

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 17, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Election Law to which was referred
HB 476,**

**AN ACT relative to election officers at additional
polling places. Having considered the same, report the
same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO
PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Election Law
Bill Number:	HB 476
Title:	relative to election officers at additional polling places.
Date:	February 17, 2021
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill removes the requirement that election officials for an additional polling place in a town be domiciled in the district of the additional polling place. It does not change the requirement that election officials be domiciled in the town. This change will make it easier for larger towns with multiple polling locations to find election workers from throughout their towns. This bill passed in the prior session of the House; it was not enacted due to the impact of COVID on the General Court Session. The Election Law Committee unanimously agreed that this legislation will improve the conduct of our elections.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Election Law

HB 476, relative to election officers at additional polling places. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for Election Law. This bill removes the requirement that election officials for an additional polling place in a town be domiciled in the district of the additional polling place. It does not change the requirement that election officials be domiciled in the town. This change will make it easier for larger towns with multiple polling locations to find election workers from throughout their towns. This bill passed in the prior session of the House; it was not enacted due to the impact of COVID on the General Court Session. The Election Law Committee unanimously agreed that this legislation will improve the conduct of our elections. **Vote 20-0.**

Archived: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:18:25 AM
From: [Barbara Griffin](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:24:58 PM
To: [Miriam Simmons](#); [Pam Smarling](#)
Subject: FW: report on HB 476 consent
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal

From: Joe Sweeney <Joe.Sweeney@leg.state.nh.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Barbara Griffin <Barbara.Griffin@leg.state.nh.us>
Subject: report on HB 476

Prudome O'Brien for the committee

This bill removes the requirement that election officials for an additional polling place in a town be domiciled in the district of the additional polling place. It does not change the requirement that election officials be domiciled in the town. This change will make it easier for larger towns with multiple polling locations to find election workers from throughout their towns. This bill passed in the prior session of the House; it was not enacted due to the impact of COVID on the General Court Session. The Election Law Committee unanimously agreed that this legislation will improve the conduct of our elections.

Barbara – ok – was done on Joe's computer

Rep. Joe Sweeney
Rockingham 8 | Town of Salem
Joe.Sweeney@leg.state.nh.us
C: (603) 327-7184

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 476

BILL TITLE: (New Title) relative to election officers at additional polling place and relative to legalizing, ratifying, and confirming all actions, votes, and proceedings of the annual meeting of the town of Middleton.

DATE: February 17, 2021

LOB ROOM: Remote / Hybrid

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien Seconded by Rep. Sweeney

Vote: 20-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk



2021 SESSION

Election Law

Bill #: HB496 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2-17-2021

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman	✓		
MacDonald, Wayne D. Vice Chairman	✓		
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine J.	✓		
Sweeney, Joe	✓		
Hayward, Peter T.	✓		
Mooney, Maureen C.	✓		
Torosian, Peter E.	✓		
Berry, Ross	✓		
Groen, Fenton	✓		
Qualey, James R.	✓		
Wells, Natalie J. Clerk	✓		
Cote, David E.	✓		
Ward, Gerald W.R.	✓		
Bergeron, Paul R.	✓		
Sandler, Gatt Mannie Espetia	✓		
Hamer, Heidi M.	✓		
Lane, Connie B.	✓		
Freitas, Mary C.	✓		
Hamblet, Joan L.	✓		
Muirhead, Russell	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	20	1	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 476

BILL TITLE: relative to election officers at additional polling places.

DATE: February 12, 2021

LOB ROOM: LOB Hybrid **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Gay
Rep. Wolf
Rep. Elliott
Rep. Hayward

Rep. McBride
Rep. Sweeney
Rep. Sytek
Sen. Morse

Rep. Janigian
Rep. W. MacDonald
Rep. Pitre

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

***Sponsor: Representative Betty Gay, introduced the bill.**

Last year this bill passed our committee 100%, and the House, but died due to COVID before the Senate. The bill is to help moderators in towns who live in different voting districts. It is illegal for assistants and moderators to assist the clerk with people who live outside of the polling area versus in town.

Question: Rep Connie Lane: I have a question with Section II of the bill regarding each assistant clerk and moderator?

Rep Barbara Griffin: I'm going to ask Representative Bergeron to answer.

Answer - Representative Bergeron: If a city-ward have additional polling places, they follow the same guidelines as a town. If an assistant moderator lives in the town of Bedford, working at additional places, but is registered in Bedford, he should be able to work there.

Hearing adjourned: 12:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Representative Natalie Wells
Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* *Rep Betty Gay.*

February 12, 2021 Start time: 11:30am

HB-476 Relative to Election Officers at additional polling places

*Sponsor: Representative Betty Gay.

“Last year this bill passed our committee 100%, and the House, but died due to COVID before the Senate. The bill is to help moderators in towns who live in different voting districts. It is illegal for assistants and moderators to assist the clerk with people who live outside of the polling area versus in town.

Q: Rep Connie Lane: I have a question with Section II of the bill regarding each assistant clerk and moderator?

Rep Barbara Griffin: I’m going to ask Representative Bergeron to answer.

Representative Bergeron: If a city-ward have additional polling places, they follow the same guidelines as a town. If an assistant moderator lives in the town of Bedford, working at additional places, but is registered in Bedford, he should be able to work there.

Adjourned: 12:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Natalie Wells

House Remote Testify

Election Law Committee Testify List for Bill HB476 on 2021-02-12

Support: 8 Oppose: 2 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>\$</u>
Potucek, John	potucek1@comcast.net	603.432.9049	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Pearson, Mark	canonpearson@yahoo.com	603.571.0205	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Till, Mary	justdidit18@yahoo.com	603.203.1961	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Robinson, Ellis	ellismmrobinson@gmail.com	239.470.1092	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Johnston, Cordell	cjohnston@nhmunicipal.org	111.111.1111	A Lobbyist	NH Municipal Association	Support	No	2
McCalley, Jennifer	jenniferamccalley@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Rathbun, Eric	ericrathbun@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Sweeney, Rep. Joe	Joe.Sweeney@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
LaMalva, Judith	jlamalva@aim.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Gay, Betty	Betty.Gay@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2

Testimony

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:42:12 AM
From: [Lindsay Forcier](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:52:27 AM
To: [Miriam Simmons](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony to add for HB 476 Because the website was not working on Friday
Response requested: Yes
Importance: Normal

Here's some testimony for Election Law.

From: John & Betty Gay <jbgay@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Lindsay Forcier <Lindsay.Forcier@leg.state.nh.us>
Subject: Testimony to add for HB 476 Because the website was not working on Friday

Testimony for Election Law HB 476 – Election Officers at Additional Polls

To Lindsay.Forcier@leg.state.nh.us <Lindsay.Forcier@leg.state.nh.us> Blind copy
jbgay@comcast.net <jbgay@comcast.net> • betty.gay@leg.state.nh.us
<betty.gay@leg.state.nh.us>

Testimony Supporting Election Law HB 476
Presented to the Election Law Committee FRI 2/12/21 11:30 a.m.

HB 476 Relative to election officers at additional polling places

PURPOSE of HB 476 This bill allows election officials, who must staff multiple polling places in a town or a ward, to appoint multiple election officials from anywhere in that town or ward rather than only from the district where they will be working.

It is challenging enough to find well-trained election officials, but when a town or ward has multiple polling places, it is almost impossible to find these people whose domiciles are evenly distributed throughout the town. This change allows people to work in voting districts other than their own but still within their own town or ward as prescribed by law for their domicile.

This bill was passed last year by the House but never made it to the Senate due to the shutdown in mid-March.

Bill as
Introduced

HB 476 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0648

04/10

HOUSE BILL **476**

AN ACT relative to election officers at additional polling places.

SPONSORS: Rep. Gay, Rock. 8; Rep. McBride, Rock. 8; Rep. Janigian, Rock. 8; Rep. Wolf, Merr. 5; Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 8; Rep. W. MacDonald, Rock. 5; Rep. Elliott, Rock. 8; Rep. Sytek, Rock. 8; Rep. Pitre, Straf. 2; Rep. Hayward, Straf. 1; Sen. Morse, Dist 22

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the requirement that election officials for an additional polling place in a town be domiciled in the district of the additional polling place.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to election officers at additional polling places.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Additional Polling Places; Officers. Amend RSA 658:14 to read as follows:

2 658:14 Officers. The moderator shall appoint an assistant moderator for each additional polling
3 place and the town clerk shall appoint an assistant clerk for each additional polling place. Each
4 assistant moderator and assistant clerk shall have their domicile in the ~~[voting district covered by~~
5 ~~the additional polling place]~~ **town** where they will serve. The powers and duties of the assistant
6 moderator and the assistant clerk shall be the same as those of the moderator and the clerk at the
7 central polling place except as otherwise provided in the election laws. The inspectors of elections
8 appointed as provided in RSA 658:2 shall be sworn in by the assistant moderator before entering
9 upon their duties.

10 2 Additional Polling Places; Special Provisions for Cities. Amend RSA 658:18 to read as follows:

11 658:18 Special Provision for Cities. Cities may adopt the provisions of RSA 658:10-658:17. The
12 city council shall create and discontinue the voting districts in city wards, establish the additional
13 polling places therein, and select the election officers for the additional polling place. **Each**
14 **assistant moderator and assistant clerk shall have their domicile in the city ward where**
15 **they will serve.**

16 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.