

Senate Judiciary Committee

Pete Mulvey 271-4063

HB 109-FN, relative to false reports to law enforcement.

Hearing Date: April 3, 2025

Time Opened: 1:34 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:40 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill makes it a crime to knowingly falsely allege misconduct or criminal conduct against a police officer acting in the performance of his or her official duty.

Sponsors:

Rep. D. Mannion

Rep. S. Pearson

Rep. Proulx

Rep. Roy

Who supports the bill: One individual signed in support of HB 109-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further information.

Who opposes the bill: 21 individuals signed in opposition to HB 109-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who is neutral on the bill: N/A

Summary of testimony:

Representative Dennis Mannion

Rockingham – District 25

- HB 109 and HB 59 were filed as a single bill in a previous session.
- HB 109 modified the statute governing false claims of misconduct against a law enforcement officer.
- False claims of misconduct made knowingly shall constitute a misdemeanor.
- False claims of misconduct made knowingly which accused an officer of criminal conduct shall be a class A misdemeanor.
- Sen. Gannon asked if the bill would have a chilling effect on individuals coming forward for police accountability.
 - Rep. Mannion said the standard was that individuals had to be aware they were lying and were intentionally filing false claims.

- Sen. Altschiller asked what the impetus for the bill was.
 - Rep. Mannion said he was a law enforcement officer for 30 years and had seen numerous officers face false accusations for misconduct during his tenure.
 - There had to be some kind of deterrent for individuals who knowingly made strictly false accusations.
- Sen. Altschiller said when an individual made a claim, a law enforcement investigation was triggered. Claims could not be made anonymously. Sen. Altschiller asked Rep. Mannion if he thought there would be a chilling effect.
 - Rep. Mannion said he did not believe so as the standard for a knowingly false accusation was significant. Rep. Mannion reiterated that penalties already existed under law, and that they were now being escalated and clarified.
- Sen. Abbas asked if baseless information was accounted for in HB 109-FN.
 - Rep. Mannion said baseless information was consistent with false information – if someone knew there was no basis for what they were saying, they must know it could be proven otherwise.
- Sen. Abbas asked if there would be objections to striking the baseless information section.
 - Rep. Mannion did not object and believed that the term false information encompassed Sen. Abbas' comments.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: April 7, 2025