

Senate Education Committee

Declan Donahue 271-3324

HB 571, including Constitution Day in patriotic exercises required of public schools.

Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Time Opened: 2:19 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:31 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires public schools to dedicate one session during the week of Constitution Day to exercises of a patriotic nature.

Sponsors:

Rep. Perez

Rep. Andrus

Rep. Cambrils

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Polozov

Rep. Popovici-Muller

Rep. Thibault

Rep. Dunn

Sen. Carson

Who supports the bill: Rep. Kristine Perez. Eric Pauer and Daniel Richardson signed in online.

Who opposes the bill: Penny Culliton, Danielle Doughty, Stephanie Moore, Janet Lucas, Michelle Smith, Loren Selig, and Jane Smith all signed in online in opposition to the bill.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Rep. Kristine Perez

- This bill would include Constitution Day in Patriotic Exercises in public schools in addition to Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- People don't know when Constitution Day is, and the constitution is not touched on enough in school.
- Constitution Day used to be, "I Am An American Day," and Citizenship Day.
- This would help facilitate knowledge of both the United States and New Hampshire constitution, the honor we have of living under it, and the rights they grant us as citizens.
- Senator Prentiss asked if events celebrating the United States Constitution on Constitution Day could include the state constitution.
- Rep. Perez confirmed this.

- Senator Altschiller asked if the federal Department of Education would have a line item for use distribution of funds for Constitution Day exercises.
- Rep. Perez was unaware of the federal funds for Patriotic Exercises.
- Speakers and volunteers could come in at little to no cost to schools for Constitution Day.
- Senator Altschiller asked if this would be better to encourage all schools to do with federal funding.
- Rep. Perez stated that she would like this day to get more recognition and to push the Constitution through all grades.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 7, 2025