

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

HB 1030, relative to licensed practical nurse scope of practice.

Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

Time Opened: 9:02 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:18 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Altschiller

Bill Analysis: This bill modifies the scope of practice for licensed practical nurses.

Sponsors:

Rep. C. McGuire

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Prentiss

Who supports the bill: Senator Howard Pearl, Carlene Ferrier (NH Nurse Association), Alyssa Cummings (LPN), Ben Bradley (NHHA), Cory Stone, Mary Behnke, Sally Patton, Joline Manseau, Polly Campion, Joan Widmer, Lisa Mantz, and Jen Ufkin.

Who opposes the bill: June Garen.

Who is neutral on the bill:

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Alyssa Cummings of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Ben Bradley of New Hampshire Licensed Association

- Ms. Cummings stated that HB 1030 ensures that Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are able to practice at the highest level of their education and training.
- Ms. Cummings explained that current language permits LPNs to conduct segmented patient focused assessments while leaving out whole body assessments. She added that this does not reflect the current state training as LPNs are trained to give full body assessments.
- She explained that this has led organizations to adopt more conservative and restrictive policies to ensure compliance with state law.

- Ms. Cummings explained that LPNs are critical to the healthcare workforce and should be able to contribute as much as they are trained to.

Senator McGough asked about the difference in training for a Registered Nurse (RN) and a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Ms. Cummings responded that LPNs are expected to perform head-to-toe assessments on stable patients.

Senator McGough asked if with an increase in LPNs in a hospital setting, there would be a dilution to the wage pool and a decrease in quality of care.

Ms. Cummings responded that LPNs will still be practicing under the umbrella of an RN who oversees the care given. She added that this allows RNs to provide additional assessment and care so that they are also contributing to the patient care.

Senator McGough asked how it can be ensured that the retention and motivation of RN staff doesn't decrease resulting in a decrease in quality of service.

Mr. Bradley responded that hospitals have policy in place to make sure LPNs are only working with stable patients and in an environment where they are comfortable.

Senator McGough asked if an LPN can replace an RN regarding their diagnostic skills.

Ms. Cummings explained that if an LPN observes a sign that indicates a patient is no longer stable, they would report to the RN.

Senator McGough asked what prevents the hospital to hire less qualified bedside caregivers upon the passage of the bill as proposed.

Mr. Bradley responded that this is not in the best interest of any hospital and the bill would not make the .

Carlene Ferrier of the New Hampshire Nurses Association

- Ms. Ferrier voiced the association's support for HB 1030 as it allows all nurses to work at the top of their education.
- Ms. Ferrier explained that all nursing education programs teach full body assessments to LPNs.
- She explained that RNs often have better outcomes in healthcare and that it would be detrimental to hospitals to decrease the number of RNs in a given hospital.

Senator Pearl asked if the language of the legislation would create a situation where RNs are replaced with LPNs.

Ms. Ferrier explained that she did not believe this would be the case RNs serve a crucial role in the hospital.

Senator McGough asked about the idea of hospitals moving towards a model that doesn't promote new RNs.

Ms. Ferrier responded that this is a legitimate concern that needs to be monitored, however, this bill does not promote a decrease in RNs.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

BM

Date Hearing Report completed: March 4, 2026