



E-CONNECT NEWS

The Moore Center Legislative Updates



NH House Will Vote on SB 193 on January 3, 2018

SB 193-FN, An act establishing education freedom savings accounts for students, establishes a school voucher program in NH. SB 193 increases school choice for SOME students while reducing the funding available for public school programs that are established to serve ALL students.

SB 193 will result in public schools losing essential financial resources.

There are additional concerns for children with disabilities. Children who have IEPs or 504 plans are one of the primary groups eligible for a “scholarship” (voucher) under SB 193 (children from families who make equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty guidelines, children who applied for but did not receive a tax credit scholarship or enrollment into a chartered public school, and children attending poorly performing public schools are the other groups). Some concerns about what SB 193 means for children with disabilities:

- SB 193 proposes diverting public funds to private schools, including private schools that

are
allowed
to
discriminate
against
children
with
disabilities.
While
the
Americans
with
Disabilities
Act
(ADA),
which
prohibits
discrimination
on
the
basis
of
a
person's
disability,
does
not
apply
to
private
schools
that
are
directly
operated
by
religious
institutions.
Other
private
schools
cannot
explicitly
discriminate
on
the

basis
of
disability,
but
they
do
not
have
to
provide
a
child
with
the
special
education
or
related
services
he/she
needs,
and
the
private
schools
may
establish
admissions
criteria
or
procedures
that
make
it
difficult
for
a
child
with
a
disability
to
be
accepted.

- Children
with

disabilities
who
are
enrolled
by
their
parents
in
private
schools
or
who
are
home-
schooled
lose
their
right
to
special
education
and
related
services.

The
Federal
special
education
law,
the
Individuals
with
Disabilities
Education
Act
(IDEA),
§300.137(a)
says,
“No
individual
right
to
special
education
and
related

services.
No
parentally-
placed
private
school
child
with
a
disability
has
an
individual
right
to
receive
some
or
all
of
the
special
education
and
related
services
that
the
child
would
receive
if
enrolled
in
a
public
school.”
Home-
schooled
children
also
have
no
right
to
special

education services. Many parents of children with disabilities are unaware that when they withdraw their child from the public school system, the child's right to special education ends.

- Public schools will lose funds, with those monies instead being sent to fund private schools and programs. This

will
leave
public
schools
with
reduced
resources
to
serve
the
remaining
children
(likely
the
most
complex
children).
And,
public
schools
will
still
have
some
financial
responsibilities
to
students
who
are
enrolled
in
private
schools:
Public
schools
retain
the
responsibility
for
child
find
costs
(costs
to
find,

evaluate
and
identify
children
who
may
be
children
with
disabilities).
But,
students
who
leave
public
school
to
attend
a
private
school
or
other
program
using
a
voucher
will
still
be
able
to
participate
in
curricular
&
co-
curricular
courses
and
programs,
and
take
the
statewide
assessments,

including
the
SAT,
at
their
resident
public
school,
with
no
additional
funding
provided
to
the
public
school
(even
though
payment
for
certain
tests,
including
the
SAT
may
be
made
through
the
individual's
scholarship
account).
Also,
since
"scholarship"
payments
are
not
pro-
rated,
if
a
parent
pays

the
annual
tuition
at
a
private
school
using
a
voucher,
and
the
child
leaves
the
private
school
one
quarter
into
the
school
year
(the
parent
may
decide
that
the
private
school
cannot
meet
the
child's
need
or
the
child
may
be
asked
to
leave
for
failing

to
maintain
required
grades),
the
private
school
has
no
obligation
to
reimburse
the
parent
for
the
remaining
 $\frac{3}{4}$
of
the
school
year
—
but
—
if
the
child
returns
to
the
public
school,
the
public
school
will
need
to
serve
the
child
without
being
given
any

funding
to
do
so.

SB 193 provides that any parent of an eligible student who signs a contract agreeing to provide for the student's education in science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of N.H. and the U.S., and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music will be able to access funding through a process established by this bill to use to pay for qualifying educational expenses, including tuition for course fees at an approved public or private school, online learning programs, or at a postsecondary institution, payments for tutoring or to a tutoring facility, textbooks, curriculum or supplemental materials to administer the curriculum, fees for certain testing, including advanced placement and college admission tests, transportation to receive covered services (limited), and educational services or therapies from licensed or certified practitioners or providers. To pay for this program, for each student who participates, 95% of the per pupil adequate education grant (50% for kindergarten pupils) plus any differentiated aid (for children receiving special education services, children eligible for a free or reduced-price meal, and children who are English language learners) will be transferred to the eligible student's account to be used for qualifying educational expenses. These are funds that would have otherwise gone to the student's public school. The full text of SB 193 as amended by the House Education Committee may be found [here](#).

If you have concerns about SB 193, what can you do? **Call your State Representatives to ask them to vote against SB 193.** You can find your Representatives and their contact information [here](#). If you cannot reach a Representative, leave a voice mail message and follow up with a letter or email.

NH House Will Vote on HB 628 on January 4, 2018

HB 628, the bill to establish family and medical leave insurance will be voted on by the New Hampshire House of Representatives on January 4th.

You can help ensure working people don't lose their financial security when they need to care for themselves or a family member by calling your Representatives today and urging them to vote in support of HB 628.

Access to paid family and medical leave helps aging workers stay in the

workforce, increases the odds of success for working people recovering from substance use disorder and leads to higher workforce participation among new parents.

HB 628 would create a system for working people to take up to 12 weeks of leave with up to 60% wage replacement to care for themselves or a family member. The program would be run by the department that administers unemployment insurance and would be funded through employee payroll contributions, costing the average employee \$5 per week. The bill has strong bipartisan support, the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee voted 13-6 in favor of HB 628 on October 31st.

Working people in Rhode Island, New Jersey, California and New York have access to family and medical leave insurance so when they battle cancer, go through substance misuse recovery, help an aging parent recover from surgery, or care for a newborn they can afford to take the time to care. Can you take a moment right now to help build a program like this in New Hampshire?

[Click here](#) to find your Representatives and call them today to urge their support for HB 628.

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