

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

SB 489, requiring the address column to be the first column on the voter checklist.

Hearing Date: January 20, 2026

Time Opened: 10:47 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:57 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Lang, Rochefort, Perkins Kwoka and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires the address column to be the first column on the voter checklist.

Sponsors:

Sen. Avard

Rep. Sirois

Rep. Barbour

Who supports the bill: Al Fulchino, Daniel Richardson, Timothy Finney

Who opposes the bill: Daniel Healey (Nashua City Clerk), Brodie Deshaies (NH Municipal Association), Erika MacDonald, Cindy Kudlik, Marlise Bryant

Who is neutral on the bill: David Scanlan (NH Secretary of State), Brendan O'Donnell (Deputy NH Secretary of State),

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Avard, Prime Sponsor, District 12

- Voting integrity is very important to many people, and that is the idea behind this bill.
- Senator Avard said he read an article in which people examined voters' addresses in various locations in Georgia and found that one address had 1,000 registered voters.

Senator Lang asked how this bill would make a difference and noted that anyone can obtain a checklist from any town and download that information now, sorting it however they want. If those people did notice, for example, 100 people voting at a single location, what would their obligation be?

Senator Avard said it would be a way to red-flag suspicious activity. If someone saw twenty people registered to vote in a location that is a two- to four-person dwelling,

that would raise suspicion. This bill would just be another tool to ensure those votes are legitimate.

David Scanlan, NH Secretary of State

- Anyone can access a town's database checklist, and in the electronic versions, the fields are already sortable.
- His concern with placing the address line as the first item on the checklist is that it would make it harder for ballot clerks to find voters on the rolls and check them in.
- Some legislators want to see how many voters are registered at or voting from a specific address. That information is already accessible.

Brodie Deshais, NH Municipal Association

- Oppose this bill for many of the reasons the SOS mentioned.
- Using alphabetical order is the most efficient method to locate voters. Voters are asked to provide their name at check-in and present an ID; after that, the ballot clerk searches for their name.
- NHMA believes that the current process works and is efficient and effective.
- Anyone can now access the list, search it however they want, and report their findings to the appropriate authorities if they find something.

Al Fulchino, Hollis

- This bill seeks to improve the transparency and integrity of NH's voter registration lists.
- Mr. Fulchino believes this is sensible reform and will help safeguard NH's elections.
- We are now going alphabetically; changing it would give a tool to all towns and cities that can see how many people live at one address.
- We no longer live in a world where small towns exist.
- We are a small state where just a few votes can sway an election.
- It is difficult for people to physically visit a residence to verify how many voters should be registering there.
- This isn't burdensome for election officials, as some who testified before have said.
- Currently, our election systems are address-based; for example, someone may be out of the country or the state, and we need to update our technology.