

HB 605 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0870

05/11

HOUSE BILL **605**

AN ACT relative to employment protections for members of the general court.

SPONSORS: Rep. Read, Rock. 10; Rep. Lloyd, Hills. 8; Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 21

COMMITTEE: Legislative Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill provides that serving as a member of state legislature shall be considered public service for purposes of federal student loan forgiveness programs. The bill also provides members of the general court with employment protections during the legislative session.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to employment protections for members of the general court.

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

1 1 New Section; Members of the General Court. Amend RSA 14-A by inserting after section 6 the
2 following new section:

3 14-A:7 Federal Public Service Qualification.

4 I. Notwithstanding the provision of RSA 14-A:6, I, the tenure in office of members of the
5 general court shall be deemed by the state to qualify as full-time public service for the purposes of
6 federal public service student loan forgiveness programs.

7 II. Upon request by a member or former member of the general court, or a department of the
8 federal government acting upon the application of such member or former member, the house clerk
9 for house members and the senate clerk for senators shall provide to the member or former member
10 or federal department the appropriate paperwork documenting: the full time public service of said
11 member, spanning from all dates of taking the oath or oaths of office until such time as the
12 termination of that tenure or tenures in office, if applicable; and the state of New Hampshire federal
13 employee identification number through which the member's biennial compensation was processed.

14 2 New Sections; Employment Protections for Members of the General Court. Amend RSA 275
15 by inserting after section 75 the following new sections:

16 275:75-a Right to Leave Work.

17 I. No employer shall prohibit an employee who is a member of the state legislature from
18 taking time off to attend a legislative session, to attend a legislative policy committee meeting if the
19 legislator is a member of the committee, or to attend a legislative committee hearing on a bill the
20 member sponsored. The requirements of this section shall apply regardless of whether the employee
21 has accrued paid time off or not.

22 II. Before an employee may leave work under this subdivision, the employee shall provide
23 the employer with at least 2 days notice of the requested leave.

24 III. An employer shall not discharge an employee who is a member of the general court
25 because the employee attends a noticed, disclosed session or hearing of the general court.

26 IV. An employer may require a member of the general court to use the employee's accrued
27 vacation time, personal leave time, or paid time off, because the employee attends a noticed,
28 disclosed, voting session of the general court. If the employee does not have accrued paid time off,
29 their absence to attend general court voting shall be granted as unpaid time off.

30 275:75-b Penalty. Any employer who violates this subdivision shall be subject to a civil penalty,
31 to be imposed by the labor commissioner in accordance with the procedures established in RSA

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- 1 273:11-a. An employer aggrieved by the commissioner's assessment of such penalty may appeal in
- 2 accordance with RSA 273:11-c.
- 3 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.