

## Senate Education Committee

*Kat Bourque 271-3091*

**HB 233**, relative to the submission of school emergency response plans.

**Hearing Date:** March 7, 2017

**Time Opened:** 9:45 AM

**Time Closed:** 9:54 AM

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Reagan, Giuda, Ward and Kahn

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Watters

**Bill Analysis :** This bill requires a school to submit its emergency response plan, and any updates to the plan, to the department of education.

**Sponsors :**

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Barry

Rep. Sterling

Sen. D'Allesandro

---

**Who supports the bill:** N/A

**Who opposes the bill:** N/A

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Perry Plummer (New Hampshire Homeland Security), Amy Clark (DOE)

**Summary of testimony presented in support:** N/A

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition :** N/A

**Neutral Information Presented:**

*Perry Plummer*

*Liaison, Department of Homeland Security*

- Mr. Plummer introduced the legislation on behalf of Rep. Ladd.
- This bill would require a school to submit its emergency response plan and any updates on the plan to the Department of Education.
- This is important because it requires schools to examine such plans every year, and allows them to carefully review plans in order to make our schools safer.
- These plans include natural disasters, active shooters, and the like.
- Senator Reagan stated that this may be a burden on DOE to receive these plans. Mr. Plummer state that the Department may be able to answer this question as to whom

they believe is best to receive the plan.

- Senator Giuda asked who is involved in evaluating the effectiveness of these plans. Mr. Plummer stated that they will meet with schools with a template to address their needs, but no one is required to technically review each school's plans.
- Senator Kahn asked if Mr. Plummer observes safety issues in schools that need physical improvements in order to address them. Mr. Plummer stated that this sometimes happens. They will report back with the school about things that they can do better, like keeping their doors locked, or physical changes in the building that they may not be able to afford.
- Senator Ward asked if all towns have a mitigation plan and if the schools must be a part of that. Mr. Plummer stated that all schools do have this plan, but that the community's emergency reference plan only references a school and does not get into its operations, usually.

*Amy Clark*  
*DOE*

- Ms. Clark stated that DOE and Homeland Security work very well as partners. The two share data and are often able to direct questions to each other.
- In terms of where these plans should be submitted, the Department thinks that they could be sent to either place. DOE already looks to see if these plans are completed, anyways.
- Senator Giuda asked if Ms. Clark could assure committee members that no personal data is being shared between the two Departments. Ms. Clark stated that this was correct.

**Future Action:** Pending

KAB  
Date Hearing Report completed: March 7, 2017