

HB 686-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

11Mar2026... 0972h

2025 SESSION

25-0502  
07/08

HOUSE BILL            **686-FN**

AN ACT                prohibiting certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Potenza, Straf. 19; Rep. Ankarberg, Straf. 7; Rep. Berry, Hills. 44; Rep. Burnham, Straf. 2; Rep. DeRoy, Straf. 3; Rep. Kuttab, Rock. 17; Rep. Turcotte, Straf. 4; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

---

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities. This bill also exempts from such prohibition any surveys, polls, or questionnaires conducted by institutions of higher education.

-----

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT prohibiting certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities.

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

1 1 Electioneering by Public Employees. RSA 659:44-a is repealed and reenacted to read as  
2 follows:

3 659:44-a Electioneering by Public Employees.

4 I. No public employee, as defined in RSA 273-A:1, IX, shall electioneer while in the  
5 performance of his or her official duties.

6 II. No public employee shall use government property or equipment, including, but not  
7 limited to, telephones, facsimile machines, vehicles, and computers, for electioneering.

8 III. For the purposes of this section, "electioneer" means to act in any way specifically  
9 designed to influence the vote of a voter on any question or office.

10 IV. No public body or public employee while acting in an official capacity, shall conduct or  
11 sponsor any survey, poll, or questionnaire concerning candidates, political parties, ballot measures,  
12 or policies reasonably anticipated to be submitted to voters. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
13 "public employees" means the persons described in RSA 273-A:1, IX(b), (c), and (d). This paragraph  
14 shall not apply to bona fide academic research conducted independently by an institution of higher  
15 education.

16 V. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

17 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 686-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2026-0972h)**

AN ACT prohibiting certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill                      \*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

<b>Estimated Political Subdivision Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>County Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>County Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	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](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