

Senate Judiciary Committee

Pete Mulvey 271-4063

HB 584-FN, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty.

Hearing Date: April 29, 2025

Time Opened: 1:35 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:50 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gannon, McConkey, Altschiller and Reardon and Ward.

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Abbas

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Provides that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction in New Hampshire.

II. Removes a reference to medical schools recognized by the World Health Organization and replaces it with a reference to the World Directory of Medical Schools.

III. Creates a cause of action against counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school administrative units, or quasi-public entities who create and enforce policies based on the claims of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum.

IV. Provides that in a claim against the state or a local government agency for enforcing policies or directives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or the World Economic Forum, the limits of awards under RSA 541-B shall apply and shall not be increased by the proceeds of an insurance policy held by such entity.

Sponsors:

Rep. Granger

Rep. Noble

Rep. Sirois

Rep. Sabourin

Who supports the bill: 135 individuals supported HB 584-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who opposes the bill: 126 individuals opposed HB 584-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who is neutral on the bill: n/a.

Summary of testimony:

Representative Michael Granger

Strafford – District 2

- HB 584-FN related to the concept of globalism.
- Rep. Granger asserted that globalism acted to the detriment of the United States of America.
- HB 584-FN ensured that public officials and employees would not support global edicts in the State, where they had no standing.
- Sen. Gannon asked Rep. Granger to elaborate on where or when the State Government looked up to the United Nations, or World Health Organization for the creation and or enforcement of statutes.
 - Rep. Granger said that the organizations in question were an issue amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Rep. Granger said they acted as if they had legitimacy, and that public officials supported their guidelines as if they had the force of law.
- HB 584 would provide a cause of action to prevent enforcement of any such rules.

Kate Horgan

Vice President, Government Affairs – The Dupont Group

- Ms. Horgan appeared on behalf of the New Hampshire Association of Counties
- The private right of action laid out in HB 584 is a concern for the Association of Counties.
- The Association of Counties believed it was unclear if their senior homes adopted policies in alignment with other organizations, if they would be vulnerable to legal liability.
- Under HB 584, Senior Homes would be in the position of having to violate their license and not provide services as paid for by taxpayers, or risk legal liability in the continuation of their services.
- Sen. Gannon asked if a home or home operator may be held liable if a policy mirrored those of the identified organizations.
 - Ms. Horgan said they could, and added that if the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services adopted a mirrored policy, that homes had to follow suit with no choice.

Aubrey Freedman

Bridgewater, New Hampshire

- Mr. Freedman spoke in support of the bill.
- Elected officials came and went, whereas HB 584 looked forward.
- The organizations referred to were characterized as authoritarian and centralized by Mr. Freedman.
- Mr. Freedman quoted a sentence from the minority report to HB 584. The quote detailed that the organizations referred to have never and will never impose an enforceable mandate upon the State of New Hampshire, nor do any of the identified organizations have the force of law.
- Mr. Freedman questioned whether residents of the State could truly count on these organizations not taking more power.
- Mr. Freedman described COVID lockdowns as a month-long martial-law-style regime.
- Terrible authoritarianism was apparent during the pandemic according to Mr. Freedman.

Representative Timothy Horrigan

Strafford – District 10

- Rep. Horrigan maintained that many of the specified organizations were based in Europe and had no jurisdiction in the United States.
- The World Health Organization was here to stay regardless of what HB 584 provides.
- Rep. Horrigan speculated that for better or worse, the public would not respond the same if another pandemic struck. Many of the initial coordinators and decision makers amid the response did not occupy their posts anymore.

Melissa Blasek

Director, ReBuild NH

- Ms. Blasek referred to HB 584-FN as the anti-globalist act.
- HB 584 contemplated the United Nations, World Economic Forum, and World Health Organization.
- The State of New Hampshire shall not enforce mandates from any of the identified entities according to the bill.
- The bill does not restrict the ability of the State or its agencies to reference guidance or reports from the identified organizations when making decisions.
- HB 584 is meant to ensure that the State did not directly implement mandates from other bodies which were not accountable to the public of New Hampshire.
- Ms. Blasek found President Trump's withdrawal from the WHO admirable, however, did not consider New Hampshire free from international overreach.
- HB 584 ensured that New Hampshire would not be dictated by national or international whims and organizations.
- Ms. Blasek urged the committee to find the bill ought to pass.

Representative Henry Giasson

Hillsborough – District 29

- Rep. Giasson served 24 years in the United States Military.
- The sovereignty of a State, and the Nation, was what made the United States of America what it was according to Rep. Giasson.
- There was no problem viewing other groups or organizations as advisory. The United Nations, and WHO did not rule in American interests, and had bad apples in their ranks according to Rep. Giasson.
- HB 584 did not deride others, rather the bill just maintained state sovereignty.
- Sen. Gannon asserted that New Hampshire was sovereign. Sen. Gannon asked if the United Nations had written laws or policies for the State.
 - Rep. Giasson said that the United Nations certainly did while he was in the military. They had strong influence regarding COVID, as well. The compliance measures the United Nations offered did not come across as recommendations according to Rep. Giasson.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: May 2, 2025