 394 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0793

05/08

HOUSE BILL **394**

AN ACT relative to the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees and the role of cooperative school district board member representatives on such committees.

SPONSORS: Rep. Spilsbury, Sull. 3

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill expands the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees. The bill also changes the school board appointed member on the cooperative school board budget committee to a non-voting ex-officio role.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees and the role of cooperative school district board member representatives on such committees.

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

1 1 Cooperative School Districts; Budget Committee. Amend RSA 195:12-a to read as follows:

2 195:12-a Budget Committee.

3 I. A cooperative school district at an annual meeting, under a proper article in the warrant,
4 may vote to establish a budget committee pursuant to RSA 32:14 and may rescind such action in a
5 like manner. The budget committee shall have the same number of members as the cooperative
6 district school board plus one additional member from the school board as provided in this
7 paragraph. The terms of office and manner of election of members shall be determined in the same
8 manner as for the cooperative school board. Whenever it is voted to establish a budget committee,
9 the moderator in the first instance shall appoint the members of the budget committee, except for
10 the additional member appointed from the school board, within 15 days of the vote establishing the
11 committee. The members appointed by the moderator shall serve until the next annual meeting
12 when the meeting shall elect their successors. No member of the cooperative school board shall be
13 appointed or elected to the budget committee except that the chairperson of the cooperative school
14 board shall appoint a member of the board to serve on the budget committee [~~with all the powers and~~
15 ~~duties of any other member of the committee~~] ***in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.*** After
16 appointment or election the budget committee shall promptly organize and choose a chairperson,
17 vice-chairperson, and secretary. The secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of the budget
18 committee, which shall be public records open to public inspection.

19 II. Such cooperative school budget committee shall have the powers and duties of the
20 municipal budget committee under the provisions of RSA 32 insofar as the budget for the cooperative
21 school district is concerned and insofar as RSA 32 is applicable to the cooperative school budget.
22 ***Additionally, the committee shall review and evaluate any proposed warrant articles or***
23 ***supplemental appropriations involving the expenditure of funds, including withdrawals***
24 ***from capital reserves, not previously authorized. No such expenditure may be the subject of***
25 ***a noticed hearing or meeting of the legislative body until the budget committee has had an***
26 ***opportunity for review and evaluation. No warrant articles shall be printed on the annual***
27 ***town meeting ballot or special meeting ballot without approval by the committee. The***
28 ***budget committee shall vote on each such proposal and the vote shall be recorded and***
29 ***printed with the ballot.***

HB 394 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 III. Such committee shall seasonably provide the cooperative school board with a sufficient
2 number of copies of the budget prepared by it, and the same shall be posted with each copy of the
3 warrant in the manner provided by RSA 195:13.

4 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.