

HB 257-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

8Jan2026... 1038h

2025 SESSION

25-0317

09/05

HOUSE BILL **257-FN**

AN ACT relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

SPONSORS: Rep. Rollins, Sull. 3; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Levesque, Straf. 4; Rep. B. Sullivan, Sull. 1; Rep. Damon, Sull. 8; Sen. Ward, Dist 8

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the mental state applicable to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Five

AN ACT relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

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

1 1 Endangering Welfare of a Child or Incompetent. Amend RSA 639:3, I to read as follows:

2 I. A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent if he [~~knowingly~~]
3 **recklessly** endangers the welfare of a child under 18 years of age or of an incompetent person by
4 [~~purposefully~~] **recklessly** violating a duty of care, protection or support he owes to such child or
5 incompetent, or by inducing such child or incompetent to engage in conduct that endangers his
6 health or safety.

7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

**HB 257-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT # 2025-1038h)**

AN ACT relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

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