

HB 1423-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2366

09/08

HOUSE BILL ***1423-FN***

AN ACT relative to the offense of improper influence.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ammon, Hills. 42; Rep. Giasson, Hills. 29; Rep. Thibault, Merr. 25; Rep. Sirois, Hills. 32; Rep. Aures, Merr. 13; Rep. Labrie, Hills. 2; Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Rep. Belcher, Carr. 4

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill expands the offense of improper influence to include threats to immediate family members of a public servant, party official, or voter. This bill further provides mandatory minimum penalties for the certain violations of the offense.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 offense of improper influence.

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

1 1 Improper Influence. Amend RSA 640:3 to read as follows:

2 640:3 Improper Influence.

3 I. A person is guilty of a class B felony if he:

4 (a) Threatens any harm to a public servant, party official or voter, ***or immediate***
5 ***family member of a public servant, party official, or voter***, with the purpose of influencing his
6 action, decision, opinion, recommendation, nomination, vote or other exercise of discretion; or

7 (b) Privately addresses to any public servant who has or will have an official discretion
8 in a judicial or administrative proceeding any representation, argument or other communication
9 with the purpose of influencing that discretion on the basis of considerations other than those
10 authorized by law; or

11 (c) Being a public servant or party official, fails to report to a law enforcement officer
12 conduct designed to influence him in violation of subparagraph (a) or (b) hereof.

13 II. "Harm" means any disadvantage or injury, to person or property or pecuniary interest,
14 including disadvantage or injury to any other person or entity in whose welfare the public servant,
15 party official, or voter, ***or their immediate family member***, is interested, provided that harm shall
16 not be construed to include the exercise of any conduct protected under the First Amendment to the
17 United States Constitution or any provision of the federal or state constitutions.

18 ***III. "Immediate family member" means a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child,***
19 ***sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or any person residing in the same household as the***
20 ***public servant, party official, or voter.***

21 ***IV. Any person convicted under subparagraph I(a) of this section shall be sentenced***
22 ***to:***

23 (a) ***A mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of not less than one year for***
24 ***each separately charged public servant, party official, voter, or immediate family member***
25 ***who was threatened; and***

26 (b) ***A mandatory minimum fine of not less than \$1,000 for each separately***
27 ***charged public servant, party official, voter, or immediate family member who was***
28 ***threatened.***

29 ***V. The mandatory minimum penalties under paragraph IV:***

30 (a) ***Shall apply separately for each individual threatened;***

31 (b) ***Shall not be suspended, deferred, or reduced;***

1 (c) *Shall be served consecutively for multiple victims;*

2 (d) *Shall preclude eligibility for parole until the mandatory minimum term has*
3 *been served; and*

4 (e) *Are in addition to any other penalties that may be imposed.*

5 2 Severability. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or
6 circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the
7 act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the
8 provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

9 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**HB 1423-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the offense of improper influence.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
Expenditures*	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
County Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Expenditures	Indeterminable			
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	Indeterminable			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association