LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB29

Bill as Introduced

SB 29 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0846
04/08

SENATE BILL ***29***

AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

SPONSORS: Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Abbas, Dist 22; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the statute relative to police matrons.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 29 - AS INTRODUCED

23-0846
04/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

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

1 Police Officers and Watchmen; References to Police Matrons Removed. Amend RSA 105:1 to read as follows:

105:1 Appointment. The selectmen of a town, when they deem it necessary, may appoint special police officers who shall continue in office during the pleasure of the selectmen, or until their successors are chosen or appointed. The selectmen may designate one of the police officers as chief of police or superintendent and as such officer the chief of police or superintendent shall exercise authority over and supervise or superintend other police officers, [~~police matrons,~~] watchmen, or constables appointed under the provisions of this chapter, and said police officers, [~~police matrons,~~] watchmen, or constables shall be accountable and responsible to said chief of police or superintendent. The designation as chief of police by the selectmen may be in the form of a contract specifying that the authority of the designee ceases on the date stated in the contract, regardless of whether a successor has been designated. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude or prevent a town from electing constables or police officers at an annual town meeting pursuant to the provisions of RSA 41:47.

2 Repeal. RSA 105:5, relative to police matrons, is repealed.

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

SB 29 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

2023 SESSION

23-0846
04/08

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SB 29 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

23-0846
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2 Repeal. RSA 105:5, relative to police matrons, is repealed.

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

CHAPTER 52
SB 29 - FINAL VERSION

2023 SESSION

23-0846
04/08

SENATE BILL ***29***

AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

SPONSORS: Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Abbas, Dist 22; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the statute relative to police matrons.

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

CHAPTER 52
SB 29 - FINAL VERSION

23-0846
04/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

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

52:1 Police Officers and Watchmen; References to Police Matrons Removed. Amend RSA 105:1 to read as follows:

105:1 Appointment. The selectmen of a town, when they deem it necessary, may appoint special police officers who shall continue in office during the pleasure of the selectmen, or until their successors are chosen or appointed. The selectmen may designate one of the police officers as chief of police or superintendent and as such officer the chief of police or superintendent shall exercise authority over and supervise or superintend other police officers, [~~police matrons,~~] watchmen, or constables appointed under the provisions of this chapter, and said police officers, [~~police matrons,~~] watchmen, or constables shall be accountable and responsible to said chief of police or superintendent. The designation as chief of police by the selectmen may be in the form of a contract specifying that the authority of the designee ceases on the date stated in the contract, regardless of whether a successor has been designated. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude or prevent a town from electing constables or police officers at an annual town meeting pursuant to the provisions of RSA 41:47.

52:2 Repeal. RSA 105:5, relative to police matrons, is repealed.

52:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 01, 2023
Effective Date: July 31, 2023

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Judiciary

Sen Sharon Carson, Chair
Sen Bill Gannon, Vice Chair
Sen Daryl Abbas, Member
Sen Rebecca Whitley, Member
Sen Shannon Chandley, Member

Date: January 6, 2023

HEARINGS

Tuesday		01/10/2023	
(Day)		(Date)	
Judiciary		State House 100	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)		(Place)	(Time)

1:00 p.m.	**SB 29**	relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.
1:10 p.m.	**SB 27**	relative to financial disclosure forms filed by judges.
1:30 p.m.	**SB 38-FN**	amending the procedure for issuing a summons instead of an arrest.
1:45 p.m.	**SB 26-FN**	relative to asbestos actions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

SB 29			
Sen. Carson	Sen. Abbas	Sen. Perkins Kwoka	
SB 27			
Sen. Gannon	Sen. D'Allesandro	Sen. Fenton	Sen. Gendreau
Sen. Carson	Sen. Murphy	Sen. Ward	Sen. Pearl
Sen. Prentiss	Sen. Watters	Rep. M. Pearson	
SB 38-FN			
Sen. Gannon	Sen. Birdsell	Sen. D'Allesandro	Sen. Ward
Sen. Watters	Sen. Carson	Sen. Murphy	Sen. Innis
Rep. M. Pearson			
SB 26-FN			
Sen. Gannon	Sen. Fenton	Sen. Murphy	Rep. Piemonte

Matthew Schelzi 271-3266

Sharon M. Carson
Chairman

Senate Judiciary Committee

Matthew Schelzi 271-1403

SB 29, relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

Hearing Date: January 10, 2023

Time Opened: 1:00 p.m. **Time Closed:** 1:08 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Gannon, Abbas, Whitley and Chandley

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill repeals the statute relative to police matrons.

Sponsors:
Sen. Carson Sen. Abbas Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Who supports the bill: Senator Sharon Carson (District 14), Chief Emily Cobb, Chief Anne Perriello, Allison Caprigno (Patrolman), Fawn M. Woodman (Chief), Kathryn More, Jim Demers (NH Police Association), and Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka (District 21)

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Carson introduced Senate Bill 29. She said the bill is simple and strikes an antiquated term in the statute that refers to police officers as matrons. Senator Carson said there are a number of women in blue across the state that serve the communities, and they should be treated with respect. She stated the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs has asked her to bring this bill forward. She noted this statute has been in effect since 1915 and its time it goes.

Chief Emily Cobb serves as the Police Chief in New London. She said RSA 105:5 is outdated, but now that she is a police chief she feels like it should be changed. She noted RSA 105:5 was enacted in 1915 and a lot has happened since then. Chief Cobb said woman have honorably worn the badge, and they do not want to continue to answer to the word matron. She said "Matron" is a woman who supervises woman or children, and while that may have been a woman's role in law enforcement decades ago that is not the case now as law enforcement has evolved. She asked for the committee to repeal the matron statute and ask for an ought to pass motion.

Senator Whitley asked if Chief Cobb could say how many woman police chiefs there are in New Hampshire.

Chief Cobb said there are seven or eight.

James Demers said he is speaking on behalf of the New Hampshire Police Association. He noted it's an honor to support this bill and mentioned how dozens of women have served New Hampshire in various law enforcement roles. He said it is an antiquated law and men, as well as woman, support the change to this law.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

mjs
Date Hearing Report completed: January 12, 2023

Speakers

Senate Judiciary Committee
SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: Tuesday January 10th, 2023 **Time:** 1:00 p.m.

SB 29 AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*						
Sen. Sharon Carson (SD14)	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Chief Emily Cobb	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☑	No ☐
Chief Anne Purcell	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Allison Caprigno - patrolman	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Fawn M. Woodman (chief)	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☑
Kathryn Mone	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☒
Jim Demers, NH Police Assn.	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☑	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Senate Judiciary Committee
SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: Tuesday January 10th, 2023 **Time:** 1:00 p.m.

SB 29 AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*

Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka (SD 21)	Support ☑	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☑
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Testimony

SB 29 - Relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons

January 10, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Emily Cobb and I currently serve as the Police Chief for the Town of New London. I am a lifelong resident of New Hampshire. I began my law enforcement career 18 years ago as a police officer in my hometown of Claremont, and I moved on to the New London Police Department in 2016. I have been serving as Chief since March 2020.

One day not too long ago, I was reading through RSA 105: Police Officers and Watchmen when I came upon RSA 105:5 Police Matrons. The RSA reads: "Women may be appointed as police matrons, and thereupon shall have, within the limits of the city or town, all the powers conferred by law upon constables except in relation to the service of civil process." I had read this RSA years ago, long before I became a Chief, and I remember thinking to myself, "well, THAT seems outdated." However, despite my thought of the RSA being outdated, I didn't feel at the time I was in a position to enact change. Fast forward to my more recent reading of 105:5, this time as a Police Chief. I had a conversation that night with my husband, also a Police Chief, about Police Matrons. I mentioned to him that I felt it should be repealed and his words of encouragement back to me were, "You know, you can do something about that." He was right. I soon reached out to Beth Sargent, and I am honored to be here today, testifying on behalf of myself and the NH Association of Chiefs of Police.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, this RSA was enacted over 100 years ago, in 1915. A lot has happened since then. Over those 100+ years, many, many women have proudly taken the Oath, honorably worn the badge, and bravely protected the people of our great State. In recognition of all the women who came before me and my fellow female law enforcement colleagues of today, I offer my gratitude to them, their families, and their sacrifices. As female law enforcement professionals, we bear many titles in addition to that which is inscribed on our badge: wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, and more. One title we should not continue to permit in the codified laws of the State of New Hampshire, however, is Matron. The Merriam-Webster definition of matron, as it pertains to a police station, is: "A woman who supervises women or children." That was indeed the role of women in NH law enforcement in our history, a role in which they fulfilled a critical and valuable need in the protection of people in our society, a role which they should be applauded for. However, times have changed, and NH law enforcement has evolved. I offer to you, Madam Chair and members of the Committee, that the women in NH law enforcement today are certainly more than what this outdated statute provides for.

On behalf of myself, my fellow female law enforcement colleagues, and the NH Association of Chiefs of Police, we are asking that you repeal RSA 105:5 as it is an antiquated statute that can be removed from NH law. We ask that you vote Ought to Pass on SB 29. I remain grateful for your consideration and appreciative of your time today. Thank you.

TITLE VII
SHERIFFS, CONSTABLES, AND POLICE OFFICERS

CHAPTER 105
POLICE OFFICERS AND WATCHMEN

Section 105:1

105:1 Appointment. – The selectmen of a town, when they deem it necessary, may appoint special police officers who shall continue in office during the pleasure of the selectmen, or until their successors are chosen or appointed. The selectmen may designate one of the police officers as chief of police or superintendent and as such officer the chief of police or superintendent shall exercise authority over and supervise or superintend other police officers, police matrons, watchmen, or constables appointed under the provisions of this chapter, and said police officers, police matrons, watchmen, or constables shall be accountable and responsible to said chief of police or superintendent. The designation as chief of police by the selectmen may be in the form of a contract specifying that the authority of the designee ceases on the date stated in the contract, regardless of whether a successor has been designated. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude or prevent a town from electing constables or police officers at an annual town meeting pursuant to the provisions of RSA 41:47.

Source. 1852, 1226:1. CS 120:1. GS 235:1. GL 253:1, 3. PS 249:1. 1897, 73:1. PL 363:1. RL 422:1. RSA 105:1. 1957, 206:1, eff. July 2, 1957. 2015, 59:1, eff. Aug. 1, 2015.

TITLE VII
SHERIFFS, CONSTABLES, AND POLICE OFFICERS

CHAPTER 105
POLICE OFFICERS AND WATCHMEN

Section 105:5

105:5 Police Matrons. – Women may be appointed as police matrons, and thereupon shall have, within the limits of the city or town, all the powers conferred by law upon constables except in relation to the service of civil process.

Source. 1915, 91:1. PL 363:5. RL 422:5.

Voting Sheets

Senate Judiciary Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2023-2024 Session

Bill # SB 29

Hearing date: 1/10/23

Executive Session date: 1/10/23

Motion of: OTP **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Carson, Chair	☐	☐	☑	☐
Sen. Gannon, V-Chair	☐	☐	☑	☐
Sen. Abbas	☐	☐	☑	☐
Sen. Whitley	☑	☐	☑	☐
Sen. Chandley	☐	☑	☑	☐

Motion of: Consent **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Carson , Chair	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Gannon, V-Chair	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Abbas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Whitley	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Chandley	☐	☑	☐	☐

Motion of: _____ **Vote:** _____

Committee Member	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Carson , Chair	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Gannon, V-Chair	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Abbas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Whitley	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Chandley	☐	☐	☐	☐

Reported out by: Sen. Carson

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Judiciary

to which was referred **SB 29**

AN ACT relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Sharon Carson
For the Committee

SB 29 repeals the statute relating to police matrons. This antiquated statute has been in existence since 1915 and it should be removed from New Hampshire law.

Matthew Schelzi 271-1403

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

JUDICIARY

SB 29, relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.
Senator Sharon Carson for the committee.

SB 29 repeals the statute relating to police matrons. This antiquated statute has been in existence since 1915 and it should be removed from New Hampshire law.

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of SB29

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to repealing the statute relating to police matrons.

Official Docket of **SB29.:**

Date	Body	Description
1/5/2023	S	**Introduced** 01/05/2023 and Referred to Judiciary; **SJ 4**
1/6/2023	S	**Hearing:** 01/10/2023, Room 100, SH, 01:00 pm; **SC 5**
1/11/2023	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 01/19/2023; Vote 5-0; CC; **SC 6**
1/19/2023	S	**Ought to Pass**: MA, VV; OT3rdg; 01/19/2023; **SJ 4**
3/20/2023	H	Introduced (in recess of) 03/16/2023 and referred to Criminal Justice and Public Safety
3/21/2023	H	Public Hearing: 03/29/2023 09:00 am LOB 202-204
3/21/2023	H	Executive Session: 03/30/2023 09:00 am LOB 202-204
4/13/2023	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass 03/30/2023 **(Vote 19-0; CC)**
5/4/2023	H	**Ought to Pass**: MA VV 05/04/2023 **HJ 13** P. 3
5/23/2023	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/18/2023 **HJ 14**
5/23/2023	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/18/2023); **SJ 16**
6/2/2023	S	Signed by the Governor on 06/01/2023; Chapter 0052; Effective 07/31/2023

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 29 **Senate Committee:** JUD

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

X Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

X Bill version as it came to the committee

X All Calendar Notices

X Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

X Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

X Hearing Report

N/A Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

X Executive Session Sheet

X Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

___ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

___ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

___ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

___ as amended by the senate ___ as amended by the house

X final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Matthew Acheson 8-29-23

Committee Aide **Date**

Senate Clerk's Office AK