

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 523-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0757

11/08

HOUSE BILL

**523-FN**

AN ACT

requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Gay, Rock. 8; Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. Janigian, Rock. 8; Rep. Love, Rock. 6; Rep. W. MacDonald, Rock. 5; Rep. Cushman, Hills. 2; Rep. Elliott, Rock. 8; Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 8; Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien, Rock. 6; Rep. Doucette, Rock. 8

COMMITTEE:

Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires voters who register to vote by using a qualified voter affidavit or sworn statement on the election day registration form instead of other approved identification to have their photograph taken at the time of registration.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

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

1           1 New Paragraph; Elections; Determining Qualifications of Applicant; Photograph Required.

2 Amend RSA 654:12 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

3           III-a. The supervisors of the checklist, town or city clerk, or election day official shall take a  
4 photograph of any person who registers using a qualified voter affidavit or sworn statement on the  
5 general election day registration form. Such photograph shall be retained in the same manner as  
6 qualified voter affidavits pursuant to RSA 33-A:3-a, CXLI(e).

7           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 523-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

FISCAL IMPACT:  State  County  Local  None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$33,000	\$0	\$3,300
<i>Funding Source:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**LOCAL:**

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill requires the supervisors of the checklist, town or city clerk, or election day official to take a photograph of any person who registers using a qualified voter affidavit or sworn statement on the general election day registration form. Such photograph shall be retained in the same manner as qualified voter affidavits pursuant to RSA 33-A:3-a, CXLI(e).

The Department of State indicates this bill would require that a Polaroid style camera and film be purchased by the state for each of 330 polling places. The Department estimates each camera would cost \$80 and film for each camera would cost \$20. Replacement film would cost \$10 for each camera. Total expenditure for FY 2022 is estimated at \$33,000 (330 cameras x \$100 cost per camera including film). Total expenditure for FY 2024 for replacement film is \$3,300 (330 cameras x \$10 for replacement film).

The New Hampshire Municipal Association states this bill could result in a small expenditure if municipal officials do not already have a camera available for such purpose. It is unknown how many municipalities, if any, would be affected, so any additional municipal expenditures are indeterminable. There is no expected impact on municipal revenues.

It is assumed this bill would be effective July 1, 2021.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of State and New Hampshire Municipal Association

HB 523-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

05/20/2021 1384s

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9 659:13, I(c)(2) to read as follows:

10 (2) If the voter executes a challenged voter affidavit, the moderator or the  
11 moderator's designee shall take a photograph of the voter and immediately print and attach the  
12 photograph to, and thus make it a part of, the affidavit form. ***However, if a photograph was***  
13 ***taken under RSA 654:12, then a notation shall be made on the challenged voter affidavit***  
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15 ***on the general election day registration form.*** The photograph shall be 2 inches by 2 inches, or  
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Department of State and New Hampshire Municipal Association

CHAPTER 111  
HB 523-FN - FINAL VERSION

05/20/2021 1384s

2021 SESSION

21-0757  
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COMMITTEE: Election Law

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22 111:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 09, 2021  
Effective Date: September 07, 2021

# Amendments

Amendment to HB 523-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

2

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# 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: April 27, 2021

### HEARINGS

Monday

05/03/2021

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Election Law and Municipal Affairs

REMOTE

9:00 a.m.

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9:00 a.m.	HB 77	requiring town and city clerks to provide daily notification to the secretary of state of any filings for elected office.
9:15 a.m.	HB 98	relative to the date of the state primary election.
9:30 a.m.	HB 263	relative to campaign finance reform.
9:50 a.m.	HB 523-FN	requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

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/94026931299>
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, 94026931299# or 13126266799, 94026931299#
4. Webinar ID: [940 2693 1299](https://www.zoom.us/j/94026931299)
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 77**

Rep. Boehm

Rep. Ladd

**HB 98**

Rep. Sweeney

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Rep. Kenney

**HB 263**

Rep. Sweeney

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Rep. Berry

**HB 523-FN**

Rep. Gay

Rep. M. Pearson

Rep. Janigian

Rep. Love

Rep. W. MacDonald

Rep. Cushman

Rep. Elliott

Rep. Sweeney

Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien

Rep. Doucette

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray  
Chairman

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

**HB 523-FN**, requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

**Hearing Date:** May 3, 2021

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires voters who register to vote by using a qualified voter affidavit or sworn statement on the election day registration form instead of other approved identification to have their photograph taken at the time of registration.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Gay	Rep. M. Pearson	Rep. Janigian
Rep. Love	Rep. W. MacDonald	Rep. Cushman
Rep. Elliott	Rep. Sweeney	Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien
Rep. Doucette		

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Betty Gay, Rep. Joe Sweeney, Rep. Jason Osborne, Ray Chadwick

**Who opposes the bill:** There are 102 names signed in opposition of this bill. To view the sign in sheet, please contact the Legislative Aide for the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee, Tricia Melillo, at [tricia.melillo@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:tricia.melillo@leg.state.nh.us)

**Who is neutral on the bill:** David Scanlan

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

\*Senator Birdsell introduced the bill for the prime sponsor Representative Betty Gay who was having technical difficulties and submitted written testimony.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:**

**Representative Timothy Horrigan**

- People that register without an ID is a small number.
- There is not a flood of fictitious people signing up to vote.
- He believes this law is unnecessary.

**Neutral Information Presented:**

**David Scanlan – Deputy Secretary of State**

- He would like to address the fiscal note for the Committee.
- This bill is modeled after the process a voter uses to obtain a ballot.
- Currently if a voter does not have an ID, they will fill out a voter challenge affidavit and have their picture taken at the polling place.
- When that law was enacted in 2012, they purchased Polaroid style cameras for every polling place.
- The fiscal note is in the bill for additional cameras that will be needed at some polling locations.

- In small towns one camera will suffice for both purposes but in larger towns and cities multiple cameras will be needed.
- The total amount is for one camera and film for each polling place in New Hampshire.
- The cameras that are used now are ten years old and the fiscal note reflects the most likely need for replacements soon.
- Senator Birdsell asked if they have thought about going to digital cameras.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that to his knowledge there was not a consideration for digital. In 2012, there was a debate about using digital cameras and storing a voters digital image. At the time people were not comfortable with that and this bill does not mention the use of digital images.
- Senator Birdsell commented that if they used a digital camera the picture could be printed out and then deleted.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that is true and it was discussed in 2012.
- Senator Gray asked for clarification if the statute as written does allow for digital images and for printing but the state would have to provide printers and that would be a larger expense.
  - Mr. Scanlan answered that he will have to look back at that statute to recall the specifics but if printers are required at the polling places it would be a significantly higher cost.
- Senator Ward asked how often has it happened in the past that photographs have to be taken.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that it happens during every election but it is less than one percent. In the last election it was maybe .5 percent.
- Senator Soucy asked what is the need for a person to have their picture taken at registration if the person does not have an acceptable form of ID and is having it taken when they vote.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that is a good question and he believes it may be because those are two different processes. The act of voter registration is different than a registered voter obtaining a ballot.
- Senator Soucy commented that this would mean the voter is getting photographed twice and she cannot imagine there are many people going to the polls to register to vote and then not casting a ballot.
  - Mr. Scanlan stated that what she is saying makes a lot of sense and there would have to be some coordination between the registration table and the check-in table for obtaining a ballot. In a small polling place, it would be easy to do but in a large polling place it would require a better process.
- Senator Gray commented that it is his understanding that when you are voting you are filling out a challenged voter certification that is kept for 22 months but the information given at the registration table is kept for seven years.
  - Mr. Scanlan stated that he is correct in that understanding.
- Senator Gray commented that it is his understanding that these files are kept in different files and in different locations and asked if he is correct.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that the Supervisors of the Checklist are responsible for maintaining the registration records and the Town Clerk is responsible for keeping the challenge voter affidavit for obtaining a ballot.
- Senator Gray asked if on the challenged voter form they noted that the picture is attached to the registration form, would he object to that.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that they would have no objection with that.

Speakers

# Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB523 on 2021  
 Support: 4 Oppose: 102 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>
Gay, Betty	jbgay@comcast.net	603-818-1614	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	Yes
Jones, Andrew	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Devore, Gary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Hatch, Sally	SALLYHATCH@COMCAST.COM	16037247448	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Desmarais, Doreen	doreend@netzero.net	603.608.6211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Andrews, David	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Huberman, Anne	Anne.Huberman@gmail.com	603.924.0842	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Hatcher, Phil	phil.hatcher@gmail.com	603.988.8034	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Bundy, Linda	n_bundy@mctelecom.com	603 588 2254	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
brown, claire	clairehonorebrown@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Insolia, Janet	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Thompson, Julia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Hinkel, Robert	r.hinkel@gmail.com	413.478.8701	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Secord, William	wrsecord@live.com	+1(603)28603	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Dodge, corinne	corinnedodge@hotmail.com	16034325759	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Vail, Suzanne	Suzanne.vail@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Hillsborough County 30	Oppose	No
Kelley, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Holtz, Anthony	awave28@live.com	412.737.9812	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Clafin, Kyri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Tentarelli, Liz	LWV@kenliz.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Chase, Wendy	wendy.chase@leg.state.nh.us	603.319.7259	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No
Verschuereen, Jim	jd.verschuereen@gmail.com	603.978.0398	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
King, Marcia	mchking@gmail.com	603.924.3109	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
King, Charles	mchking@gmail.com	603.924.3109	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
ward, janet	jwardnh@comcast.net	16037464991	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Taylor, Frances	egg lady5@gmail.com	603.968.3846	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Oxenham, Lee	leeoxenham@comcast.net	603.727.9368	An Elected Official	Sullivan Co., District 1	Oppose	No
Perry, Darryl	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Casino, Joanne	joannecasino@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	603.868.2758	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Hamblet, Joan	joan.hamblet@leg.state.nh.us	603.205.4925	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No
Oxenham, Evan	evan.oxenham@gmail.com	603.727.9368	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Weston, Joyce	jweston14@roadrunner.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Letellier, Kathleen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Smith, Wayne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Grassie, Chuck	chuck.grassie@leg.state.nh.us	16039787417	An Elected Official	Strafford 11	Oppose	No
Burcalow, Sarah	sarah.burcalow@gmail.com	603.391.2821	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Serrell, James J.	imjserrell@yahoo.com	5831096	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Weber, Jill	jill@frazilfarms.com	603.978.1263	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Van Etten, William	williamvanetten@mac.com	617.921.3358	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Istel, Claudia	claudia@sover.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Chadwick, Ray	rfchadwick@juno.com	16035669129	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Dinzeo, David	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Zaenglein, Barbara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Zaenglein, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Varney, Michele	malooof@metrocast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No

Cevasco, Karin	Karin.cevasco@gmail.com	603-660-6630	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Ellermann, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Willing, Maura	Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Caplan, Tony	anthonycaplan1@gmail.com	603.428.7042	An Elected Official	Merrimack 6	Oppose	No	:
Cornell, Patricia	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Wazir, Safiys	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	My Constituents	Oppose	No	:
Zink, Olivia	olivia.zink@gmail.com	603.934.4297	A Lobbyist	Open Democracy Action	Oppose	No	:
Perencevich, ruth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Perry, Bob	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hardwick, Bryant	portxejf@yahoo.com	603.740.4985	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hardwick, Kerry	portxejf2@yahoo.com	603.740.4985	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Damon, Claudia	cordsdamon@gmail.com	603-226-4561	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Almy, Susan	susan.almy@comcast.net	603.448.4769	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hurley, John	jrhurjd@aol.com	603.287.8913	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hawkinson, Rachel	rachelhawkinson@gmail.com	603.512.9189	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Lightfoot, Jean	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Bushueff, Catherine	agawamdesigns@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Falk, Cheri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Ackerson, Judith	ackerjack45@gmail.com	603.369.0574	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Ackerson, Kenneth	ken.ackerson14@gmail.com	603.273.1593	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Yacopucci, William	wddcpp@gmail.com	603.707.2211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Frey, Gina	Not Given	5	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Horrigan, Timothy	Timothy.Horrigan@leg.state.nh.us	603.969.3823	An Elected Official	Strafford 6	Oppose	No	:
Rich, Cecilia	ceciliarich@hotmail.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Koch, Laurie	kochlj@aol.com	603.491.2000	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Nastasi, Sue	ctcoastmetro@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Spencer, Louise	lpskentstreet@gmail.com	603.491.1795	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Spencer, Rob	kentstusa@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
emus, Joanne	Jremus0322@aol.com	603.785.3549	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Greenwood, Nancy	nancgreenwood@yahoo.com	603.226.2471	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Torpey, Jeanne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Briggs, Ron	Rongb1950@gmail.com	603.226.2471	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Ecklund, Peter	10southmain@comcast.net	603.930.7248	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
King Ecklund, Susan	tensouthmain@comcast.net	603.672.1176	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Forbus, Carrie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Dontonville, Roger	rdontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
perez, maria	mariaeli63@gmail.com	603.801.7867	An Elected Official	District 23	Oppose	No	:
Gelsey, Giana	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Krassowski, Judy	Info@judykrassowski.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hamer, Heidi	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Lucas, Janet	janluca1953@gmail.com	16037267614	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hamer, Gary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Mitchell, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Sweeney, Rep. Joe	joe.sweeney@leg.state.nh.us	603.327.7184	An Elected Official	Rockingham District 8	Support	No	:
MCNAMEE, BRIGID	brigidmcnamee@yahoo.com	603.223.0139	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Raley, Pamela	psraley@gmail.com	603.742.0669	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Osborne, Rep. Jason	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	:
Covert, Susan	scovert@comcast.net	603.746.4486	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Henninger, Heidi	heidi.henninger@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Bixby, Peter	peter.bixby@leg.state.nh.us	16037495659	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Hinebauch, Mel	Not Given	603.224.4866	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Doherty, David	ddoherty0845@gmail.com	603.485.2788	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Booras, Hon. Efstathia	efstathiab73@gmail.com	603.930.3220	An Elected Official	Constituents	Oppose	No	:
Reed, Barbara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:

5/7/2021

Senate Remote Testify

Dahme, Patricia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Cherrington, Brett	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Coon, Kate	kate2coon@gmail.com	339.793.0686	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Osherson, Sam	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:

# Testimony



## Tricia Melillo

---

**From:** Joan Hamblet <outlook\_AAC1BE68AEF2F4D1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 12:18 PM  
**To:** Tricia Melillo  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 523-FN

I, Joan Hamblet, Rockingham 31 (Greenland, Newington, North Hampton, Portsmouth Ward 3) oppose HB-523-FN for the following reasons:

There are at least 3 groups of citizens who would be disenfranchised if this bill passes:

1. Some citizens subscribe to a religion that prohibits them from having a photo taken of themselves (RSA 659:13-b). Instead, they may verify their identity by submitting an Affidavit of Religious Exemption. Under this bill, they would not be allowed to register or vote.
2. A "confidential voter" can be allowed to register and vote if he or she presents a valid protective order (RSA173-B:4) or evidence that he or she is a participant in the address confidentiality program (RSA 7:46). Such a voter might be prohibited from registering and voting under this bill.
3. Some citizens who reside in nursing homes do not have a recent form of photo identification. An administrator of the nursing home is allowed, by law, to verify their identity without a photo ID to allow them to register and vote (RSA 654:12, III).

A requirement for photo identification is not reasonable or necessary in all situations. HB 523-FN would wrongfully prevent legitimate voters from voting and would do nothing to make our elections safer.

I urge you to oppose this unfair bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Joan Hamblet

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Tricia Melillo

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**From:** jbgay <jbgay@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:44 PM  
**To:** James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo  
**Subject:** HB 523 Testimony from the Prime Sponsor

Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins-Kwoka,

First, my sincere apologies for never getting through this morning on Zoom for the hearing on my bill. I have never attempted to speak on Zoom using my phone with video. It was extremely frustrating to try repeatedly unsuccessfully, unable to get the unmute button to work. Apparently the screen just was malfunctioning. Usually I use my computer, but today I was attending my HHS&EA hearings in the LOB and thought using the phone would spare me carrying the laptop. So both Senator Gray and I had to leave an HHS hearing to go to an Election Law hearing.

Thank you for hearing my testimony, albeit hours later:

My bill, HB 523, requires people who register to vote using a qualified voter affidavit, in lieu of proof of identification and domicile, to have their photo taken to be retained with the affidavit.

I was inspired to submit this bill when a new representative who worked at the November polls told a few of us about an unsettling experience he had. A group of twenty-somethings not recognized by anyone there showed up to register to vote. All of them claimed to have no form of identification. So they were given qualified voter affidavits to complete.

When they got in line to vote, they were told they needed to have their photos taken because they had no ID's. They all refused, claiming they did not have to. They offered no justification. The election officials did not like it, but they allowed them to vote.

After hearing this, I called the SOS office to ask about the legality of allowing that to happen again. I was told the election officials really should have reported the incident. Hence I decided to help get the intended procedure codified in an RSA.

Note: If someone is actually one of those rare individuals whose religious beliefs do not allow photographs, they can still register to vote, but they will need documentation for identity and domicile like the majority of people registering to vote. The Amish are an example of people whose religion forbids photographs.

I really appreciate Senator Gray's detailed analysis supporting the need for this form of photo identification be retained with the affidavit for the full seven years required.

And I really appreciate his writing the amendment to cover all the bases.

The committee discussion noted how few photos are being taken at the polls. An anecdotal explanation is that the number of voters who now use qualified voter affidavits got much fewer once the photos started being required.

One of the Salem Supervisors of the Checklist told me that she has had people who declined to show ID change their mind when told that they would need a photo. Apparently having the cameras is having a positive effect on voter ID, so much so that we are saving on film!

Respectfully submitted,



# Voting Sheets

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

Bill HB 523-FN

Hearing date: 5-3-2021

Executive Session date: 5/10/21

Motion of: OTP 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

Motion of: amendment 1360s Vote: 3-2

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

Motion of: OTP/A Vote: 3-2

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen. Gray

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

JB Note on the Form  
working on the amendment  
- He submitted language to  
OLS

# Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SENATE  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Monday, May 10, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 523-FN**

AN ACT

requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 3-2

AMENDMENT # 1384s

Senator James Gray  
For the Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB523**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** requiring a person who registers to vote without any identification to have his or her photo taken before his or her registration to vote is complete.

*Official Docket of HB523.:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
1/12/2021	H	<b>Introduced</b> (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Election Law <b>HJ 2</b> P. 52
2/3/2021	H	Public Hearing: 02/12/2021 12:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95709405955">https://zoom.us/j/95709405955</a> / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
3/5/2021	H	Executive Session: 03/05/2021 12:00 pm Please click the link below to join the webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/99327579520">https://zoom.us/j/99327579520</a>
3/3/2021	H	==CONTINUED== Executive Session: 03/10/2021 10:10 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95087806399">https://zoom.us/j/95087806399</a> (if necessary)
3/29/2021	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass (Vote 11-9; RC) <b>HC 18</b> P. 43
3/29/2021	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
4/8/2021	H	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA <b>RC 197-172</b> 04/08/2021 <b>HJ 6</b> P. 63
4/13/2021	S	Introduced 04/08/2021 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; <b>SJ 12</b>
4/27/2021	S	Remote <b>Hearing:</b> 05/03/2021, 09:50 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; <b>SC 22</b>
5/11/2021	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2021-1384s</b> , 05/20/2021; <b>SC 24</b>
5/20/2021	S	Committee Amendment <b>#2021-1384s</b> , AA, VV; 05/20/2021; <b>SJ 16</b>
5/20/2021	S	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2021-1384s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/20/2021; <b>SJ 16</b>
6/10/2021	H	House Concurs with Senate Amendment 2021-1384s (Rep. B. Griffin): MA DV 199-160 06/10/2021
7/7/2021	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/24/2021); <b>SJ 20</b>
7/7/2021	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/24/2021
7/13/2021	H	Signed by Governor Sununu 07/09/2021; Chapter 111; Eff: 09/07/2021

NH House

NH Senate



# Other Referrals

**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: HB 523-FV

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)

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

Hearing Report

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 # 13605     - amendment # 13845

\_\_\_ - 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 