

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

THE COMMITTEE ON Commerce

to which was referred **SB 446-FN**

AN ACT

requiring animal care center operators to notify dog owners when a dog will be left unattended and to report injuries to animals or people which occur on the premises of the animal care center.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-1

AMENDMENT # 2026-0685s

Senator Denise Ricciardi  
For the Committee

This bill would require that animal care centers notify dog owners when a dog will be left unattended and if the center is not equipped with a functioning fire protection sprinkler system; require injuries that occur to people or animals on the center's property to be reported; and enable local law enforcement to annually inspect centers and provide a penalty for not maintaining proper care of these centers. Currently, centers are not licensed within the state despite instances of dogs being lost, killed, or injured in their care. The Committee Amendment would replace the underlying bill by clarifying definitions; specifying what types of injuries need to be reported; requiring the Department of Agriculture to certify and perform inspections on centers every two years; and moving the inspection of pet vendors to every two years. To address concerns raised by the Department about resources and staffing, certification and inspection requirements would take effect on January 1, 2028.

Aaron Jones 271-2609

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

**COMMERCE**

**SB 446-FN**, requiring animal care center operators to notify dog owners when a dog will be left unattended and to report injuries to animals or people which occur on the premises of the animal care center.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-1.

Senator Denise Ricciardi for the committee.

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