

HB 1056 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2570.0

05/09

HOUSE BILL **1056**

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the impacts of reinsurance on the cost and availability of property insurance in New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. Spier, Hills. 6; Rep. Burroughs, Carr. 2; Rep. Caplan, Merr. 8; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6; Rep. Ebel, Merr. 7; Rep. Haskins, Rock. 11; Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4; Rep. Vail, Hills. 6

COMMITTEE: Commerce and Consumer Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study the impact of extreme weather on the reinsurance market and its effect on cost and availability of property insurance in New Hampshire.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a commission to study the impacts of reinsurance on the cost and availability of property insurance in New Hampshire.

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

1 1 Findings.

2 I. The reasonable cost and availability of insurance for residential and commercial buildings
3 and structures is essential to the health of New Hampshire’s economy, including the ability of
4 residents and businesses to finance the purchase of property and to recover from losses, including
5 losses caused by fire, flooding, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events.

6 II. New Hampshire currently has hundreds of licensed national insurance carriers and
7 smaller regional or specialty insurers that are approved to sell property-related coverage. The
8 resulting competition serves to put downward pressure on premium costs. However, carriers count
9 on lowering their risks and maintaining reasonable premiums by purchasing reinsurance.
10 Reinsurance is a critical risk management tool that keeps the insurance market functioning
11 smoothly — especially when catastrophic events like hurricanes, wildfires, or earthquakes could
12 otherwise overwhelm a single company’s balance sheet.

13 III. In recent years, the cost of reinsurance has contributed significantly to upward pressure
14 on insurance rates. Reinsurance pricing is influenced by loss patterns arising from extreme weather
15 events both nationally and globally, such as hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding. Reinsurers manage
16 risks from numerous insurers across various regions, distributing exposure geographically. For
17 instance, following the California wildfires, reinsurers incurred substantial payouts to cover
18 property insurance claims. Significant capital depletion from major events—such as the \$40 billion
19 losses in California—results in the repricing of risk portfolios on a nationwide basis. Property
20 insurers in New Hampshire, particularly those exposed to coastal storms and winter hazards,
21 experienced higher reinsurance renewal rates in mid-2025, reflecting constrained global capacity
22 driven in part by losses sustained in California. Specifically, New Hampshire insurers with
23 portfolios heavily weighted toward winter storm exposure and material 2023-2024 losses saw
24 reinsurance renewal rate increases of approximately 15–20 percent in mid-2025. As reinsurance
25 costs rise, the increases are typically passed on to policyholders through higher property insurance
26 premiums.

27 IV. As indicated, the average cost of real property insurance has increased by approximately
28 20 percent, with future annual increases anticipated to occur. The increasing cost of insurance is a
29 growing cost borne by homeowners and businesses and exacerbates the state’s housing crisis.

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1 senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the insurance commissioner, and the state
2 library on or before November 1, 2026.

3 3 Repeal. RSA 400-A:69, and the subdivision heading preceding it, relative to the commission to
4 study the impacts of reinsurance on the cost and availability of property insurance in New
5 Hampshire, is repealed.

6 4 Effective Date.

7 I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

8 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.