

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**April 23, 2025**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
to which was referred SB 145-FN,**

**AN ACT (New Title) establishing an evidence shipping  
pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.**

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

**Rep. Richard Lascelles**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

|                   |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Committee:        | <b>Criminal Justice and Public Safety</b>                                                                   |
| Bill Number:      | <b>SB 145-FN</b>                                                                                            |
| Title:            | <b>(New Title) establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.</b> |
| Date:             | <b>April 23, 2025</b>                                                                                       |
| Consent Calendar: | <b>CONSENT</b>                                                                                              |
| Recommendation:   | <b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>                                                                                        |

## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This bill establishes a pilot program for utilizing common carriers for transporting evidence to the state laboratory rather than depending on state employees, who in many cases have other higher priority duties to perform. This bill establishes appropriate procedures to protect chain of custody while making the process more efficient and cost effective.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. Richard Lascelles  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

**SB 145-FN**, (New Title) establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Richard Lascelles for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill establishes a pilot program for utilizing common carriers for transporting evidence to the state laboratory rather than depending on state employees, who in many cases have other higher priority duties to perform. This bill establishes appropriate procedures to protect chain of custody while making the process more efficient and cost effective. **Vote 16-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 145-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** (New Title) establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

**DATE:** April 23, 2025

**LOB ROOM:** 202-204

**MOTIONS:** OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Lascelles

Seconded by Rep. Harriott-Gathright Vote: 16-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Alissandra Murray, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON

*CJ and P.S.*  
Executive Session Bill Motions

Bill Number:

Bill Title: *SB145*

Date: *4/23/25*

LOB Room:

MOTION: ☒ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A  
☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year) ☐ Interim Study (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Moved by Rep. *Hascelles* Seconded by Rep. *Harrell* Vote: *16/0*  
*Gathright*

MOTION: ☐ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A  
☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year) ☐ Interim Study (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: ☐ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A  
☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year) ☐ Interim Study (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: ☐ OTP ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ☐ OTP/A  
☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year) ☐ Interim Study (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Majority Report Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Minority Report Author (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2025 SESSION

4/11/2025 8:43:21 AM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

Bill #: SB 145 Motion: OTP AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 4/23/25

| <u>Members</u>                   | <u>YEAS</u> | <u>Nays</u> | <u>NV</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Roy, Terry W Chairman            | ✓           |             |           |
| Rhodes, Jennifer M Vice Chairman | ✓           |             |           |
| Proulx, Mark L                   | ✓           |             |           |
| Lascelles, Richard W.            | ✓           |             |           |
| Devoid, Ricky J                  | ✓           |             |           |
| Morency, Pete                    | ✓           |             |           |
| Paquette, Kathleen Clerk         | ✓           |             |           |
| Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt R   | ✓           |             |           |
| Valerino, Brian L                | ✓           |             |           |
| Harriott-Gathright, Linda C      | ✓           |             |           |
| Meuse, David James               | ✓           |             |           |
| Newman, Ray E                    | ✓           |             |           |
| Murphy, Nancy A                  | ✓           |             |           |
| Murray, Alissandra Clerk Shultz  | ✓           |             |           |
| Newell, Jodi K                   | ✓           |             |           |
| Scherr, Buzz                     | ✓           |             |           |
| <b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>               | <b>14</b>   | <b>0</b>    |           |

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 145-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** (New Title) establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

**DATE:** April 11, 2025

**LOB ROOM:** 202-204

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:30 a.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 10:52 a.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:**  
Sen. Altschiller

**TESTIMONY**

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

**\*Introduced by prime sponsor, Senator Debra Altschiller**

- Requires rape kits be brought to Concord for testing within 7 days of collection
- currently there is a huge inconsistency between different law enforcement agencies
- the state can further reduce the time it takes for sexual assault evidence to move from a law enforcement agency to the state forensic laboratory by establishing a mobile forensic evidence collection pilot program.
- until 2021 NH did not have the capacity to test evidence that contained multiple DNAs - which would include a rape kit
- Was a minimum of 21 weeks before test results were available to prosecution
- Worked with the Commissioner of the DoS to make amendments to ensure that this process would be feasible for law enforcement offices across the state

**\*Pamela Kelig, NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence**

- Supports the bill
- ensures that forensic evidence relating to sexual assault cases are delivered in a timely manner to the state forensic lab
- just a few years ago we received the funds necessary to create and maintain a state forensic evidence tracking system

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Alissandra Murray, Clerk

## Register Your Opinion If Not Testifying

Date: 4.11.25

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

[illegible]

# House Remote Testify

## Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Testify List for Bill SB145 on 2025-04-11

Support: 3 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

[Export to Excel](#)

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>City, State</u><br><u>Email Address</u> | <u>Title</u>           | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Testifying</u> | <u>Non-Germane</u> | <u>Signed Up</u>  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Palmer, Dylan      | Wolfeboro, NH<br>dpalmer1301@gmail.com     | A Member of the Public | Myself              | Support         | No                | No                 | 4/5/2025 9:32 PM  |
| Lucas, Janet       | Campton, NH<br>janluca1953@gmail.com       | An Elected Official    | Myself              | Support         | No                | No                 | 4/6/2025 5:47 PM  |
| Smith, Julie       | Nashua, NH<br>cantdog@comcast.net          | A Member of the Public | Myself              | Oppose          | No                | No                 | 4/7/2025 12:55 PM |
| Richardson, Daniel | Nashua, NH<br>daniel6_22@comcast           | A Member of the Public | Myself              | Support         | No                | No                 | 4/9/2025 3:52 PM  |

NH House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

April 11, 2025

Senator Debra Altschiller

***Introduction of Senate Bill 145-FN: Establishing a mobile evidence collection unit pilot program and providing an appropriation therefore***

About a year ago I was approached by a survivor of sexual assault, her name is Madeline. She came to me through a referral from an New Hampshire advocate who works supporting survivors of sexual assault.

Madeline was raped on September 7th, 2019 in Nashua. She went to the hospital and went through the arduous and invasive process of the sexual assault evidence collection protocol. She filed a police report against her assailant. The Hillsborough County Attorney's office did not prosecute the man who raped her.

In her own words, her "life has truly never been the same."

Not only does she know that her assailant is still walking free, but she must live with the feeling that she no longer can trust the very system she thought she could rely on. In conversation with Madeline she says she feels violated and betrayed, and this is something she must live with every day of her life. She has fire in her too and she wants to use this horrific experience to help someone else.

One of the issues that arose during Madeline's experience with the justice system was the long delay in the processing and testing of evidence collection kits. In her own words "when rape kits are not tested, it sends the message to perpetrators that they commit vicious acts without consequences, and to victims that they will not be believed if they come forward. When rape kits are tested, DNA can be used to identify serial rapists, unknown assailants, and even exonerate someone who has been wrongly accused."

"When rape kits are not tested, it sends the message to perpetrators that they can commit vicious acts of rape and sexual assault without consequence."

This past summer I began working with representatives from the Department of Justice, the Department of Safety and the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to find a way to streamline the process of getting sexual assault evidence collection kits to the state crime lab.

Up until just the end of 2024, New Hampshire did not have the full capability of testing evidence for the presence of multiple DNAs. In fact, our evidence collection kits were evaluated here in New Hampshire and then subsequently sent to a lab in Florida for testing. This was a third party contract the state had entered into to get evidence processed as we did not have the appropriate equipment to do it ourselves. The process took anywhere from 16-18 weeks. That was after the evidence collection kits had been delivered to the state crime lab in Concord from the responding law enforcement agency. So all totaled, if a law enforcement agency brought the evidence collection kit from their station to the crime lab in Concord within two weeks (which is being rather generous considering the history here in NH) then the crime lab logged it in and arranged to have it sent to Florida (another week) where it would be processed and sent back (16-18 weeks), then forwarded to the appropriate county attorney's office, the evidence collected at the hospital from that sexual assault would be - at minimum - 21 weeks old before any of it was available for use by prosecutors. That is an unconscionable amount of time for a survivor to be waiting for that evidence to get to a prosecutor's desk.

Thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, New Hampshire now has four new pieces of testing equipment in the state crime lab capable of testing for DNA. We have ended the third party contract for this service with the lab in Florida. The new testing equipment went online at the end of 2024.

So that solved the 16 to 18 week wait for testing in a state that is 1,400 miles away. Which brought us to the next challenge, getting the sexual assault evidence collection kits from the police departments to the crime lab expeditiously. Larger municipalities with larger staff and more evidence from other crimes are able to work a weekly trip to the state crime lab into their schedule without disrupting patrols. The real challenge comes in the smaller

more rural areas where staffing is short and sending an officer to the state crime lab during business hours means taking an officer off patrol for a half or possibly a full day. For some of the further locations like, for example, Colebrook, Westmoreland or East Kingston, this presents staffing challenges. In places where staffing is short coupled with there being no set time limit in which evidence collection kits must be transported, it leads to forensic medical exam evidence sitting in municipal police departments, sometimes for weeks.

Senate Bill 145-FN was crafted to meet that challenge and get those kits to the lab as soon as possible.

Knowing that the state crime lab now had capability of testing evidence right here in Concord cut down a significant amount of time previously used. Now, in collaboration with the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Coordinator, the NH Sexual Assault Response Team and the state crime lab we started running scenarios and testing the proposal.

The original modest proposal of \$200,000.00 to prop up a pilot program, making two part time positions at the state crime lab into full time positions and retrofitting a vehicle to transport evidence and maintain the chain of custody was proving to be a heavy lift.

I brought Assistant Commissioner of Safety Edwards into the fold to try to save this proposal. He understood the need and after a few more meetings with the crime lab and Department of Justice, he proposed that the small and rural departments could be offered the opportunity to use a common carrier for transport if they indeed could not spare an officer for a half/full day to go to Concord. This is a method used with other kinds of evidence and has had success in getting things to the lab quickly.

Which brings us to the proposal you have in front of you.

It adds a new requirement that all sexual assault evidence collection kits be transferred to the state crime lab within 7 business days of collection, currently there is only a suggestion of getting it to the lab "as soon as possible". In the event that a department will be unable to meet the 7 day deadline by delivering the evidence via an officer (thus maintaining the chain of custody) then, that law enforcement agency may use a common carrier with route tracking (like FedEx or UPS) that must be sent from a storefront, no drop boxes. Additionally, when sending evidence, delivery must be to the lab during business hours to ensure it is received and catalogued immediately. There was discussion about having a "carrot and stick", what do we do about departments out of compliance or those who may seek to abuse the program? I take a vegetarian approach to this, all carrot. This program is a pilot designed to meet a specific need, getting evidence collection kits to the crime lab quickly for testing. The issue of taking an officer off of patrol to deliver the evidence to Concord is recognized as a real challenge for our smaller rural departments, this short pilot program gives us an opportunity to expedite and address public safety concerns.

This effort brings us even closer to getting every kit, representing a real person, the immediate attention they deserve so that justice can be done.

Senate Bill 145 passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee 4-0 and passed through the Senate on the Consent Calendar.

Survivors deserve to have the evidence they allow to be collected off of their traumatized bodies treated with respect and urgency in getting as much information as quickly as possible out of it and brought to a prosecutor.

Respectfully I ask the committee to **recommend Senate Bill 145-FN Ought To Pass.**

# **Senate Judiciary Committee**

## *Pete Mulvey 271-4063*

**SB 145-FN**, establishing a mobile evidence collection unit pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

**Hearing Date:** February 11, 2025

**Time Opened:** 2:34 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 2:58 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gannon, Altschiller and Reardon

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senators Abbas and Carson

**Bill Analysis:** This bill enables the department of safety to develop a mobile evidence collection pilot program.

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**Sponsors:**  
Sen. Altschiller

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**Who supports the bill:** Pamela Keilig, Gordon Springate, and Michaela Janowski.

**Who opposes the bill:** Daniel Richardson.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Melissa Staples.

**Summary of testimony:**

**Senator Debra Altschiller**

**Senate District 24**

- Sen. Altschiller provided a replace all amendment for SB 145-FN.
- The amendment diverged from the original mobile evidence collection pilot program.
- Sen. Altschiller was approached by a survivor of sexual assault, whose assailant was not charged by the Hillsborough County Attorney despite a sexual assault evidence collection process and a filed police report.
- Sen. Altschiller reported that the woman in question was left feeling violated and betrayed by the system she thought she could trust and rely on. Her life has never been the same.
- There were significant delays in processing and testing evidence collection kits.
- When rape kits went untested, it sent the wrong message to victims and perpetrators, respectively.
- DNA assisted in identification and exoneration.
- The Department of Justice, Department of Safety, and the New Hampshire Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence collaborated alongside Sen. Altschiller to create SB 145.

- Until the end of 2024, New Hampshire did not have the full capability to test evidence for the presence of multiple DNAs.
- In fact, local kits were evaluated in-state but sent to a third-party lab in Florida to analyze the DNA given the lack of available means. The process took 16-18 weeks.
- ARPA (the American Rescue Plan Act) provided funds for the State to acquire the means to analyze DNA more adequately, resulting in the contracts closure.
- The next challenge was getting the collection kits from police departments to the crime lab. Larger municipalities assigned someone to make a weekly trip, leaving patrols largely unaffected.
- Such a delivery was a whole day ordeal for smaller departments, ultimately disrupting operations.
- As a result, evidence sat with municipal departments for weeks on end.
- The initial proposal to mitigate transit delays was to employ two part-time individuals with a van to run deliveries. The Commissioner of Safety was brought into fold and effectively saved the proposal.
- Small and rural departments should be offered a common carrier for transport if they cannot spare manpower for a Concord trip. This was addressed in Sen. Altschiller's amendment, 2025-0625s.
- SB 145 and its amendment included a requirement that all sexual assault evidence collection kits be transited within 7 days of collection. Currently, the box suggested "ASAP".
- In the event a department was unable to meet the 7-day deadline, then, and only then, could the law enforcement agency use a common carrier with route tracking from a storefront.
- Use of droboxes was strictly prohibited, and deliveries must be made during business hours to ensure successful receipt.
- Survivors deserved to have their evidence treated with respect and urgency to get information as quickly as possible.
- Sen. Avard asked if the fiscal note was unchanged.
  - Sen. Altschiller said the fiscal note was still in development.
  - Each evidence kit weighed differently, so pre-printed labels were unfeasible. Reimbursement would be more appropriate than appropriation.
- Sen. Reardon noted that municipalities typically carried accounts with common carriers that were nominal compared to a storefront process and asked if that was considered.
  - Sen. Altschiller was aware of such accounts and stated that there were specific outlines saying evidence needed drop-off/ delivery arranged while the carrier and crime lab were open, respectively.
- Sen. Avard inquired about the chain of custody, and if hand delivery was ideal.
  - While Sen. Altschiller agreed, hand delivery was unfeasible as to meet that standard, things sat for a long time waiting for the opportunity.
  - Sen. Altschiller noted that other forms of evidence for other crimes were transited via common carrier.
  - Tracking maintained a chain of custody.

## **Melissa Staples**

### **Director, NH State Police Forensic Laboratory**

- The State Police Forensic Lab was the only forensic laboratory provider in the State.
- For these cases, the forensics lab is responsible for analyzing evidence from a victim's body, for cases within the State's borders.

- Ms. Staples asked the committee to clarify line 16 of the amendment, to state that “*all evidence collected by medical personnel in a sexual assault case occurring in New Hampshire shall be transited to the State Forensic Laboratory*”
- Sen. Gannon wondered if a rape occurred in Lawrence, but the evidence collection procedure was performed in Salem, if New Hampshire could assume venue.
  - Sen. Reardon said the case would have to be brought up in Massachusetts.

**Pamela Keilig**

**Public Policy Specialist - NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence**

- NHCADSV operated twelve community crisis centers which provided confidential services to over 15,000 survivors.
- Ms. Keilig spoke in support of the bill.
- SB 145 was necessary and streamlined the evidence collection process.
- Stakeholders had gone great lengths to improve New Hampshire’s response and testing capabilities.
- Survivors reiterated to the NHCADSV the importance of expedient testing and delivery.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: February 14, 2025



Testimony of Pamela Keilig  
Public Policy Specialist, NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee  
April 11, 2025 | 10:30am

**SB145, establishing a mobile evidence collection unit pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.**

Good morning, Chairman Roy and Members of the Committee. My name is Pamela Keilig, and I am the Public Policy Specialist at the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Coalition is the umbrella organization for 12 community-based crisis centers, which provide free and confidential services to nearly 15,000 survivors of sexual and domestic violence annually. I am here to speak in **support** of SB145, which would help ensure that forensic evidence in sexual assault cases is delivered in time to the State Forensic Laboratory.

Experts in New Hampshire have worked diligently to strengthen our statewide response to sexual assault. As part of these efforts, the state received funding a few years ago to establish a sexual assault evidence collection kit tracking system. This tracking system can be used by stakeholders, such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and law enforcement officers, to help ensure that all kits arrive safely at the State Forensic Laboratory, where evidence can be tested and analyzed. The tracking system also gives survivors more control over their kit by being able to track its location as it moves through the system. The tracking system has been a game changer, enabling stakeholders to assess how long it takes for the kits to travel from the hospital to the police department and, finally, to the forensic lab, ultimately helping to prevent a backlog.

Stakeholders regularly gather to discuss ways that we can ensure that there are no barriers preventing kits from getting to where they need to go. SB145 is an immediate step that the state can take to help expedite this process and improve efficiency in sexual assault cases by creating the opportunity for law enforcement departments to securely ship these kits to the lab. While most evidence collection kits are delivered in a timely manner, there are some instances where it has taken more than two months before the kits have been delivered. These outliers make SB145 necessary.

Survivors regularly share with us how important it is that sexual assault kits are tested in a timely manner. Criminal proceedings in sexual abuse cases can take years, and the more time that passes, the more the lives of victims are impacted without the ability to move forward and heal. Any delays in testing evidence is a delay in justice and should not prevent a case from moving forward. It is unacceptable for kits to sit in limbo for weeks before they are brought to the lab to be tested. Survivors deserve this timely response in their cases. Please consider voting OTP on this bill.

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence • PO Box 353 • Concord, NH 03302 • 603.224.8893

SB 145-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/06/2025 0397s

2025 SESSION

25-1120  
11/09

SENATE BILL        ***145-FN***

AN ACT            establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

COMMITTEE:       Judiciary

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables the department of safety to develop an evidence shipping pilot program and provides an appropriation therefor.

.....

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.

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

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

1           1 Findings and Purpose. The general court finds:

I. The state of New Hampshire has effectively worked to reduce the backlog of sexual assault evidence collection kits by ensuring that evidence is analyzed in a timely manner. The state has implemented a kit tracking system that allows the department of justice and the state forensic laboratory to monitor the location and chain of custody as that evidence moves through the system for analysis.

7           II. One in 4 women and one in 20 men experience sexual violence in New Hampshire, with  
8   nearly half of all reported sexual assaults occurring before the victim is 18. On average, 25 kits are  
9   collected in New Hampshire each month, which equates to 300 kits annually. It can take years  
10   before a sexual assault case is resolved through the criminal justice system.

11 III. Recognizing the critical work that has been done, the state can expand its efforts to  
12 further reduce the time it takes for sexual assault evidence to move from a law enforcement agency  
13 to the state forensic laboratory by establishing a mobile forensic evidence collection pilot program.

14       2 New Subdivision; Evidence Shipping Pilot Program. Amend RSA 21-P by inserting after  
15 section 70 the following new subdivision:

16 Evidence Shipping Pilot Program

17           21-P:71 Evidence Shipping Pilot Program.

18 I. The department of safety may develop an evidence shipping pilot program to alleviate long  
19 waiting periods for evidence to be safely delivered to the state forensic laboratory, where it can be  
20 properly stored pending analysis. A special emphasis shall be placed on supporting law enforcement  
21 in rural communities where resources are limited.

22 II. In this pilot program, all evidence collected by medical personnel in a sexual assault case  
23 occurring in the state of New Hampshire shall be transferred to the state forensic laboratory within  
24 7 business days of collection. If a law enforcement agency cannot deliver the evidence in person to  
25 the state forensic laboratory, which shall be the preferred method of delivery, the agency may use a  
26 common carrier that provides readily accessible package tracking to send the evidence to the state  
27 forensic laboratory for delivery within 7 business days of collection. Law enforcement must have a  
28 good faith basis to believe that the common carrier will accomplish delivery in 7 days prior to  
29 choosing the common carrier. When utilizing delivery by a common carrier, law enforcement shall  
30 deliver the packaged evidence in-hand to an agent of the carrier, and not by drop box or other drop

**SB 145-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE**

**- Page 2 -**

1 off, and keep track of the package's routing and delivery by tracking number assigned by the carrier.  
2 Costs for use of the common carrier may be eligible for reimbursement through the pilot program if  
3 law enforcement can demonstrate that all good faith efforts were made in an effort to deliver the  
4 packaged evidence within the 7 day delivery requirement of this section.

5 III. The department of safety shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A for the design,  
6 administration, and reporting requirements of the program.

7 3 Appropriation. The department of safety shall determine the amount needed to fund the pilot  
8 program, and that amount is hereby appropriated to the department of safety for the biennium  
9 ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of funding the pilot program established in section 2. The  
10 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for any general fund sum out of any money in the treasury  
11 not otherwise appropriated.

12 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

LBA  
25-1120  
1/15/25

**SB 145-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

**AN ACT** establishing a mobile evidence collection unit pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

| Estimated State Impact |              |                                |           |         |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
|                        | FY 2025      | FY 2026                        | FY 2027   | FY 2028 |
| Revenue                | \$0          | \$0                            | \$0       | \$0     |
| Revenue Fund(s)        | None         |                                |           |         |
| Expenditures*          | \$0          | \$175,000 - \$300,000 Per Year |           |         |
| Funding Source(s)      | General Fund |                                |           |         |
| Appropriations*        | \$0          | \$200,000                      | \$200,000 | \$0     |
| Funding Source(s)      | General Fund |                                |           |         |

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill enables the Department of Safety to develop a mobile evidence collection unit pilot program and provides \$200,000 in general funds for each FY 2026 and FY 2027. Of this appropriation, the bill annually allocates \$140,000 to transition two (2) part-time positions to full-time to manage the program and \$20,000 for refrigerated lock-boxes and other equipment. It is assumed the remaining \$40,000 per year would be spent at the agency's discretion. The Department states total costs to implement this program may range from \$175,000 to \$300,000 per year, as there are various cost items (e.g., overtime, vehicle fuel, vehicle maintenance, laptops, bar code scanners, printers, portable Wi-Fi hotspots, etc...) that are unknown at this time.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety

LBA  
25-1120  
4/30/25

**SB 145-FN FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2025-0397s)**

AN ACT                    establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

| Estimated State Impact |              |                                 |         |         |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                        | FY 2025      | FY 2026                         | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| Revenue                | \$0          | \$0                             | \$0     | \$0     |
| Revenue Fund(s)        | None         |                                 |         |         |
| Expenditures*          | \$0          | Up to \$25,000 for the Biennium |         | \$0     |
| Funding Source(s)      | General Fund |                                 |         |         |
| Appropriations*        | \$0          | Open Warrant                    |         | \$0     |
| Funding Source(s)      | General Fund |                                 |         |         |

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill establishes a pilot program for law enforcement agencies who cannot deliver sexual assault kits to the laboratory in person within seven (7) days of collection to ship them to the state forensic laboratory, via a trackable method with a common carrier. The Department states the fiscal impact is indeterminable due to many unknown factors, however, states the anticipated the expense would not exceed \$25,000 for the period ending June 30, 2027. It should be noted this bill includes an "open appropriation", meaning the Department is authorized to draw from the general fund any amount needed for funding the program.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety