

# Senate Education Committee

*Pete Mulvey 271-4063*

**HB 1655**, including in the commissioner of the department of education's rulemaking authority the authority to make rules regarding collection of fees for criminal background check processing.

**Hearing Date:** April 9, 2024

**Time Opened:** 11:00 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 11:03 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ward, Gendreau and Fenton

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senators Lang and Prentiss

**Bill Analysis:** This bill includes in the commissioner of the department of education's rulemaking authority the authority to make rules regarding collection of fees for criminal background check processing.

---

**Sponsors:**

Rep. Popovici-Muller

---

**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller, and Eric Pauer.

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

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Steve Appleby.

**Summary of testimony:**

**Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller**

**Rockingham – District 17**

- HB 1655 was a nine-word change in law; funds collected by the Department of Education for conducting criminal background checks would be non-lapsing.
- Rep. Popovici-Muller said lapsing funds created administrative burdens and required additional budgetary requests, which was unusual for the fund in question given the small amount of money.
- HB 1655 was requested by the Department of Education.

**Steve Appleby**

**Director, New Hampshire Department of Education**

- The Department of Education requested HB 1655 at the suggestion of the Department of Administrative Services.
- The credentialing fund would become non-lapsing through HB 1655, negating continual appropriation.
- The House finance amendment presented a technical issue: The term ‘clearance’ ought to be added to line 6 to better reflect both the Department of Education, and Department of Administrative Services’ roles.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: April 12, 2024