

SB 523-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

03/05/2026 0831s
7May2026... 1589h

2026 SESSION

26-2153
09/06

SENATE BILL ***523-FN***

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the implementation of a residential builder registration system.

SPONSORS: Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

COMMITTEE: Commerce

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study the implementation of a residential builder registration system.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the implementation of a residential builder registration system.

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

1 1 Findings and Statement of Purpose. The general court finds that the New Hampshire
2 residential home building industry is essential to New Hampshire's economic vitality, workforce
3 development, and housing availability. The general court also finds that while the overwhelming
4 majority of New Hampshire builders operate with integrity and professionalism, isolated instances
5 of fraud and abuse, often from out of state, have caused harm to consumers and undermined
6 confidence in the industry. The general court recognizes that leaders within the New Hampshire
7 residential building community have expressed a commitment to strengthening accountability
8 measures and supporting reasonable mechanisms to promote transparency and consumer protection
9 without creating unnecessary financial or regulatory burdens.

10 2 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the implementation of a
11 statewide registration system for residential builders and contractors. For the purposes of this act,
12 "residential builder" shall mean a person or business entity whose primary source of income is
13 derived from the construction, reconstruction, or substantial renovation of residential properties
14 consisting of 4 or fewer dwelling units in a single building.

15 3 Membership and Compensation.

16 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

17 (a) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

18 (b) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
19 house of representatives.

20 II. Legislative members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
21 attending to the duties of the committee.

22 4 Duties. The committee shall:

23 I. Examine the viability, process, and necessity of implementing a statewide registration for
24 residential builders.

25 II. Assess whether a registration system would enhance consumer protection and address
26 instances of fraud, misrepresentation, exploitation, and miscommunication.

27 III. Evaluate the scope and structure of a registration system, including eligibility
28 requirements, renewal standards, complaint procedures, fee structures, oversight, and disciplinary
29 mechanisms.

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1 IV. Identify which, if any, existing state agency or department would be best suited to
2 oversee and administer a registration system, including but not limited to the department of labor,
3 the office of professional licensure and certification, or the department of justice.

4 V. Solicit testimony from members of the public, representatives of the residential building
5 industry, municipal officials, consumer protection advocates, and other interested stakeholders.

6 VI. Recommend a fee structure sufficient to fully fund administration without reliance on
7 general funds.

8 5 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
9 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house
10 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
11 section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

12 6 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
13 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
14 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

15 7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

LBA
26-2153
05/12/2026

SB 523-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT # 2026-1589h)

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the implementation of a residential builder registration system.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill has no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures or revenue.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

None