

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 481, relative to moving the state primary date.

Hearing Date:April 29, 2025

Time Opened:10:33 a.m.

Time Closed:10:35 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Rochefort, Perkins Kwoka and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Lang

Bill Analysis:This bill moves the state primary date to June.

Sponsors:

Rep. Schultz

Rep. Berry

Rep. Gregg

Rep. Moffett

Sen. Lang

Who supports the bill: Rep. Ross Berry, Rep. Robert Wherry

Who opposes the bill: Rep. Timothy Horrigan

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Ross Berry, Prime Sponsor, Hillsborough-District 24

- This bill is identical to the state primary bill the Senate passed, except they moved the implementation date to 2028.
- Open to a discussion if that was an appropriate move or not, but it felt prudent to do at the time.
- This bill moves the state primary date to the second Tuesday of June and the filing deadline to March.
- Has been supporting this for 5 years now, and it seems Concord is ready to understand that September is not appropriate.

Senator Gray said the Secretary of State has informed him that the appointment of the inspectors of election would also need to be pushed back. He asked if any of the House committees have considered that, as it will need to be added to this bill.

- It has not been taken up, but it is an oversight and will need to be corrected.

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Date Hearing Report completed: May 1, 2025