

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 1113, enabling towns to establish a 3-year term for town moderators.

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026

Time Opened: 10:31 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:35 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Lang, Perkins Kwoka and Long

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Rochefort

Bill Analysis: This bill enables towns to establish a 3-year term for town moderators.

Sponsors:
Rep. D. Murphy

Who supports the bill: Rep. Denis Murphy, Brodie Deshaies, Eric Pauer

Who opposes the bill: Cory Stone

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Denis Murphy, Cheshire - District 11, Prime Sponsor

- This is an enabling bill that extends the term for town moderator to up to 3 years.
- The town moderator is the only position without a term of up to 3 years.
- Currently, town moderators can only perform their full duties every other year because their name is on the ballot, so they cannot touch the ballot.
- It's important to stagger 3-year term positions so that a town clerk and a moderator are not on the ballot simultaneously. This helps ensure that institutional knowledge is maintained, regardless of whether one of them is running that year.

Brodie Deshaies, NH Municipal Association

- Supports this bill.
- The benefit of a 3-year term is maintaining institutional knowledge when staggered with town clerk elections.
- School districts are already permitted to do this.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 25, 2026