

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

SB 496, relative to supervision and registration requirements for associates of broker-dealers.

Hearing Date: January 27, 2026

Time Opened: 11:33 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:42 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, Murphy, McGough and Fenton

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators Innis and Reardon

Bill Analysis: This bill exempts certain private residences designated by broker-dealers as a supervisory location from being classified as a branch office.

Sponsors:

Sen. McGough

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Watters

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Innis

Rep. Miles

Who supports the bill: Senator Tim McGough, Senator Daniel Innis, Senator Howard Pearl, Joe Murray (Fidelity), Eric Forcier (Bureau of Securities Regulation), Katie Taylor (Bureau of Securities Regulation), Daniel Richardson, Natch Greyes (BIA)

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Tim McGough

- The pandemic permanently changed how Americans work, and many employees still work remotely, yet New Hampshire is one of only a few states that has not adopted a minor change in the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) regulations related to residential supervisory locations.
- This bill would allow FINRA member firms to designate a private residence as an area that can perform certain supervisory functions as a non-branch or unregistered location. These locations are subject to clear investor protection safeguards and limitations.

- This change was published in the Federal Register, reviewed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and it became effective in June 2024. Since then, 43 states have adopted this designation.

Joe Murray, Vice President of Government Relations, Fidelity Investments

- This bill made a targeted, yet important update, to the state's securities law to align with rules adopted by FINRA.
- FINRA is under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- Two years ago, FINRA adopted a rule governing residential supervisory locations (RSLs), which enabled certain supervisory functions to be conducted securely and effectively from a private residence without having to register that home as a branch office of the firm.
- This change would align New Hampshire with the standards and practices of almost every state.
- For Fidelity, Mr. Murray said this bill would support modern workforce needs and realities.
- Most of their employees work hybrid where they are in the office for one week with the option of working from home the following week.
- This bill would impact about 400 of their associates who work in supervisory roles.
- Their hybrid approach provides benefits to their employees and their firm, and it improves their business continuity and resiliency, which is critical for their customers.
- This bill would not deregulate supervision; instead, it would modernize oversight. By requiring documented risk assessment and ongoing state oversight, investors would be protected.

Eric Forcier, Director, and Katie Taylor, Attorney, New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation

- Mr. Forcier said they worked closely with Fidelity, FINRA, and NASAA on this bill.
- Mr. Forcier said the Bureau supported this bill because it made the rules uniform with other states.

Natch Greyes, Business and Industry Association

- This bill would modernize oversight and match what has happened in other states.
- New Hampshire has a large presence in the financial services industry, and this bill would help to maintain the state's competitive edge.
- Mr. Greyes said they have heard from employers and employees who are looking for hybrid or fully remote work, so this bill would make the state attractive to them as well as provide new opportunities.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 30, 2026