

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Ben Mickens 271-1403*

**SB 516**, relative to certain unclassified positions in the department of health and human services.

**Hearing Date:** January 14, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:20 a.m. **Time Closed:** 9:26 a.m.

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Altschiller

**Bill Analysis:** This bill revises the job title for certain positions in the department of health and human services.

This bill also repeals the prospective repeal of the phase in schedule for appointment of counsel.

The bill is a request of the department of health and human services.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Long	Sen. Rosenwald	Sen. Sullivan
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	Sen. Fenton	Sen. Avar
Sen. Birdsell	Sen. Altschiller	

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Donovan Fenton, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Senator Pat Long, Susan Larrabee (DHHS)

**Who opposes the bill:** Karen Rosenburg (Disability Rights Center), Dawn McKinney (NH Legal Assistance), Emily Lawrence (Waypoint)

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Patrick Long**

- Section 1 of SB 516 would amend RSA 94:1-a, I(b), renaming 5 classified supervising staff attorney positions.

- The bill provides some simple clean up to better reflect the reality of these positions.
- Sen. Long also explained he is offering an amendment to eliminate section 2, other legislation would better address this topic.

**Senator Pearl** asked about amendment offered to clarify the committee should remove section 2 of the bill.

**Senator Long** affirmed, stating the amendment would help keep the conversation focused on this bill.

**Susan Larrabee, (Legislative Liaison, Children, Youth, and Families) DHHS**

- The changes reflected are technical name changes to better match up with existing department jobs.
- For example, the bill makes clear which attorneys are actually lead attorneys and not supervising any other attorneys.
- The bill also cleans up an incorrect word choice. “Council” rather than “Counsel” is in statute, which needs to be fixed.
- Finally, there is support for the amendment which eliminates section 2 of the bill.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:**

**Karen Rosenberg, (Policy Director) Disability Rights Center NH**

- The DRC has no problem with the change of titles or corrections of word choice errors.
- Rather, they wanted to raise the importance of right to counsel for children. There concerns stemmed from section 2 of the bill.
- The right to legal counsel is especially important for children in foster care.
- Section 2 would be problematic, and should be removed.
- Excluding section 2, there is support for the bill.

**Senator Pearl** asked to confirm that Ms. Rosenberg supports bill, provided section 2 was struck.

**Ms. Rosenberg** concurred with Senator Pearl’s description.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.