

CHAPTER 333
SB 410 - FINAL VERSION

02/24/2022 0721s

2022 SESSION

22-3107
10/05

SENATE BILL

410

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

SPONSORS: Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. French, Dist 7; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. Giuda, Dist 2; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 4; Rep. Rice, Hills. 37

COMMITTEE: Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

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

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 333:1 New Subdivision; School Board Public Comment Period. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after
2 section 73 the following new subdivision:

School Board Public Comment Period

4 189:74 School Board Public Comment Period.

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

14 II. The requirement that a school board shall provide the opportunity for the public to comment on
15 school district matters at a meeting of the school board shall not apply to emergency meetings under RSA
16 91-A:2, II.

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

20 333:2 New Section; State Board of Education; Public Comment Period. Amend RSA 21-N by
21 inserting after section 10 the following new section:

22 21-N:10-a State Board of Education Public; Comment Period. The state board of education shall
23 provide the opportunity for the public comment on educational matters at meetings of the state board.
24 The public comment period shall be for no less than 30 minutes. The state board of education may
25 request that persons register in advance of the meeting, but may not require pre-registration as a
26 condition of participating in the public comment period. The state board of education may impose
27 reasonable time limits for each speaker, provided such time limits are equal for all speakers. Nothing in
28 this section shall restrict the state board of education from establishing other reasonable standards for the
29 public comment period, provided such standards are imposed equally for all speakers. The state board of
30 education may reasonably restrict public comments that disclose student personally-identifiable
31 information, teacher personally-identifiable information, or other confidential or privileged information.

333:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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Approved: July 08, 2022
Effective Date: September 06, 2022