

SB 424-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2230

09/05

SENATE BILL        **424-FN**

AN ACT            relative to the organization of the department of business and economic affairs.

SPONSORS:        Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Rep. Wall, Straf. 11

COMMITTEE:       Executive Departments and Administration

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ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the position of the northern county area industrial agent within the department of business and economic affairs, and instead authorizes the commissioner of the department to reallocate those responsibilities to other departmental directors and employees, except to ensure that all areas of the state are served equally.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to the organization of the department of business and economic affairs.

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

1 1 Commissioner of Business and Economic Affairs. Amend RSA 12-O:5 to read as follows:

2 12-O:5 Commissioner of Business and Economic Affairs. There shall be a commissioner of  
3 business and economic affairs who shall be appointed by the governor and council for a term of 4  
4 years from the date of appointment. It shall be the responsibility of the commissioner to organize  
5 and direct the work of the department. The commissioner shall appoint one member of his or her  
6 staff who shall act in the commissioner's stead when said commissioner is absent from the state and  
7 at such other times as directed by the commissioner. When acting for the commissioner said person  
8 shall have all the power, duties, and authority of the commissioner. Directors of departmental  
9 divisions shall be subject to the supervisory authority of the commissioner, which authority shall  
10 include power to establish department and divisional policy as well as to control the actual  
11 operations of the department and all divisions therein. ***As part of that authority, the***  
12 ***commissioner shall have the power to assign directors of the departmental divisions or any***  
13 ***other employees thereof to focus on the economic development of specific areas of the state***  
14 ***including, but not limited to, assisting the political subdivisions of the state, regional***  
15 ***development organizations or groups, and individuals in specific areas of the state to***  
16 ***maintain and expand existing industries and to encourage, assist, and aid new industries***  
17 ***to establish operations in those areas of the state. In exercising that authority, the***  
18 ***commissioner shall ensure that all areas of the state are served equally, according to their***  
19 ***respective economic needs at any given time.*** The commissioner is authorized to establish any  
20 advisory commissions and programs which the commissioner may deem necessary to carry out the  
21 mission and operations of the department.

22 2 Repeal. RSA 12-O:23, relative to the northern county area industrial agent, is repealed.

23 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**SB 424-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
 AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to the organization of the department of business and economic affairs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	(\$111,313)	(\$111,313)	(\$111,313)
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

**\*Expenditure = Cost of bill**

**\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill repeals RSA 12-O:23, relative to the northern county area industrial agent within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA), and authorizes the commissioner to assign existing division directors or employees to focus on economic development in specific regions of the state.

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs states repealing RSA 12-O:23 would eliminate the position of northern county area industrial agent, returning the budgeted general funds of approximately \$111,313 annually, beginning in FY 2027. The Department would absorb the associated responsibilities of that position by redistributing duties among existing staff and resources.

It is assumed the fiscal impact will begin in FY 2027, with future-year savings reflected in the Department's budget for FY 2028–FY 2029.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Business and Economic Affairs