

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

SB 568, relative to the department of safety's procedures for appointing designees to verify background checks.

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026

Time Opened: 9:31 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:42 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator McGough

Bill Analysis: This bill authorizes department of safety employees who are designated by the commissioner and authorized to receive criminal conviction information to obtain such information from state police for the processing of employee candidate background checks.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Lang

Sen. Carson

Sen. Abbas

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. McGough

Sen. Murphy

Rep. L. Miner

Rep. Porcelli

Rep. Rice

Rep. Rhodes

Rep. Kuttab

Who supports the bill: Senator Bill Gannon, Senator Tim McGough, Captain Victor Muzzey (NH State Police).

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Bill Gannon

- This bill has to do with clarifying procedures regarding background checks and who can do them within the Department of Safety.

Captain Victor Muzzey, NH State Police

- We recently had a routine FBI check to review best practices.

- This bill would allow a wider array of appointees within the department to do the background checks on hires.
- It was suggested to us to make an amendment to make sure designees are only within the department, and have more general language.
- This would be a longer lasting fix than if we listed it by position.

Senator Pearl asked if this amended language would pass muster with the FBI and their expectations.

Captain Muzzey said yes, however it can be difficult to be sure as we have received some conflicting recommendations.

Senator Altschiller asked to clarify that the amendment would change the language from specific positions to designees within the department.

Captain Muzzey agreed.

Senator Altschiller asked about potential guardrails to ensure the commissioner's designee is a human and not any AI software.

Captain Muzzey agreed and stated the language of "employee" would meet the concerns expressed.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: No one.

Neutral Information Presented: No one.