

Senate Education Finance Committee

Karen Davis 271-7875

HB 564, relative to the adoption of school administrative unit budgets.

Hearing Date: February 12, 2026

Time Opened: 9:50 am

Time Closed: 9:55 am

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Murphy, Innis, Carson, Ward, Rosenwald and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill revises the annual budget adoption procedure for school administrative units and repeals the alternative procedure

Sponsors:

Rep. Vose

Rep. Andrus

Rep. Harvey-Bolia

Rep. Pauer

Rep. Sellers

Rep. Sheehan

Rep. Creighton

Sen. Avard

Sen. Ward

Who supports the bill: Senator Ruth Ward, Eric Pauer, Julie Smith, Brad Louth, Pierre DuPont, Arnold Scott, Daniel Richardson

Who opposes the bill: Karen Burnett-Kurie, Janet Robertson, Linda Burnap, Amy Erickson, Deborah Fexis, Cassandra Curtis, Debora Hatcher, James Chapman, Marilyn Monsein, Stephen Monsein, Donna Tully, Mary Till, Susan Moore, Ruth O'Neal, Beth Edwards, Barret Christina (NH School Boards Association), Rebecca Wilson (NH School Boards Association), Debrah Howes (American Federation of Teachers - NH), James Moore and Lois Cote

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Michael Vose, Epping, NH – Prime Sponsor

- Rep. Vose stated that his bill would require School Administrative Unit (SAUs) to separate out their budgetary needs for a school year and put them in a separate warrant article.
- Voters can then vote on administrative costs versus educational costs. The educational costs would be a separate warrant article.

- This way voters would have a clear understanding of the difference between the two categories.
- Rep. Vose stated that his bill is “simple in concept” but is long in execution, because of the numerous provisions that are needed to enact this change in law.
- An SAU that has multiple districts will have a more complicated path, but a methodology is included in the bill to make that happen.
- An SAU that has only one school district, they may not be required to adopt this approach.

Q: Senator Altschiller – She attended a recent school meeting in her district and heard criticism that the Legislature keeps sending more reporting requirements, especially for public schools. The district must assign staff to do the work of meeting these requirements and that costs money. Should there be a cap on how many regulations can be sent by the Legislature to school districts?

A: Rep. Vose said he has heard complaints that his constituents can’t find out what is being spent on administration because the line items are blended in the school district budget. His constituents want to know what these administrative costs are and how much it costs to educate their children. His bill is about transparency in budgeting to let voters to decide how to vote. Putting administrative costs in a separate warrant article would make things easier.