

HB 405 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0806

09/05

HOUSE BILL **405**

AN ACT establishing a committee to study approaches to combat store-front sex trafficking in New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. Layon, Rock. 13

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study approaches to combat store-front sex trafficking in New Hampshire and provides duties thereto.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study approaches to combat store-front sex trafficking in New Hampshire.

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

1 1 Committee Established; Term Defined. There is established a committee to study approaches
2 to combat store-front sex trafficking in New Hampshire. For the purposes of this committee, “store-
3 front” shall refer to businesses in multi-unit commercial businesses which typically appear to be
4 massage parlors or similar operations where individuals, typically immigrant women or children, are
5 moved from location to location to avoid law enforcement.

6 2 Membership and Compensation.

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

8 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
9 house of representatives.

10 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

11 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
12 the duties of the committee.

13 III. The committee may solicit input from any person or entity the committee deems
14 relevant to its study.

15 3 Duties. The committee's study shall include, but not be limited to:

16 I. Review prior legislative attempts to combat store-front sex trafficking of individuals,
17 including the reasons these attempts were unsuccessful.

18 II. Review non-legislative efforts to combat store-front sex trafficking of individuals,
19 including the efficacy of these attempts and lessons learned.

20 III. Solicit and review input from organizations, business owners, and individuals on:

21 (a) Prior attempts to combat store-front sex trafficking.

22 (b) Minimizing impact on legitimate businesses.

23 (c) Potential collaborations needed to address the multi-state and multi-national
24 features of these crimes.

25 IV. Consider non-traditional approaches, including allowing the termination of leases for
26 entities suspected of sex trafficking that do not comply with duly authorized warrants or
27 investigations as required under proposed legislation.

28 V. Solicit information regarding individuals who return to sex work in these conditions after
29 receiving assistance to leave this work, in order to differentiate between continued victimization and
30 willing participation in sex work, and the different approaches needed for these groups.

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1 VI. If the committee finds that men are being sex trafficked in similar ways in New
2 Hampshire, ensure protections are appropriately extended to all persons victimized in store-front sex
3 trafficking in New Hampshire.

4 VII. Investigate ways to bring justice to those facilitating and participating in sex trafficking
5 in New Hampshire.

6 VIII. Draft its proposal for legislation that would be intended for introduction in the 2026
7 session, reflecting the findings and conclusions of the committee.

8 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson and a
9 clerk from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-
10 named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the
11 effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

12 5 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 December 1, 2025.

15 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.