

Senate Education Finance Committee

Joshua Schauer 271-3077

SB 293-FN, relative to using enrollment in Medicaid as a measure of eligibility for school lunches.

Hearing Date: February 12, 2025

Time Opened: 3:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 3:07 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Expands the meaning of pupil as it pertains to school funding.

II. Increases funding for schools who have pupils enrolled in Medicaid.

Sponsors:

Sen. Long

Rep. Telerski

Who supports the bill: 181 people signed in support. Please contact aide for a full list; Joshua.schauer@gc.nh.gov

Who opposes the bill: 71 people signed in support. Please contact aide for a full list; Joshua.schauer@gc.nh.gov

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Long: Senate District 20

- Senator Long introduced SB293 and said that the legislation will ensure taxpayers' money is used efficiently. This is a more precise measure to properly allocate funds for school districts. He said that currently, the state's funding does not meet the needs of children in poverty. The State is not providing enough funding to schools to feed and educate their students.

Laura Milliken, NH Hunger Solutions

- Ms. Milliken said the New Hampshire Hunger Solutions works with schools and eligible children to increase school participation in breakfast given to students.

- She stated that the community eligibility program allows high poverty schools to offer all students food and then the federal government will reimburse the school at a higher rate based on their qualifying students. This ensures students have an equal opportunity for success.
- She said that communities with low property rates and low funds lack the funding for these simple needs of children in poverty and affect learning outcomes.
- She said that by a sing Medicaid based measure ensures tax payer dollars used efficiently and minimizes funds being lost.