

Senate Judiciary Committee

Brendan Bunnell 271-4063

HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

Hearing Date: April 9, 2026

Time Opened: 1:31 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:36 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Carson

Bill Analysis: This bill authorizes law enforcement to possess human remains, upon written consent, for the purpose of training cadaver dogs.

This bill is a request of the department of safety.

Sponsors:

Rep. Roy

Rep. Devoid

Rep. D. Mannion

Rep. Rhodes

Rep. Spillane

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Gannon

Who supports the bill: Captain Matt Amatucci (NH State Police), Melissa Nemeth (NHFG), and Cory Stone.

Who opposes the bill: Tami Lanzillo Zeimetz and Daniel Richardson.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of the testimony presented:

Captain Matt Amatucci testified on the bill and stated that prior to the hearing he had provided an amendment reflecting additional work done on the bill since it was last discussed.

- He explained that the legislation establishes a lawful and ethical process for law enforcement to possess portions of human remains for training purposes while ensuring dignity, transparency, and accountability.

- He outlined several safeguards included in the bill, including the requirement of written consent from the individual prior to death or from next of kin, oversight by credentialed professionals, compliance with health and safety regulations, proper chain of custody documentation, and responsible final disposition through licensed providers.
- He stated that the bill was developed collaboratively with stakeholders including law enforcement, funeral home professionals, and academic institutions, specifically referencing input from the University of New Hampshire anthropology department.
- He described the bill as establishing best practices and filling a gap in existing law.
- Senator Reardon asked whether this bill mirrors a previously discussed Senate bill related to cadaver dog training.
 - Captain Amatucci responded that the House and Senate bills were mirror bills initially, but that additional substance had been added through the amendment. He explained that the revised approach requires that any cadaver training program have a formal policy, and that such policy must meet statutory criteria and be filed with the police academy. He stated that this approach was chosen over handling the matter solely through Department of Safety rulemaking.
- Senator Reardon asked about the amendment language and whether it incorrectly replaces sections of the bill rather than adding to them.
 - Captain Amatucci acknowledged that the amendment, as written, would replace sections three and four inserted by section two of the bill, which would unintentionally remove definitions and authorization language. He agreed that the amendment should instead be structured to preserve those sections and indicated that the issue would need to be corrected.