

Testimony Against HB 1830-FN: “AN ACT requiring firearm safety education in all public schools.”

Rep. Timothy Horrigan (Strafford 10); January 21, 2026

House Education Policy and Administration Committee

Public schools should teach their students about firearms safety, but HB 1830 is not the best way to do it. This bill has been nicknamed “The Eddie Eagle Bill.” The eponymous Eddie Eagle is not the legendary British ski jumper Eddie “The Eagle” Edwards who competed in the 1988 Winter Olympics. This bill is nicknamed after a cartoon character named Eddie Eagle who stars in gun-safety educational materials created by the National Rifle Association. For whatever reason, the bill specifically recommends using those materials.

There is nothing in current law which prevents public schools from teaching about gun safety. HB 1830 is unnecessary. That is reason enough to kill it.

HB 1830 spends a lot of money doing something which isn’t necessary. The department of education will spend at least \$350,000 in fiscal year 2027 to create a standardized curriculum, and over \$100,000 per year thereafter to administer it.

Schools will additionally be forced to spend an unspecified amount of their own money on a program which they are not allowed to opt out of. This is an unfunded mandate. HB 1830 does specify that curricular materials must be provided to schools for free, but those materials are just one of many related costs. It is unclear whether schools are allowed to spend money on alternative materials if the freebies from the state department of education are unsatisfactory.

Families can opt out of the program, but firearms are a sensitive topic, and this program should be offered on an opt-in basis.

The writers of this bill did remember to include charter schools alongside conventional local public schools. (Although, thanks to a drafting error, charter schools are not actually required to send annual participation and compliance reports to the department of education. Only school districts have to send such reports.) This bill does however leaves out other forms of public education, such as public academies, interstate school districts, and private schools subsidized by the EFA voucher program.

HB 1830 is an exact repeat of last year’s Amendment 2025-1756h to SB 54 (2025), complete with the aforementioned drafting error. That amendment was hastily introduced in April 2025 and was soundly rejected by the whole House in early June.

I recommend that this bill be voted “Inexpedient to Legislate.”