

Senate Education Committee

Ryan Meleedy 271-4151

SB 209-FN, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires schools to have engaged the services of an owner's project manager at the time they apply for school building aid.

Sponsors:

Sen. Abbas

Rep. Doucette

Rep. Janigian

Rep. D. Mannion

Who supports the bill: Senator Abbas, Amy Randall, Dominique Grisson, Kirsten Westrate, Woreen Bogle, Arthoen Wolf.

Who opposes the bill: Alex Koutroubas (Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire), Lindsay Sonnett, Elizabeth Schnackenberg, Jennifer Wilson-Tucker, Jessica Landau, Karen Roberts, Patricia Anastasia, Jessica Kellar.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Daryl Abbas

- Senator Abbas introduced Senate Bill 209.
- Senator Abbas established that customarily, when there is a school building project, an owner's project manager (OPM) is obtained at some point. This bill requires that an owner's project manager is obtained in advance when a school is applying for building aid.
- Senator Abbas expressed that it is critical to have the OPM in place before getting the project off the ground because the OPM is a part of the budgeting process.
- Senator Abbas reflected on Salem's seven different schools and highlighted that the Salem Middle School project finished 16 million dollars less than the estimated cost approved by the Town.
- Senator Abbas established that Senate Bill 209 is a housekeeping bill to ensure state aid money is used responsibly.

- Senator Abbas encouraged his colleagues on the committee to review the letter his constituent provided for additional information.
- Senator Ward inquired about the operational function of an owner's project manager.
- Senator Abbas explained the term is used throughout the RSAs and is another term used for project managers obtained by the school.