

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 23, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on Education to which
was referred HB 1669-FN,**

**AN ACT requiring the department of education to
administer the education freedom account program.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the
following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is
INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Moffett

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1669-FN
Title:	requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.
Date:	February 23, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Given that the education freedom account program is still a fledgling operation, we see a need to let the program complete an annual cycle so as to better review its implementation before creating further statutes in this area.

Vote 10-9.

Rep. Michael Moffett
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 1669-FN, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for the **Majority** of Education. Given that the education freedom account program is still a fledgling operation, we see a need to let the program complete an annual cycle so as to better review its implementation before creating further statutes in this area. **Vote 10-9.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 23, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on Education to which
was referred HB 1669-FN,**

**AN ACT requiring the department of education to
administer the education freedom account program.**

**Having considered the same, and being unable to agree
with the Majority, report with the recommendation that
the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Stephen Woodcock

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1669-FN
Title:	requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.
Date:	February 23, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

\$720,000 is the price off the top for an out-of-state (New York) company to process the application and manage individual reimbursements for the 1,600 children participating in New Hampshire's education freedom account (EFA) (educational voucher) program. This money does not cover the cost of the vouchers, but rather just the paperwork. This no-bid contract provides a 10% fee annually to administer just the application and reimbursement process. As more students enroll, the program's cost has the potential to spiral over a million dollars per year to administer. The minority feels that the NH Department of Education is well equipped and has the necessary expertise to administer the organization of EFA's at a significantly reduced cost to New Hampshire taxpayers. Additionally, it is felt that the opportunity to provide valid and immediate educational data is an additional and important benefit not available with a private, out-of-state contractor. On February 16, 2022, the House passed the establishment of an EFA Administrator at the Department of Education. This Ought to Pass motion does nothing to impede the current voucher program, but rather it strengthens its existence and funding.

Rep. Stephen Woodcock
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 1669-FN, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Stephen Woodcock for the **Minority** of Education. \$720,000 is the price off the top for an out-of-state (New York) company to process the application and manage individual reimbursements for the 1,600 children participating in New Hampshire's education freedom account (EFA) (educational voucher) program. This money does not cover the cost of the vouchers, but rather just the paperwork. This no-bid contract provides a 10% fee annually to administer just the application and reimbursement process. As more students enroll, the program's cost has the potential to spiral over a million dollars per year to administer. The minority feels that the NH Department of Education is well equipped and has the necessary expertise to administer the organization of EFA's at a significantly reduced cost to New Hampshire taxpayers. Additionally, it is felt that the opportunity to provide valid and immediate educational data is an additional and important benefit not available with a private, out-of-state contractor. On February 16, 2022, the House passed the establishment of an EFA Administrator at the Department of Education. This Ought to Pass motion does nothing to impede the current voucher program, but rather it strengthens its existence and funding.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1669-FN

BILL TITLE: requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.

DATE: February 23, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Moffett

Seconded by Rep. A. Lekas

Vote: 10-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill #

1669

BILL TITLE:

Requiring the DOE to administer the Education freedom account program.

DATE:

2/23/22

LOB ROOM:

207

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP

ITL

Retain (1st year)

Adoption of Amendment # _____

Interim Study (2nd year)

(if offered)

Moved by Rep.

moffett

Seconded by Rep.

Lukas

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. _____

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. _____

Seconded by Rep. _____

Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: _____ YES

_____ NO

Minority Report? Yes _____ No

If yes, author, Rep:

Woodcock OTP

Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: _____

Rep. Melissa Litchfield, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Education

Bill #: 1669 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2/23/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman <i>Last</i>	10		
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>Second</i>		2	
Luneau, David J. <i>First</i>		1	
Cornell, Patricia		3	
Tanner, Linda L.		4	
Ellison, Arthur S. <i>(Rep Walker)</i>		5	
Mullen, Sue M.		6	
Woodcock, Stephen L.		7	
Porter, Marjorie		8	
A. Hall, Muriel C.		9	
TOTAL VOTE:	10	9	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # HB1669

BILL TITLE: requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program

DATE: 2/2/22

ROOM: 205-207

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 1:38 PM

Time Adjourned: 3:03 PM

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

Rep Ham, prime sponsor

This bill changes the administration of the education freedom account program under RSA 194-F from scholarship organizations to the department of education. She feels strongly that the DOE should oversee this program. She does not support it being looked at by a separate entity that perhaps does not have the same focus that this new idea needs. It needs to look in conjunction with the public school opportunities we are now offering, and it deserves the DOE oversight. It deserves more accountability. It is state money. It can potentially have an impact on local schools, and I think that we need to bring it in house. She sees so many advantages to it becoming part of the NH Education plan.

She wants to be positive about the EFA program, and give it a chance. This is just the beginning, education needs reform, education has been a little stale lately...

Rep Cordelli, In terms of legislation and DOE take over, do you feel that the EFA legislative oversight committee that they have in place and the contract that they have in place are insufficient to monitor the program.

Response: She is not as confident, as she would be if this was part of the DOE, and looks at in conjunction with everything else that is being offered.

Rep Cordelli, Are you aware that three other states have reached out to the Children's Fund Scholarship to take over their in house program.

Response: No she did not.

Rep Tanner, Do you feel the DOE because of its staff, legal team and state dept of accounting would be the ones to oversee this?

Response: YES

Rep Boehm, Are you aware that this committee passed HB 1627, which is establishing an EFA administrator in the Dept of Ed. This bill passed 18 to 1.

Response: Yes, she is aware. She feels it is a good start.

Rep Luneau, The bill does have a fiscal note on it. Given that it is over budget, do you think the Dept can find this money?

Response: Yes

Rep Cordelli, Are you aware that the administrative costs for school districts is 10%.

Response: I can tell you it is much more in my district. The cost to administer a local school district is enormous. It is quite costly to administer educational programs.

Rep Tanner, My administration costs are high, but it includes more than an EFA program would entail. Would you agree to that?

Response: Ah, Yes, in general. We spend $\frac{1}{8}$ just for administrators not including anything else.

Rep Woodcock, I appreciate this bill and seems forward thinking. I have a question on the effective date. Did you have the chance to speak to the DOE to see if they could be ready by July 1, 2022.

Response: No, I did not, and that effective date does seem quite ambitious.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB1669 on 2022-02-02

Support: 100 Oppose: 5 Neutral: 1 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>
McGuire, Dan	Epsom, NH danmcguire@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/27/2022 8:08 PM
Cahill, Michael	Newmarket, NH michael.cahill@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2022 7:09 AM
LeBlanc, Jennifer	Lebanon, NH workrelated.leblanc@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2022 12:11 PM
Korzen, Lori	Berlin, NH lekorzen@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2022 12:58 PM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	No	No	1/30/2022 8:52 AM
Dolkart, Vivian	Grantham, NH viviandolkart@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 2:44 PM
Dontonville, Anne	Enfield, NH Ardontonville@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 2:58 PM
Tucker, Katherine	Wilmot, NH katherine.s.tucker@valley.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 3:42 PM
Dontonville, Roger	Enfield, NH rdontonville@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 3:44 PM
Cranage, Amy	Grantham, NH cranhan@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 4:30 PM
Hegfield, Laura	Amherst, NH laurahegfield@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 4:47 PM
Telerski, Laura	Nashua, NH Laura.Telerski@Leg.State.NH.US	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 5:36 PM
Nardino, Marie	Andover, NH mdnardino@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 7:10 PM

Robinson, Ellis	Grantham, NH ellismmrobinson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 8:12 PM
Marcoux, Daniel	Northfield, NH danmarcoux90@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 8:27 PM
Marcoux, Sarah	Northfield, NH marcouxhouse@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 8:27 PM
Marcoux, Joseph	Northfield, NH Joeymarcoux@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 8:27 PM
Stinson, Benjamin	Concord, NH benrkstinson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 8:34 PM
Perencevich, Ruth	Concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 9:35 PM
Glass, Jonathan	Cornish, NH jglass1063@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 10:23 PM
Crandell-Glass, Jane	Cornish, NH bostonjane@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/30/2022 10:30 PM
Boyle, Mary	Cornish, NH mary.n.boyle@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/30/2022 11:08 PM
Ford Burley, Nicole	Lebanon, NH nicole.ford.burley@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 8:55 AM
Stevens, Deb	Nashua, NH debstevens4ward7@gmail.com	An Elected Official	My 10K constituents	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 9:11 AM
Jakubowski, Dennis	Loudon, NH Dendeb146@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 9:21 AM
Jakubowski, Deborah	Loudon, NH Dendeb146@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	My self	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 9:23 AM
DePuy, Charles	Lebanon, NH c.depuy@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 9:39 AM
DeWitt, Sarah	Exeter, NH brillopad9@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 10:53 AM
Pimentel, Rod	Henniker, NH Rod.pimentel@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 11:28 AM
Faria, Jason	Exeter, NH medfica@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 11:55 AM
Oxenham, Lee	Plainfield, NH leeoxenham@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 12:04 PM

Heath, Mary	Manchester, NH m.heath@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 12:05 PM
Bouchard, Donald	MANCHESTER, NH donaldjbouchard@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 12:42 PM
Higgins, Patricia	HANOVER, NH phiggins47@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 1:05 PM
Downs, Nathan	Dover, NH nathan.a.downs@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 2:09 PM
Langellotti, Jodi	Dover, NH startsfromwithin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	OCD New Hampshire	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 2:10 PM
Hamer, Heidi	Manchester, NH heidi.hamer@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 2:15 PM
Noonan, Colleen	Dover, NH cmnoon52@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 2:30 PM
Schuman, Diana	Dover, NH deesch@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 2:46 PM
Zaenglein, Barbara	AMHERST, NH bzaenglein@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 3:27 PM
Zaenglein, Eric	Amherst, NH henley11@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 3:34 PM
O'Neill, Sandra	Madbury, NH sandy_oneill@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 3:46 PM
Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 4:14 PM
Lewis, ELizabeth	Nashua, NH ecop.lewis@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 4:35 PM
Corell, Elizabeth	Concord, NH Elizabeth.j.corell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	None	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 5:01 PM
Peterson, Susan	Newton, NH susanrp@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 5:03 PM
Marshall, Stephanie	Exeter, NH stephmarshall@myfairpoint.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 5:14 PM
Duncan, Stan	Newton, NH standuncan@post.harvard.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 5:38 PM
Almy, Susan	Lebanon, NH Susan.almy@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 6:08 PM

Minton, Faith	Warner, NH minton.faith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 7:31 PM
Mattlage, Linda	Concord, NH L.mattlage@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 7:36 PM
Clark, Denise	Milford, NH denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 8:00 PM
Fenner-Lukaitis, Elizabeth	Warner, NH glukaitis@mcttelecom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 8:10 PM
Bowles, Margaret	Lyme, NH mcb2885@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 9:45 PM
wazir, Safiya	Concord, NH Swazir@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself and my Constituents	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 9:49 PM
Grassie, Chuck	Rochester, NH chuck.grassie@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Strafford 11	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 10:37 PM
Merlone, Lynn	Rindge, NH prulone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 6:45 AM
Cook, Barbara	Canterbury, NH Bdc7@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 7:22 AM
Wells, Ken	Andover, NH kenwells3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 8:28 AM
Smith, Nancy	Enfield, NH nancysmith8@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:09 AM
Dolkart, Kenneth	Grantham, NH kenneth.dolkart@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:13 AM
Doherty, David	Pembroke, NH ddoherty0845@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:21 AM
Hodsdon, Alan	CANTERBURY, NH alan.hodsdon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:26 AM
Cutting, Sarah Ellen	ALEXANDRIA, NH mrscutting211@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:43 AM
Emerson, Anne	Canterbury, NH ademerson4180@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:44 AM
Hampton, Mark	Canterbury, NH dandmhamp38@mail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:50 AM
Pellettieri, Judith	Warner, NH judithpellettieri@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 10:02 AM

Dunham, Bonnie	Merrimack, NH Bsdunham12@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 11:13 AM
bory, lee	nashua, NH leebory@juno.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 11:36 AM
Hunnewell, Richard	Holderness, NH hunnewell.richard@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 12:22 PM
Hunnewell, Anne	Holderness, NH ahunne@roadrunner.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 12:22 PM
Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 1:18 PM
CLARK, SUSAN	TILTON, NH sukieclark@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 2:02 PM
Lepesqueur, Paul	CANTERBURY, NH karumi.karumi@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 2:25 PM
Kerwin, Mary	Canterbury, NH forthemary@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 2:31 PM
Campbell, Karolyn	Epsom, NH kkccampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 2:49 PM
Gordon, KB	Sunapee, NH andkatnh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 4:14 PM
Gutterman, Gail	Sunapee, NH gutsea@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 4:33 PM
Enos, Teresa	Nottingham, NH tandeenos01@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/1/2022 4:36 PM
thompson, julia	durham, NH maple371@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 4:51 PM
Lemoi, Claude	Canaan, NH claudio.lemoi@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 5:16 PM
Smith, Suzanne	Hebron, NH zanne719@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 5:32 PM
Davis, Erin	Barrington, NH EMSmith07@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 6:19 PM
cahill, Kathy	Concord, NH kathyhigginscahill@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 6:52 PM
Marchuk, Mercy	Dover, NH Mercymarchuk@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 6:54 PM

Dutzy, Sherry	Nashua, NH sherry.dutzy@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 7:38 PM
York, Barbara	Sunapee, NH spiders1120@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 7:49 PM
Kuemmerle, Nancy	Enfield, NH nkuemmerle@une.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 7:52 PM
Brooks, Jill	Dover, NH Jillannbrooks@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 8:18 PM
Hamblet, Joan	Portsmouth, NH jhamblet4@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:10 PM
Richman, Susan	Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2022 9:32 PM
Richardson, Bryan	Alexandria, NH marks-dad@ipatriots.us	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/2/2022 2:41 AM
Gilman, Julie	Exeter, NH Jgilman@exeternh.gov	An Elected Official	Town of Exeter	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 4:27 AM
Bushueff, Catherine	Sunapee, NH agawamdesigns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 5:11 AM
Wilke, Mary	CONCORD, NH wilke.mary@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 7:27 AM
Meuse, David	Portsmouth, NH David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Rockingham 29	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 7:43 AM
Gelsey, Giana	Madbury, NH gagelsey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 7:51 AM
Hinebauch, Mel	Concord, NH melhinebauch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 7:58 AM
Petrucelli, Charles	Webster, NH chasmxpet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 8:15 AM
Petrucelli, Maxine	Webster, NH maxinepet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 8:16 AM
Osborne, Jason	Auburn, NH houserepoffice@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/2/2022 8:20 AM
Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 8:30 AM
Frew, Jerome	Concord, NH jerry@nhsaa.org	A Lobbyist	NHSAA	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 8:31 AM

Scenna, Susan	Wilton, NH Sescen3@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 10:28 AM
Cahill-Yeaton, Miriam	Epsom, NH nmyeaton.mims@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 1:44 PM
Cornell, Patricia	Manchester, NH Cornell49@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 2:43 PM

Subject: HB 1669 requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program

From: Daniel Richardson <daniel6_22@comcast.net>

Date: 1/30/2022, 8:53 AM

To: HouseEducationCommittee@leg.state.nh.us

CC: Tom Lanzara <tomlanzara@gmail.com>, Dan Wolf <Dan.Wolf@leg.state.nh.us>, Brodie Deshaies <brodieforNH@gmail.com>, Mel Myler <Mel.Myler@leg.state.nh.us>

Ref: February 2, 2022 Public Hearing

House Education Committee -

I write in reference to HB 1669. This bill would immediately yank a parents residual EFA funds back to the pool, without regard to the parents outstanding residual qualifying obligations, should the parent/student decide to return to public school. The bill's proposed immediacy of grabbing unexpended funds is totally unnecessary.

Please amend HB 1669 so as not to immediately yank a parents residual EFA funds back to the education trust fund. Give parents a chance to cover their outstanding debts.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

HB 1669 – support

I am in full support of HB 1669 because it is the responsible step in managing EFAs because:

1. EFA Confidentiality is seriously breached within this process regardless of what the agency conducting the EFAs report. This process needs to be within the DOE with additional staff defined as such.
2. The potential with limited state auditing of EFAs is fraught with the potential for fraud at many levels (as evidenced in other states).
3. Who will monitor the overall safety and learning of our children in this program? If the DOE is involved there is more accountability.
4. The DOE is a state agency and should be the financial entity overseeing the EFAs, it has access the LBA and other entities as needed. These are tax payers dollars.
5. The LBA will have no access to the processing of EFAs as it stands now – it is actually prohibited.
6. With the requirement of a SASID for each EFA, the DOE must have some accountability and it is not possible by contracting out this EFA process.

Respectfully submitted by,

Representative Mary Sullivan Heath

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:44 AM

From: Daniel Richardson

Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:53:18 AM

To: ~House Education Committee

Cc: Tom Lanzara; Dan Wolf; Brodie Deshaies; Mel Myler

Subject: HB 1669 requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program

Importance: Normal

Ref: February 2, 2022 Public Hearing

House Education Committee -

I write in reference to HB 1669. This bill would immediately yank a parents residual EFA funds back to the pool, without regard to the parents outstanding residual qualifying obligations, should the parent/student decide to return to public school. The bill's proposed immediacy of grabbing unexpended funds is totally unnecessary.

Please amend HB 1670 so as not to immediately yank a parents residual EFA funds back to the education trust fund. Give parents a chance to cover their outstanding debts.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:44 AM

From: Daniel Richardson

Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:54:22 AM

To: ~House Education Committee

Cc: Tom Lanzara; Dan Wolf; Brodie Deshaies; Mel Myler

Subject: HB 1669 requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program

Importance: Normal

Ref: February 2, 2022 Public Hearing

House Education Committee -

I write in reference to HB 1669. This bill would immediately yank a parents residual EFA funds back to the pool, without regard to the parents outstanding residual qualifying obligations, should the parent/student decide to return to public school. The bill's proposed immediacy of grabbing unexpended funds is totally unnecessary.

Please amend HB 1669 so as not to immediately yank a parents residual EFA funds back to the education trust fund. Give parents a chance to cover their outstanding debts.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:43 AM

From: [Zephan Wood](#)

Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:07:49 AM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: OPPOSE HB1669-Parents have the right to choose the education for their children

Importance: Normal

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

One of my favorite aspects as a prospective parent residing in New Hampshire is that I have the option to use the Education Freedom Accounts to provide my children with a quality education for my children. This bill seeks to heavily restrict this by allowing for the bureaucratic department of education to administer the education freedom accounts. This will result in a severe restriction on parental freedom that should not be permissible in a society that respects individual choice and a parent's fundamental right to raise their children in the way that they deem fit. Once again, I strongly advise that you vote ITL for HB1669. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Zephan N. Wood,

Concerned citizen and taxpayer of New Hampshire.

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:43 AM

From: [Zephan Wood](#)

Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:39:01 AM

To: ~House Education Committee

Subject: Re: OPPOSE HB1669-Parents have the right to choose the education for their children

Importance: Normal

Also please put this on the docket to be used during the hearing next week. Thank you.

On Sun, Jan 30, 2022 at 11:07 AM Zephan Wood <zephanw@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

One of my favorite aspects as a prospective parent residing in New Hampshire is that I have the option to use the Education Freedom Accounts to provide my children with a quality education for my children. This bill seeks to heavily restrict this by allowing for the bureaucratic department of education to administer the education freedom accounts. This will result in a severe restriction on parental freedom that should not be permissible in a society that respects individual choice and a parent's fundamental right to raise their children in the way that they deem fit. Once again, I strongly advise that you vote ITL for HB1669. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Zephan N. Wood,

Concerned citizen and taxpayer of New Hampshire.

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:32 AM
From: [Catharine S. Newick](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:49:40 AM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Support HB 1670 & 1669
Importance: Normal

I am writing in support of the above bills.

We do not need a private group administration state funds.
Catharine Newick
68 Burrough Rd
Canterbury

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:30 AM
From: [wm Langellotti](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:08:07 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: FEB 2 House Bills
Importance: Normal

NH House Education Committee Members,

Thank you.

We Oppose:

HB 1233, prohibiting higher education institutions receiving state funds from requiring face masks and COVID-19 vaccinations for attendance.

and **we oppose**

HB 1332, excepting public universities and colleges from requirements under medical freedom in immunizations.(No requirements for vaccines)

We support

HB 1670-L, relative to funds of the education freedom account program after termination of a student's participation and responsibilities of the scholarship organization (terminates EFA funds if student returns to district school and requires an audit of any misuse of funds)

We SUPPORT

HB 1669-FN, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.(brings the freedom accounts under state supervision)

William Langellotti

Catherine Langellotti

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:30 AM

From: [Kay Yeagley](#)

Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:02:16 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: Feb 2, 2022 remote testimony

Importance: Normal

My name is Kay Yeagley and I have been a Georges Mills, NH resident since 1973.

I would like to comment on today's bills that are before your committee. But before I give my input I would ask that as you take testimony and later vote on these bills that you ask yourself these four questions before deciding about each bill and that you have a reasonable answer for each.

If I vote for this bill what are the negatives?

If I vote for this bill what are the positives?

If I vote against this bill what are the negatives?

If I vote against this bill what are the positives?

My input for today's bills before your committee:

HB 1233 - I oppose this bill because I believe this is truly a minority opinion. It also appears, to me, as if this bill has been prepared by those who choose to place the burden of reducing infectious diseases on the general public rather than themselves.

HB1332 - I oppose this bill because I believe every person has a responsibility to the well being of the general population. When looking at the CDC National Center for Health Statistics 2019 Data Finder the vaccination rates for diseases we no longer worry about have an average rate above 80%. We are not an "every man for themselves" kind of state - are we?

HB 1670 - L I am in support of this bill because that student and their family need to be accountable to me and my tax dollar.

HB 1669 - FN - I am in support of this bill because local control is a very important part of this state's monetary philosophy. (You can't change boats in mid-stream without a great chance of falling in.)

HB 1669 - FN I am in support of this bill because I expect every single cent of my tax dollar to be properly administered and supervised.

HB 1669-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2407

10/11

HOUSE BILL ***1669-FN***

AN ACT requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ham, Graf. 5; Rep. Deshaies, Carr. 6; Rep. Myler, Merr. 10; Rep. Wolf, Merr. 5

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill changes the administration of the education freedom account program under RSA 194-F from scholarship organizations to the department of education.

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 Two

AN ACT requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.

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

1 1 New Paragraph; Education Freedom Accounts; Definition; Commissioner. Amend RSA 194-
2 F:1 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

3 I-a. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of education.

4 2 Definition; EFA. Amend RSA 194-F:1, IV to read as follows:

5 IV. "Education freedom account" or "EFA" means the account to which funds are allocated
6 by the [~~scholarship organization~~] **department** to the parent of an EFA student in order to pay for
7 qualifying education expenses to educate the EFA student under this chapter.

8 3 Definition; State Board. RSA 194-F:1, XII is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

9 XII. "State board" means the state board of education.

10 4 Program; Funds Transfer. Amend RSA 194-F:2, I to read as follows:

11 I. The commissioner of the department of education shall transfer to the [~~scholarship
12 organization~~] **student's EFA** the per pupil adequate education grant amount under RSA 198:40-a,
13 plus any differentiated aid that would have been provided to a public school for that eligible student.
14 The transfers shall be made in accordance with the distribution of adequate education grants under
15 RSA 198:42.

16 5 Qualifying Expenses. Amend RSA 194-F:2, II(o) to read as follows:

17 (o) Any other educational expense approved by the [~~scholarship organization~~] **state
18 board**.

19 6 Unused Funds. Amend RSA 194-F:2, VII to read as follows:

20 VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to-
21 quarter and from year-to-year until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program,
22 **the student becomes ineligible**, or until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless the
23 EFA is closed because of a substantial misuse of funds. Any unused funds shall revert to the
24 education trust fund established in RSA 198:39 [~~and be allocated to fund other EFAs~~]. **Unused
25 funds that roll over from year-to-year may not exceed the amount of one quarterly
26 distribution into the student's EFA and any excess year-to-year roll over funds shall be
27 returned to the education trust fund.**

28 7 Education Freedom Accounts. Amend RSA 194-F:3 to read as follows:

29 194-F:3 Application for an Education Freedom Account.

1 I. A parent may apply to the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** to establish an EFA for
2 an eligible student. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall accept and approve
3 applications for the fall and spring semesters each year and shall establish procedures for approving
4 applications in an expeditious manner.

5 II. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall create a standard form that parents
6 can submit to establish their student's eligibility for the EFA program and shall ensure that the
7 application is publicly available and may be submitted through various sources, including the
8 Internet.

9 III. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall approve an application for an EFA if:

10 (a) The parent submits an application for an EFA in accordance with application
11 procedures established by the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**.

12 (b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student.

13 (c) Funds are available for the EFA.

14 (d) The parent signs an agreement with the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**:

15 (1) To provide an education for the eligible student in the core knowledge domains
16 that include science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling,
17 the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and
18 appreciation of art and music.

19 (2) Not to enroll the eligible student as a full-time student in their resident district
20 public school while participating in the EFA program.

21 (3) To provide an annual record **to the department** of educational attainment by:

22 (A) ~~[Having the student take a nationally standardized, norm-referenced~~
23 ~~achievement test and to provide the results to the scholarship organization by the end of each school~~
24 ~~year which the scholarship organization shall make available to the department as aggregate scores;~~
25 ~~or~~

26 (B) Having the student take the statewide student assessment test pursuant to
27 RSA 193-C:6; or

28 (C) (B) Maintaining a portfolio including, but not limited to, a log which
29 designates by title the reading materials used; samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or
30 creative materials used or developed by the student. The parent shall have a certified teacher or a
31 teacher currently teaching in a nonpublic school, who is selected by the parent, evaluate the
32 student's educational progress upon review of a portfolio and discussion with the parent or student.

33 (4) To use the funds in the EFA only for qualifying expenses to educate the eligible
34 student as established by the EFA program.

35 (5) To comply with the rules and requirements of the EFA program.

36 IV. The signed agreement between the parent and the ~~[scholarship organization]~~
37 **department** shall satisfy the compulsory school attendance requirements of RSA 193:1.

1 V. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall annually renew a student's EFA if
2 funds are available.

3 VI. Upon notice to the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**, an EFA student may choose
4 to stop receiving EFA funding and enroll full-time in a public school.

5 (a) Enrolling as a full-time student in the resident district public school shall result in
6 the immediate suspension of payment of additional funds into the student's EFA, **termination of**
7 **the EFA, and the transfer of any remaining funds by the department back to the education**
8 **trust fund.** ~~[However, an EFA that has been open for at least one full school year shall remain open~~
9 ~~and active for the parent to make qualifying expenditures to educate the student from funds~~
10 ~~remaining in the EFA. When no funds remain in the student's EFA, the scholarship organization~~
11 ~~may close the EFA.]~~

12 (b) If an eligible student decides to return to the EFA program, payments into the
13 student's existing EFA may resume if the EFA is still open and active. A new EFA may be
14 established if the student's EFA was closed.

15 8 Authority and Responsibilities of the Department. Amend RSA 194-F:4 to read as follows:

16 194-F:4 Authority and Responsibilities of the ~~[Scholarship Organization]~~ **Department**. The
17 ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall have the following additional duties, obligations, and
18 authority:

19 I. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall maintain an updated list of education
20 service providers and shall ensure that the list is publicly available through various sources,
21 including the ~~[Internet]~~ **department's website**.

22 II. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall provide parents with a written
23 explanation of the allowable uses of EFA funds, the responsibilities of parents, the duties of the
24 ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**, and the role of any financial management firms that the
25 ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may contract with to administer any aspect of the EFA
26 program.

27 III. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall ensure that parents of students with
28 disabilities receive notice that participation in the EFA program is a parental placement under 20
29 U.S.C. section 1412, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with an explanation
30 of the rights that parentally placed students possess under IDEA and any applicable state laws.

31 IV. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall ~~[- in cooperation with the department,]~~
32 determine eligibility for differentiated aid subject to any applicable state and federal laws.

33 ~~[V. The scholarship organization may withhold from deposits or deduct from EFAs an~~
34 ~~amount to cover the costs of administering the EFA program, up to a maximum of 10 percent~~
35 ~~annually.]~~

1 ~~[VI.]~~ **V.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall implement a commercially viable
2 system for payment of services from EFAs to education service providers by electronic or online
3 funds transfer.

4 (a) The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall not adopt a system that relies
5 exclusively on requiring parents to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, but rather shall
6 provide maximum flexibility to parents by facilitating direct payments to education service
7 providers. ~~[Scholarship organizations]~~ **The department** may pre-approve requests for
8 reimbursements for qualifying expenses, including expenses pursuant to RSA 194-F:2, II, but shall
9 not disperse funds to parents without receipt that such pre-approved purchase has been made.

10 (b) ~~[A scholarship organization]~~ **The department** may contract with a private
11 institution or organization to develop the payment system.

12 ~~[VII.]~~ **VI.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may also seek to implement a
13 commercially viable system for parents to publicly rate, review, and share information about
14 education service providers, ideally as part of the same system that facilitates the electronic or
15 online funds transfers.

16 ~~[VIII.]~~ **VII.** If an education service provider requires partial payment of tuition or fees prior
17 to the start of the academic year to reserve space for an EFA student admitted to the education
18 service provider, such partial payment may be paid by the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**, if
19 funds are available, prior to the start of the school year in which the EFA is awarded and deducted
20 in an equitable manner from subsequent quarterly EFA deposits to ensure adequate funds remain
21 available throughout the school year; but if an EFA student decides not to use the education service
22 provider, the partial reservation payment shall be returned to the ~~[scholarship organization]~~
23 **department** by such education service provider and credited to the student's EFA.

24 ~~[IX.]~~ **VIII.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall continue making deposits into
25 a student's EFA until:

26 (a) The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** determines that the EFA student is no
27 longer an eligible student.

28 (b) The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** determines that there was substantial
29 misuse of the funds in the EFA.

30 (c) The parent or EFA student withdraws from the EFA program.

31 (d) The EFA student enrolls full-time in the resident district public school.

32 (e) The EFA student graduates from high school.

33 ~~[X.]~~ **IX.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may conduct or contract for the
34 auditing of individual EFAs, and shall at a minimum conduct random audits of EFAs on an annual
35 basis.

36 ~~[XI.]~~ **X.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may make any parent or EFA student
37 ineligible for the EFA program in the event of intentional and substantial misuse of EFA funds.

1 (a) The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall create procedures to ensure that a
2 fair process exists to determine whether an intentional and substantial misuse of EFA funds has
3 occurred.

4 (b) If an EFA student is free from personal misconduct, that student shall be eligible for
5 an EFA in the future if placed with a new guardian or other person with the legal authority to act on
6 behalf of the student.

7 (c) The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may refer suspected cases of intentional
8 and substantial misuse of EFA funds to the attorney general for investigation if evidence of
9 fraudulent use of EFA funds is obtained.

10 (d) A parent or EFA student may appeal the ~~[scholarship organization's]~~ **department's**
11 decision to deny eligibility for the EFA program to the ~~[department]~~ **state board**.

12 ~~[XII.]~~ **XI.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may bar an education service provider
13 from accepting payments from EFAs if the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**
14 determines that the education service provider has:

15 (a) Intentionally and substantially misrepresented information or failed to refund any
16 overpayments in a timely manner.

17 (b) Routinely failed to provide students with promised educational goods or services.

18 ~~[XIII.]~~ **XII.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall create procedures to ensure
19 that a fair process exists to determine whether an education service provider may be barred from
20 receiving payments from EFAs.

21 (a) If the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** bars an education service provider
22 from receiving payments from EFAs, it shall notify parents and EFA students of its decision as
23 quickly as possible.

24 (b) Education service providers may appeal the ~~[scholarship organization's]~~
25 **department's** decision to bar them from receiving payments from the EFA to the ~~[department]~~
26 **state board**.

27 ~~[XIV. The scholarship organization may accept gifts and grants from any source to cover
28 administrative costs, to inform the public about the EFA program, or to fund additional EFAs.]~~

29 ~~[XV.]~~ **XIII.** The department shall adopt rules that are necessary for the administration of
30 this chapter.

31 ~~[XVI. The scholarship organization shall adopt policies or procedures that are necessary for
32 the administration of this chapter.]~~ This may include **rules for** policies or procedures:

33 (a) Establishing or contracting for the establishment of an online anonymous fraud
34 reporting service.

35 (b) Establishing an anonymous telephone number for fraud reporting.

36 (c) Requiring a surety bond for education service providers receiving more than \$100,000
37 in EFA funds.

1 (d) Refunding payments from education service providers to EFAs.

2 (e) Ensuring appropriate use and rigorous oversight of all funds expended under this
3 program.

4 ~~[XVII.]~~ **XIV.** The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** shall not exclude, discriminate
5 against, or otherwise disadvantage any education provider with respect to programs or services
6 under this section based in whole or in part on the provider's religious character or affiliation,
7 including religiously based or mission-based policies or practices.

8 9 Advisory Commission. Amend RSA 194-F:5 to read as follows:

9 194-F:5 Parent and Education Service Provider Advisory Commission.

10 I. There is established the parent and education service provider advisory commission to
11 assist the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** by providing recommendations about
12 implementing, administering, and improving the EFA program.

13 II. The commission shall consist of 7 members who shall be parents of EFA students or
14 education service providers and shall represent no fewer than 4 counties in the state. The members
15 shall be appointed by the ~~[director of the scholarship organization]~~ **commissioner** and serve at the
16 ~~[director's]~~ **commissioner's** pleasure for one calendar year after which they may be reappointed.
17 ~~[The director of the scholarship organization, or designee, shall serve as a non-voting chairperson of~~
18 ~~the commission.]~~ The commissioner of the department of education, or designee, shall serve as a
19 non-voting member of the commission.

20 III. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may request the commission to meet, in
21 person or virtually, to review appeals of education service provider denials pursuant to RSA 194-F:4,
22 ~~[XI] X~~ and to provide a recommendation to the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** as to whether
23 an education service provider should be allowed to receive, or continue receiving, payments from
24 EFAs.

25 10 Education Service Providers. Amend RSA 194-F:6 to read as follows:

26 194-F:6 Requirements for Education Service Providers.

27 I. The ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** may approve education service providers on
28 its own initiative, at the request of parents, or by notice to the ~~[scholarship organization]~~
29 **department** provided by prospective education service providers.

30 II. A prospective education service provider that wishes to receive payments from EFAs
31 shall:

32 (a) Submit notice to the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department** that it wishes to receive
33 payments from EFAs.

34 (b) Agree not to refund, rebate, or share EFA funds with parents or EFA students in any
35 manner, except that funds may be remitted or refunded to an EFA in accordance with procedures
36 established by the ~~[scholarship organization]~~ **department**.

37 (c) Comply with all state and federal anti-discrimination laws.

HB 1669-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 7 -

1 11 Liability. Amend RSA 194-F:9, II to read as follows:

2 II. No liability shall arise on the part of the [~~scholarship organization~~] **department** or the
3 state or of any public school or school district based on the award of or use of an EFA pursuant to
4 this chapter.

5 12 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

**HB 1669-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the Department of Education rather than an approved Scholarship Organization to administer the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program. The Department states this would involve the establishment of a bureau to administer the program, including related staff. Due to the uncertainty as to how many students might be participating in the program at the time the Department begins this administration, it is unable to determine the cost of such administration. In addition, the Department states it is unclear if the law would require it to build-out a technology system to facilitate the management of the program. The cost of such system is not determinable without a complete RFP process and involvement from the state Department of Information Technology (DoIT). Such system implementation may also require time that may prevent timely implementation of the proposed law. Ultimately, this bill's impact on state expenditures is indeterminable. This bill provides neither appropriation nor authority for new personnel.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education