

# Bill as Introduced

**HB 380 - AS INTRODUCED**

2021 SESSION

21-0500  
10/08

HOUSE BILL

**380**

AN ACT

relative to the election of Grafton county commissioners.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Gordon, Graf. 9; Rep. Almy, Graf. 13; Rep. Ladd, Graf. 4; Rep. Sykes, Graf. 13; Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf. 8; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

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ANALYSIS

This bill changes the terms of the Grafton county commissioners beginning in 2022 so that one member is elected to a 4-year term at each general election.

.....  
Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 the election of Grafton county commissioners.

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

1       1 Election; County Commissioners; Grafton County Removed. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(a) to read  
2 as follows:

3           (a) [~~Grafton and~~ Hillsborough [counties] *county*-one county commissioner by those  
4 voters in each county commissioner district in [~~each~~] *the* county;

5       2 New Subparagraph; Election; Grafton County Commissioners. Amend RSA 653:1, VI by  
6 inserting after subparagraph (i) the following new subparagraph:

7           (j) Grafton county-one county commissioner by the voters in each county commissioner  
8 district; provided that, at the 2022 state general election, the commissioner from district 3 shall be  
9 elected to a 2-year term, the commissioner from district 1 shall be elected to a 4-year term and the  
10 commissioner from district 2 shall be elected to a 2-year term. At each subsequent state general  
11 election, 2 commissioners shall be chosen in the county by the voters of the districts in which a  
12 commissioner's term is expiring; and, of the commissioners so chosen, one shall serve a 4-year term  
13 and one shall serve a 2-year term and both shall hold their offices until their successors are chosen  
14 and qualified. Following the 2022 state general election, the 4-year term shall be rotated in  
15 sequence starting with district 2.

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

CHAPTER 14  
HB 380 - FINAL VERSION

2021 SESSION

21-0500  
10/08

HOUSE BILL           **380**

AN ACT               relative to the election of Grafton county commissioners.

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COMMITTEE:       Municipal and County Government

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HB 380 - FINAL VERSION

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14 and qualified. Following the 2022 state general election, the 4-year term shall be rotated in  
15 sequence starting with district 2.

14:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: April 23, 2021  
Effective Date: June 22, 2021

# Committee Minutes

# SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

## Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair  
Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair  
Sen Ruth Ward, Member  
Sen Donna Soucy, Member  
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: March 9, 2021

### HEARINGS

Monday

03/15/2021

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| Election Law and Municipal Affairs | REMOTE  | 9:00 a.m. |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| (Name of Committee)                | (Place)   | (Time)    |
| 9:00 a.m.                          | <b>EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION</b>   |           |
| 9:15 a.m.                          | <b>HB 380</b> relative to the election of Grafton county commissioners.                               |           |
| 9:30 a.m.                          | <b>HB 383</b> relative to the quarterly or semi-annual collection of taxes in certain municipalities. |           |

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.  
Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: <https://www.zoom.us/j/96289324017>
2. To listen via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
3. Or iPhone one-tap: US: 13017158592, 96289324017# or 13126266799, 96289324017#
4. Webinar ID: 962 8932 4017
5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA>
6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx>

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: [remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us) or call (603-271-6931).

### EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

#### Sponsors:

#### **HB 380**

Rep. Gordon

Rep. Suzanne Smith

#### **HB 383**

Rep. Porter

Rep. Almy

Sen. Hennessey

Rep. Gilman

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Sykes

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray  
Chairman

**Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee**  
*Tricia Melillo 271-3077*

**HB 380**, relative to the election of Grafton county commissioners.

**Hearing Date:** March 15, 2021

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill changes the terms of the Grafton county commissioners beginning in 2022 so that one member is elected to a 4-year term at each general election.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Gordon

Rep. Almy

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Sykes

Rep. Suzanne Smith

Sen. Hennessey

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**Who supports the bill:** Representative Marjorie Porter, Senator Erin Hennessey, Wendy Piper, Kate Horgan, Andrew Dorsett

**Who opposes the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Marjorie Porter (Introduced for Rep. Gordon)**

- This bill was brought forth last year but died as a result of COVID.
- It will allow the Grafton County Commissioners to rotate a four year term.
- The purpose of this is to always have someone on board that has institutional knowledge of how the County runs
- There was very little opposition to it, is supported by the Grafton County Delegation and is more or less a housekeeping bill.

**Kate Horgan – Executive Director, NH Association of Counties**

- This bill will adds a rotating four year term to the Grafton County Commissioners.
- Currently, Coos, Belknap, Carroll, Rockingham, Cheshire, Sullivan and Merrimack, all have a rotating term that operates with great success.
- It is a very simple housekeeping bill that will preserve the institutional memory of the Board of Commissioners through one election.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: March 17, 2021



# Speakers

# Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB380 on 2021  
Support: 4 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 1

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Email Address</u>           | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Title</u>           | <u>Representing</u>        | <u>Position</u> | <u>Testifying</u> | <u>S</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Horgan, Kate    | khorgan@dupontgroup.com        | 603.228.3322 | A Lobbyist             | NH Association of Counties | Support         | Yes               | 3        |
| Hennessey, Erin | erin.hennessey@leg.state.nh.us | 603.271.4151 | An Elected Official    | SD1                        | Support         | No                | 3        |
| Dorsett, Andrew | Not Given                      | Not Given    | A Member of the Public | Myself                     | Support         | No                | 3        |
| piper, Wendy    | wpiper@co.grafton.nh.us.       | 603 727 8392 | An Elected Official    | Myself                     | Support         | No                | 3        |

3/15/2021

# Voting Sheets

**Senate Election Law  
& Municipal Affairs Committee  
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD  
2021 Session**

Bill HB 380 Omnibus

Hearing date: 3-15-2021

Executive Session date: 3/15/21

Motion of: OTP Vote: 5-0

| Committee Member          | Present | Made by                             | Second                              | Yes                                 | No                       |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sen. Gray, Chair          | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair | X       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Ward                 | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Soucy                | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Perkins-Kwoka        | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Motion of: Consent Vote: 5-0

| Committee Member          | Present | Made by                             | Second                              | Yes                                 | No                       |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sen. Gray, Chair          | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair | X       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Ward                 | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Soucy                | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Perkins-Kwoka        | X       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

| Committee Member          | Present | Made by                  | Second                   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sen. Gray, Chair          | X       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair | X       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Ward                 | X       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Soucy                | X       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sen. Perkins-Kwoka        | X       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Reported out by: Sen. Ward ✓

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, March 15, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 380**

AN ACT

relative to the election of Grafton county  
commissioners.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Ruth Ward  
For the Committee

This bill will change the terms of the Grafton County Commissioners beginning in 2022 so that one member is elected to a 4-year term at each General Election. Currently, all Counties in New Hampshire, with the exception of Hillsborough, Strafford and Grafton, operate on this rotation schedule. Having elections of County Officers on a staggered basis helps to preserve some of the institutional knowledge, which should benefit the municipality.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB380**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** relative to the election of Grafton county commissioners.*Official Docket of HB380.:*

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Body</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| 1/10/2021   | H           | <b>Introduced</b> (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Municipal and County Government <b>HJ 2</b> P. 45  |
| 1/27/2021   | H           | Public Hearing: 02/08/2021 11:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96815613466">https://www.zoom.us/j/96815613466</a> / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened. |
| 2/2/2021    | H           | Executive Session: 02/09/2021 02:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93215390740">https://www.zoom.us/j/93215390740</a>   |
| 2/18/2021   | H           | Committee Report: Ought to Pass (Vote 17-0; CC) <b>HC 12</b> P. 10   |
| 2/24/2021   | H           | <b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA VV 02/24/2021 <b>HJ 3</b> P. 14   |
| 3/4/2021    | S           | Introduced 03/04/2021 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; <b>SJ 7</b>  |
| 3/9/2021    | S           | Remote <b>Hearing:</b> 03/15/2021, 09:15 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; <b>SC 15</b>   |
| 3/15/2021   | S           | Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 03/25/2021; Vote 5-0; CC; <b>SC 16</b>  |
| 3/25/2021   | S           | <b>Ought to Pass:</b> RC 24Y-0N, MA; OT3rdg; 03/25/2021; <b>SJ 9</b>   |
| 4/12/2021   | S           | Enrolled <b>RC 24Y-0N, MA</b> , (In recess of 04/08/2021); <b>SJ 12</b>  |
| 4/12/2021   | H           | Enrolled (in recess of) 04/09/2021 <b>HJ 7</b> P. 99   |
| 4/26/2021   | H           | Signed by Governor Sununu 04/23/2021; Chapter 14; Eff: 06/22/2021  |

NH House

NH Senate

# Other Referrals



**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: HB 380

Senate Committee: ELMA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

**Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

N/A Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

N/A Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

**Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

**Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}**

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

**Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}**

\_\_\_ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

\_\_\_ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

\_\_\_ Governor's Veto Message

**All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}**

as amended by the senate      \_\_\_ as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Aide

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office 