

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 269, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist.

Hearing Date: April 1, 2025

Time Opened: 9:37 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:42 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 changes the requirement that there be a Saturday session of the supervisors of the checklist prior to election day, so long as the session occurs as required by statute.

Sponsors:

Rep. Kuttab
Rep. Ankarberg

Rep. Lynn
Sen. Birdsell

Rep. Soti

Who supports the bill: Rep. Katelyn Kuttab, Rep. Kristine Perez, Erin Hennessey, Eileen Mashimo

Who opposes the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Katelyn Kuttab, Prime Sponsor, Rockingham-District 17

- This is a housekeeping bill. Removes the word “Saturday” in RSA 654:28 for consistency throughout the statutes.
- “Saturday” was removed from other voting statutes a few years ago, but this one was overlooked.
- Currently, the law requires supervisors of the checklist to hold a Saturday session before an election.
- A problem arises when a severe snowstorm coincides with this day, as the session still needs to be held to fulfill the statute. If this happens, plow trucks must divert their resources to plow town halls instead of focusing on the roads.
- This provides the checklist supervisors with some flexibility regarding that session.

- The Secretary of State supports this bill.

Eileen Mashimo, Windham Supervisor of the Checklist

- Supports this bill.
- “Saturday” was removed from the statutes, but this instance was missed.
- The requirement to hold these sessions on Saturdays has caused significant inconveniences and safety issues. For example, in 2023, the state was hit by a severe snowstorm, but the Saturday session still needed to be held. In Windham, town plows had to be diverted from the road to the town office parking lot.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 2, 2025