

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

*Jessica Bourque 271-2104*

**HB 261**, relative to election audits.

**Hearing Date:** March 25, 2025

**Time Opened:** 10:15 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:19 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 moves the time of election audits to after the completion of recounts.

---

**Sponsors:**

Rep. Berry

Rep. Wherry

Rep. See

Rep. J. Aron

Rep. M. Aron

Rep. Cole

---

**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Ross Berry, Rep. Alvin See, Erin Hennessey

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Ross Berry, Hillsborough - District 44**

- Currently, the law requires ten audits for top-of-the-ballot races that request a recount, and these audits must be completed before the recount. This bill would allow those audits to be performed after the recount.
- What happens is that both parties send their volunteers and legal counsel, and those individuals must sit through the audit before the recount begins, which incurs costs for volunteer time and compensation for the legal counsel.
- Believes this bill has the support of the Secretary of State.

**Representative Alvin See, Merrimack - District 26**

- Audits are the result of HB 1467 (2022).
- The intent of HB 1467 (2022) was to capitalize on the fact that everything was already set up and intended to be a convenience.