

SB 69-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

5Jun2025... 2239h
5Jun2025... 2605h
5Jun2025... 2700h

2025 SESSION

25-0303
02/06

SENATE BILL

69-LOCAL

AN ACT

relative to acceptance of or rejection of charitable contributions, gifts, or donations by local school boards, establishing a virtual early childhood readiness family engagement program, and specifying that library user information exempted from disclosure in the right-to-know law includes information regarding library cards and library membership status.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Rep. Ladd, Graf. 5; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29; Rep. Mazur, Hills. 44; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Rep. Seidel, Hills. 29

COMMITTEE:

Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires local school boards to publicly discuss and vote before accepting or rejecting any charitable gifts, grants, or donations.

II. Establishes a statewide virtual early childhood readiness family engagement program.

III. Exempts library card and library membership files and information from disclosure under the right-to-know law.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to acceptance of or rejection of charitable contributions, gifts, or donations by local school boards, establishing a virtual early childhood readiness family engagement program, and specifying that library user information exempted from disclosure in the right-to-know law includes information regarding library cards and library membership status.

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

1 1 Local Planning and Approval. Amend RSA 194-E:2, VI to read as follows:

2 VI. Each public school and each local school board may seek and accept public and private
3 gifts, grants, and donations to offset the costs of developing and implementing innovation plans and
4 plans for creating innovation school zones, ***provided that such gifts, grants, or donations shall***
5 ***be accepted if valued at \$5,000 or more, or rejected by the school board after being***
6 ***discussed and voted on in a public session. Gifts or donations may be made anonymously if***
7 ***the donor so chooses.***

8 2 Trust Funds Created for Specific Purposes; Expenditures; Administration. Amend RSA
9 198:20-c, VI to read as follows:

10 VI. The district may authorize the acceptance of privately-donated gifts, legacies and devises
11 to be utilized for the same purpose as a trust fund created under this section; provided, however,
12 that such gifts, legacies or devises shall be invested and accounted for separately from, and not
13 commingled with, amounts appropriated under paragraph I, and shall be subject to the custody and
14 investment provisions applicable to trust funds accepted under RSA 31:31. ***Gifts authorized***
15 ***pursuant to this paragraph shall be accepted if valued at \$5,000 or more, or rejected by the***
16 ***school board after being discussed and voted on in a public session. Gifts or donations may***
17 ***be made anonymously if the donor so chooses.***

18 3 Supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors. Amend RSA 200:44-b, IV to read as follows:

19 IV. A school may enter into an agreement with a manufacturer of epinephrine auto-
20 injectors, third-party suppliers of epinephrine auto-injectors, or health care offices to obtain
21 epinephrine auto-injectors at no charge or at fair-market prices or at reduced prices. A school
22 district may accept gifts, grants or donations from foundations, organizations, or private parties to
23 purchase epinephrine auto-injectors. ***Gifts authorized pursuant to this paragraph shall be***
24 ***accepted if valued at \$5,000 or more, or rejected by the school board after being discussed***
25 ***and voted on in a public session. Gifts or donations may be made anonymously if the donor***
26 ***so chooses.***

27 4 Supply of Bronchodilators, Spacers, or Nebulizers. Amend RSA 200:54, IV to read as follows:

1 IV. A school may enter into an agreement with a manufacturer of bronchodilators, spacers,
2 or nebulizers, third-party suppliers of bronchodilators, spacers, or nebulizers, or health care offices
3 to obtain bronchodilators, spacers, or nebulizers at no charge or at fair-market prices or at reduced
4 prices. A school district may accept gifts, grants or donations from foundations, organizations, or
5 private parties to purchase bronchodilators, spacers, or nebulizers. ***Gifts authorized pursuant to
6 this paragraph shall be accepted if valued at \$5,000 or more, or rejected by the school
7 board after being discussed and voted on in a public session. Gifts or donations may be
8 made anonymously if the donor so chooses.***

9 5 Trust Funds for Districts. Amend RSA 31:31 to read as follows:

10 31:31 Trust Funds for Districts. Except where otherwise specifically provided in the charter of a
11 city or by special act of the legislature whenever a gift, legacy or devise shall be made in trust to a
12 school district, village district or any subdivision of a town and accepted by it, the same shall be held
13 in custody and administered by the trustees of trust funds of such town or in case of districts
14 embracing 2 or more towns by the trustees of trust funds of that town which the voters of said
15 district may elect. The governing body of any such district or subdivision shall expend such district
16 or subdivision trust funds, or the income thereof to be expended, consistently with the terms of the
17 trust. The provisions of RSA 31:32 shall not apply to expenditures of district or subdivision trust
18 funds. ***Gifts made pursuant to this section shall be accepted if valued at \$5,000 or more, or
19 rejected by a school board after being discussed and voted on in a public session. Gifts or
20 donations may be made anonymously if the donor so chooses.***

21 6 Public recreation and Parks; Establishment and Management. Amend RSA 35-B:1 to read as
22 follows:

23 35-B:1 Establishment and Management. Any town, city, county, village district or school
24 district acting through its governing body, may either independently or in conjunction with the
25 United States, the state of New Hampshire, or any other political subdivision acquire land within or
26 without its jurisdiction by gift, purchase or lease, for a public recreation and park area and may
27 prepare, equip, and maintain said land for said purpose. Said town, city, county or district may
28 establish a system of reasonable fees and charges thereon; may conduct and promote leisure-time
29 activities thereon. In connection therewith, any such town, city, county, or district may construct,
30 reconstruct, equip, operate, and maintain any recreation building or recreation support facility; and
31 may employ an administrative officer and such other persons as it deems necessary to carry out the
32 provisions of this chapter. Any town, city, county or district shall have the power to jointly enter
33 into any contract with any organization or organizations for the purpose of conducting leisure-time
34 programs, acquiring recreational lands or facilities, or exercising any other power granted by this
35 chapter. ***Gifts made pursuant to this section shall be accepted if valued at \$5,000 or more,
36 or rejected by a school board after being discussed and voted on in a public session. Gifts
37 or donations may be made anonymously if the donor so chooses.***

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1 7 New Paragraph; Donations to Regional Career and Technical Education Center Programs.
2 Amend RSA 188-E:9-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

3 II-a. Donations made pursuant to paragraph II shall be accepted or rejected by a school
4 board after being discussed and voted on in a public session. Gifts or donations may be made
5 anonymously if the donor so chooses.

6 8 New Section; Virtual Early Childhood Readiness Family Engagement Program. Amend RSA
7 186 by inserting after section 70 the following new section:

8 186:71 Virtual Early Childhood Readiness Family Engagement Program.

9 I. In this section:

10 (a) "Department" means the department of education.

11 (b) "Preschool child" means a 4- or 5-year-old child who is not enrolled in kindergarten.

12 (c) "Virtual early childhood readiness family engagement program" means a statewide
13 nonprofit digital initiative aimed at developing school readiness skills for preschool children and
14 fostering family engagement.

15 II. There is established a virtual early childhood readiness family engagement program to
16 provide early childhood literacy and improve kindergarten readiness among children in New
17 Hampshire. The program shall offer an online, evidence-based early literacy initiative for children 4
18 and 5 years old who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. The early childhood readiness program
19 shall operate as a statewide initiative, utilizing educational technology and family engagement to
20 develop school readiness skills for preschool children. The program shall deliver age-appropriate
21 literacy preparation in reading, math, and science.

22 III. The department of education shall, subject to the availability of appropriated funds,
23 provide the kindergarten readiness literacy program to preschool children statewide.

24 IV. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department of education may accept
25 and expend unanticipated funds, grants, or donations from state, federal, or other government
26 entities, as well as private and nonprofit sources, for the kindergarten readiness program, as such
27 funds become available.

28 V. Each year, the virtual early childhood readiness family engagement program shall submit
29 an annual report to the governor, speaker of the house, and president of the senate, which shall
30 include, but not be limited to:

31 (a) Number of children participating in the program;

32 (b) Number of families participating in the program; and

33 (c) Number of private and public preschool providers engaged in the program.

34 9 Right to Know: Library Cards. Amend RSA 91-A:5, IV to read as follows:

35 IV. Records pertaining to internal personnel practices; confidential, commercial, or financial
36 information; test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used to administer a licensing
37 examination, examination for employment, or academic examinations; and personnel, medical,

1 welfare, library user (*including, but not limited to, library cards and library membership*
2 *status*), videotape sale or rental, and other files whose disclosure would constitute invasion of
3 privacy. Without otherwise compromising the confidentiality of the files, nothing in this paragraph
4 shall prohibit a public body or agency from releasing information relative to health or safety from
5 investigative files on a limited basis to persons whose health or safety may be affected.

6 10 Effective Date.

7 I. Section 9 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

8 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.