

HB 1035 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2767

12/09

HOUSE BILL **1035**

AN ACT making the chapter relative to the register of deeds gender neutral.

SPONSORS: Rep. Morse, Merr. 3

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill amends sections of statute relative to the register of deeds to include both male and female pronouns.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT making the chapter relative to the register of deeds gender neutral.

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

1 1 Registers of Deeds; Addition of Gender Neutral Terminology. Amend RSA 478:1 to read as
2 follows:

3 478:1 Duties. The register of deeds shall carefully keep in the office provided by the county at all
4 times, except when he *or she* may be required by a court to produce them as evidence or when the
5 same may be removed for the purposes of repair, all books, records, files and papers belonging
6 thereto, and when not in use shall keep them in a safe location where their protection from fire,
7 theft, water and the elements is insured, and he *or she* shall permit no paper there deposited for
8 record to be taken from his *or her* office before it is recorded. Whenever any of the volumes of
9 records in his *or her* office shall be in need of repair, he *or she* shall seasonably cause them to be
10 suitably repaired at the expense of the county, and, if necessary, he *or she* may allow such volumes
11 to be taken out of his *or her* office for a reasonable time for that purpose.

12 2 Register of Deeds; Deputy Registers. Amend RSA 478:2 to read as follows:

13 478:2 Deputy Registers. Registers of deeds may appoint deputies to perform the duties of their
14 offices in cases of sickness or the temporary absence of the officer making the appointment. The
15 appointment shall be made in writing, shall be approved by the bondsmen of the officer appointing
16 and by the county commissioners, and shall be for a length of time not exceeding 2 years. The
17 register of deeds shall be held responsible for any neglect or official misconduct of his *or her*
18 deputies. The deputy shall be qualified in the same manner as the officer appointing him *or her*.
19 The salaries of the deputies shall be paid by the county.

20 3 Registers of Deeds; Assistants; Adding Gender Neutral Terminology. Amend RSA 478:2-a to
21 read as follows:

22 478:2-a Assistants. The register of deeds may employ individuals to assist him *or her* in the
23 performance of his *or her* official duties. The salaries of the assistants and any other expenses of
24 the office of register of deeds shall be paid by the county.

25 4 Registers of Deeds; Disability; Addition of Gender Neutral Terminology. Amend RSA 478:3 to
26 read as follows:

27 478:3 Disability of Register. When the register, by reason of sickness, absence, or other cause, is
28 disabled from executing the duties of his *or her* office, his *or her* deputy shall execute the same
29 until such disability is removed or a register is chosen in accordance with the provisions of RSA
30 661:9.

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1 5 Register of Deeds; Copies of Conveyances for Tax Purposes. Amend RSA 478:14 to read as
2 follows:

3 478:14 Copies of Conveyances for Tax Purposes. Every register shall, upon request, in an
4 acceptable media, send copies of all deeds, mortgages, and other conveyances of real estate which
5 have been recorded in the registry during the preceding 3 months to the selectmen of each town and
6 to the assessors of each city in his *or her* county quarterly, each year, between January 1 and
7 January 5, April 1 and April 5, July 1 and July 5, and October 1 and October 5. The register shall
8 send, between April 1 and April 5, in an acceptable media, copies of all deeds, mortgages, and other
9 conveyances of real estate which have been recorded in the registry during the preceding tax year to
10 every town and city in the county which did not request the quarterly copies.

11 6 Registers of Deeds; Penalties; Adding Gender Neutral Terminology. Amend RSA 478:16 to
12 read as follows:

13 478:16 Penalty for Neglect of Duty. - If the register shall neglect any duty imposed by this
14 chapter, he *or she* shall forfeit \$20 to be recovered by an action of debt in the name of the treasurer
15 for the use of the county, and shall also be liable to an action on his *or her* bond.

16 7 Registers of Deeds; Distribution; Adding Gender Neutral Terminology. Amend RSA 478:17-i
17 to read as follows:

18 478:17-i Distribution. Each register of deeds shall pay over once a month to his *or her* county
19 treasurer, for use of the county, all fees received by him *or her* as such register and all charges paid
20 to him *or her* for services arising out of or because of his *or her* office, including but not limited to
21 payments for duties under RSA 78-B:8.

22 8 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.