

CHAPTER 65
HB 474 - FINAL VERSION

20Mar2025... 0216h

2025 SESSION

25-0736
09/08

HOUSE BILL

474

AN ACT requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burnham, Straf. 2; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13; Rep. Bailey, Straf. 2; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13

COMMITTEE: Election Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires a second witness who is another sworn-in election official if a moderator uses a ballot counting device's printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.

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

1 65:1 Counting of Votes; Counting Write-In Votes. Amend RSA 659:64-a, I to read as follows:

2 I. In a town or city that uses a ballot counting device approved by the ballot law commission
3 pursuant to RSA 656:40 and which prints or digitally displays an image of all write-in votes as part of the
4 device's report of votes cast, a moderator may use the printed or digitally displayed images to count write-
5 in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote.

6 ***This counting shall take place in the presence of another sworn-in election official.***

65:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 02, 2025
Effective Date: August 01, 2025