

HB 1687-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2804

12/09

HOUSE BILL ***1687-FN***

AN ACT removing the power of courts within the judicial branch family division to issue criminal determinations, judgments, and penalties.

SPONSORS: Rep. Love, Rock. 13

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

ANALYSIS

This bill restricts the jurisdiction of courts within the judicial branch family division to not be able to issue any criminal determinations, judgments, or penalties relative to matters which they may preside over.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 removing the power of courts within the judicial branch family division to issue criminal determinations, judgments, and penalties.

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

1 1 New Section; Judicial Branch Family Division; Restriction on Jurisdiction. Amend RSA 490-D
2 by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

3 490-D:2-a Restriction on Jurisdiction. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
4 judicial branch family division shall have jurisdiction over the matters set forth in RSA 490-D:2 with
5 the exception that the judicial branch family division shall not have jurisdiction to make any
6 criminal determinations, enter criminal judgments, or impose criminal penalties and no finding,
7 ruling, or order issued by the judicial branch family division shall constitute a criminal
8 determination. Jurisdiction over such criminal determinations, criminal judgments, and criminal
9 penalties relative to the matters set forth in RSA 490-D:2 shall be reserved for the superior court
10 pursuant to RSA 592-A:1. This section shall not be construed to limit the jurisdiction of the judicial
11 branch family division over the matters set forth in RSA 490-D:2 to resolve civil disputes, including
12 equity jurisdiction powers pursuant to RSA 490-D:3.

13 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**HB 1687-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT removing the power of courts within the judicial branch family division to issue criminal determinations, judgments, and penalties.

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