

# Senate Judiciary Committee

*Pete Mulvey 271-4063*

**SB 143**, relative to the impaired driver care management program.

**Hearing Date:** January 28, 2025

**Time Opened:** 2:13 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 2:23 p.m.

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

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

**Bill Analysis:** This bill modifies the requirements for the impaired driver care management program and when it is required.

This bill is a request of the department of health and human services.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Watters

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Long

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Reardon

Rep. Sykes

Rep. Proulx

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**Who supports the bill:** John Williams, Jenny O'Higgins, Sen. Cindy Rosenwald, Sen. Donovan Fenton, Sen. Debra Altschiller, Curtis Register and Sarah McCarthy.

**Who opposes the bill:** N/A

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

**Summary of testimony:**

**Senator Suzanne Prentiss and Jennifer O'Higgins**

**Senate District 5 / N.H Department of Health and Human Services**

- SB 143 is a request of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to amend the current impaired-driver care management program (IDCMP) to clean and strengthen the statute's authority.
- Since 2013, those convicted of an impaired driving offense have been required to participate within the IDCMP. Individuals are screened and referred to rehabilitative services for substance use if appropriate.
- Currently, if convicted, an individual is only required to participate in the program once.

- SB 143 strengthened the statute by requiring participation for each respective conviction.
- Sen. Prentiss explained that SB 143 would allow for an “upon completion” option for out-of-state offenders capable of producing certificates from programs within their home state that meets the requirements of the New Hampshire program.
  - SB 143 would eliminate the current need for pre-approval.
- SB 143 ensured reciprocity between states regarding required hours of participation in IDCMPs.
- Sen. Prentiss stated that increased motor vehicle accidents and deaths were a major reason behind SB 143.
- Senator Abbas noted that SB 143 accounted for out-of-state drivers arrested in New Hampshire and asked if similar provisions were made for New Hampshire drivers that arrested out-of-state for similar offenses.
  - Sen. Prentiss said the State would have to investigate what kind of statutory authority it had for out-of-state offenses, and indicated she would follow up.
  - Ms. O’Higgins stated that SB 143 would allow New Hampshire residents to complete a program in-state for an out-of-state violation so long as other states would accept the New Hampshire program.
  - Ms. O’Higgins said SB 143 would close the loophole absolving repeat offenders from participating multiple times within a five-year window.
  - Individuals will be held accountable for every subsequent offense.
  - Ms. O’Higgins noted that screening and evaluation had to be provided in addition to education.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: January 31, 2025