

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

*Jessica Bourque 271-2104*

**SB 585-FN**, relative to audits for communications districts.

**Hearing Date:** January 27, 2026

**Time Opened:** 10:00 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:02 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 provides an exception to the requirement that communications districts hire an outside accountant to conduct an audit.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. McConkey

Sen. Pearl

Sen. McGough

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Innis

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Carson

Rep. J. MacDonald

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Daniel Innis, Senator Howard Pearl, Rep. Linda Mailhot, Daniel Richardson, Julie Smith, Pierre DuPont

**Who opposes the bill:** Melanie Kasparian

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Tricia Melillo, Senate Majority Caucus Director, introduced the bill on behalf of Senator Mark McConkey.**

- This bill provides an exception to the requirement that communications districts hire an outside accountant to conduct an audit.

**Senator Mark McConkey, Prime Sponsor, District 3**

- This bill allows for an exemption from the outside audit requirement for any year when annual revenues of the communications district do not exceed \$50,000, or when annual revenues are less than \$2,000,000, and the district has no authority to raise money from taxation.
- Under current law, Carroll County Communications District (CCCD) is spending more money on an audit than on any other expenses.
- While the CCCD is considered a municipal entity, the CCCD District Agreement specifically prohibits the CCCD from raising any money through taxes.

- Shown in the 2025 annual report, CCCD's 2026 fiscal year budget is expected to pay \$3,500 to audit \$2,500 of costs.
- Without this bill, the CCCD will spend \$3500 to audit \$2500 in costs.