



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 1, 2017

To: Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor
Honorable Chuck Morse, President of the Senate
Honorable Shawn Jasper, Speaker of the House
Honorable Tammy Wright, Senate Clerk
Honorable Paul Smith, House Clerk
State Library

From: Senator Regina Birdsell

Subject: Final Report – SB 248

Enclosed please find the final report from the committee to study the rescheduling of elections and relative to absentee voter signatures, established by SB 248, Chapter Law 216:1; Laws of 2017.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Committee to Study the Rescheduling of Elections and Relative to Absentee Voter Signatures

SB 248, Chapter Law 216:1, Laws of 2017

RE: Final Report

DATE: November 1, 2017

Findings:

The committee established by SB 248 to study the rescheduling of elections and relative to absentee voter signatures, having duly met, submits this final report as required under Chapter Law 216:1 (2017).

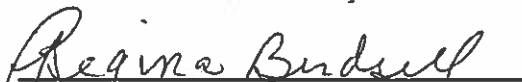
The committee met a total of four times on the following dates: September 7th, September 28th, October 24th and October 30th. At the committee's organizational meeting, Senator Birdsell was elected as Chair of the committee. Throughout these meetings, the committee heard testimony from the Secretary of State's Office, town moderators, town clerks, the New Hampshire Municipal Association, and several private citizens on their views of how to properly reschedule elections and deal with absentee voter ballots when there is inclement weather or another type of serious emergency on the local level. These discussions also included findings that there is a distinct lack of uniformity in this process.

The minutes of each of the committee's meetings are attached.


Recommendations:

Although committee members' opinions differ in deciding exactly who should have authority in making the decision to reschedule an election due to inclement weather or another type of emergency, all committee members agree that a uniform process is needed to address this issue and that this is best solved by way of legislation.


Respectfully submitted,



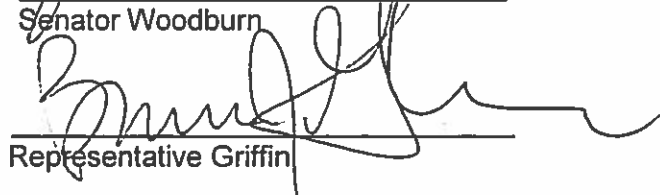
Senator Birdsell



Representative Cote *KAB



Senator Woodburn



Representative Griffin



Representative Hoelzel