

SB 423 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

02/05/2026 0355s

2026 SESSION

26-2228

05/06

SENATE BILL **423**

AN ACT reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

SPONSORS: Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 21; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

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ANALYSIS

This bill reestablishes the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders. The bill adds a member to the commission from the New Hampshire comfort dog community and modifies the duties of the commission.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

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

1 1 Commission to Study the Incidence of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders  
2 Reestablished. RSA 281-A:17-e is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 281-A:17-e Commission to Study the Incidence of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in First  
4 Responders Reestablished.

5 I.(a) There is reestablished the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress  
6 disorder in first responders and whether such disorder should be covered under workers'  
7 compensation. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, II(c), the members of the commission shall be as follows:

8 (1) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

9 (2) Three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be from the  
10 labor, industrial and rehabilitative services committee, one of whom shall be from the executive  
11 departments and administration committee, and one of whom shall be from the state-federal  
12 relations and veterans affairs committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

13 (3) The labor commissioner, or designee.

14 (4) The commissioner of safety, or designee.

15 (5) The insurance commissioner, or designee.

16 (6) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.

17 (7) A representative of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, appointed by the  
18 association.

19 (8) A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Counties, appointed by  
20 the association.

21 (9) A representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire,  
22 appointed by the alliance.

23 (10) A fire chief, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs.

24 (11) One member appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

25 (12) One member appointed by the New Hampshire Police Association.

26 (13) A representative of the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, appointed  
27 by that organization.

28 (14) A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Emergency Medical  
29 Technicians, appointed by the association.

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1           (15) A representative of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange,  
2 appointed by that organization.

3           (16) An attorney, appointed by the New Hampshire Association for Justice.

4           (17) A member of the New Hampshire comfort dog community, appointed by the  
5 senate president.

6           (18) A representative of the NH Paramedics Association, appointed by that  
7 association.

8           (19) A representative of a community health center, appointed by the governor.

9           (b) Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate  
10 when attending to the duties of the commission.

11           II.(a) The commission shall study:

12                   (1) How to create succession plans for experienced first responders.

13                   (2) Peer programs for first responders and whether to build one organization for  
14 these programs so all programs are standardized.

15                   (3) Any other matter the commission deems appropriate for study.

16           (b) The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the commission deems  
17 relevant to its study.

18           III. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members.  
19 The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the  
20 commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Ten members of the  
21 commission shall constitute a quorum.

22           IV. On or before November 1, 2026, the commission shall submit an interim report of its  
23 findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the  
24 speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state  
25 library and shall submit a final report on or before November 1, 2027.

26           2 Repeal. RSA 281-A:17-e, relative to the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic  
27 stress disorder in first responders, is repealed.

28           3 Effective Date.

29                   I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2027.

30                   II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.