

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Kevin Condict 271-7875

SB 193-FN, requiring the head of each state agency to submit a strategic plan for program activities.

Hearing Date: February 12, 2025

Time Opened: 9:02 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:10 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators McGough and Reardon

Bill Analysis: This bill creates the state commission on program efficiency. This bill also requires the head of each state agency to submit a strategic plan for program activities to such commission and enables the commission to report to the finance committee of the house of representatives budget recommendations based on such plans.

Sponsors:

Sen. Sullivan

Sen. Lang

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Pearl

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Rep. Hill

Who supports the bill: Sen. Victoria Sullivan (SD 18), Gordon Springate, Sen. Howard Pearl (SD 17), Sen. Keith Murphy (SD 16), and Daniel Richardson.

Who opposes the bill: Cindy Kudlik and Janet Lucas.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Victoria Sullivan, Senate District 18

- Sen. Sullivan introduced Senate Bill 193-FN.
- Sen. Sullivan said that SB 193-FN is an oversight bill. She said that rather than being at the agency level, like the Governor's Commission on Government Efficiency (COGE), this would be program-based oversight.
- Sen. Sullivan explained that having worked on the state level, she saw that there were many projects that could have been worked on more efficiently and budgets that could have been tightened up.

- Sen. Sullivan said that in Manchester, the question of “what do federal funds actually cost us to use” has been brought up often. She asked, if there is a federal program that gives out money, what does it actually cost the city in the long run.
- Sen. Sullivan said that there are calls across the country for transparency, and that this bill would allow a committee to look at specific projects and report on how the money is being spent.
- Sen. Sullivan said this bill would also allow greater transparency for taxpayers, so that it can be determined whether the programs New Hampshire is involved in are beneficial to the state or if they are costing the state in the long run.
- Sen. Altschiller asked if there were specific programs that alarmed Sen. Sullivan, and if they inspired her to file this bill.
 - o Sen. Sullivan explained that the Manchester School Board has long been asking what accepting federal dollars is costing them, and if the city is even benefiting from federal dollars. She said that when she worked on the state level through a grant, she noticed a lot of wasteful spending, specifically at the end of the grant when leftover money had to be spent or else a fine would be issued.
- Sen. Sullivan said that taxpayers deserve to know what goes on inside the government and what their tax dollars are being spent on.
- Sen. Altschiller said that she is concerned by the broad scope of the bill. She asked, for example, how Sen. Sullivan would anticipate the Department of Justice to evaluate the programs that support survivors of domestic and sexual violence or victims of crime with measurables. She asked how something like that is measured.
 - o Sen. Sullivan said that it would be up to the committee to decide. She said the committee would be able to inspect an ongoing spending project and make determinations based on what they find.
- Sen. Altschiller asked if this bill was designed only to evaluate programs that have applied for and accepted federal funds.
 - o Sen. Sullivan said that it could evaluate any funds, but that her concerns were with federal dollars used by the programs she was involved with.
- Sen. Pearl asked whether this bill would have the same role as COGE.
 - o Sen. Sullivan explained that the COGE is operating at a higher level and looks at agencies, while this bill delves deeper into government programs.
- Sen. Pearl asked if this would be complimentary to COGE.
 - o Sen. Sullivan said that it would be.