



New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

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Senate to address Teacher Tenure

SB 114 to be amended to allow more local control of teacher renewals

(Concord) The state Senate takes up the national issue of teacher tenure this week. Senate Bill 114 will be heard by the Education Committee on Tuesday with a new amendment aimed at allowing more local control when it comes to removing teachers for unsatisfactory performance.

SB 114 would require teachers to work longer in a school district before being granted tenure and simplifies the burdensome process for removing under-performing educators. However, if a teacher is denied renewal by a local school board he or she will continue to retain the right to appeal to the State Board of Education.

The amendment's prime sponsor is Sen. Jim Forsythe (R-Stafford). He called the new language necessary to return more local control to school administrators who are often frustrated when it comes to removing a bad teacher from the classroom. "Asking a teacher to work five years instead of three before they are given tenure and removing the frustrating and costly process through which they can be removed makes sense on so many levels, but particularly the local one," he said.

Forsythe added, "Most of our teachers are talented instructors who love their work as well as the children they instruct. But when a teacher isn't meeting high standards, we need to give superintendents and school boards the ability to take action in a way they are currently denied. The inability to non-renew the very few substandard teachers we have harms the reputation of our schools and all our excellent teachers, so we would expect this measure to be supported by those who care about a quality education."

The Senate Education Committee will hear Senate Bill 114 with amendment on Tuesday, March 22 at @1:40pm in Room 103 of the Legislative Office Building in Concord.

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