

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 1468, relative to municipal flood resilience planning and the use of planning grants.

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026

Time Opened: 9:30 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:46 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 authorizes municipalities to include flood resilience planning in their master plans and expands eligibility for state housing planning grants to support flood hazard mitigation and related land use updates.

Sponsors:

Rep. Vail
Rep. J. Aron
Sen. Ward

Rep. Damon
Rep. Berch

Rep. Cloutier
Rep. W. Thomas

Who supports the bill: Senator Ruth Ward, Rep. Vail, Rep. Pauer, Rep. Thomas, Cory Stone, Stephanie Osborne, Richard Oaborne, Ellen Farnum, Janet Lucas, Donna M Veilleux, Frances Strayer, Sharon Racusin, Jane Hoffman, Deborah Fexis, William Farnum, Louise Taylor, Michele Tremblay, Barbara Callaway, Nancy Kelley, Barbara Scott Nelson, Dana Miller, Margaret Jernstedt, Ann Podlipny, Nancy Donahue, Shirley Montgomery, Abby Evankow, Carola Lea, Mary Raven, Martha McDaniel, Nancy Miles

Who opposes the bill: Sheila Donahue, Marjorie Goudreault

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Suzanne Vail, Prime Sponsor, Hillsborough-District 6

- This bill allows municipalities to add flooding prevention strategies to their master plans.
- This bill will amend RSA 674:2 and enable the state to offer appropriate options for damage prevention.

- Testimony from Acworth highlights how dangerous and expensive floods are for towns.
- The bill intends to build options for floods and implement plans to master plans and core guiding documents to increase flood resilience.
- Towns have emergency plans, but they lack safeguards for future planning.
- The bill, as it is written, has a flaw because it unintentionally alters statutory duties. Rep. Vail proposed an amendment that strikes changes and adds an optional authority section in their own home as a way to address the flaw.
- There are no costs associated with this bill because it is optional and only relates to planning.
- Implementing this bill and planning will reduce future damage costs.

Representative Diane Pauer, Chair of House Municipal and County Government

- The House Municipal and County Government committee believed the bill, as introduced, was acceptable.
- After reading the amendment, Rep. Pauer says there is nothing in the amendment that raises any concern for her.