

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Friday, April 17, 2026

THE COMMITTEE ON Judiciary

to which was referred **HB 1438**

AN ACT

enabling mental health caseworkers to report  
instances of animal abuse by their clients.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

**BE REFERRED TO INTERIM STUDY**

**BY A VOTE OF: 5-0**

Senator Tara Reardon  
For the Committee

This bill would have enabled mental health caseworkers to report instances of animal abuse by their clients. The committee believes, while well intentioned, this bill would create a two tiered system of reporting in the mental health field that would create confusion for mental health care providers. There was also concern this could create a chilling effect, where a patient would be less likely to be truthful with their mental health counselor if they knew their confidentiality could be breached, which could harm their progress in their mental health treatment.

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

**JUDICIARY**

**HB 1438**, enabling mental health caseworkers to report instances of animal abuse by their clients.  
Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Tara Reardon for the committee.

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