

# Senate Education Committee

*Ryan Meleedy 271-4151*

**HB 68**, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement.

**Hearing Date:** April 15, 2025

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires superintendents to approve student requests for reassignment within the same school district, and requires superintendents to provide written reasons to parents for denials of requests.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Layon

Rep. D. McGuire

Rep. D. Thomas

Rep. J. Aron

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. Thibault

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Ward

Sen. Sullivan

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**Who supports the bill:** 9 People signed in support of House Bill 68. To access the full list, please contact the committee aide ([ryan.meleedy@gc.nh.gov](mailto:ryan.meleedy@gc.nh.gov)).

**Who opposes the bill:** 144 People signed in opposition to House Bill 68. To access the full list, please contact the committee aide ([ryan.meleedy@gc.nh.gov](mailto:ryan.meleedy@gc.nh.gov)).

**Who is neutral on the bill:** No one signed in neutrality to this bill.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Erica Layon**

- Representative Layon introduced her prime-sponsored bill, House Bill 68.
- She provided background regarding the bill's origin, explaining that there have been multiple families in her district who have tried multiple different avenues of getting their children into different schools.
- She explained that many of these families eventually dropped their children's applications for new schools because of the substantial length of time it took for applications to be processed.
- Representative Layon added that this was only an in-district bill and recommended that the committee re-refer the bill to let other similar bills run

their course. She explained that this might not be necessary legislation if other related bills are passed.

### **Summary of testimony presented in opposition:**

#### **Representative Peggy Balboni**

- Representative Balboni testified in opposition to House Bill 68.
- She speculated that the bill could cause issues for the budgeting process for school boards throughout New Hampshire.
- She explained that if a special needs student switches schools frequently, or in the midst of a school year, it would be hard for school boards to budget for the appropriate aide staff that a student might require.