

Senate Education Committee

Ryan Meleedy 271-4151

HB 532, relative to alternative dispute resolution and individualized education plan team meeting facilitation.

Hearing Date: May 6, 2025

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill allows IEP team meeting facilitation to be included as an option to assist parents and school districts in resolving disputes without including such facilitation in the list of alternative dispute resolution options.

Sponsors:

Rep. Ball

Who supports the bill: Representative Glenn Cordelli, Bonnie Dunham, Representative Margaret Drye, Eric Pauer, Dawn McKinney (NH Legal Assistance).

Who opposes the bill: Sarah Lynn Williams, Richard Nelson, Ericka Pyles.

Who is neutral on the bill: Rebecca Fredette (Department of Education), Diana Fenton (Department of Education).

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Glenn Cordelli

- Representative Cordelli explained that the bill serves as a clarification of alternative dispute resolution classifications.
- He explained that the House amended the bill to provide further clarification for IEP mediations and neutral conferences.

Bonnie Dunham

- Ms. Dunham explained that she was in support of the bill because it just rearranges RSA 186 C 23 to separate IEP facilitation from other forms of alternative dispute resolutions, which have certain regulations that are inapplicable to IEP team meetings.

Neutral Information Presented:

Rebecca Fredette – Department of Education

- Ms. Fredette explained that the DOE recommended the language in the bill.
- She explained that it was important to keep IEP facilitation in state law, but also to distinguish the three different categories of alternative dispute resolution.
- She established that the language clearly delineates between neutral conference mediation and IEP facilitation.

Diana Fenton - Department of Education

- Ms. Fenton spoke about Senator Sullivan's proposed amendment to the bill, thanking her for sponsoring it.
- She explained that paragraph A was redundant to language that already exists in the RSA that the bill addresses.
- She explained that the amendment would serve to strike any redundant language from the bill. She added that Ms. Dunham was in support of the amendment's proposed changes.