

HB 266 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

7Jan2026... 2998h
02/19/2026 0719s
02/19/2026 0720s

2025 SESSION

25-0526
06/11

HOUSE BILL **266**

AN ACT relative to structural changes to the department of energy and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights and relative to the effect of murder on a decedent's estate.

SPONSORS: Rep. Harrington, Straf. 18; Rep. Notter, Hills. 12; Rep. Summers, Rock. 20

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Ensures the department's full party status in proceedings before the public utilities commission.

II. Requires the department to support the public utilities commission, site evaluation committee, office of the consumer advocate, and any related entities.

III. Allow the department to demand documents and specific answers from public utilities or related entities.

IV. Creates a limited exemption from the consent requirement under the parental bill of rights for required assessments and school-sponsored events open to the general public.

V. Makes the final criminal conviction for murder, which is defined, the threshold for conclusive establishment of criminal responsibility for the commission of a murder, with respect to the murder's effect on the decedent's estate.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to structural changes to the department of energy and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights and relative to the effect of murder on a decedent's estate.

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

1 1 Establishment; Purpose. Amend RSA 12-P:2, IV to read as follows:

2 IV. The department shall have the authority to investigate any matter ***related to the***
3 ***statutes it administers or*** that may come before the public utilities commission and to appear
4 before the commission to advocate for the department's position and for the purposes of providing a
5 ~~[complete]~~ record for consideration by the commission ***as determined by the department.***

6 2 Department of Energy; General Provisions. Amend RSA 12-P:3, III to read as follows:

7 III. The department shall have the authority to petition for any proceeding before the public
8 utilities commission and shall automatically be a party to all proceedings ***and have full party***
9 ***status and right to appeal in any adjudicative or non-adjudicative proceeding*** before the
10 commission. Any person or party that initiates a proceeding before the public utilities commission
11 by petition or otherwise shall provide a copy to the department at the time of filing. Any person or
12 party filing confidential information in any proceeding in which the department may appear, or
13 exchanging confidential information in discovery or otherwise, shall provide the department with
14 such confidential information. In adjudicative proceedings as defined by RSA 541-A:1, I, the public
15 utilities commission and the department shall be subject to RSA 541-A:36.

16 3 Department of Energy; Duties of Commissioner. Amend RSA 12-P:5, VII to read as follows:

17 VII. Ensure that the department provides ~~[all necessary]~~ support ***required by RSA 21-G:10***
18 to the public utilities commission, the site evaluation committee, office of the consumer advocate,
19 and any other entity that is administratively attached to the department.

20 4 Department of Energy; Specific Answers. Amend RSA 12-P:10 to read as follows:

21 12-P:10 Specific Answers. The department ~~[or the commission]~~ may require any public utility or
22 entity subject to its jurisdiction to ***provide documents and other materials and to*** make specific
23 answers to questions upon which the department ~~[or commission]~~ may need information ***within a***
24 ***time period set by the department.***

25 5 New Paragraph; Parental Bill of Rights; Definitions Added. Amend RSA 189-B:2 by inserting
26 after paragraph VI the following new paragraphs:

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1 VII. "Open to the general public" means an event that is generally open to parents,
2 guardians, family, and members of the community, including events for which attendance may
3 require registration, ticketing, or invitation for admission due to space, security, or other concerns.

4 VIII. "Required assessment" means any standardized assessment that is required by state
5 or federal statute or regulation.

6 6 Parental Rights; Consent to Recording; Limited Exemption for Required Assessments and
7 Events Open to the General Public. Amend RSA 189-B:4, I(p) to read as follows:

8 (p) To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including,
9 without limitation, any school pursuant also to the provisions of RSA 189:68, III-V, makes a video or
10 voice recording, unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding or part of a
11 forensic interview in a criminal or other investigation by the bureau of child protective services or it
12 is to be used solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and
13 discipline in the common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles, **or such recording**
14 **is made as a component of the administration of a required assessment or is made during a**
15 **school-sponsored event that is open to the general public.**

16 7 New Paragraph; Effect of Murder on Intestate Succession, Wills, Joint Assets, Life Insurance,
17 and Beneficiary Designations; Definition Added. Amend RSA 562-A:1 by inserting after paragraph I
18 the following new paragraph:

19 I-a. "Final criminal conviction" means a judgment of conviction that has become final upon
20 conclusion of direct appellate review by the New Hampshire supreme court or expiration of the time
21 to seek such review.

22 8 Effect of Murder on Intestate Succession, Wills, Joint Assets, Life Insurance, and Beneficiary
23 Designations; Murder; How Determined. Amend RSA 562-A:5, I and II to read as follows:

24 I. ~~[After all right to appeal has been exhausted]~~ **Upon entry of a final criminal**
25 **conviction**, a judgment of conviction establishing criminal responsibility for commission of the
26 murder of the decedent conclusively establishes the convicted individual as the decedent's killer for
27 purposes of this chapter.

28 II. ~~[In the absence of]~~ **As an alternative to a final** criminal conviction, an individual's
29 status as the person responsible for commission of the murder of the decedent as defined in this
30 chapter is conclusively established by a final civil judgment to that effect entered against the
31 individual by a court of competent jurisdiction.

32 9 Repeal. RSA 12-P:2, III, relative to certain duties of the department of energy, is repealed.

33 10 Effective Date.

34 I. Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

35 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.