

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Kevin Condict 271-7875

SB 200, relative to accepting a portrait of Sylvia Larsen.

Hearing Date: March 19, 2025

Time Opened: 9:39 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:46 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill authorizes the joint legislative historical committee to accept a portrait of Sylvia Larsen.

Sponsors:

Sen. Reardon

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Watters

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Long

Rep. Woods

Rep. Hicks

Rep. Wallner

Rep. Lane

Who supports the bill: Sen. Tara Reardon (SD 15), Hon. Donna Soucy, Sen. Cindy Rosenwald (SD 13), Gary Woods, Sarahlynn Williams, Sen. Donovan Fenton (SD 10), Sen. Debra Altschiller (SD 24), and Jane Doe.

Who opposes the bill: Julie Smith.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Tara Reardon, Senate District 15

- Sen. Reardon introduced Senate Bill 200.
- Sylvia Larsen was a member of the New Hampshire Senate from 1994 to 2014. She represented Senate District 15, which included Concord, Henniker, Hopkinton, and Warner.
- Sen. Reardon explained that Sylvia Larsen was the leader of the Senate Democrats for over a decade and served as Senate President from 2006 to 2010.

- Sen. Reardon said that Sen. Larsen was the prime sponsor of one hundred and seventeen pieces of legislation and the cosponsor of another four hundred and fifty-four bills. She said that forty-five of those prime sponsored bills were signed into law by the Governor.
- Sen. Reardon said that Sen. Larsen's prolific legislative career covered the spectrum of public policy areas. program and projects near and dear to Concord, was the prime sponsor of New Hampshire's college tuition savings program, and implemented a pre-engineering technology curriculum in public high schools. A bill of Sen. Larsen's created the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Another of her bills created New Hampshire's Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Sen. Reardon said that the portrait honors Sen. Larsen's dedication for twenty years of service and forever remind future generations of her extraordinary contributions and dedication.

Hon. Donna Soucy

- Hon. Soucy stated her support for the bill. She said the portrait celebrates Sen. Larsen's illustrious career.
- Hon. Soucy explained that she was Sen. Larsen's chief of staff when Sen. Larsen was the Senate President. She said she was able to see the day-to-day work that really makes a difference in New Hampshire.
- Hon. Soucy explained that Sen. Larsen was the leader of the first state legislative chamber in the country with a female majority in 2009-2010.
- Hon. Soucy said that challenges were when Sen. Larsen shined the most. She said the best way to describe her was "grace under pressure." She kept her cool and was strong and direct. Hon. Soucy called her an exemplary role model.
- Hon. Soucy said it is important that New Hampshire continue the tradition of honoring New Hampshire leaders. She said it is important for the fourth-grade students who visit the State House to see former leaders.
- Hon. Soucy explained that the portrait was done by Ralph Stone Jacobs, a nationally famous painter from New Hampshire.

KC

Date Hearing Report completed: March 21, 2025