

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Ben Mickens 271-1403*

**SB 642-FN**, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board.

**Hearing Date:** January 28, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:42 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:47 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gannon, Altschiller, Reardon and Pearl

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator McGough

**Bill Analysis:** This bill repeals the committee for the protection of human subjects and the rulemaking authority for the commissioner of health and human services with respect to such committee.

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This bill was requested by the department of health and human services.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Watters

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Lang

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Sullivan

Sen. McGough

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Suzanne Prentiss, Senator Donovan Fenton, Senator Tim McGough, Jenny O'Higgins (DHHS).

**Who opposes the bill:** Daniel Richardson.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Konrad Wietrzynski.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Tara Reardon**

- I am introducing this bill on behalf of Senator Prentiss.
- This bill is at the request of the department and is to clean up statute regarding the now obsolete state Institutional Review Board.

**Jenny O’Higgins, Behavioral Health Legislative Liaison, DHHS**

- After a federal change requiring only 1 and not multiple IRB’s overseeing research, we have seen a steep decrease in the studies which have come to DHHS. Most are covered by their institutional IRB.
- The specific committee this bill address is duplicative, and all human subjects will still be protected. The state IRB is not needed and costs money.
- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027 should be the amended effective date, that way we give time for researchers to finish their pending work before repeal.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 30, 2026