

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Cameron Lapine 271-2104

HB 273, relative to the 50th anniversary of the passage of the 26th amendment, granting the right to vote to 18-21 year olds and celebrating youth voting and office holding.

Hearing Date: April 28, 2021

Time Opened: 9:05 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:15 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Reagan, Ricciardi, Cavanaugh and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill proclaims May 13, 2021 as youth franchise and youth officeholder day in New Hampshire, in honor of the 50th anniversary of New Hampshire's ratification, on May 13, 1971, of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution which granted the right to vote to 18-21 year olds and made 18-21 year olds eligible to hold office in the state.

Sponsors:

Rep. Cushing

Rep. Conley

Who supports the bill: 31 people signed up in support of the bill. Full sign in sheet available upon request.

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: Eric Pauer.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Renny Cushing

Rockingham – District 21

- Representative Cushing said that 2021 is the 50th anniversary of the last major expansion of the electorate in the United States, celebrating the passage of the 26th Amendment, extending the right to 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds and extending the ability to hold off to them in New Hampshire.
- Rep. Cushing said that HB 273 marks a historic event that should be celebrated and lift up young people who are voters and office holders. He said that May 13th, 2021 is the anniversary of New Hampshire ratifying the 26th Amendment.

- Rep. Cushing was involved with the Let Us Vote movement as a 16-year-old and spoke in the House Chamber in support of the lowering of the voting age. He said that although they lost that specific vote, their support was bipartisan and included the then-Speaker and his leadership team.
- Senator Carson asked if Rep. Cushing had any concerns over the date in HB 273 being May 13th, 2021 and the legislative timeline for passing HB 273.
 - Rep. Cushing said that he did not see any issues, and that he hoped the Committee and the Senate could act on HB 273 as soon as possible and get the bill to the Governor for his signature on or before May 13th.

Representative Amanda Toll

Cheshire – District 16

- Representative Toll said that she represents many young people, as both Keene State College and Antioch University are within her district.
- Rep. Toll said that young people are critical to needed social changes and youth participation is worth celebrating. She said that HB 273 will recognize their involvement with civic engagement and civic discourse.
- Rep. Toll said that passing HB 273 would be uplifting for her young adult constituents.

Representative Timothy Horrigan

Strafford – District 6

- Representative Horrigan said that HB 273 is important to his district because it contains the University of New Hampshire and the town of Durham.

Rep. Horrigan said that perhaps HB 273 could have been a resolution but is a bill. He said he is hopeful it can pass on time because the Senate can move quickly.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.