

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

SB 526, establishing a New Hampshire-Greece trade council.

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

Time Opened: 9:33 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:45 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Innis, Ricciardi, McGough, Fenton and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Murphy

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a New Hampshire-Greece trade council.

Sponsors:

Sen. Ricciardi	Sen. Lang	Sen. Watters
Sen. Carson	Sen. Pearl	Sen. Avard
Sen. Gannon	Sen. McGough	Sen. Fenton
Sen. Long	Sen. Birdsell	Sen. Abbas
Sen. Innis	Sen. Rochefort	Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Rep. Manos	Rep. Kuttub	Rep. Booras

Who supports the bill: Senator Denise Ricciardi, Senator Daniel Innis, Senator Donovan Fenton, Senator Tara Reardon, Senator Tim McGough, Senator David Rochefort, Representative Efstathia Booras, Dick Anagnost, Symeon Tegos (Consulate General of Greece in New England), George Copadis, Periklis Karoutas, Dionysios Protopapas, Christos Chrisafides, William Hughen, C. Speliakos, William Galatis, John Nacos, George Sioras, Tim Giotas, Steve Chakas, Robert Parsons, Nicholas Rizos, George Zacharakis, Panayiotis Coufos, Barbara Chrisafides, Peter Chrisafides, Katerina Sokou (American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce USA)

Who opposes the bill: Katie McLaughlin

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Denise Ricciardi

- SB 526 would establish a New Hampshire-Greece trade council, which would provide a major economic and cultural benefit to both regions.

- Senator Ricciardi said New Hampshire would benefit from businesses gaining greater access to Greek markets as well as attracting new investment and business partnerships into the state.
- Since New Hampshire and Greece are experiencing strong economic momentum, Senator Ricciardi said this was the right time to capitalize on their complementary strengths.
- Nationally, New Hampshire has the single highest per capita concentration of Greek Americans.
- This bill would bring together lawmakers, state agencies, businesses, the university system, and the public to work toward a closer relationship between New Hampshire and Greece.
- This collaborative approach would have little to no cost to taxpayers because the council would be allowed to raise private funds and accept grants.
- This bill was based on prior legislation that established trade councils for Canada and Ireland.
- Senator Ricciardi introduced Amendment 2026-0601s, which clarified that the formal name for Greece is the “Hellenic Republic.” It also changed the word “by” to “in” on Line 13 because trade councils in Greece are established by non-profit membership-based businesses and associations, not by the government.
- Senator Ricciardi said their shared commitment to strong family-owned businesses and innovation made the partnership a natural fit.
- Senator Ricciardi said she attended a conference in D.C. where Metlen, a company based in Greece, had begun conversations about providing energy to Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and Arizona. They also produce gallium, which is used in everything from semiconductors to phone chips. Right now, 96 percent of gallium is made in China.

Dick Anagnost

- Mr. Anagnost said the Hellenic Republic of Greece and New Hampshire shared a parallel history. Democracy originated in Greece, and the First in the Nation primary originated in New Hampshire.
- New England has the highest concentration of Greek Americans per capita. New Hampshire ranks first, Massachusetts ranks second, and Maine ranks tenth.
- This bill would provide a vehicle to enhance trade relations as well as leverage New Hampshire-based products.
- New Hampshire already exports aerospace computer and electronic products to Greece. New Hampshire imports metals and food products from Greece.
- Tourism is a primary economic driver for both regions.
- Mr. Anagnost said both New Hampshire and Greece valued higher education. Southern New Hampshire University already has a presence in Greece, and the New Hampshire Aeronautical Institute in Nashua is owned by a Greek company.

- A relationship with Greece would provide direct access to other countries in the European Union.

Symeon Tegos, Consulate General of Greece in New England

- Consulate General Tegos said Greece has served as a beacon of stability during these turbulent times.
- As a member of NATO and the European Union, Greece has been a close ally to the United States. Consulate General Tegos said the bilateral relationship between both countries has never been better.
- Like the phrase “Live Free or Die,” the phrase “Freedom of Death” has been part of their historic DNA.
- While the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce exists, Consulate General Tegos said they were enthusiastic to further promote the idea and organization of trade missions to Greece.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 13, 2026