REGULAR CALENDAR

May 7, 2024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources to which was referred SB 503,

AN ACT relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.

Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. David Paige

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Fish and Game and Marine Resources**
Bill Number:	**SB 503**
Title:	**relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.**
Date:	**May 7, 2024**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill requires that new applicants for a New Hampshire guide's license be fingerprinted and subject to a criminal history records check, including a check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Currently when the department runs background checks on applicants they can only get the records for crimes within New Hampshire, not any criminal record from actions in other states. The committee agrees that this bill is necessary to ensure applicants with criminal records outside of New Hampshire that should preclude them from guiding are identified.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. David Paige
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Fish and Game and Marine Resources

SB 503, relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Paige for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill requires that new applicants for a New Hampshire guide's license be fingerprinted and subject to a criminal history records check, including a check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Currently when the department runs background checks on applicants they can only get the records for crimes within New Hampshire, not any criminal record from actions in other states. The committee agrees that this bill is necessary to ensure applicants with criminal records outside of New Hampshire that should preclude them from guiding are identified. **Vote 16-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 503

BILL TITLE: relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.

DATE: May 7, 2024

LOB ROOM: 307

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. D. Paige Seconded by Rep. Ouellet Vote: 16-0

☐ **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Carroll Brown, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

12/28/2023 4:15:15 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Fish and Game and Marine Resources

Bill #: 503 Motion: _____ AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 5/7/24

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Spillane, James A. Chairman	16		
Goley, Jeffrey P. Vice Chairman	1		
Khan, Aboul B. - ABSENT	X		
~~Smith, Jonathan H.~~ Wallace	2		
Kofalt, Jim	3		
Tudor, Paul D.	4		
Brown, Carroll M Clerk	5		
~~Corcoran, Travis J~~ MURPHY	6		
~~Nutting, Zachary J~~ Notter	7		
Ouellet, Mike	8		
Abare, Kimberly L	9		
~~Harvey, Cathryn~~ A. D. Fox	10		
Read, Ellen D. - ABSENT	X		
Ford, Damond T - ABSENT	X		
Foxx, Loren E	11		
~~Morton, Jennifer~~ Veilleux	12		
Paige, David	13		
Pare, Gail L	14		
Roesener, James Leon - ABSENT	X		
Darby, Will	15		
TOTAL VOTE:	16	0	

16 0

Object to consent by Ch. Spillane.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 503

BILL TITLE: **relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.**

DATE: **May 7, 2024**

LOB ROOM: **307** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **10:49 a.m.**

Time Adjourned: **10:55 a.m.**

Committee Members: Reps. Spillane, Goley, C. Brown, Tudor, Ouellet, Abare, Murphy. M, L. Foxx, D. Paige, Pare and Darby

Bill Sponsors:
Sen. Watters **Sen. Altschiller** **Sen. Pearl**
Rep. Spillane

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- Senator Watters: in support. Key = line 17. Every "new applicant" ensures safety without un-needed costs. Fingerprints allow tracking through database. Small change "or designee".
  - Q: applies to all guides, fish and hunt?
    A: yes.
  - Q: can do for residents but not now for non-residents?
    A: that's the point of the fingerprint.

- Col. Jordan, Fish and Game: support. Commission supports. Resident or non-resident can run criminal background in NH history only. Can't see crimes in other states. Initial idea was $48 for all. NH guides didn't want fee and fingerprints each year. Once in system he feels we would know if a felony was out of state.

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Committee: Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee

Bill #: SB 503 **Date:** 5/7/2024

****Please Print All Information****

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	Pro	Con
COLONEL KEVIN JORDAN			NHFG	✓	

House Remote Testify

Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee Testify List for Bill SB503 on 2024-05-07

Support: 1 Oppose: 2 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	5/5/2024 1:16 PM
Lucas, Janet	Campton, NH janluca1953@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	5/5/2024 2:10 PM
Freedman, Aubrey	Bridgewater, NH aubreyyfreedman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	5/7/2024 2:46 PM

SB 503 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/21/2024 0993s

2024 SESSION

24-2885
12/10

SENATE BILL ***503***

AN ACT relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.

SPONSORS: Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill requires a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.

- -

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 503 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/21/2024 0993s

24-2885
12/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four

AN ACT relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license.

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

1 Fish and Game Guide Applications. Amend RSA 215:2 to read as follows:

Application for a license shall be made to the executive director, or [~~to some person designated by him.~~] ***their designee.*** The executive director shall prescribe rules and regulations under which such licenses shall be issued.

2 New Paragraphs; Fish and Game Guide License Applications; Criminal Background Check. Amend RSA 215:2 by inserting after the introductory paragraph the following new paragraphs:

I. Every new applicant applying for a New Hampshire guide's license for the first time shall submit to the fish and game department a criminal history record release form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, which authorizes the release of any criminal history record to the department.

II. The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency or an authorized employee of the department of safety. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the department may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

III. The department shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the department.

IV. The chief of the fish and game law enforcement division or their designee shall review the criminal record information prior to making a registration decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

V. The applicant shall bear the cost of a criminal history record check.

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