

SB2 Links

Good website with pros and cons: <http://sb2now.wordpress.com/>

Good discussion of SB2:

http://granitegrok.com/blog/2008/02/new_hampshires_sb_2_the_official_ballot.html

State Statute that defines SB2 and how to adopt: <http://www.sos.nh.gov/rsa40.htm>

How to petition for a school meeting warrant: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xv/197/197-mrg.htm> - 197:6

How to petition for a town meeting warrant: <http://www.sos.nh.gov/rsa39.htm> - 39.3

SB2 Summary

- Adoption
 - Adoption put on ballot by petition
 - Requires 3/5 vote at the annual meeting
 - Takes effect the following year
- Effect
 - The current “meeting” turns into a deliberative session
 - Warrants can be amended, motions made, etc.
 - No final vote is taken on the articles
 - Final Warrants voted on by secret ballot during the Tuesday elections
 - Two operating budgets proposed. Default budget taken based on previous year’s budget. Will be adopted if new budget fails.
- Pros
 - Secret ballots give more privacy
 - Absentee ballots possible
 - Have all day to vote
 - More participation – more voters
 - Reconsideration not possible
 - “Cooling off” period between amending a warrant and voting on it (minimum of 28 days)
 - Baseline operating budget provides an alternative to proposed budget
- Cons
 - For people who don’t go to the deliberative session, they may be uninformed voters (if they don’t educate themselves via the internet, friends at the session, etc)
 - Attendance at deliberative session may become lower than a normal annual meeting