

# Senate Judiciary Committee

*Pete Mulvey 271-4063*

**SB 269**, removing references to matrimonial age and time waivers in the vital records act.

**Hearing Date:** March 11, 2025

**Time Opened:** 1:06 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:09 p.m.

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Carson

**Bill Analysis:** This bill removes references to matrimonial age and time waivers in the vital records act.

This bill is at the request of the secretary of state.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Innis

Sen. Long

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Rep. Grossman

Rep. Levesque

Rep. Manos

Rep. Petrigno

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**Who supports the bill:** 23 individuals signed in support of SB 269. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

**Who opposes the bill:** 5 individuals signed in opposition to SB 269. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** N/A

**Summary of testimony:**

**Senator Debra Altschiller**

**Senate District 24**

- Senator Altschiller stated that Senate Bill 269 was requested by the Secretary of State's Office (N.H SOS) to ensure that the statute incorporated last year which banned child marriage is amended to change references to "bride and groom" to "applicants".
  - SB 269 also struck references to time waivers in the applicable RSAs.

- Sen. Altschiller concluded that SB 269 is a bill to clean up statutory language and was not a policy change.

**Kristin Martino**

**Director / Registrar - Division of Vital Records Administration, N.H SOS**

- Ms. Martino reiterated that the purpose of the bill was simply to clean up some language after the passage of last year's bill, SB 359.
- Ms. Martino stated that the minimum age for marriage was raised to 18 and statutes concerning court issued age waivers were done away with.
  - Despite the passage of the legislation, the underlying statute still referenced time waivers which were done away with in 2006.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: March 14, 2025