CONSENT CALENDAR

January 29, 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety to which was referred HB 57,

AN ACT relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community. Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. David Meuse

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Criminal Justice and Public Safety**
Bill Number:	**HB 57**
Title:	**relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.**
Date:	**January 29, 2025**
Consent Calendar:	**CONSENT**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill was requested by the Department of Corrections. It would allow a person under the control of the department who has been approved for release under administrative home confinement to participate in post-secondary educational opportunities in the community where they have been accepted for enrollment. Under current law, residents in our state prison system approved for administrative home confinement are authorized to take part in employment and uncompensated public service outside their home as long as they return to their home before a specific time. This bill would simply add attending post-secondary educational courses as part of their confinement. Studies have found that incarcerated people who participate in college programs are 43-48% less likely to be reincarnated than those who do not. Employment rates for formerly incarcerated students also increase on average by 10%. Participants would still be subject to home confinement when not attending classes and would be responsible for the cost of their education.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. David Meuse
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB 57, relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Meuse for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill was requested by the Department of Corrections. It would allow a person under the control of the department who has been approved for release under administrative home confinement to participate in post-secondary educational opportunities in the community where they have been accepted for enrollment. Under current law, residents in our state prison system approved for administrative home confinement are authorized to take part in employment and uncompensated public service outside their home as long as they return to their home before a specific time. This bill would simply add attending post-secondary educational courses as part of their confinement. Studies have found that incarcerated people who participate in college programs are 43-48% less likely to be reincarnated than those who do not. Employment rates for formerly incarcerated students also increase on average by 10%. Participants would still be subject to home confinement when not attending classes and would be responsible for the cost of their education. **Vote 16-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 57

BILL TITLE: relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.

DATE: January 29, 2025

LOB ROOM: 202-204

MOTIONS: **OUGHT TO PASS**

Moved by Rep. Meuse | Seconded by Rep. A. Murray | Vote: 16-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Alissandra Murray, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Criminal Justice + Public Safety

Executive Session Bill Motions

Bill Number: HB 57

Bill Title:

Date: 1/29/25

LOB Room:

MOTION: ☑ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A

☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Meuse Seconded by Rep. Murray Vote: 16-0

MOTION: ☐ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A

☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote:

MOTION: ☐ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A

☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote:

MOTION: ☐ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A

☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote:

☐ **Without Recommendation** ☐ **Regular Calendar** *-or-* ☑ **Consent Calendar**

Majority Report Author: Meuse

Minority Report Author ***(if any):*** _____

Respectfully submitted: _____

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/21/2025 11:34:09 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2025 SESSION

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill #: HB57 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 1/29/25

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Roy, Terry W Chairman	16		
Rhodes, Jennifer M Vice Chairman	1		
Proulx, Mark L	2		
Lascelles, Richard W.	3		
Devoid, Ricky J	4		
~~Morency, Pete~~ Gagne	5		
Paquette, Kathleen	6		
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt R	7		
~~Valerino, Brian L~~ Berry	8		
Harriott-Gathright, Linda C	9		
Meuse, David James	10		
Newman, Ray E	11		
Murphy, Nancy A	12		
Murray, Alissandra Clerk	13		
Newell, Jodi K	14		
Scherr, Buzz	15		
TOTAL VOTE:	16	0	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 57

BILL TITLE: **relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.**

DATE: **January 22, 2025**

LOB ROOM: **202-204** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **3:42 p.m.**

Time Adjourned: **4:02 p.m.**

Committee Members: **Reps. Roy, Rhodes, A. Murray, Proulx, Lascelles, Devoid, Morency, Paquette, Sabourin, Valerino, Harriott-Gathright, Meuse, R. Newman, N. Murphy, Newell and Scherr**

Bill Sponsors:
Rep. Meuse

TESTIMONY

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

*Introduced by prime sponsor, Rep David Meuse

- This bill resulted from conversations with DOC Commissioner Helen Hanks
- this bill would allow incarcerated individuals who qualify for home confinement or work release to seek post-secondary education in the community
- this bill does not change the standards for who qualifies

*Nick Duffy and Jane Graham, Department of Corrections

- Support the bill
- there is already a process to evaluate whether individuals are eligible for release and there is a positive impact on the individual and the community if they receive this education
- Rep Lascelles is concerned with the definition of post-secondary education, does it include the trades or a potential internship? Duffy says yes it would be if they are accredited but they would be open to using broader language to ensure those options are captured
- Rep Rhodes asks how these individuals are monitored once they're out in the community, Graham says they would have an assigned officer as well as electronic monitoring

Claudia Istel

- Supports the bill
- adjunct in the community college system

- These opportunities have a tremendous positive impact on individuals of any education level and help them start the process to build up their skill level, overcome trauma, health issues, and other barriers, and become more productive members of society
- Rep Lascelles asks where she delivers her classes, Istel says she teaches at the community college, Rep Lascelles asks how these individuals would participate, Istel says it's up to the prison but they can participate in person or remotely

Respectfully submitted,

Rep.Alissandra Murray, Clerk

SIGN UP SHEET

Register Your Opinion If Not Testifying

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Date:1.22.25

Bill #: HB 57

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

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	Pro	Con
Rep Loren Selig		Durham		X	
Elizabeth Sargent		NH Assoc of Chiefs of Police			X
Dawn McKinney			NH Legal Assistance	✓	
Claudia Isabel		Acworth	self	✓	
Courtney Reed			ACLU NH	X	

House Remote Testify

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Testify List for Bill HB57 on 2025-01-22

Support: 62 Oppose: 4 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Tentarelli, Liz	Manchester, NH liz6@kenliz.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2025 8:52 PM
Smith, Sara	Pembroke, NH sara.rose.ssmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2025 11:36 PM
Morrison, Carol	W Lebanon, NH carol.r.morrison917@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 10:19 AM
Arabas, Jill	Hollis, NH jaarabas@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 11:11 AM
Demarest, Nicole	Keene, NH nickidemarest@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 11:44 AM
Richman, Susan	Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 11:56 AM
Blair, David	Harrisville, NH, NH orionblair@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 12:56 PM
Hallock, Linda	Cornish, NH LINDASH@MAIL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 3:05 PM
Feder, Marsha	Hollis, NH marshafeder@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2025 5:50 PM
Pauer, Eric	Brookline, NH secretary@BrooklineGOP.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2025 10:50 PM
Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 3:31 AM
Smith, Jennifer	PEMBROKE, NH jaycmd7699@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 8:10 AM
Ehlers, Robert	Hooksett, NH bobehlers@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 11:30 AM

Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 11:44 AM
BRUNO, BONNIE	HOLLIS, NH BONNIE.HSNE.INC@GMAIL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 12:28 PM
SHEETS, PEG	HOLLIS, NH PEGSHEETS@GMAIL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 12:31 PM
Phillips, Margery	Hanover, NH Margeryphillips@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 1:02 PM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 3:21 PM
Benham, Linda	Greenland, NH benhamblab@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 3:34 PM
Lewandowski, Jean	Nashua, NH jlewando@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 4:17 PM
McClure, Meghan	Lyndeborough, NH meghanmcclure42@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 4:47 PM
Ellermann, Maureen	Concord, NH ellermannf@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 5:45 PM
Campbell, Karen	Epsom, NH klynncampbell50@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 5:54 PM
Lucas, Janet	Campton, NH janluca1953@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 6:19 PM
Hurley, Jack	Claremont, NH jrhurjd@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 7:37 PM
Lynch, Chrisinda	Concord, NH cmmelynch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 8:26 PM
Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 9:40 PM
Devore, Gary	Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2025 9:48 PM
Cote, Lois	Manchester, NH coldaf763@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 1:53 AM
Zaenglein, Barbara	Amherst, NH bzaenglein@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 7:39 AM
Cousineau, Edward	Cornish, NH cousineaued@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 8:04 AM

Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	No	No	1/21/2025 9:34 AM
Vecchiotti, Dorothea	Peterborough, NH div@ocs-oe.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 10:13 AM
Merlone, Lynn	Rindge, NH prulone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 10:41 AM
Demark, Richard	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 11:00 AM
DeMark, Harriet	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 11:01 AM
Schaefer, Arley	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 11:01 AM
Burnett, Ophelia	Manchester, NH oburnett@afsc.org	A Lobbyist	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 11:33 AM
Fudge, Kim Marie	NORTH CONWAY, NH kimfudge20@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 1:02 PM
Coon, Kate	Peterborough, NH kate2coon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 2:46 PM
Steel, Laura	Plainfield, NH lfsteel@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 3:08 PM
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	Loudon, NH wmottsm@worldpath.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 3:27 PM
Gallo, Elle	Derry, NH elle@ellegallo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 3:37 PM
Farkas, Catharine	Sanbornton, NH cafarkas@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 4:22 PM
Campbell, Karolyn	Epsom, NH kkcampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 4:41 PM
Moore, Susan	Franconia, NH susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 7:01 PM
Liberman, Sheryl	Merrimack, NH saml54@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 8:49 PM
Antonucci, Amy	Barrington, NH amyla226@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 9:21 PM
Brown, Jean	Hanover, NH jean.e.brown1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 9:30 PM

bory, lee	nashua, NH leebory@juno.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 10:39 PM
Kindeke, Grace	Manchester, NH gkindeke@afsc.org	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee	Support	No	No	1/21/2025 11:22 PM
Burton, Mary	Hanover, NH maryburton@earthlink.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 7:51 AM
Kearns, Samantha	Goffstown, NH votekearns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 9:16 AM
Bowker, Regina	Rochester, NH gina.bowker@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/22/2025 10:40 AM
Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 11:37 AM
Hawthorn, Margaret	Rindge, NH hawthma@earlham.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 12:23 PM
Skudlarek, Robin	Londonderry, NH robinskudlarek@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/22/2025 2:10 PM
Berry, Jake	Manchester, NH jberry@new-futures.org	A Lobbyist	New Futures	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 2:45 PM
Girouard-Crush, Amy	Concord, NH amygirouard4@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/22/2025 3:14 PM
Azad, Amanda	Concord, NH amanda@aclu-nh.org	A Lobbyist	ACLU of NH	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 4:42 PM
McCarthy, Sarah	Manchester, NH SWOODMAN013@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 7:44 PM
Grossi, Anne	Bedford, NH adgrossi7982@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 7:44 PM
Gadoury, Julianne	Concord, NH julianne.gadoury@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 7:52 PM
Rychlik, Dylan	Manchester, NH dylanrychlik@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 9:37 PM
Platt, Kaylea	Pembroke, NH Kplatt445@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 11:11 PM
Holt, David	SOMERSWORTH, NH davholt@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2025 11:30 PM
McCool, Gary	Rumney, NH gmccool@plymouth.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2025 12:54 AM

I'm Representative David Meuse from district Rockingham 37, representing the city of Portsmouth and the towns of Newington and New Castle.

One of the pleasures of being a legislator on this committee are the relationships we develop with those who come before us. Over the summer, I contacted Helen Hanks, the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, and asked if there was any legislation on her mind that would be helpful for me to file. The bill before us today is the result of that conversation.

What HB 57 would do is allow a person under the control of the department who has been approved for release under administrative home confinement to participate in post-secondary educational opportunities in the community where they have been accepted for enrollment. Under current law, residents in our state prison system approved for administrative home confinement are authorized to take part in employment and uncompensated public service **outside** their home as long as they return to their home before a specific time. This bill would add attending college courses as part of their confinement. And that's it.

What the bill doesn't do is change eligibility, anything about the process or any other aspect of the law. It also doesn't change the Department's policies for administrative home confinement. To be very clear, this is NOT a program that just any resident of our state prison system is eligible for. Any resident who's had disruptive or violent behavioral issues or who's been convicted of committing, escape, aggravated DUI, or one of a long list of violent crimes remains ineligible.

Just like those working a job or apprenticeship, people attending college courses under administrative home confinement will be supervised and monitored by the department's Division of Field Services who check their location through electronic monitoring and home visits.

The cost to the state is negligible. Tuition payments and obtaining any scholarships or loans would be the responsibility of the person under home confinement.

But while the cost is negligible, the results are tangible and real. Separate studies from the Rand Corporation and the Vera Institute found that incarcerated people who participate in college programs are 43-48% less likely to be reincarcerated than those who do not. Employment rates for formerly incarcerated students also increase on average by 10% after participating in post-secondary educational opportunities.

I would ask that you hold your questions. Nick Duffy from the department's Division of Rehabilitative Services will testify after me and he can answer any specific questions you have about how administrative home confinement works and why the department is asking for this legislation at this time.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
P.O. BOX 1806
CONCORD, NH 03302-1806
603-271-5603 FAX: 888-908-6609
TDD ACCESS: 1-800-735-2964
www.nh.gov/nhdoc

HELEN E. HANKS
COMMISSIONER

PAUL D. RAYMOND, JR.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

To: The Honorable Members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

From: New Hampshire Department of Corrections

Date: 01/22/2025, 3:00 pm

Re: HB 57 relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.

The New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) supports HB 57.

Chairman Roy, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 57 relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community. My name is Nick Duffy, and I am the Director of Rehabilitative Services for the Department of Corrections.

I would like to thank Representative Meuse for sponsoring this bill on the department's behalf. Administrative Home Confinement (AHC) is an electronic monitoring program for approved Department of Corrections residents or persons sentenced to electronic monitoring as a condition of probation or parole. Residents may submit an application for the AHC program provided that they meet the requirements for the reduced custody C-2 status, are within 18-months of their minimum parole date, have completed or are satisfactorily participating in all required behavioral health and substance use disorder assessments, treatments and programs, and have not been convicted of any of the following offenses:

1. Capital, First Degree, or Second Degree Murder;
2. Attempted Murder;
3. Manslaughter;
4. Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault, Felonious Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault; Failure to Register/Duty to Report, Computer Pornography Prohibited, or Certain Uses of Computer Services Prohibited;
5. First Degree Assault
6. Second Degree Assault;
7. Class B Assault by Prisoner;
8. Robbery;
9. Escape;
10. Aggravated DUI
11. Any AHC revocations in the past three years

Current law allows for the Commissioner of Corrections, provided there is no objection from the sentencing court or the prosecutor of the underlying offense (RSA 651:25, I), to release any person who has been committed to the state prison at any time during the term of sentence for the purpose of gainful employment. This has proven to be an important tool in facilitating successful reentry by providing residents with opportunities to begin to rebuild their lives following their incarceration, contribute to society, and reduce recidivism. HB 57 would build upon this success by extending this opportunity to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to self-improvement through acceptance into a post-secondary education program.

The Department strongly believes that access to education is a cornerstone of rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community. Studies consistently show that higher education reduces recidivism, enhances employability, and improves long-term outcomes for individuals post-incarceration. A comprehensive study by the RAND Corporation completed in 2013, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, found that incarcerated individuals who participated in educational programs were 43% less likely to reoffend, compared to those who did not. Vocational training reduces that rate to approximately 30%, earning an associate degree drops it to 13.7%, and obtaining a bachelor's degree lowers it further to 5.6%.

By expanding eligibility for AHC to include acceptance into a post-secondary education program, HB 57 empowers individuals to pursue meaningful opportunities for growth and reintegration. We urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on HB 57, and I am happy to take any questions you may have.

Liz Tentarelli

As a 10-years member of the Citizens Advisory Board to the NH Correctional Facility for Women, I can tell you that some of the women have worked very hard to turn their lives around. But getting a degree while incarcerated is long, drawn out, and so far done by correspondence courses! For women who qualify, release from the prison while working on their education is the most sensible thing we could offer to ensure they never recidivate and instead become the kinds of workers our state needs.

Susan Richman

This bill provides an excellent opportunity for an incarcerated person to be reintroduced to the outside community, and to gain the knowledge or certification to reduce recidivism.

Jean Lewandowski

The more prepared for life outside of prison someone is, the more likely they are to be successful citizens. Policies like this make us all safer.

Meghan McClure

Good education is one of the best ways to lower crime rates. Helping people get a good education and get a good job will help decrease crime.

Daniel Richardson

Why just for participating in certain post-secondary education program? Why not completion of HS degree?

Kim Marie Fudge

This bill does not take into account some of the harsh realities of a minor female's life and presumes that she has a healthy and open relationship with her parents.

What if she lives in a physically and verbally abusive household? Will she be subjected to more abuse and possibly thrown out of her house because of the pregnancy?

What is she has been raped and is afraid to tell her parents because their religious and/or cultural beliefs state that she brought this on herself?

What if she has been a victim of incest and raped by her father, stepfather, cousin, uncle, brother, or stepbrother?

Each of those aforementioned scenarios prevent a girl from asking permission for an abortion or having any family member take her for one.

Furthermore, the language in the bill uses the words trafficking and recruitment as if the girl is being used for sexual purposes.

These are just some of the many problems with this bill and I believe it opens the door to further restrictions on all women and those who help them (just like Texas).

I urge the committee to widen their view on the real lives of other people and take it into account when making a decision about their vote.

Wiltrud Mott-Smith

If the purpose of sentencing in New Hampshire includes 'rehabilitation' as well as 'vengeance", this bill should be approved.

Elle Gallo

GIVE ME A BREAK WITH THIS BILL.

Karolyn Campbell

I support HB 57, relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community. This positive bill would expand eligibility for certain incarcerated people to finish the remainder of their sentence at home if they are pursuing a post-secondary education. Incarcerated individuals who have entered classes while in prison, finished classes, and want to pursue an advanced degree to improve their lives deserves a second chance. Entering society with this type background can only serve these individuals well for the future.

Samantha Kearns

I love this idea. Incarceration should be about rehabilitation and school/work release is a huge component of rehabilitation. People who are rehabilitated lower the recidivism rate. a lower recidivism rate saves money. I am a little concerned about funding because school obviously costs money and who is going to pay for this? I wish there was some kind of thing in here about the grades or attendance. Its harder to get kicked out of class for not showing up than it is to lose a job for not showing up. I'm also worried that somebody may be going to school for a job they can't get in the future and it being a "waste". I would also like if we are training people in occupations that we are in desperate need of (fire fighters, nurses, trades)

Regina Bowker

This bill would target immigrant communities and erode community trust in law enforcement

Nancy Brennan

I oppose HB415. This is a successful program that helps girls caught off guard (many are irregular at this age), or those who are poor. When I taught middle and high school I always had food for those who needed it and a student lunch ticket a hungry kid could borrow. I realize now I should have had menstrual products for the girls. I learned later that there were those who made pads and tampons "last" because they couldn't afford to change them when they should. That is unsanitary and can lead to infection. Menstrual products should be as available to students as toilet paper and paper towels are. I am surprised there are women supporting this bill. Please vote ITL.

Margaret Hawthorn

It just makes sense to offer channels for people who have been incarcerated to equip themselves for more productive participation in society to reduce or eliminate re-incarceration.

Anne Grossi

This positive bill would expand eligibility for certain incarcerated people to finish the remainder of their sentence at home if they are pursuing a post-secondary education. I would think that this bill would decrease recidivism.

Julianne Gadoury

Kaylea Platt

With inflation and the cost of living, the minimum wage NEEDS to be raised to be a livable wage.

HB 57 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0021
11/08

HOUSE BILL ***57***

AN ACT relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.

SPONSORS: Rep. Meuse, Rock. 37

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill adds a provision for the commissioner of corrections to release a person from state prison for the purpose of participating in a post-secondary education program in the community to which they have been accepted.

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.

25-0021
11/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.

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

1 Inmate Release; Post-Secondary Education. Amend RSA 651:25, I to read as follows:

I. The commissioner of corrections may release any person who has been committed to the state prison at any time during the term of sentence for the purpose of obtaining and working at gainful employment, ***to participate in post-secondary education in the community for which they have been accepted for enrollment***, for the performance of uncompensated public service as provided in RSA 651:68-70, or for such other purpose as may be deemed conducive to his rehabilitation, for such times or intervals of time and under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to RSA 541-A, provided, however, that a prisoner who has not served sufficient time to be eligible for parole may be released under this section only if the sentencing court and the prosecutor of the underlying offense have been notified of the proposed release, and there has been no objection within 10 days of the notice by either the sentencing court or the prosecutor of the underlying offense. If the prosecutor of the underlying offense objects to the proposed release, the prosecutor shall submit in writing to the sentencing court the reasons for objecting. The sentencing court shall, within 10 days of receipt of the prosecutor's objection, schedule a hearing on the proposed release. The sentencing court shall then approve or deny the proposed release. The commissioner of corrections may permit inmates of the state prison, who volunteer to do so, to be gainfully employed outside the institution when such employment is considered in their best interest and the best interest of the state. Inmates may be so employed by the state or by public or private employers.

2 Inmate Attendance at Post-Secondary Education Program. Amend RSA 651:25, III-IV to read as follows:

III. Any part of a day a prisoner is employed ***or enrolled in post-secondary education*** outside the walls of the institution shall count as a full day toward the serving of his ***or her*** sentence as though served inside the walls. An inmate so employed ***or enrolled in post-secondary education*** outside shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the institution and be under the direction and control of the officers thereof.

IV. If an inmate released for work ***or enrolled in post-secondary education*** escapes or fails to return inside the walls of the institution as required by the rules or the orders of the officers thereof or if on administrative home confinement, knowingly leaves a place without authority to do so, such inmate shall be punished as provided by RSA 642:6. The commissioner of corrections may

at any time recall a prisoner from such release status if the commissioner believes or has reason to believe the peace, safety, welfare, or security of the community may be endangered by the prisoner being under such release status.

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