

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

*Jessica Bourque 271-2104*

**HB 546-FN**, relative to financial disclosures and the public reporting of those disclosures by the secretary of state.

**Hearing Date:** May 6, 2025

**Time Opened:** 10:21 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:27 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 requires timely reporting of significant contributions received by current legislators and establishes an updated schedule for ongoing financial disclosures.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Ohm

Rep. Andrus

Rep. Almy

Rep. Manohar

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Ohm

**Who opposes the bill:** Rep. Ross Berry, Rep. Connie Lane

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Bill Ohm, Prime Sponsor, Hillsborough-District 10**

- This bill addresses potential changes to the laws governing political committees and their reporting requirements.
- There is a gap between the end of the election cycle in November and its resumption in early June, during which no reports are required.
- The purpose of this bill is to capture campaign funds received while a legislator is voting on bills, because we know that campaigns for the next cycle must begin almost immediately following an election.
- The bill proposes that the disclosure of receipts over \$1,000 be triggered upon receipt. Receipts under \$1,000 would be exempt; those exceeding this amount would require reporting.

- The bill also applies to political committees that receive most campaign contributions. It includes a 48-hour reporting requirement for contributions and expenditures over \$1,000.
- It is essential to disclose any contributions made during the 6th-month session window when voting on bills.
- This bill aims to enhance transparency concerning proper fundraising and the disclosure of incoming funds during the voting process on legislation.

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

- The House Election Law Committee did not receive the bill, so they were unable to hold a public hearing or provide input on it.
- Did not find out about the bill until it was already on the consent calendar.
- This would almost double the reporting requirements.
- Selectively targets state legislators and does not include executive council members or governors.
- If you receive or spend \$1,000, you must report it within a 48-hour window, which does not account for whether you received the money over a holiday weekend or are not registered in the online CFS system.
- Rep. Berry formed a subcommittee last term to examine RSA 664; however, no one showed interest in these requirements.
- Appreciates what Rep. Ohm is trying to do, but the bill seems arbitrary and targeted.
- Urges the committee to ITL.

Senator Gray asked if he believed Deputy Secretary of State Hennessey had informed him that the system would need to be reprogrammed to allow the reports.

- Rep. Berry said he would believe that.