

Senate Judiciary Committee

Brendan Bunnell 271-4063

SB 617, relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement.

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Time Opened: 2:14 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:18 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent: Senators Carson and Abbas

Bill Analysis: This bill substantially revises the procedures and processes concerning the maintenance of and utilization of a list of contracted tow companies used by the division of state police for the removal of vehicles.

This bill is a request of the department of safety.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Innis

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. McGough

Rep. Bernardy

Rep. Litchfield

Rep. Khan

Rep. M. Pearson

Who supports the bill: Brendan Davey (NH State Police), Senator Daniel Innis, Cory Stone, Howard Handler (National Insurance Crime Bureau), and Suzanna Derynioski.

Who opposes the bill: Ralph Cresta (NH Towing Assoc.)

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of the testimony presented:

Major Brendan Davey, the head of the Operations Bureau with the New Hampshire State Police, introduced the bill, explaining that the department had decided that it would be inexpedient to move forward with it at this time. He anticipated that, by working with stakeholders including the Towing Association, they would be able to create a bill that was more substantive, workable, and better for the public.

Mr. Ralph Cresta, the President of the New Hampshire Towing Association, explained that his organization was opposed to some of the language used in the bill. He stated that while he had been working with the Department of Safety and the State Police for months on this bill, they did not currently have language that they were happy with.

Mr. Pericles Brutus, a representative of the New Hampshire Towing Association, warned that the current iteration of the bill had a number of unintended consequences and that there was no consensus currently between the Department of Safety and his organization. He asked that they be given more time to find a mutual compromise.

- Senator Reardon asked if they anticipated being able to find a compromise on the bill in the near future, given that it was a Senate Bill with only a few weeks left to be resolved.
 - Mr. Brutus answered that there a handful of very minimal items that they would like to see resolved and that the greater issue was in the unintended consequences created by the bill. He stated that they were likely to be able to create a better bill within the next couple of weeks.

BMB
Date Hearing Report completed: March 9, 2026