

# Senate Education Committee

*Ryan Meleedy 271-4151*

**HB 90-FN**, relative to the definition of part-time teachers.

**Hearing Date:** April 10, 2025

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill defines "part-time teacher."

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Ladd

Rep. McDonnell

Rep. Noble

Rep. Peternel

Rep. Terry

Sen. Ward

Sen. Lang

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**Who supports the bill:** 7 People signed in support of House Bill 90-FN. 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:** 320 people signed in opposition to House Bill 90-FN. 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:** 1 Person signed in neutrality to House Bill 90-FN. To access the full list, please contact the committee aide ([ryan.meleedy@gc.nh.gov](mailto:ryan.meleedy@gc.nh.gov)).

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Ladd**

- Representative Ladd explained that he introduced House Bill 90 for many reasons. First, the state's concurrent and dual enrollment program is meant to expose 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to our community college system in hopes that they will continue their education in the state system after graduation. Also, the community college system has indicated they would be open to having their staff teach the course at the high school. However, these individuals do not have teacher certification, so they are prohibited from teaching in high school, even though they are permitted to teach in the state colleges.
- Representative Ladd established that he brought concurrent and dual enrollment forward in 2017. It ensures that the courses offered maintain standards set forth by the National Alliance for Concurrent and Dual Enrollment Partnerships so that the credits the student earns are transferable anywhere in the United States.

- Representative Ladd established that this bill authorizes the teacher to teach no more than twenty hours per week in the high school. The teacher must have a criminal background check and be an employee of the community college or university system of New Hampshire.
- The bill, as amended, requires the teacher to have professional experience or expertise in a specific subject area to grant them the ability to teach courses beyond those offered by the dual and concurrent enrollment program.
- Representative Ladd stated that the bill, as amended by the House Education Committee, has taken the bill in the wrong direction and would like it to be modified to reflect its original intent. He suggested language to replace item “d” with an amendment that would authorize individuals to teach in high school with the same standards as if the class were taught on the community college campus. The proposed amendment specifies that it must be offered as a dual enrollment course, not just any course.
- Representative Ladd established that the authorized teachers must abide by the principles of the Code of Conduct even though they are not obligated to the consequences of the Code of Conduct because they are not certified teachers.
- Representative Ladd stated that a teacher from the community college system has come down to teach in Franklin public schools, but the problem is that the teacher is not certified to teach there.
- Senator Altschiller asked if there is a specific course, or series of courses, that is inspiring the departure from certified teachers.
- Representative Ladd responded that it is the subject matter, and the aim is not to circumvent certification. This bill is attempting to aid schools that do not have the staff in place or are encountering scheduling difficulties to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to receive a dual and concurrent education.
- Senator Altschiller stated that she understood the intent is to find non-certified teachers who teach at the college level to be a resource to understaffed high schools that do not have staff who can teach dual enrollment courses. She said that the bill is missing the requirement for school districts to pursue every possible measure to fill these spots with certified teachers to ensure that school districts are not replacing certified teachers with professors.
- Representative Ladd testified that he does not believe it would open the door to the scenario that Senator Altschiller described, and didn’t believe school districts would abuse the policy. Instead, it empowers school districts like Franklin, which do not have the staffing required for their students to participate. He stated this bill does not certify professors, but rather authorizes them, and requires them to complete the same requirements and uphold the same academic standards as certified school teachers.

- Senator Prentiss appreciated the limited hours the authorized teacher could teach. She expressed that she thought the intent of the bill was to provide for smaller districts where community members may have expertise in the different subject areas that were out of reach for smaller districts to recruit. She referenced line fifteen and asked what the enforcement mechanism is for authorized teachers who violate the code of conduct.
- Representative Ladd stated that this would be managed through the Department of Education, which is granted the authority under this bill to make the rules relative to the implementation of this legislation.
- Senator Altschiller asked Representative Ladd to summarize the debate that occurred in the House committee regarding the notion that noncertified teachers would be filling public high schools. Representative Ladd explained that he is not the chair of the committee and, therefore, cannot speak to the committee's actions or thoughts.

### **Representative Glenn Cordelli**

- Representative Cordelli testified in support of House Bill 90.
- Representative Cordelli established that similar bills from last year were passed and sent to a committees of conference, but the committees of conference were not able to come to an agreement. He stated this bill is an attempt to blend the intents from the House and Senate last year, and it adds that the faculty could teach a course that is not a part of the dual enrollment program, but in a subject area related to their expertise, in an attempt to address the teacher shortage.

### **Patrick Cate – Lakes Region Community College**

- Mr. Cate testified in support of the bill with Representative Ladd's amendment.
- Mr. Cate expressed that dual and concurrent enrollment courses are offered in three different ways. The first way, formerly known as running college, is early college, where a high school teacher teaches a course while collaborating with a faculty mentor from the community college to meet the rigor and learning objectives of the college course. The high school will control accrediting the course for high school credit, and the college will control accreditation at the collegiate level. The second is online, which is a partnership with VLAX. The third way is when high school students travel to the community college and take a community college class.
- He said that his institution worked with Franklin and expressed that the two institutions collaborated before the staffing shortage was identified. The community college provided, on campus, the math and science classes that Franklin was having difficulty providing to their students. The students who took these classes were bussed to and from the college and received dual credit. The one staff

member sent to the school was an expert in a technical area, and they were sent there because the existing district staff member did not fulfill the NECHE requirements. Therefore, the community college staff taught the class Machine Math with the high school staff member present in the room in the hopes that they would be on their way to being equipped to teach the class independently in the future.

- Mr. Cate established that the dual enrollment program helps reduce the cost of higher education for New Hampshire high school students and shows them that higher education is attainable for them.
- He established that it is current practice to have background checks completed and agreements struck between the two institutions.
- Senator Abbas asked who pays for a high school student to go to his college to take a course. Mr. Cate replied that most of the time, the student either pays out of pocket or accesses the Governor's Grant. Aid from the school district will typically come in the form of a book for the course.
- Senator Altschiller clarified the three ways students can access the dual enrollment program. She asked if the communication with the Franklin principal began because the principal could not fill the three teaching positions. Mr. Cate responded that communication began before the challenge was established. After the initial conversations, it was later identified that the district could not staff a chemistry course, so the community college hosted the course in the evenings.
- Senator Altschiller asked if it would make sense to include language establishing that this program is only to be used when a school district cannot fill the position with a certified teacher. Mr. Cate stated he could not opine on the sufficiency of a high school hiring process because he does not have direct experience with attempting to staff a high school. He also established that it would not be in the best interest of community colleges to pay out of their budget to help solve a local school district's challenge.

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

#### **Debrah Howes - American Federation of Teachers, New Hampshire**

- Ms. Howes testified in opposition to House Bill 90 mainly because of the language the bill's sponsor had asked be removed. Ms. Howes stated that professors should not be allowed to teach any course; instead, they should be limited to dual and concurrent enrollment courses.
- Ms. Howes established that the part-time authorized teachers will not have learned classroom management skills, including motivating students and handling teenage behaviors. She also expressed concern about the professor's ability to support

- English language learners and special education students because all students have the right to take any course for which they have fulfilled the prerequisites.
- Ms. Howes reiterated that if the committee followed the sponsor's amendment recommendation, many of her concerns would be satisfied.
  - Ms. Howes expressed that school districts should be required to draft memorandums addressing specifically how the needs of English language learning and special education students will be met.
  - Senator Altschiller asked if there was a concern that it is not explicitly stated in bill, that high schools need to pursue every avenue to fill the role prior to pulling down a staff member from the community college. She stated this legislation fills a need that may not be widespread. She was concerned that this legislation was an attempt to circumvent the teacher certification process to balance a budget. Ms. Howes responded that, yes, she would approve of having an amendment to require a certification of need, and that the school district has tried to fill the positions. She expressed that she has heard of concerns from smaller districts that they have had difficulty retaining certified teachers in math and science at the high school level because New Hampshire schools are not supported at the state level.
  - Senator Ward asked which section Ms. Howes agreed with the sponsor in striking. Ms. Howes replied that there is agreement with part of section One, part D, limiting the courses eligible to be taught to the courses offered by the dual and concurrent enrollment program.

### **Brian Hawkins - National Educators Association NH**

- Mr. Hawkins testified in opposition to HB 90.
- Mr. Hawkins stated that the primary debate in the House hearing on this bill was about determining its goal: whether or not the bill aims to address the specific need for dual and concurrent enrollment, or if it is about opening the program up much more broadly.
- Mr. Hawkins expressed concern that Part D is broad and that narrowing it would better serve students. He also interpreted Part D to apply to teaching positions in elementary school.
- Mr. Hawkins said he does not believe this is a solution to the broader K-12 educator workforce challenge. He said the staffing shortage can be attributed to teacher salaries and providing educators with adequate professional development.
- Senator Abbas asked if the local school is required to agree to the courses that a professor can teach at their school. Mr. Hawkins explained the several pathways for teachers to be hired and expressed that this language is too broad.
- Senator Altschiller asked if his objection could be traced to line 11 and if this is the section of the bill that does not limit the courses to high school courses. Mr. Hawkins confirmed that line 11 is where his concern lies.

## **Neutral Information Presented:**

### **Nancy Biederman**

- Ms. Biederman expressed that there needs to be additional guardrails in relation to enforcing the code of conduct and ethics for the authorized educators. She is concerned with the perceived lack of consequences for violating the code of conduct.
- Ms. Biederman recalled a situation in which her daughter's Algebra 2 teacher was not certified, and he talked about inappropriate content in class. She expressed that if the teacher had gone through an education training program, it would have been clear to the teacher that his actions were unacceptable.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 23, 2025