

HB 1414 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3126

06/08

HOUSE BILL **1414**

AN ACT relative to establishing conditions for dog access to state parks.

SPONSORS: Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Rep. McFarlane, Graf. 18; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6; Rep. O'Rorke, Ches. 7; Rep. Hegner, Hills. 41; Rep. Leishman, Hills. 33; Rep. Manohar, Hills. 9; Rep. Fellows, Graf. 8

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill allows people to bring their dogs to all state parks as long as they are under their owner's control.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing conditions for dog access to state parks.

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

1 1 New Section; Dog Access in State Parks. Amend RSA 12-A by inserting after section 2-k the
2 following new section:

3 12-A:2-1 Dog Access in State Parks.

4 I. Dogs shall be permitted year-round in all state parks operated by the department of
5 natural and cultural resources, provided the dog is under control.

6 II. For purposes of this section, a dog shall be deemed under control if:

7 (a) The dog is leashed using a fixed-length leash not exceeding 6 feet in length; or

8 (b) The dog is reliably controlled through other methods deemed acceptable by the
9 department.

10 III. The department shall not be required to mandate leashing as the sole method of control,
11 provided alternative control methods are deemed sufficient to protect public safety and park
12 operations.

13 IV. The department shall not impose year-round or seasonal bans on dogs from entire parks.
14 Restrictions shall be limited to specific areas where dog access poses a documented risk, including
15 but not limited to:

16 (a) Swimming areas;

17 (b) Beaches during peak seasons;

18 (c) Environmentally sensitive zones; and

19 (d) Temporary event areas, including but not limited to the Mount Sunapee arts and
20 crafts festival.

21 V. Except as provided in paragraph IV, dogs under control shall be permitted wherever their
22 owners are permitted within state parks.

23 VI. Nothing in this section shall be construed to override lawful restrictions necessary for
24 public safety, environmental protection, or operational integrity.

25 VII. The department shall not adopt new rules or policies that conflict with the provisions of
26 this section. Existing rules may be referenced for implementation purposes but shall not override
27 this section.

28 2 Rulemaking. Amend RSA 12-A:2-c, II(a) to read as follows:

29 (a) Conduct of persons using the property, including prohibitions or restrictions on use,
30 restrictions on smoking, transportation of any substances, articles, or other matter, **and standards**
31 **for control of dogs consistent with RSA 12-A:2-1.**

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- Page 2 -

1 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.