

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 9, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Municipal and County Government to which was referred HB 1046,

AN ACT relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Richard Tripp

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Municipal and County Government
Bill Number:	HB 1046
Title:	relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.
Date:	February 9, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The intent of this bill is to limit the election of Sullivan County Commissioners to only those voters in each commissioner's district. During the hearing, it was determined that the method for transitioning from at-large to district election of commissioner positions was not clear, difficult to understand, and would benefit from a rewrite and resubmittal in a future year.

Vote 10-9.

Rep. Richard Tripp
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Municipal and County Government

HB 1046, relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Richard Tripp for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. The intent of this bill is to limit the election of Sullivan County Commissioners to only those voters in each commissioner's district. During the hearing, it was determined that the method for transitioning from at-large to district election of commissioner positions was not clear, difficult to understand, and would benefit from a rewrite and resubmittal in a future year. **Vote 10-9.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 9, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Municipal and County Government to which was referred HB 1046,

AN ACT relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Rosemarie Rung

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Municipal and County Government
Bill Number:	HB 1046
Title:	relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.
Date:	February 9, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The three Sullivan County Commissioners each represent one of three county districts. However, voters, regardless of the district in which they reside, vote for all commissioner positions as if they were at-large positions. This bill would have corrected elections so only voters of a district can vote for the commissioner representing their district. The minority believes that constituents should be the only ones voting for their representative, not other people.

Rep. Rosemarie Rung
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Municipal and County Government

HB 1046, relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. The three Sullivan County Commissioners each represent one of three county districts. However, voters, regardless of the district in which they reside, vote for all commissioner positions as if they were at-large positions. This bill would have corrected elections so only voters of a district can vote for the commissioner representing their district. The minority believes that constituents should be the only ones voting for their representative, not other people.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1046

BILL TITLE: relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.

DATE: January 24, 2022

LOB ROOM: 301 - 303

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Maggiore

Seconded by Rep. Rung

Vote: 9-10

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Tripp

Seconded by Rep. Melvin

Vote: 10-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep John MacDonald, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1046

BILL TITLE: relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.

DATE: 1/24/22
LOB ROOM: 301-303

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)
Moved by Rep. Maggiore Seconded by Rep. Rep. Foy Vote: 9-10

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)
Moved by Rep. Trup Seconded by Rep. Melvin Vote: 10-9

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)
Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)
Moved by Rep. MAJORITY TRUP Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ___ YES ___ NO

Minority Report? ___ Yes ___ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: [Signature]
Rep John MacDonald, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Municipal and County Government

Bill #: 1046 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 1/24/25

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Dolan, Tom Chairman	10		
Piemonte, Tony Vice Chairman	1		
MacDonald, John T. Clerk	2		
Tripp, Richard P.	3		
Guthrie, Joseph A.	4		
Lascelles, Richard W.	5		
McBride, Everett P. <i>Rep. No Hen</i>	6		
Melvin, Charles R.	7		
Ayer, Paul F.	8		
Pauer, Diane	9		
Maggiore, Jim V.	10	1	
Treleaven, Susan GS <i>Rep. Low</i>		2	
Gilman, Julie D.		3	
Stavis, Laurel <i>Rep. Telenski</i>		4	
Mangipudi, Latha D. <i>Rep. Penz</i>		5	
Vann, Ivy C.		6	
Klee, Patricia S.		7	
Gallager, Eric B.		8	
Rung, Rosemarie		9	
TOTAL VOTE:			



2022 SESSION

Municipal and County Government

Bill #: 1046 Motion: OTR AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 1/24/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Dolan, Tom Chairman		10	
Piemonte, Tony Vice Chairman		1	
MacDonald, John T. Clerk		2	
Tripp, Richard P.		3	
Guthrie, Joseph A.		4	
Lascelles, Richard W.		5	
McBride, Everett P. <i>Rep. No Her</i>		6	
Melvin, Charles R.		7	
Ayer, Paul F.		8	
Pauer, Diane		9	
Maggiore, Jim V.	1		
Treleaven, Susan GS <i>Rep. Lowb</i>	2		
Gilman, Julie D.	3		
Stavis, Laurel <i>Telenski</i>	4		
Mangipudi, Latha D. <i>Penez</i>	5		
Vann, Ivy C.	6		
Klee, Patricia S.	7		
Gallager, Eric B.	8		
Rung, Rosemarie	9		
TOTAL VOTE:			

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1046

BILL TITLE: relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.

DATE: January 13, 2022

LOB ROOM: 301 - 303

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 9:22 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 9:55 a.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Dolan, Piemonte, J. MacDonald, Tripp, Guthrie, Lascelles, Melvin, Maggiore, Gilman, Stavis, Vann, Klee, Gallagher and Rung

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Tanner

Rep. Merchant

Rep. Gottling

TESTIMONY

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

***Rep. Linda Tanner** - Prime sponsor of the bill. Will be sending her testimony. Asked by a constituent, House Rep. several years ago. Testimony sent to the committee. At large vote. Fairly expensive to run a count wide campaign. Elected exclusively from the District changes the Districts over a period of time.

Chairman Dolan: Any change of terms? ANS: No, they remain the same.

Rep. Tripp: Line 9, one four years term. How do you determine who has what term? ANS: They are staggered terms. How of the two Commissioners are up, how are they chosen for each term? ANS: One will be through their two year term.

Rep. Stavis: Chosen on elected where used? ANS: I didn't choose the wording.

Rep. Guthrie: The current system presents all districts? ANS: Difficult to - all of the people would have to vote for me. Population and size needs to be changed.

Rep. Gallagher: Is there a map available?

Rep. MacDonald: How do the current commissioners feel about the bill? ANS: Two of the commissioners do not have a problem with it. You are running at large for the online county.

Rep. Maggiore: Any problems with the current system? ANS: Not necessarily a problem. Fairly close to the Newport triangle. It works in other counties.

***Kate Horgan, NH Association of Counties** - Has written testimony. Opposes the bill.

Rep. Rung: Why would you oppose this system? ANS: Across the country, representing countywide decisions.

Rep. Stavis: Advocating for the same system as the seven other counties? ANS: Advocating for Sullivan County only.

Rep. Walter Stapleton - Opposes the bill. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Residents are satisfied with the current system.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. John T. MacDonald
Clerk

House Remote Testify

Municipal and County Government Committee Testify List for Bill HB1046 on 2022-01-13

Support: 13 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Robinson, Ellis	Grantham, NH ellismmrobinson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:23 AM
Kaufman, Judith	Cornish, NH jpk52@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:17 AM
Kuemmerle, Nancy	Enfield, NH nkuemmerle@une.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:05 PM
Bilotta, Diane	Grantham, NH Lottabilotta@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:12 PM
Bilotta, James	Grantham, NH Jbevercat@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:14 PM
Findley, Sally	Grantham, NH findley.sc@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:43 PM
Kowalski, Carol	Grantham, NH carol@kaszeta.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:47 PM
Dolkart, Vivian	Grantham, NH viviandolkart@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:18 PM
Catherine, Bushueff	Sunapee, NH agawamdesigns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 11:19 AM
Horgan, Kate	Concord, NH khorgan@dupontgroup.com	A Lobbyist	NH Association of Counties	Oppose	No	No	1/12/2022 4:07 PM
Cranage, Amy	GRANTHAM, NH aehcranage@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 4:17 PM
Dolkart, Kenneth	Grantham, NH kenneth.dolkart@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 7:21 PM
Gottling, Suzanne	Sunapee, NH Sgottling@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 9:17 AM

Jody, Manson

Sunapee, NH
jodymanson22@gmail.com

A Member of the Public Myself

Support No

No

1/13/2022 10:11 AM

Sincerely,

Virginia O'Brien Irwin
Newport

E-mail: biddy.irwin@gmail.com ~ Phone: 603-863-3582 Cell: 603-520-7038

**Virginia O'Brien Irwin
182 Fletcher Road
Newport, New Hampshire, 03773**

January 9, 2020

Chairman Honorable Tom Dolan
Municipal and County Government Committee
State House LOB 301
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Dolan and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to ask for your support of HB 1046, a bill to amend RSA 653:1, VI (e) to allow the citizens of Sullivan County to vote for and elect their commissioners within the district that the commissioner represents. At the present time, our commissioners run from one of three districts but must garner support or a plurality of votes from the entire county.

Hillsborough, Cheshire, Belknap, Rockingham, Merrimack, Coos and Grafton elect their commissioner by district and not by a plurality of votes from the entire county. Only three counties elect their commissioners essentially at large.

It does not make sense to have someone represent a district and be required to come from that district and then expect them to run in the entire county. Many times the candidate is unknown in those parts of the county that are not within his or her district.

It is also expensive to run a county wide campaign. While I know your concern is not the cost of an election, I know you understand the financial implications of a county wide campaign.

This RSA has been amended to change the terms of office for commissioners; now its time to change the method of election.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote YES on HB 1046

President
Wendy Piper
Grafton County Commissioner

Vice President
Tom Tombarello
Rockingham County Commissioner

At Large Member
Toni Pappas
Hillsborough County Commissioner

At Large Member
Cathy Stacey
Rockingham County Register of Deeds



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Concord, NH 03301

info@nhcounties.org

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Immediate Past President
Chuck Weed
Cheshire County Commissioner

Treasurer
Suzanne Collins
Coos County Treasurer

Bylaws Chair
Chris Coates
Cheshire County Administrator

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Tom Dolan
Chair
Municipal and County Government
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03031

Chairman Dolan and Members of the Municipal and County Government Committee,

The NH Association of Counties would like to register its opposition to HB 1046, relative to the Election of the Sullivan County Commissioners.

This bill would change the way that the county commissioners are elected in Sullivan County. Presently, the commissioners are voted on by a county wide basis and that system is working well for the county. This bill would make it so only the members of a commissioner's district would be able to vote for their commissioner. The commissioners feel that this system would be a disservice to the county. Sullivan is a small county and decisions made by the county commissioners' impact all the residents of the county and the commissioners believe that all residents of Sullivan county should have a vote for their commissioners.

The Association asks for your opposition to HB 1046. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Executive Director, Kate Horgan at khorgan@dupontgroup.com.

Sincerely,

Wendy Piper
President
NH Association of Counties

HB 1046

For the record

Linda Tanner, Sullivan D. 9 the towns of Plainfield, Cornish, Grantham, Croydon, Springfield, Sunapee, Newport, and Unity

I was asked by a constituent, the Hon. Virginia Irwin, who sent her testimony to the committee to submit this bill. Sullivan County is only one of 3 counties who still elect their commissioners through a n at large vote by the entire county. The other 7 counties elect their commissioners by a vote within their district. I took the format of the bill proposed last term by Carroll County that gives a gradual program to move form at large county-wide voting to district wide voting by using the staggered terms of the commissioners.

It seems to me that if there are set districts for the County, it would be the logical thing to vote by district. All our other state-wide elected officials, Representatives, State Senators, Selectboard, School boards etc. who have a district in NH are elected by those within their districts.

There are advantages of district voting. The voters will be directly electing their representative. The candidates will have a smaller area and number of voters to reach in their campaign. Sullivan is the second least populated county in the State. Under the at large county voting, many voters will not know the candidates from other areas of the county. Sullivan County has three "cities," Charlestown, Newport, and Claremont. At large voting gives these towns a larger number of votes than the 'rural' areas.

Since we are redistricting the voting districts in the state this year, It would be a less confusing time to begin this change. I urge you to support this bill.

HB 1046 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2104
11/04

HOUSE BILL **1046**

AN ACT relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.

SPONSORS: Rep. Tanner, Sull. 9; Rep. Merchant, Sull. 4; Rep. Gottling, Sull. 2

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill changes the election of the Sullivan county commissioners to be elected by voters in each county commissioner district.

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 Two

AN ACT relative to the election of the Sullivan county commissioners.

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

1 1 Election; Sullivan County Commissioners. Amend RSA 653:1, VI(e) to read as follows:

2 (e) Sullivan county-one county commissioner [~~from each county commissioner district by~~
3 ~~all the voters of the county~~] **by the voters in each county commissioner district**; provided that, at
4 the [~~1990~~] **2022** state general election, the commissioner from district [~~1~~] **2** shall be elected to a 4-
5 year term, **no commissioner from district 1 shall be elected**, and [~~the commissioners from~~
6 ~~districts 2 and 3 shall each~~] **the commissioner from district 3 shall** be elected to a 2-year term.
7 At each subsequent state general election, 2 commissioners whose terms are expiring shall be elected
8 by [~~all the voters of the county~~] **the voters of the districts in which a commissioner's term is**
9 **expiring**; and, of the commissioners so chosen, one shall serve a 4-year term and one shall serve a 2-
10 year term and both shall hold their offices until their successors are chosen and qualified. Following
11 the [~~1990~~] **2022** state general election, the 4-year term shall be rotated in sequence starting with
12 district [~~2~~] **3**.

13 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.