

Senate Transportation Committee

Vivian Hall 271-3091

HB 140-FN, establishing a voluntary "blue envelope" program for drivers with autism spectrum disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders.

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Time Opened: 1:43 p.m

Time Closed: 1:50 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Fenton and Prentiss

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a program, named the blue envelope program, where a motor vehicle driver with an autism spectrum disorder or trauma and stressor-related disorder may carry and present to law enforcement a blue envelope containing written information and guidance on effective communication with the driver.

Sponsors:

Rep. Newell

Rep. Jacobs

Rep. A. Murray

Rep. Roy

Rep. Selig

Rep. H. Howard

Rep. Tenczar

Rep. Wheeler

Rep. Harriott-Gathright

Rep. Parshall

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Lang

Sen. Watters

Who supports the bill: 50 people signed in support of the bill. Full sign-in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Vivian Hall (Vivian.Hall@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: Julie Smith

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Jonah Wheeler, Hillsborough, District 33

- Representative Wheeler explained that this bill would create a voluntary program for people with autism spectrum disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders called the "blue envelope program".
- The bill aims to make interactions between municipalities and individuals with autism or other disabilities easier.
- Senator Prentiss asked if there was a way to verify that an individual was a part of the blue envelope program. He confirmed that there is a verification process to combat fraudulent envelopes.

- Senator Ricciardi asked if this bill would include people who do not speak English or individuals with aphasia. Representative Wheeler clarified this bill is specifically for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
- Senator Prentiss noted that the blue envelope program is recognized nationally.

John Marasco, Director of Division of Motor Vehicles

- Director Marasco stated that the Division of Motor Vehicles supports this legislation and would work with municipalities to create the proper training regimen.
- He testified New Hampshire licenses have an autism icon on the back of the ID card but, the blue envelope is more apparent.
- Director Marasco said that the Division of Motor Vehicles would bear the printing costs of this program.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 27, 2025