

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Sophie Walsh 271-3469

SB 474, relative to the effective date of the law regarding collection and reporting of abortion statistics.

Hearing Date: February 11, 2026

Time Opened: 12:32 p.m.

Time Closed: 12:36 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Rochefort, Avard, Birdsell, Prentiss and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a July 1, 2027 effective date for the law regarding collection and reporting of abortion statistics.

The bill is a request of the department of health and human services.

Sponsors:
Sen. Birdsell

Who supports the bill: Sen. Birdsell, John Williams, Esq. (DHHS), Julia Mead, Danielle Albushies, and Cathy Stratton (NH Medical Society).

Who opposes the bill: Christie Faro.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Regina Birdsell, Senate District 19

- This bill is a request of the Department of Health and Human Services. It seeks to amend HB 712-FN, Chapter 287:15, which reflects the Committee of Conference's agreement to have the section's effective date be July 1, 2027, rather than the errored January 1, 2027.
- This change is necessary to address the implementation costs of establishing this program, so that it can be addressed in the 2028-2029 budget.
- Senator Birdsell noted that the Senate recently concurred with the House amendment on a related bill, SB 36.

John Williams, Esq., Department of Health and Human Services

- Mr. Williams emphasized that the Senate concurred with the underlying bill establishing abortion reporting requirements, which includes the Department's requested effective date of July 1, 2027.
- When the House acted on this retained bill, the word "estimated" was struck from the requirement of an estimated gestational age for when an abortion is performed. This change may cause issues in the provider community and raise questions about what is clinically necessary to identify gestational age.
- While the underlying bill, SB 36, is currently going through the enrollment process and heading towards the Governor's office, it is important to hold on to this bill in case others want to express interest with that change in the meantime.