

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

HB 1332, relative to the authorized display of flags on state house grounds.

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Time Opened: 9:01 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:12 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, Gannon, Lang and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Reardon

Bill Analysis: This bill limits the flags which may be displayed on state house grounds to only those flags officially recognized by the federal government by law, executive order, or an official agency regulation, with the exception of the Gold Star Flag, which the governor may authorize to display on state house grounds.

Sponsors:

Rep. Wade

Rep. Moffett

Rep. Grote

Rep. Barton

Rep. Rollins

Rep. Balboni

Rep. Long

Rep. Giasson

Sen. Watters

Sen. Fenton

Who supports the bill: Representative Greg Hill, Deputy Adjunct General Nicole Bixler (DMAVS), and Kevin Grady (SVAC).

Who opposes the bill: Sixty-three signed in opposition.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Greg Hill:

- Representative Hill recited the committee report from the House Legislative Administration committee.
- Representative Hill stated that the bill swaps the Honor and Remember flag for the federally recognized Gold Star flag.
- Representative Hill explained that upon passage the Governor shall allow the Gold Star flag to be flown on state house grounds and at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery.

- He explained that a growing number of states are regulating the flags that can be flown on state grounds to only include federally recognized flags.
- Representative Hill stated that the House committee passed this bill unanimously and passed the chamber on consent.
- Representative Hill explained that the impetus behind HB 1332 is to remove the Honor and Remember flag and replace it with the Gold Star flag, although there are other consequences.
- He explained the problem that was brought up with the original language regarding flag size that has since been addressed through an amendment in the House.
- Representative Hill stated that the state house can only fly a certain number of flags.

Senator Pearl asked if the bill as amended would be able to fly on a flagpole that is not atop the state house.

Representative Hill responded yes.

Senator Lang asked if this is a may bill and not a shall bill

Representative Hill responded yes.

Kevin Grady of the NH State Veterans Advisory Committee

- Mr. Grady explained that over the past 10 years there have been a plethora of bills asking to be able to fly the commercial based Honor and Member flag.
- Mr. Grady stated that the Honor and Member company does very good work for veterans and their family members, but should not have the flag over the state house.
- Mr. Grady explained that the Gold Star flag and gold star families are federally recognized and should be given a place in and around our state house.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.