

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 23, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Education to which was referred HB
1646,**

**AN ACT relative to representation on a cooperative
school district board. Having considered the same,
report the same with the following amendment, and the
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH
AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Melissa Litchfield

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1646
Title:	relative to representation on a cooperative school district board.
Date:	February 23, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2022-0808h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

As amended, this bill requires cooperative school district boards to have at least one elected member from each pre-existing district, and all members of the cooperative school board shall be elected within their own district. This is a change in the current law that requires cooperative school members be elected at large.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Melissa Litchfield
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Education

HB 1646, relative to representation on a cooperative school district board. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Melissa Litchfield for Education. As amended, this bill requires cooperative school district boards to have at least one elected member from each pre-existing district, and all members of the cooperative school board shall be elected within their own district. This is a change in the current law that requires cooperative school members be elected at large. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Amendment to HB 1646

1 Amend RSA 195:19-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 195:19-a Composition of Cooperative School Boards. The ~~[number, composition,]~~ method of
4 selection~~[.]~~ and terms of members of cooperative school boards shall be as provided in the bylaws or
5 articles of agreement of the cooperative school district, as the case may be; provided, however, that
6 such bylaws and articles of agreement shall be limited ~~[to the alternatives contained herein where~~
7 ~~applicable; and provided further that no cooperative school district in existence on August 22, 1971~~
8 ~~shall be required to conform hereto unless it is so voted pursuant to RSA 671:9.]~~ **by the following**
9 **requirements:**

10 I. ~~[All members of the cooperative school board shall be elected at large; or~~

11 II. ~~The cooperative school district shall be divided into single board member districts~~
12 ~~according to population with as nearly equal population in each district as possible; or~~

13 III. ~~The cooperative school district shall be divided into multiboard member districts or a~~
14 ~~combination of single member or multimember districts so that proportional representation will be~~
15 ~~most nearly achieved; or~~

16 IV. ~~The members of the cooperative school board shall each be domiciled in and represent a~~
17 ~~pre-existing district with each pre-existing district having at least one such resident representative~~
18 ~~[but] and all members of the cooperative school board shall be elected [at large; or] **within their**~~
19 ~~**own district.**~~

20 V. ~~Such other method of selection of cooperative school board members compatible with~~
21 ~~proportional representation, one-man one-vote principle as may be approved by the state board of~~
22 ~~education.]~~

23 VI. ~~II.~~ The terms of the members of the cooperative school board shall be as provided in the
24 bylaws or articles of agreement provided that in no case shall such terms exceed 3 years.

25 VII. ~~III.~~ Whenever the bylaws or articles of agreement provide for the election of
26 cooperative school board members pursuant to this chapter, said election shall be with the use of the
27 non-partisan ballot system under RSA 669.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1646

BILL TITLE: relative to representation on a cooperative school district board.

DATE: February 23, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

Moved by Rep. Litchfield Seconded by Rep. Boehm AM Vote: 19-0

Amendment # 2022-0808h

Moved by Rep. Litchfield Seconded by Rep. Cordelli Vote: 19-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # 1646

BILL TITLE: ...relative to representation on a cooperative school District Board
DATE: 2/23/22
LOB ROOM: 207

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # 0808h
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Litchfield Seconded by Rep. Buehn Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # w/0808h
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Litchfield Seconded by Rep. Cordell Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

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

Respectfully submitted: [Signature]
Rep. Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/10/2022 8:57:50 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2022 SESSION

Education

Bill #: 1644 Motion: OTP AM #: 0808h Exec Session Date: 2/23/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	19		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	1		
Litchfield, Melissa A. Clerk	2		
Boehm, Ralph G.	3		
Lekas, Alicia D.	4		
Moffett, Michael	5		
Hobson, Deborah L.	6		
Ford, Oliver J.	7		
Soti, Julius F.	8		
Nelson, Bill G.	9		
Myler, Mel-Walz, Mary Beth	10		
Luneau, David J.	11		
Cornell, Patricia	12		
Tanner, Linda L.	13		
Ellison, Arthur S. (Rep Wallner)	14		
Mullen, Sue M.	15		
Woodcock, Stephen L.	16		
Porter, Marjorie	17		
A. Hall, Muriel C.	18		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/10/2022 8:57:50 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2022 SESSION

Education

Bill #: 1644e Motion: OTP/A AM #: 0808h Exec Session Date: 2/23/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman <i>1st</i>	19		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman <i>1st</i>	1		
Litchfield, Melissa A. Clerk	2		
Boehm, Ralph G.	3		
Lekas, Alicia D.	4		
Moffett, Michael	5		
Hobson, Deborah L.	6		
Ford, Oliver J.	7		
Soti, Julius F.	8		
Nelson, Bill G.	9		
Myler, Mel-Walz, Mary Beth <i>2nd</i>	11		
Luneau, David J. <i>1st</i>	10		
Cornell, Patricia	12		
Tanner, Linda L.	13		
Ellison, Arthur S. <i>(Rep Wallner)</i>	14		
Mullen, Sue M.	15		
Woodcock, Stephen L.	16		
Porter, Marjorie	17		
A. Hall, Muriel C.	18		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	

Amendment to HB 1646

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4 selection~~[,]~~ and terms of members of cooperative school boards shall be as provided in the bylaws or
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16 IV. The members of the cooperative school board shall each be domiciled in and represent a
17 pre-existing district with each pre-existing district having at least one such resident representative
18 ~~[but]~~ **and** all members of the cooperative school board shall be elected ~~[at large; or]~~ **within their**
19 **own district.**

20 ~~[V. Such other method of selection of cooperative school board members compatible with~~
21 ~~proportional representation, one man one vote principle as may be approved by the state board of~~
22 ~~education.]~~

23 ~~[VI.]~~ **II.** The terms of the members of the cooperative school board shall be as provided in the
24 bylaws or articles of agreement provided that in no case shall such terms exceed 3 years.

25 ~~[VII.]~~ **III.** Whenever the bylaws or articles of agreement provide for the election of
26 cooperative school board members pursuant to this chapter, said election shall be with the use of the
27 non-partisan ballot system under RSA 669.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1646

BILL TITLE: relative to representation on a cooperative school district board.

DATE: January 13, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:50am

Time Adjourned: 11:30am

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, Boehm, A. Lekas, Moffett, Hobson, Ford, Soti, B. Nelson, Litchfield, Myler, Luneau, Cornell, Tanner, Ellison, Mullen, Woodcock, Hall and Porter

Bill Sponsors:
Rep. Litchfield

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Melissa Litchfield

- Prime sponsor, introduced the bill re: representation on a cooperative district school board
- Provided some history re: the Exeter/Brentwood district which grew in the 1990's and now has nine members.
- The bill would promote a "fairer" process for determining various town representation on a school board.

Rep. Cordelli

- Asked about problems with different towns understanding other towns n the same district?

Rep. Litchfield

- Described coalitions of some towns dominating other towns.

Rep. Luneau

- Asked about wording and Rep. Litchfield explained

Rep. Woodcock

- Asked for clarification re: "population increase"

Rep. Litchfield

- Explained that meant Student population.

Rep. Litchfield

- Advocated developing some sort of "weighted methodology" a developing propositional school board representation

Barrett Christina - School Board Associate

- Explained that concerns over proportioned school board representation go way back and suggested a possible study team to address the issue.

Rep. Luneau

- Affirmed that the relevant statute goes back to 1963 and wondered if the statutory language should be updated.

Barrett Christina

- Described that other states were forcing consolidation (Maine, VT) but NH seemed to feature movements away from consolidation.

Chair Rep. Ladd

- Explained that the proposed study team should be a more formal 2 year commission as opposed to an interim study commission.

Eric Pauer - Brookline

- A former school board worker
- Spoke in favor of the bill, but endorsed proportionately, "one man one vote" and offered to serve on a proposed commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Michelle Litchfield

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB1646 on 2022-01-13

Support: 3 Oppose: 0 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>
Green, Donna	Oldsmar, FL donnagre@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 2:38 PM
Post, Charlie	Lyndeborough, NH skituckermans@gmil.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:10 PM
Walbridge, Tracy	Rochester, NH tracywalbridge@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 12:23 PM

HB 1646 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2841

10/11

HOUSE BILL **1646**

AN ACT relative to representation on a cooperative school district board.

SPONSORS: Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 11

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill requires cooperative school district boards to have an elected member from each pre-existing 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 representation on a cooperative school district board.

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

- 1 1 Cooperative School District Boards; Membership. Amend RSA 195:19-a to read as follows:
- 2 195:19-a Composition of Cooperative School Boards. The ~~[number, composition,]~~ method of
- 3 selection~~[-]~~ and terms of members of cooperative school boards shall be as provided in the bylaws or
- 4 articles of agreement of the cooperative school district, as the case may be; provided, however, that
- 5 such bylaws and articles of agreement shall be limited ~~[to the alternatives contained herein where~~
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- 20 ~~proportional representation, one man one vote principle as may be approved by the state board of~~
- 21 ~~education.]~~
- 22 VI. **II.** The terms of the members of the cooperative school board shall be as provided in the
- 23 bylaws or articles of agreement provided that in no case shall such terms exceed 3 years.
- 24 VII. **III.** Whenever the bylaws or articles of agreement provide for the election of
- 25 cooperative school board members pursuant to this chapter, said election shall be with the use of the
- 26 non-partisan ballot system under RSA 669.
- 27 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.