

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 1667-FN, establishing the first-in-the-nation security task force to coordinate planning for presidential campaign events.

Hearing Date: March 31, 2026

Time Opened: 9:41 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:49 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 establishes the first-in-the-nation security task force to coordinate security planning for campaign events related to the 2028 presidential election.

Sponsors:

Rep. Sweeney

Rep. Simpson

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Rep. Wilhelm

Rep. Berry

Who supports the bill: Wayne Graves Moody

Who opposes the bill: Eddie Edwards, Matt Amatucci, Cory Stone, Patricia Anastasia, Patricia Button

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Matt Wilhelm introduced the bill on behalf of the prime sponsor.

Senator Lang asked why the language is so focused on colleges and universities.

Rep. Wilhelm stated that higher education institutions often host these kinds of events. In the House committee, the focus was on free speech and safety, and they aimed to ensure that the perspectives of both law enforcement and universities were included in the discussions.

Senator Lang said that he doesn't see any people who represent venues that might host an event, but are not a college or a university, on here.

Rep. Wilhelm said that it is a good question, and he said he would be happy to collaborate on amendment language.

Eddie Edwards, Assistant Commissioner, NH Dept. of Safety, and Matt Amatucci, Captain, NH State Police

- Oppose this bill.
- Since the bill passed, there have been discussions with the House. It is now understood that when a candidate visits New Hampshire, some of the information that law enforcement receives is very sensitive and cannot be shared broadly.
- NH law enforcement agencies partner with federal and local agencies through a mutual aid agreement during campaign visits.
- This bill would add layers that would slow down decision making and responses.
- This bill could result in published security plans that give bad actors insight into law enforcement operations, causing issues.
- This bill might reduce flexibility in plans, which is needed because law enforcement often isn't informed about a plan visit until one or two days in advance.
- This does not specify how additional training and administrative support will be funded.
- Ultimate responsibility lies with federal authorities.

Senator Lang stated that page 2, section V, indicates the task force can meet in non-public sessions. However, section IV discusses a reporting requirement and then questions whether all information from non-public sessions would be subject to 91-A.

Captain Amatucci stated that the state police often don't learn about a candidate's arrival until just days before, making it difficult to create a general safety plan for an unknown location. Once they know the location and the candidate's arrival time, they can coordinate with local authorities. There are many factors to consider, and it is almost impossible to do so without knowing when, where, and who will be visiting. He worries that this bill could cause duplicate efforts and delay security planning.