

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

HB 565, allowing persons under 21 into veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs under certain conditions.

Hearing Date: February 17, 2026

Time Opened: 9:45 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:49 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Ricciardi

Bill Analysis: This bill allows persons under 21 into veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs if they are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or adult spouse, or if they present a valid military identification card.

Sponsors:

Rep. Notter

Rep. B. Boyd

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Mooney

Rep. Ulery

Rep. Vose

Rep. Creighton

Sen. Murphy

Who supports the bill: Representative Maureen Mooney, Cory Stone

Who opposes the bill: Shelle Butler, Jeremiah Githu

Who is neutral on the bill: Matthew Culver (NHLC), Mark Armaganian (NHLC)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Daniel Innis, on behalf of Representative Jeanine Notter

- This bill would allow individuals under 21 into veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs if they are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or adult spouse, or if they present a valid military identification card.
- This bill would allow parents to attend special events at the VFW or other social clubs with their children who are under 21.

Representative Maureen Mooney

- This bill was filed at the request of a constituent in Merrimack.
- This bill passed the House Commerce Committee by a vote of 16 to 1, and it passed the full House on the consent calendar by a voice vote.

- This bill would allow individuals to attend veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian, even if liquor is sold in any room. The parent or guardian must sign in the minor and list their age. If an individual is under 21, and they have a valid military identification card, they do not need to be signed in.
- This bill would be consistent with RSA 178:22, which is the cocktail lounge statute, and it would not change the restriction of no more than 4 guests per member being signed in at these facilities.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 19, 2026