

SB 569 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2186
06/05

SENATE BILL **569**

AN ACT relative to the qualifications for hearing officers within the department of labor.

SPONSORS: Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that hearing officers be attorneys in good standing with relevant adjudicative experience.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to the qualifications for hearings officers within the department of labor.

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

1 1 Hearing Officers. Amend RSA 281-A:42-b to read as follows:

2 281-A:42-b Hearing Officers. The commissioner shall appoint as many individuals as necessary
3 to carry out the department's responsibilities under this chapter. Such individuals shall have
4 experience in workers' compensation and shall hear workers' compensation cases before the
5 commissioner. The commissioner shall set forth the job qualification necessary to ~~insure~~ **ensure**
6 that each hearing officer is qualified to hear workers' compensation cases. **Hearing officers shall**
7 **be attorneys in good standing, qualified by education and experience in the conduct of**
8 **administrative adjudicative hearings and application of law to facts, and their** [The] salary
9 shall be commensurate with the responsibilities and experience required. The commissioner shall,
10 by rules adopted under RSA 541-A, strengthen the reporting structure and the role of a hearing
11 officer; develop a code of ethics for hearings and hearing officers; develop and require at least 15
12 hours of continuing education on an annual basis for hearing officers; and require a minimum of an
13 additional 15 hours of annual training and briefing with the attorney general's staff.

14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.