

Senate Judiciary Committee

Brendan Bunnell 271-4063

SB 485-FN, relative to the licensure, regulation and taxation of hemp-based derivative products.

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Time Opened: 1:53 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:55 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gannon, Abbas, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Carson

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Defines hemp-based derivative products.

II. Creates a licensing scheme for the sale of hemp-based derivative products within the liquor commission.

III. Enables the liquor commission to make rules relative to the regulation of hemp-based derivative products.

IV. Levies a tax on wholesale sale of hemp-based derivative products.

Sponsors:

Sen. Lang

Sen. Watters

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Innis

Sen. Birdsell

Rep. Hunt

Who supports the bill: Senator Lang, Senator Daniel Innis, Senator Howard Pearl, Nathaniel Gurien (NH Cannabis), Katie McLaughlin, Shaelagh Thurston, Kerri Perusse, Sheila Varden-Straffin, Dennis Straffin, Margaret Breton, and Nicholas Nelson.

Who opposes the bill: Sue Hamola (SAM NH), Elizabeth Sargent (NH Assoc. of Chiefs of Police), Kate Frey (New Futures), Daniel Richardson, Catherine Lemay, and Curtis Howland.

Who is neutral on the bill: Representative Heath Howard

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Tim Lang (SD-2), introduced Senate Bill 485 and explained that the bill is bipartisan and bicameral, with both Republican and Democratic sponsors from both the House and Senate. He stated that the bill is focused on issues that have become relevant due to changes in federal law.

- Described how the federal Farm Act of 2018 legalized trace amounts of THC in hemp-derived products, with the original intent being industrial uses such as rope and clothing, where trace THC would not constitute a violation. He explained that entrepreneurs later used this to create beverages and other consumable products containing small amounts of THC and sell them legally.
- Noted that in November, the federal government closed this loophole through a reconciliation bill, making those products no longer allowed. However, he said there is still cleanup work needed in this area.
- Asked the committee to hold the bill, explaining that although the bill is currently 16 pages long, he has been working with people from the New Hampshire Liquor Commission, who want to use the bill as a housekeeping measure to address regulatory issues. He stated that he would draft the amendment himself and bring it back to the committee, and that he was not asking the committee to do additional work other than holding the bill until the amendment is ready.

BMB
Date Hearing Report completed: January 26, 2026