

Senate Children and Family Law Committee

Declan Donahue 271-3324

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders.

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Time Opened: 12:02 p.m.

Time Closed: 12:06 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Abbas, Sullivan and Long

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires that orders for the payment of past due amounts of alimony shall be enforced according to their terms unless modified by an agreement or statute.

Sponsors:

Rep. Markell

Rep. Georges

Rep. Korzen

Rep. Kuttab

Rep. Nelson

Rep. M. Pearson

Who supports the bill: Rep. Jay Markell, Rep. Debra DiSimone

Who opposes the bill: Curtis Howland, Pamela Harders

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Jay. Markell (Rockingham - District 18)

- Senator Abbas noted that if both HB 1228 and HB 1229 were signed into law, they would conflict due to their locations in the RSA.
- One of the bigger problems in court rules is the lack of requirement that a court enforces its own orders.
- This is not related to contempt, which is within the discretion of the court.
- For orders for past due amounts of alimony, they will be enforced according to their terms or other agreement between the parties or according to RSA 458:19-aa.
- This curbs the discretion of the court slightly, but not to the detriment of any party.
- RSA 458:19-aa disallows retroactive modification of alimony prior to the filing of a modification.
- This plugs a hole in the law and ensures people who get court orders have a right to the support that they need.

Rep. Debra DiSimone (Rockingham - District 18)

- We have been very diligent about the enforcement of child support, but not nearly as much for alimony.
- In some cases, alimony may be a miniscule amount that may be added to a miniscule amount of income a person has.
- Without enforcement, the court has no jurisdiction. The judiciary branch stated they cannot rule unless there is a law.
- This bill enables the judiciary branch to rule on past due alimony.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 31, 2026