

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

HB 1370, repealing the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026

Time Opened: 10:51 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:00 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill repeals the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

Sponsors:

Rep. Litchfield

Rep. Morse

Rep. Pauer

Rep. Thibault

Rep. L. Miner

Rep. Moffett

Rep. Terry

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Ward

Who supports the bill: Senator Ruth Ward (Senate District 8), Representative Margaret Deye (Sullivan 7), Representative Melissa Litchfield (Rockingham 32), Cory Stone, and Daniel Richardson

Who opposes the bill: Representative Michael Moffett (Merrimack 4), Janet Lucas, Stephanie Osborne, Richard Osborne, Joyce Weston, William Copeland Jr, Priscilla Dube, Judith Saum, Sally Widerstrom, Valerie Scarborough, Julie Retelle, Brian Flynn, Suzanna Derynioski, Nathaniel Blair, Diane Anderson

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Melissa Litchfield (Rockingham 32)

- Representative Litchfield introduced House Bill 1370.
- Rep. Litchfield asked that the Committee recommend to the Senate that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate for House Bill 1370 as amended or to Ought to Pass on the bill as introduced.

- Representative Litchfield explained that in 2021, a bill was passed to require a folder to be kept at the Department of Education documenting the best practices for supporting gifted and talented students.
- She stated that the bill, as introduced, was a simple change to effective dates and reporting requirements to encourage participation from all districts.
- Rep. Litchfield also stated that the bill as introduced removed the requirement for districts to report to the New Hampshire Department of Education that no programs exist within their schools.
- Representative Litchfield stated that the bill, as amended, repealed the entire RSA.

Representative Michael Moffett (Merrimack 4)

- Representative Moffett stated that this RSA referenced in the bill was enacted into law approximately 8 years ago.
- Representative Moffett explained that around that time, a research study showed New Hampshire ranked 50th in the nation for identifying and supporting gifted and talented students. He clarified that the RSA enacted into law was the result of an interim study committee.
- He added that many districts did not comply. He stated that the schools that complied with and shared their practices with the department helped establish best practices.
- Rep. Moffet stated that the only reference to gifted and talented students in the RSA is proposed to be repealed in the amended bill.
- He explained that the department does not plan to analyze the data received from districts and added that there is a belief that additional staff will be needed.

David Harrison, New Hampshire Department of Education

- Mr. Harrison expressed the department's support for House Bill 1370 as amended.
- He stated that the Department lacks the capacity to implement the RSA as written and therefore supports its repeal.