

CHAPTER 101
SB 456 - FINAL VERSION

03/26/2026 1226s
03/26/2026 1255s

2026 SESSION

26-2227
12/09

SENATE BILL **456**

AN ACT establishing the commission for children's futures.

SPONSORS: Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Rep. Rice, Hills. 38; Rep. Nelson, Rock. 13; Rep. Notter, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study issues related to the public health and safety of children in the state.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT establishing the commission for children's futures.

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

1 101:1 New Subdivision; Study Commission for Children's Futures. Amend RSA 200 by inserting after
2 section 63 the following new subdivision:

Study Commission for Children's Futures

4 200:64 Commission Established. There is a commission established to study the health and well-
5 being of children in the state and to identify the gaps in mental and physical health services provided to
6 children. The commission shall be administratively attached to the department of education.

7 I. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

8 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives;

10 (b) One member of the senate from the democratic party and one member of the senate from
11 the republican party, appointed by the president of the senate;

12 (c) Two health care professionals licensed in the state, appointed by the governor;

13 (d) One medical practitioner licensed in the state specializing in either traditional or holistic
14 medicine, appointed by the speaker of the house;

15 (e) One child psychologist licensed in the state, appointed by the senate president;

16 (f) One mental health care provider, appointed by the speaker of the house;

17 (g) Two teachers certified by the department of education, one of whom is certified in special
18 education, appointed by the governor;

19 (h) One dietitian, as defined in RSA 326-H:3, appointed by the senate president;

20 (i) One member of state or local law enforcement, appointed by the speaker of the house;
21 and

22 (j) Three parents of children residing in the state, one of whom is appointed by the governor,
23 one of whom is appointed by the speaker of the house, and one of whom is appointed by the senate
24 president.

25 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
26 attending to the duties of the commission.

27 III. The commission shall study:

28 (a) The usage of individualized education programs (IEPs) in schools and trends within IEPs
29 over time;

30 (b) The child usage rate of pharmaceuticals with psychoactive effects;

31 (c) Reports of diagnosed mental health issues in youth;

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- 1 (d) The proportion of students that know of someone who has experienced a mental health
2 crisis;
- 3 (e) Changes in the prevalence of childhood cancer and long-term diseases;
- 4 (f) Changes in autism spectrum disorder and attention deficit disorder diagnoses;
- 5 (g) The amount of mental health services provided to minors and associated trends with such
6 services;
- 7 (h) The prevalence of criminal street gangs, as defined in RSA 651:6, I-a(c) in New
8 Hampshire;
- 9 (i) The number of incidents of violence in public schools and the impact such incidents have
10 on students;
- 11 (j) Truancy and attendance rates in public schools;
- 12 (k) The prevalence of adverse childhood experiences and the effect such experiences have
13 on children;
- 14 (l) Childhood exposure to pornographic content; and
- 15 (m) Youth homelessness rates.

16 IV. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
17 The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting
18 of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Eight members of the
19 commission shall constitute a quorum.

20 V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to
21 the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk,
22 the governor, and the state library annually on November 1 of each year.

101:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: May 28, 2026
Effective Date: May 28, 2026