

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

HB 1514, requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school compliance and financial reports to school and school board authorities.

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026

Time Opened: 10:35 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:44 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Prentiss and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Abbas

Bill Analysis: This bill requires the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school compliance and financial reports to school and school board authorities.

Sponsors:

Rep. Damon

Rep. Cloutier

Rep. Balboni

Rep. Rollins

Rep. Bricchi

Rep. Spilsbury

Rep. Peeples

Who supports the bill: Representative Hope Damon, Representative Timothy Horrigan, Cory Stone, Jeremiah Githu, Storme Guaraldi, Debra Rodd, Daniel Rodd, Rozlyn Levine, David Levine, Meredith Piotrow, Linda Burnap, Joline Manseau, Francesca Heap, Barbara Zaenglein, Eric Zaenglein, Mary Till, Abigail Mather, Amy Erickson, Debora Hatcher, Eric Pauer, Jillian Godbout, Deborah Fexis, Cassandra Curtis, Ruth O'Neal, and Lois Cote.

Who opposes the bill: James Chapman, Barbara Bryce, and Karen Burnett-Kurie.

Who is neutral on the bill: Elizabeth Brown (NH Department of Education), Jennifer Ramsey & Bruce Kneuer (NH Department of Revenue).

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Hope Damon

- Representative Damon introduced and testified in support of HB 1514.
- Representative Damon explained that HB 1514 is a bipartisan bill that was filed at the request of members on the Claremont School Board.

- Representative Damon stated that the purpose of this bill is to ensure the proper distribution of all compliance and financial reports to the relevant officials and school board members.
- She added that the same procedure would be required of the Department of Revenue Administration, meaning all financial reports would be sent to every elected school board official, school superintendent, and school business administrator.
- Representative Damon clarified that currently, the DOE only receives audits from districts but does not report back to districts.
- Representative Damon stated that all school districts should have a general understanding of how the Department of Education (DOE) perceives their district's status.
- Representative Damon explained that three areas in the bill could benefit from an amendment. She clarified that only members of school boards relevant to the district need to be informed that using postal services is an effective and sufficient way to distribute these reports, and that the Department of Education must maintain the database tracking where reports are sent.
- Senator Altschiller asked for clarification on the areas that need amendment. Representative Damon reiterated that the amendment would ensure relevant members are informed, maintain the recipient list, and facilitate electronic distribution.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented:

Elizabeth Brown, Department of Education

- Ms. Brown referenced line four and stated that there is currently no definition of compliance and financial report, and if this bill moves forward, the terms should be defined in law. She provided the committee with recommended definitions.
- Ms. Brown stated that it must be clear when and where a report needs to be sent.

Jennifer Ramsey, Department of Revenue Administration

- Ms. Ramsey agreed that having a clear definition of compliance and financial reports would be helpful.
- Ms. Ramsey added that the department does not currently generate compliance reports for school districts and therefore recommends an additional change. She suggested editing where it says, "send all school compliance reports" to "create and send a school district audit compliance report".

TC

Date Hearing Report completed: March 19, 2026