

SB 501 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2096

09/08

SENATE BILL **501**

AN ACT relative to authorization of seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency by a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse.

SPONSORS: Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to order seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency at New Hampshire hospital and other designated receiving facilities.

The bill is a request of the department of health and human services.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 authorization of seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency by a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse.

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

- 1 1 New Hampshire Mental Health Services System; Treatment Rights; Seclusion or Restraint.
- 2 Amend RSA 135-C:57, V to read as follows:
- 3 V. Freedom from seclusion or physical or pharmacological restraint. ***Notwithstanding any***
- 4 ***state law to the contrary***, seclusion or restraint shall be administered only ***by order of a***
- 5 ***physician, physician associate, or an APRN*** with the consent of the person, who has made an
- 6 informed decision, or as a form of emergency treatment imposed by law or by rules, adopted by the
- 7 commissioner under RSA 541-A.
- 8 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.