

CHAPTER 323
HB 1279 - FINAL VERSION

05/14/2026 1545s
05/14/2026 1944s
4Jun2026... 2115CofC
4Jun2026... 2186EBA

2026 SESSION

26-2855
09/08

HOUSE BILL **1279**

AN ACT relative to the use of physical force in defense of a person.

SPONSORS: Rep. Polozov, Merr. 10; Rep. Aures, Merr. 13; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 4; Rep. Giasson, Hills. 29; Rep. McFarlane, Graf. 18; Rep. Sabourin dit Choiniere, Rock. 30; Rep. Sirois, Hills. 32; Rep. Thibault, Merr. 25; Rep. Roy, Rock. 31; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the standard for when force can be used against someone likely to use unlawful force in the commission of a felony.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 the use of physical force in defense of a person.

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

- 1 323:1 Physical Force in Defense of a Person. Amend RSA 627:4, II(d) to read as follows:
- 2 (d) Is likely to use any unlawful force in the commission of a felony against the actor *or a third*
- 3 *person* within such actor's dwelling or its curtilage.

323:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Approved: July 15, 2026
Effective Date: January 01, 2027