

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

THE COMMITTEE ON Children and Family Law

to which was referred **HB 257-FN**

AN ACT

relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of
a child or incompetent.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

BE REFERRED TO INTERIM STUDY

BY A VOTE OF: 3-0

Senator Daryl Abbas

For the Committee

HB 257 changes both the “knowingly” and “purposefully” standards for endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent and violating a duty of care respectfully to the “recklessly” standard, which is easier to fulfill. The committee had concerns about how different interpretations of “reckless” behavior could make the standard too easy to meet.

Declan Donahue 271-3324

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 257-FN, relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

Interim Study, Vote 3-0.

Senator Daryl Abbas for the committee.

HB 257 changes both the “knowingly” and “purposefully” standards for endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent and violating a duty of care respectfully to the “recklessly” standard, which is easier to fulfill. The committee had concerns about how different interpretations of “reckless” behavior could make the standard too easy to meet.