

HB 653-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

05/01/2025 1625s

2025 SESSION

25-0429

05/11

HOUSE BILL

653-FN

AN ACT

establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Petrigno, Hills. 43; Rep. DeSimone, Rock. 18; Rep. Gregg, Hills. 7; Rep. Grossman, Rock. 11; Rep. Levesque, Straf. 4; Rep. Nelson, Rock. 13; Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. McGough, Dist 11

COMMITTEE:

Education Policy and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.

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

1 1 Safe Schools Pilot Project Established.

2 I. There shall be established the safe schools pilot project within the department of
3 education to develop an evidence-based practice model for alternatives to restraint and seclusion of
4 students.

5 (a) The pilot project shall provide technical assistance, professional development, and
6 training for school staff in evidence-based alternatives to restraint and seclusion that focuses on
7 problem-solving and skill development.

8 (b) For purposes of the pilot project:

9 (1) Programs shall have a designation of "evidence-based" provided by a national
10 clearinghouse used by the New Hampshire Children's Behavioral Health Resource Center.

11 (2) "Evidence-based alternatives to restraint and seclusion" programs shall be
12 problem-solving focused; skill-development focused; collaborative as between educators and
13 students; trauma-informed; proactive; and non-punitive.

14 (3) "Evidence-based alternatives to restraint and seclusion" shall not include
15 programs that use restraint or seclusion; crisis prevention training; de-escalation training; or
16 behavior management training.

17 II. The department of education shall administer the pilot project.

18 (a) The department shall disseminate information about the pilot project to all school
19 districts in the state and shall solicit applications for inclusion in the pilot project. Applications
20 shall be accepted on a rolling basis.

21 (b) The department shall identify and give priority to applications from the following
22 types of school districts. If possible, the pilot project shall include at least:

23 (1) Two schools with the highest per capita incidents of restraints and seclusion;

24 (2) Schools in high density population areas and/or with the highest per capita
25 diversity;

26 (3) Two schools in suburban areas;

27 (4) Two schools in rural areas; and

28 (5) One accredited residential school.

1 (c) Among the participating school districts, at least one shall be an elementary school;
2 at least 2 shall have a high density of special education students, such as a public alternative school;
3 at least 2 shall be middle schools; and at least 2 shall be high schools.

4 (d) The pilot project at each school shall last from 3 to 12 months, beginning in January
5 2026.

6 III. The pilot project shall include the following reporting requirements:

7 (a) School districts shall report implementation data and findings to the department
8 every 3 months while participating in the pilot project.

9 (b) The department shall collaborate with the identified vendor to collect the data from
10 school district participants and analyze outcomes from the pilot project.

11 (c) Beginning 6 months after the effective date of this section, and every 6 months
12 thereafter for the duration of the project, the department shall provide a report regarding the safe
13 schools pilot project to:

14 (1) The governor's office;

15 (2) The senate president and chair of the senate education committee;

16 (3) The speaker of the house and chair of the house education committee;

17 (4) The office of the child advocate;

18 (5) The commissioner of the department of education;

19 (6) The director of the office of social and emotional wellness in the department of
20 education;

21 (7) The office of the advocate for special education; and

22 (8) The oversight commission on children's services established in RSA 21-V:10.

23 (e) The report shall address the following:

24 (1) Demographics of schools participating in the pilot project.

25 (2) Historical data on restraints and seclusion in each participating school to include
26 5 years of restraint and seclusion data.

27 (3) Historical data on trainings provided at each participating school in the prior 5
28 years, relating to restraint or seclusion, crisis prevention, de-escalation training, and behavior
29 management training.

30 (4) A description of the technical assistance and professional development
31 implemented relating to the evidence-based practice model for alternatives to restraint and seclusion
32 of students in each pilot project school.

33 (5) Outcomes of the pilot project, including but not limited to: teacher engagement;
34 data collected on the use of restraint and seclusion in each school during the pilot project; data
35 collected relating to the use of the evidence-base3 line 7d practice model for alternatives to restraint
36 and seclusion of students; and pre- and post-survey data from teachers regarding the pilot project.

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1 (6) Costs and funding options for continued use of the evidence-based practice model
2 for alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students and possible expansion to other schools across
3 the state.

4 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 653-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2025-1625s)

AN ACT establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

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

***Expenditure = Cost of bill**

***Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

METHODOLOGY:

This bill would establish a pilot program within the Department of Education to develop an evidence-based practice model for alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students. The Department states that while the exact cost of the implementation of this pilot program is indeterminable, it is estimated to be between \$100,000 to \$500,000 per year. The Department adds that the implementation of a new program would require a new staff member to administer; however is unable to provide specific position information at this time. It should be noted that this bill provides neither authorization nor appropriation for new personnel.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education