

Senate Transportation Committee

Vivian Hall 271-3091

SB 469, allowing the director of the division of motor vehicles to adopt administrative rules regarding the use of electronic signatures.

Hearing Date: January 13, 2026

Time Opened: 1:30 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:50 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators McConkey, Prentiss, Fenton and Ricciardi

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Ward

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Authorizes the director of the division of motor vehicles to adopt rules regarding records, documents, applications, and forms that can be signed electronically, and requires electronic signatures to be accepted on such forms.

II. Allows supporting documents used to transfer ownership of a vehicle to an insurer after payment of damages to not require a notarized signature and allows the signatures to be signed electronically and printed on hard copy.

Sponsors:

Sen. Lang
Sen. Birdsell
Sen. Innis
Sen. Gannon
Sen. Prentiss
Sen. Carson
Sen. Ricciardi
Rep. Maggiore

Sen. Avarad
Sen. McGough
Sen. Altschiller
Sen. McConkey
Sen. Murphy
Sen. Rochefort
Rep. Moffett

Sen. Rosenwald
Sen. Fenton
Sen. Gray
Sen. Watters
Sen. Long
Sen. Pearl
Rep. S. Smith

Who supports the bill: 18 individuals signed in support of SB 469. Contact vivian.hall@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Lang, Senate District 2

- SB 469 will allow the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to adopt rules allowing the use of electronic signatures for certain documents. Current law requires wet signatures for some transactions.
- This bill modernizes New Hampshire's rules to reflect how consumers, businesses, and government already operate in the 21st century.

Dan Bennett, President, New Hampshire Auto Dealers Association

- Electronic signatures streamline the car sales process and will result in better experience for dealers, lenders, the consumer, and the Division of Motor Vehicles.
- Physical signatures can be messy and sometimes need to be corrected. This leads to a backlog at the DMV and town clerks' offices, resulting in a delay of the delivery of the vehicle to the consumer.
- Electronic signatures leave a clear paper trail for audits and could reduce fraud.

Jennifer O'Leary and Director John Marasco, New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles

- This legislation will provide clarity for the Division of Motor Vehicles while modernizing their processes.
- In addition to speeding up the process, electronic signatures prevent fraud.
- The DMV will follow Department of Justice electronic signature guidelines to ensure integrity when creating rules.
- **Senator Ricciardi** asked if allowing electronic signatures will save the DMV money.
- **Director Marasco** responded that there will probably not be direct cost savings for the DMV, but that it will allow DMV employees to make better use of their time.

Kathi Reinstien and Kate Horgan, Carvana

- Ms. Reinstein and Ms. Horgan did not have anything additional to add, but supported all the previous speakers' testimony.

Mark Binder and Wendy Pouliot, Copart

- Mr. Binder and Ms. Pouliot represent Copart, who specialize in selling totaled vehicles for insurance companies, often in high-stress situations for car owners following an accident.
- Physical signature requirements can delay insurance payouts by several days; allowing electronic signatures would enable completion through a single phone call and email.

- Although the bill currently includes a notarization requirement, Mr. Binder and Ms. Pouliot support a forthcoming amendment from Senator Lang that would eliminate it.
- **Senator Prentiss** shared a recent personal experience in which paperwork delays after totaling her car forced her to rent a vehicle for a week before receiving her insurance check.

Ralph Cresta, New Hampshire Towing Association

- Mr. Cresta stated that electronic signatures will reduce the amount of time towing companies will have to store abandoned cars.

Commissioner DJ Bettencourt, New Hampshire Insurance Department

- Commissioner Bettencourt reiterated the previous speakers' testimony.
- The Insurance Department is always looking for ways to modernize their processes.
- New Hampshire is one of only fifteen states that still require a wet signature.
- This bill will save administrative time at agencies, reduce mailing costs, and prevent consumers from having to procure rental cars for extended periods of time.