

SB 553-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2155

09/08

SENATE BILL ***553-FN***

AN ACT relative to penalties for attempting to elude pursuit by law enforcement.

SPONSORS: Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9; Sen. Carson,
Dist 14; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Rep. Roy, Rock. 31; Rep. Gorski, Hills. 2; Rep. N.
Murphy, Hills. 12; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 3

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill increases the penalties for willfully attempting to elude pursuit by a law enforcement officer by increasing speed, extinguishing headlamps while still in motion, or abandoning a vehicle while being pursued.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to penalties for attempting to elude pursuit by law enforcement.

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

1 1 Disobeying an Officer; Penalty. Amend RSA 265:4, II to read as follows:

2 II. Any person who violates any provision of paragraph I of this section may have his or her
3 license or privilege to drive and any registrations issued in his or her name suspended. **Any person**
4 **who violates the provision of subparagraph I(c) by willfully attempting to elude pursuit by**
5 **a law enforcement officer by increasing speed, extinguishing headlamps while still in**
6 **motion, or abandoning a vehicle while being pursued shall have such license or privilege**
7 **to drive and any registrations issued in his or her name suspended for a period of not less**
8 **than 6 months.** In addition, any person who violates the provisions of subparagraphs I(a), (b), (d),
9 (e), or (f) of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

10 2 New Paragraph; Disobeying an Officer; Penalty. Amend RSA 265:4 by inserting after
11 paragraph III the following new paragraph:

12 IV. In addition to the penalties listed in paragraphs II and III, any person who violates the
13 provision of subparagraph I(c) by willfully attempting to elude pursuit by a law enforcement officer
14 by increasing speed, extinguishing headlamps while still in motion, or abandoning a vehicle while
15 being pursued shall be sentenced to a term of at least 5 consecutive days in the house of corrections,
16 which may not be suspended or deferred.

17 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**SB 553-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to penalties for attempting to elude pursuit by law enforcement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
Expenditures*	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
County Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Expenditures	Indeterminable			
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	Indeterminable			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association