

CHAPTER 301
HB 1348 - FINAL VERSION

04/23/2026 1556s
4Jun2026... 2154EBA

2026 SESSION

26-3140
09/08

HOUSE BILL ***1348***

AN ACT relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

SPONSORS: Rep. Roy, Rock. 31; Rep. Devoid, Merr. 1; Rep. D. Mannion, Rock. 25; Rep. Rhodes, Ches. 17; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes law enforcement to possess human remains, upon written consent, for the purpose of training cadaver dogs.

This bill is a request of the department of safety.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

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

1 301:1 Purpose. This chapter establishes the legal framework under which law enforcement agencies
2 in the state of New Hampshire may possess portions of human remains for the sole purpose of training
3 cadaver detection canines, while ensuring compliance with ethical standards and respect for the
4 deceased.

5 301:2 New Chapter; Possession of Human Remains for Law Enforcement Purposes. Amend RSA by
6 inserting after chapter 291-A the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 291-B

POSSESSION OF HUMAN REMAINS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES

9 291-B:1 Definitions.

10 As used in this chapter:

11 I. "Cadaver canine" means a dog trained to detect the scent of human remains for law
12 enforcement purposes.

13 II. "Portions of human remains" shall mean identifiable human tissue, bone, or other anatomical
14 material derived from a deceased individual.

15 291-B:2 Authorization and Consent to Possess Human Remains for Law Enforcement Training.

16 I. Law enforcement agencies may possess portions of human remains for cadaver canine
17 training only under the following conditions:

18 (a) Written consent is obtained from:

19 (1) The next of kin or legal representative of the deceased; or

20 (2) The deceased individual, prior to death, through a legally valid document expressing
21 their intent to donate their body or portions thereof for scientific or law enforcement training purposes.

22 (b) The consent explicitly authorizes the use of the remains for training purposes and
23 identifies the specific portions to be used.

24 II. The written consent shall be maintained by both the law enforcement agency and the funeral
25 home or mortuary involved. Such documentation shall be made available for inspection by the law
26 enforcement agency or other regulatory authorities upon request.

27 291-B:3 Conduct During Possession of Human Remains; Return.

28 I. Upon completion of training, all remaining portions of the human remains shall be returned to
29 either:

30 (a) The institution of higher education located in New Hampshire that assisted in the
31 preparation of the training aids; or

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1 (b) A company licensed to conduct human medical waste disposal in New Hampshire. Such
2 companies shall be authorized by the New Hampshire department of environmental services to collect,
3 transport, and dispose of regulated medical waste in compliance with all applicable state and federal
4 regulations.

5 II. The funeral home or mortuary shall ensure the proper and lawful disposition of the remains in
6 accordance with RSA 290 and other applicable laws.

7 III. Institutions of higher education located in New Hampshire may assist in the preparation of
8 training aids derived from human remains for law enforcement purposes, provided that:

9 (a) The institution employs or contracts with a properly trained and credentialed medical
10 professional, including a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) in a relevant anatomical or forensic science field, a
11 doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.), or a doctor of medicine (M.D.), who shall oversee the preparation
12 process.

13 (b) The preparation of the training aid occurs on-site at a licensed funeral home or mortuary,
14 with the consent of the funeral director and in accordance with all applicable health and safety regulations.

15 (c) The institution maintains a written agreement with the law enforcement agency requesting
16 the training aid, outlining the scope of work, handling procedures, and chain of custody for the remains.

17 (d) All activities are conducted in compliance with the consent requirements outlined in RSA
18 291-B:2, I and II.

19 291-B:4 Agency Policy Requirements. Any law enforcement agency in New Hampshire that
20 conducts training involving the possession or use of human remains for cadaver canine or related law
21 enforcement purposes shall develop and maintain a written policy governing such activities. This policy
22 shall be submitted to and kept on file with the New Hampshire police standards and training council. The
23 policy shall include, at a minimum:

24 I. A detailed acquisition plan outlining the lawful and ethical process for obtaining human
25 remains, including documentation of consent as required under RSA 291-B:2.

26 II. A handling, storage, and documentation plan that ensures the secure, respectful, and
27 traceable management of human remains throughout the training process.

28 III. A destruction or final disposition plan that complies with RSA 291-B:3 and applicable state
29 and federal regulations, including procedures for returning remains to an authorized institution or licensed
30 medical waste disposal provider.

301:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 10, 2026
Effective Date: September 08, 2026