

# Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

*Joshua Schauer 271-3077*

**HB 1140**, enabling certain disabled persons to hunt from a motor vehicle.

**Hearing Date:** April 21, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:00 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:04 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Pearl and Watters

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senators Rosenwald, McConkey and Avard

**Bill Analysis:** This bill enables the executive director of fish and game department to issue a special permit to hunt from a motor vehicle to certain disabled individuals.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Alexander Jr.  
Rep. Mazur  
Sen. Innis

Rep. Berry  
Rep. Reinfurt

Rep. Giasson  
Sen. Avard

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**Who supports the bill:** Melissa Nemeth (NHFG), Senator Daniel Innis (SD7), Krysten Evans (ABLE NH), Cory Stone, Erik Swenson

**Who opposes the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**senator David Watters, District 4**

- Senator Watters introduced the bill on behalf of prime sponsor.
- He said that there was a minor word changing, “paraplegia” and made some additional technical changes to add that an individual may hunt from a vehicle if they have lost one or both lower extremities.

**Melissa Nemeth, NH Fish and Game**

- Ms. Nemeth spoke in support of the bill. She said the current statute states that only someone who has lost both of their lower extremities or the use of them can hunt from a motor vehicle.
- She explained that the prime sponsor filed the legislation on behalf of a constituent who only lost one of his lower extremities and would not qualify for

the permit despite not being that mobile and capable of hunting from outside of a vehicle.

- They support the bill because they believe the intent is same but doesn't necessarily broaden that pool of people very widely. It does not prohibit people who have serious mobility issues from participating in this permit.

**Senator Pearl** asked for clarification about the language in line 3, which states "has lost one or both lower extremities." He wanted to know whether this refers only to a complete loss, or if a partial loss, such as a below-the-knee amputation would also qualify.

**Ms. Nemeth** responded that this language already exists in the current statute and noted that, when read together with line 4, it covers both situations. In other words, eligibility could include either full amputation or loss of functional use. If an individual cannot use the extremity, they would still qualify.

**Senator Pearl** then asked who would make that determination and whether it would require a doctor's note.

**Ms. Nemeth** said she believed a physician's input would be involved, but added that the executive director had originally been given broad discretion. However, the amendment narrows that discretion. As specified in lines 11 and 12, eligibility would be based on medical information provided by a doctor and submitted by the applicant