

SB 21-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/06/2025 0395s

2025 SESSION

25-0196

02/06

SENATE BILL **21-FN**

AN ACT relative to establishing a New Hampshire state trooper recruitment loan debt relief program and making an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS: Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Rep. Rice, Hills. 38; Rep. Vose, Rock. 5; Rep. Weyler, Rock. 14; Rep. Bernardy, Rock. 36; Rep. L. Walsh, Rock. 15

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the New Hampshire state trooper school loan debt relief program.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to establishing a New Hampshire state trooper recruitment loan debt relief program and making an appropriation therefor.

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

1 1 New Section; State Trooper Retention School Loan Debt Relief Program. Amend RSA 106-B
2 by inserting after section 1 the following new section:

3 106-B:1-a State Trooper Retention School Loan Debt Relief Program.

4 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire state trooper school loan debt relief
5 program to address the state trooper shortage in New Hampshire. The program shall provide
6 financial incentives to new state troopers, through student loan repayment assistance upon
7 completion of a term of employment as a state trooper in the state of New Hampshire. The program
8 shall be administered by the department of safety, division of state police.

9 II. Applicants shall be eligible for the program if they were hired as police employees on or
10 after July 1, 2025, and owe at least \$10,000 in student loans. Applicants deemed eligible by the
11 department of safety shall, no later than 30 days after their first year anniversary of employment,
12 receive a disbursement towards their student loan debt principal in the amount of \$10,000 for the
13 first 5 years they remain police employees, up to a maximum total disbursement of \$40,000.
14 Applicants shall remain eligible for the program as long as they hold student loan debt during their
15 first 5 years as police employees. Applicants with less than \$10,000 in student loan debt after their
16 first anniversary of employment shall receive prorated disbursements based on their remaining
17 student loan principal debt. Such disbursements shall not be used to pay student loan interest.

18 III. There is established in the treasury a fund to be known as the state trooper retention
19 school loan debt relief fund. The fund shall include any sums appropriated for such purpose. In
20 addition, the department of safety may accept public sector and private sector grants, gifts, or
21 donations of any kind for the purpose of funding the provisions of this section. The moneys in this
22 fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department. The fund shall be
23 expended by the department to administer the program and to award student loan repayment
24 assistance in accordance with this section. The state treasurer may invest moneys in the fund as
25 provided by law, with interest received on such investment credited to the fund.

26 IV. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A, relative to program
27 administration, including application procedures, eligibility criteria, and fund disbursement.

28 2 New Subparagraph; Dedicated Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph
29 (399) the following new subparagraph:

SB 21-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

- Page 2 -

1 (400) Moneys deposited in the state trooper retention school loan debt relief fund
2 under RSA 106-B:1-a.

3 3 Appropriation. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the sum of \$1 is appropriated to the
4 department of safety for deposit in the state trooper retention school loan debt relief fund under RSA
5 106-B:1-a. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the
6 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

7 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

SB 21-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2025-0395s)

AN ACT relative to establishing a New Hampshire state trooper recruitment loan debt relief program and making an appropriation therefor.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$100,000 - \$500,000	\$100,000 - \$500,000	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$1		\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill creates a New Hampshire state trooper recruitment loan debt relief program and provides a general fund appropriation of \$1. The Department of Safety states the amount needed to fully fund this program is indeterminable, however reports that a candidate with no experience must have an associate degree or 60 credit hours from a recognized college; or a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent, with two years of law enforcement and/or military experience. In reviewing the 61 state troopers hired over the past two years, the Department states 43 had a minimum of 60 college credits, however their school loan debt is unknown. The Department has provided an estimated range of \$100,000 to \$500,000 for the first two years, with a possible increase to \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 beginning in year three, all of which would be dependent on how many state troopers have school loan debt in years three through five of eligibility. The Department has identified no costs relative to administering this program.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety