

HB 1091 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2510  
09/08

HOUSE BILL **1091**

AN ACT relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside.

SPONSORS: Rep. Newell, Ches. 4; Rep. A. Murray, Hills. 20; Rep. O'Rorke, Ches. 7; Rep. Scherr, Rock. 26; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33; Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1; Rep. Beauchemin, Hills. 3; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires municipalities to provide for a nonmonetary penalty that may be elected in lieu of a financial penalty for any ordinance or bylaw prohibiting sleeping or camping outdoors.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside.

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

1           1 Powers and Duties of Towns; Power to Make Bylaws. Amend RSA 31:39, III to read as  
2 follows:

3           III. Towns may enforce the observance of the bylaws by suitable penalties not exceeding  
4 \$1,000 for each offense to enure to such uses as the town may direct, ***except that for any***  
5 ***ordinance or bylaw prohibiting sleeping or camping outdoors, the town shall provide for a***  
6 ***nonmonetary penalty that may be elected in lieu of a financial penalty.***

7           2 New Paragraph; Power of City Councils; Bylaws and Ordinances. Amend RSA 47:17 by  
8 inserting after paragraph XX the following new paragraph:

9           XXI. For any ordinance or bylaw prohibiting sleeping or camping outdoors, the city council  
10 shall provide for a nonmonetary penalty that may be elected in lieu of a financial penalty.

11          3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.