

HB 1419 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Mar2026... 0897h

2026 SESSION

26-2321
07/09

HOUSE BILL **1419**

AN ACT establishing a commission to study whether a court with specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters should be established.

SPONSORS: Rep. McFarlane, Graf. 18; Rep. D. McGuire, Merr. 14; Rep. Mary Murphy, Hills. 27; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 25; Rep. Ulery, Hills. 13; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 32

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study whether a court with specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters should be established.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a commission to study whether a court with specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters should be established.

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

1 1 Short Title. This act shall be known as the "Governance, Regulation, and New Hampshire
2 Innovation in Trust and Equity Commission Act" or the "GRANITE Commission Act."

3 2 Statement of Findings. The general court hereby finds that:

4 I. Delaware's court of chancery, and its corporate law framework, have established that
5 state as the premier jurisdiction for incorporation and corporate governance in the United States.

6 II. New Hampshire has the authority, institutions, and business environment to position
7 itself as a nationally recognized leader in corporate law, governance, and dispute resolution.

8 III. A comprehensive, sustained effort is required to examine the establishment of a court of
9 chancery, modernization of corporate statutes, and development of supporting institutions, including
10 law school programs, judicial clerkships, and partnerships with business leaders.

11 3 New Section; Courts; Superior Court; Court of Chancery and Corporate Law Study
12 Commission. Amend RSA 491 by inserting after section 25 the following new section:

13 491:26 Governance, Regulation, and New Hampshire Innovation in Trust and Equity
14 Commission.

15 I. There is hereby established a commission to study the feasibility, benefits, and risks of
16 establishing a business court or an otherwise enhanced business docket with specialized jurisdiction
17 over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters.

18 II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, II, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

19 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
20 house of representatives; one of whom shall be members of the minority party;

21 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate; one of whom
22 shall be a member of the minority party;

23 (c) The chief justice of the New Hampshire supreme court, or designee;

24 (d) The dean of the university of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce school of law, or
25 designee;

26 (e) The secretary of state, or designee;

27 (f) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee;

28 (g) Two members with expertise in corporate law, corporate governance, economics,
29 and/or state revenue policy, appointed by the governor; and

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1 (h) Up to 3 additional members appointed jointly by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives and the president of the senate.

3 III. Members of the commission shall serve on the commission without compensation or
4 reimbursement.

5 IV. The commission shall:

6 (a) Study the feasibility, benefits, and risks of establishing a court of chancery with
7 specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters;

8 (b) Examine reforms to the business corporation act and related statutes, including the
9 potential adoption of provisions modeled after, or improving upon, Delaware general corporation law;

10 (c) Evaluate mechanisms for recruiting, appointing, and retaining chancellors and vice
11 chancellors with deep corporate law expertise, including term lengths, compensation, and
12 appointment processes;

13 (d) Investigate partnerships with the university of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce
14 school of law, or other local and regional institutions, to create clerkship pipelines, research centers,
15 and academic programs focused on corporate governance;

16 (e) Assess the fiscal impact on state revenues from franchise taxes, filing fees, and
17 related incorporation services, and recommend strategies to make New Hampshire attractive for
18 incorporation;

19 (f) Develop strategies for branding and marketing New Hampshire as a premier
20 jurisdiction for corporate governance; and

21 (g) Recommend any additional statutory or constitutional changes necessary to establish
22 a sustainable and competitive framework and business climate within the state.

23 V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The
24 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first meeting
25 of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Five members of
26 the commission shall constitute a quorum.

27 VI. The commission shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for
28 proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the
29 house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the chief justice of the supreme court, and the state
30 library on or before December 31, 2027.

31 VII. The commission shall terminate upon submission of its final report, but no later than
32 December 31, 2027.

33 4 Repeal. RSA 491:26, relative to the Governance, Regulation, and New Hampshire Innovation
34 in Trust and Equity Commission, is repealed.

35 5 Effective Date.

36 I. Section 4 of this act shall take effect December 31, 2027.

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