

# Senate Judiciary Committee

*Brendan Bunnell 271-4063*

**SB 465-FN**, classifying xylazine as a schedule III controlled drug.

**Hearing Date:** February 10, 2026

**Time Opened:** 1:40 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:58 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gannon, Abbas, Carson, Altschiller and Reardon

**Members of the Committee Absent:** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill classifies xylazine as a schedule III controlled drug.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Abbas

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Carson

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. McConkey

Rep. L. Walsh

Rep. Vose

Rep. Roy

Rep. Rhodes

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**Who supports the bill:** Robert Johnson II (NH Farm Bureau), Elizabeth Sargent (NH Assoc. of Chiefs of Police), Jane Barlow Roy, Kaylee McGlynn, Justin Agraz, Celeste Clark, Hannah Anderson, Pamela Baker, Marissa McGlynn, Sue Hamola, Kirsten Westrate, Senator David Rochefort, Senator Mark McConkey, Cathy Livingston, Bethany Maynard, Maria Hatheway, and Pat Murphy.

**Who opposes the bill:** Curtis Howland, Matthew Marra, and Bill Alleman.

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

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Senator William Gannon (SD-23)**, introduced the bill, explaining that it he had become aware of the issue of Xylazine through Ms. Kaylee McGlenn and the efforts of the Raymond Coalition for Youth. The bill would reclassify Xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance.

- Explained that Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer currently being used to “cut” 30% of fentanyl seized in New Hampshire. As Xylazine is a tranquilizer, it can interfere with or prevent attempts to restart an individual’s heart after a fentanyl overdose. The drug is very cheap, possibly costing only 30 dollars a pound in certain black markets.

- Stated that he had an amendment prepared to allow veterinarians to continue to use the drug in their work.

**Ms. Kaylee McGlynn**, went into further detail, explaining that this bill was in part based upon an academic poster that she had presented.

- Explained that Xylazine was primarily intended for veterinary use, and completely unapproved for use by humans. The drug has been known to reduce the effectiveness of drugs like Narcan during an overdose and carry dangerous side effects in certain conditions like the creation of necrotic wounds that can lead to limb loss. Despite this, Xylazine is currently unclassified in New Hampshire, and carries no penalty for possession.
- Stated that the drug is currently not classified as a controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substance Act and federal efforts to combat this issue have not been timely against its growing impact in New Hampshire.
- Argued that other states have issued specific local scheduling measures to combat this substance and that New Hampshire should follow their example.
- Explained that drug manufacturers are making higher profits with the ease of stretching out their fentanyl products with cheap added Xylazine.
- Explained that the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has issued formal statements to healthcare professionals informing them of the substance presenting itself in clinical settings. Despite these warnings, New Hampshire healthcare professionals are left without the proper training, understanding, or treatment guidelines to combat the physiological and psychological effects of this substance.
- Argued that the available data in New Hampshire demonstrates that this will not be a self-resolving issue. As of December 9th, 2025, ten fentanyl deaths involving Xylazine have been reported in New Hampshire.
- Argued that while there has been an overall decrease in the number of Xylazine related deaths since 2024, this is not necessarily going to be a continuing pattern.
- Explained that this bill is both reactive, in the sense that it is responding to the demonstrated presence of the drug in New Hampshire, and proactive, as it would allow the state to issue firm controls on the presence of the drug before it becomes a greater issue. The District Attorney has stated that the emergence of Xylazine in the United States is following the same geographical path as fentanyl. Despite this, recent federal efforts, including a bill introduced in 2023, have stalled.

- Argued that the New Hampshire people deserve the safeguards provided within this bill and should not be left in limbo waiting for federal protections. Ms. McGlenn went on to argue that scheduling this substance was the first step towards regulating its use.
- Explained that classification of the drug within Schedule III would allow veterinarians and other practitioners to order the substance with minimal restraints.
- Quoted a New Hampshire DEA Agent, Paul Spera, who claimed that the substance had been seen everywhere from Seabrook to Colebrook.

**Ms. Marissa McGlynn**, explained that this bill was both timely and necessary.

- Argued that classifying Xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance would align New Hampshire's legal framework with the reality on the ground. This status accurately reflects the substance's significant risk for harm when misused while also giving the room for medical professionals to continue to use the drug when necessary.
- In addition to echoing the prevalence of the drug in fentanyl and within New Hampshire, went into detail on the severe health effects associated with the substance. Xylazine's presence in humans is associated with severe skin ulcers, soft tissue damage, and increased risk of infection. This is on account of the pharmacology of the substance, which can inhibit blood flow and delay the healing process. These medical conditions have been verified by health professionals and harm reduction advocates in jurisdictions experiencing high rates of contaminated drug supply.
- Explained that Naloxone, a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, is unable to reverse Xylazine's effects, meaning that those in such circumstances require a higher level of medical attention. This is a situation for which medical professionals are currently unprepared.
- Argued that the classification of the drug as Schedule III would give prosecutors and law enforcement the proper tools to intervene when Xylazine is trafficked.
- Stated that this was not a bill based in moral enforcement, but a set of necessary protections for New Hampshire residents.

**Mr. Robert Johnson**, Policy Director for the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation, spoke in support of the amendment to the bill. He explained that his primary concerns with the bill laid in the costs potentially associated with the Schedule III reclassification, including the administrative strain and those associated with time and paperwork that would ultimately be passed onto livestock owners.

- Senator Altschiller asked for clarification on how this bill might change the pricing of veterinary services.
  - Mr. Johnson answered that his understanding was that it would cause some changes to the time taken by veterinarians to acquire this drug for animal services.

**Ms. Sue Hamola**, a representative of SAM New Hampshire, spoke in support of the bill, explaining that it presented an opportunity for New Hampshire to be a leader in regulating this substance and combating the issue.

**Dr. Jane Barlow Roy**, a veterinarian in the Concord area and a representative of the New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association, and **Dr. Katie Larson**, a veterinarian and President of that association, spoke in support of the bill with the added amendment that would protect the practice of veterinarians.

- Clarified that any sort of Xylazine that gets into the human world is illicit, and never prescribed.
- Explained that the Schedule III placement would put Xylazine alongside drugs like ketamine, anabolic steroids, and testosterone.
- Stated that they appreciated that veterinarians were given this carveout in the amendment so that they could continue to use the substance as a sedative for larger animals.
- Dr. Katie Larson clarified that this was a necessary substance for veterinary work to keep doctors safe while working with large animals. It prevents doctors from being kicked or injured and acts as a short acting pain management tool for animals. The Doctor added that it is used on around 95% of large animals that they treat.