

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Kevin Condict 271-7875*

**SB 184**, recognizing the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day.

**Hearing Date:** March 5, 2025

**Time Opened:** 10:05 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:09 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon, Altschiller and Reardon

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill establishes the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Abbas

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Watters

Sen. Long

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Lang

Rep. Potenza

Rep. B. Boyd

Rep. Ebel

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**Who supports the bill:** Sen. Denise Ricciardi (SD 9), Becky Jewell, Sen. Donovan Fenton (SD 10), Sen. David Rochefort (SD 1), Sen. William Gannon (SD 23), Janet Lucas, Sen. Daryl Abbas (SD 22), and Michaela Janowski.

**Who opposes the bill:** Jeanne Dietsch and Birdie Mooney.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Karen Craver (NHDES).

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Senator Denise Ricciardi, Senate District 9**

- Sen. Ricciardi introduced Senate Bill 184.
- Sen. Ricciardi explained that this bill had come before the Committee before. It passed unanimously through the Senate the past few years and was killed in the House each time.

- Sen. Ricciardi explained that she began bringing a resolution to the governor to recognize Children's Environmental Awareness Day before she became a state senator. The resolution was signed by then-Governor Sununu each year, but this bill would make it an official day.
- Sen. Ricciardi said that children's health is deeply influenced by the environment in which they grow up, from the air they breathe to the water they drink and the products they interact with daily.
- Sen. Ricciardi stated that exposure to pollution and harmful chemicals has been linked to serious health issues, including developmental disorders and long-term chronic conditions.
- This bill seeks to address those concerns by establishing Children's Environmental Awareness Day on the second Thursday of October each year. This day will serve as an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage proactive steps to safeguard children from environmental hazards.
- Sen. Ricciardi said that by establishing this day, New Hampshire would demonstrate its commitment to protecting the health and future of its youngest residents. The bill not only raises awareness but also promotes meaningful action to ensure that children across the state have the opportunity to grow up in a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment.
- Sen. Ricciardi said that the Department of Health and Human Services asked her to put this bill in again.

**Karen Craver, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**

- Ms. Craver said that she was in attendance to answer any questions the Committee may have.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 7, 2025