

HB 210 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

26Mar2025... 0617h

2025 SESSION

25-0080

07/05

HOUSE BILL

210

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the state flag and its history.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cormen, Graf. 15; Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4; Rep. Manos, Rock. 12; Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien, Rock. 13; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study the state flag, its history, and vexillological principles to determine if the state flag should be redesigned.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the state flag and its history.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Findings. The general court finds that:

2 I. The state flag of New Hampshire, consisting of the state seal on a dark blue background,
3 is similar to the flags of over 20 other states which consist of an emblem on a dark blue background.

4 II. As such, the state flag of New Hampshire fails to convey the sense that New Hampshire
5 is unique among the 50 states.

6 III. The state flag, with intricate detail and small writing, goes against the vexillological
7 principles of good flag design.

8 2 New Section; Commission to Study the State Flag of New Hampshire. Amend RSA 3 by
9 inserting after section 2 the following new section:

10 3:2-a Commission to Study the State Flag of New Hampshire. There is established a
11 commission to study the state flag of New Hampshire.

12 I. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

13 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be from the house
14 executive departments and administration committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of
15 representatives. At least one member of each party shall be chosen.

16 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

17 (c) The president of the New Hampshire Historical Society, or their designee.

18 (d) The head of the New England Vexillological Association, or their designee.

19 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
20 attending to the duties of the commission.

21 III. The commission shall:

22 (a) Review the history of the state flag of New Hampshire.

23 (b) Examine vexillological principles of flag design, particularly as they pertain to state
24 flags of the United States.

25 (c) Develop a criteria, process for accepting, and deadline for submission of flag designs.

26 (d) Determine how many designs to consider and how to narrow down the number of
27 design submissions. The commission shall hold a public hearing on the submissions once the
28 commission's top submissions are chosen.

29 IV. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the
30 members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member.

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1 The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section.
2 Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

3 V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
4 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
5 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the state library, and the New Hampshire Historical Society on
6 or before November 1, 2025.

7 3 Repeal. RSA 3:2-a, relative to the commission to study the state flag of New Hampshire, is
8 repealed.

9 4 Effective Date.

10 I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2025.

11 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.