

Amendment to SB 410

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT relative to public comment periods at school district meetings and meetings of the  
4 state board of education.

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6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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8 1 New Subdivision; School Board Public Comment Period. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after  
9 section 73 the following new subdivision:

10 School Board Public Comment Period

11 189:74 School Board Public Comment Period.

12 I. School boards shall provide the opportunity for the public to comment on school district  
13 matters at a meeting of the school board held under RSA 91-A:2. The public comment period shall  
14 be for no less than 30 minutes. School boards may request that persons register in advance of the  
15 meeting, but may not require pre-registration as a condition of participating in the public comment  
16 period. School boards may impose reasonable time limits for each speaker, provided such time limits  
17 are equal for all speakers. Nothing in this section shall restrict school boards from establishing  
18 other reasonable standards for the public comment period, provided such standards are imposed  
19 equally for all speakers. School boards may reasonably restrict public comments that disclose  
20 student personally-identifiable information, teacher personally-identifiable information, or other  
21 confidential or privileged information.

22 II. The requirement that a school board shall provide the opportunity for the public to  
23 comment on school district matters at a meeting of the school board shall not apply to emergency  
24 meetings under RSA 91-A:2, II.

25 III. The requirement that a school board shall provide the opportunity for the public to  
26 comment on school district matters at a meeting of the school board shall not apply when the sole  
27 purpose of the school board meeting is to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3.

28 2 New Section; State Board of Education; Public Comment Period. Amend RSA 21-N by  
29 inserting after section 10 the following new section:

30 21-N:10-a State Board of Education Public; Comment Period. The state board of education shall  
31 provide the opportunity for the public comment on educational matters at meetings of the state  
32 board. The public comment period shall be for no less than 30 minutes. The state board of education

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1 may request that persons register in advance of the meeting, but may not require pre-registration as  
2 a condition of participating in the public comment period. The state board of education may impose  
3 reasonable time limits for each speaker, provided such time limits are equal for all speakers.  
4 Nothing in this section shall restrict the state board of education from establishing other reasonable  
5 standards for the public comment period, provided such standards are imposed equally for all  
6 speakers. The state board of education may reasonably restrict public comments that disclose  
7 student personally-identifiable information, teacher personally-identifiable information, or other  
8 confidential or privileged information.

9       3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires public comment periods at school board meetings and meetings of the state board of education.