

Senate Judiciary Committee

Ryan Meleedy 271-4151

HB 1169-FN, creating a private cause of action for discrimination based on hairstyles relative to a person's ethnicity.

Hearing Date: March 28, 2024

Time Opened:

Time Closed:

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Gannon, Abbas, Whitley and Chandley

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill creates a private cause of action for discrimination based on hairstyles relative to a person's ethnicity. This bill also exempts such causes of action from the jurisdiction of the human rights commission.

Sponsors:

Rep. Wheeler

Rep. Harriott-Gathright

Rep. DiLorenzo

Rep. D. Ford

Rep. M. Perez

Rep. Meuse

Who supports the bill: 35 People signed in support of the bill. The full sign in sheet is available upon request to the legislative aide Matthew Schelzi (Matthew.Schelzi@leg.state.nh.us).

Who opposes the bill:

Who is neutral on the bill: 4 People signed in opposition to the bill. The full sign in sheet is available upon request to the legislative aide Matthew Schelzi (Matthew.Schelzi@leg.state.nh.us).

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Wheeler

- Introduced HB 1169, aimed at establishing legal recourse for individuals facing discrimination based on hairstyles associated with ethnicity.
- Representative Wheeler highlighted the bill's journey through the legislative process, noting its broad support and passage through various stages.
- Representative Wheeler contextualized this bill by describing it as an important part of a much broader scope of anti-discrimination efforts.
- Representative Wheeler distinguished HB 1169 from similar legislation by offering victims a direct path to seek legal redress, either through the court system or the Department of Labor. He explained this as more effective than going through the Human Rights Commission which has been known to experience years of backlog.

