

# Senate Children and Family Law Committee

*Declan Donahue 271-3324*

**HB 194-FN**, relative to the crime of interference with custody.

**Hearing Date:** March 19, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:33 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:42 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Abbas, Sullivan and Long

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill modifies the crime of interference with custody to add certain actions with an intent to interfere with lawful custody.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Post

Rep. Ball

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Love

Rep. Maggiore

Rep. Potucek

Rep. Spillane

Rep. Perez

Rep. DeRoy

Sen. Lang

Sen. Sullivan

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Bernardy, Donald Gilbert, Matthew Blier, Sherly Harianto

**Who opposes the bill:** Mary Krueger, Georgina Lambert, Kathy McLean

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative JD Bernardy (Rockingham 36th)**

- Rep. Bernardy will be speaking to this bill on behalf of Rep. Lisa Post.
  - This bill was retained before being amended and passed in January.
  - HB 194-FN amends RSA 633:4, interference with custody division to create a three strike system in New Hampshire and protect children from repeated interference with custody orders.
  - Current Law treats interference as a minor offense, despite the emotional damage it inflicts upon children. Repeated violations show a pattern of behavior.
  - This law is firm, but fair. The first and second offenses are a civil penalty, and the third is a Class B felony. If the child is taken out of state, the first offense is a Class B felony.
- This bill is about deterring the interruption of family bonds and attempts to address repeated problems.

- Senator Long asked about line 11, noting it looks like a reword of what is currently in section 633:4.
  - This adds a new section, V, with penalty and deterrence provisions. It embeds an issue of intent, as any intent to do harm will apply these provisions. Briefly crossing state lines for an errand would not be considered felonious.

### **Donald Gilbert**

- Mr. Gilbert supports the bill, and views it as necessary to prevent people from interfering with custody.

### **Matthew Bliar**

- Mr. Bliar filed for divorce in December of 2019, requiring 30-40 hearings. This bill would help deter the actions of his ex-wife.
- Despite D.C.Y.F. recommendations, he is still struggling to see his daughter.
- This bill would help protect children more than anything, and would act as a deterrent in place to force the following of the parenting plan.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 24, 2026