



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sen. Hennessey introduces legislation to provide educational aid to local communities impacted by COVID-19

CONCORD, NH – The Finance Committee today heard testimony on SB135 – legislation that would allow school districts to submit their 2019 enrollment numbers to calculate their funding level for FY22 so schools will not be penalized financially for any dips in enrollment caused by COVID-19. The bill also addresses any deficits in the state’s Free & Reduced Lunch Program aid calculations.

Sen. Erin Hennessey (R-Littleton), the bill’s prime sponsor said, “This legislation is very important because it removes the COVID impact on our school funding formula. These monies will go back to our cities and towns and really help our taxpayers with the cost of education.”

Under SB135, the state’s Department of Education would be required to compare students’ enrollment for school year 2019-2020 (before the pandemic) to school year 2020-2021 (during the pandemic) and use the greater of the two numbers to calculate the cost of an adequate education for FY22. Since school districts experienced decreased enrollments this school year because of COVID-19, adequacy grants will be based on 2019 enrollment numbers.

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