

HB 1085 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2578

09/05

HOUSE BILL **1085**

AN ACT relative to the authority of police commissions.

SPONSORS: Rep. Guzofski, Rock. 1; Rep. D. Murphy, Ches. 11; Rep. Tudor, Rock. 1

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill redefines and limits the authority of police commissions.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

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

1 1 Police Commissions; Duties; Powers. RSA 105-C:4 is repealed and reenacted to read as
2 follows:

3 105-C:4 Duties; Powers. For the purpose of this section, the police commission shall not be
4 deemed a governing body under RSA 32. The duties and powers of the police commission shall be
5 limited to the following powers exclusively.

6 I. It shall be the duty of the police commissioners to appoint such police personnel, including
7 police officers, staff, constables, and superior officers, as they deem necessary and to establish pay
8 scales, step systems, or rate schedules as necessary to fix compensation of such police personnel.

9 II. The commissioners shall make and enforce all rules necessary for the operation of the
10 police force in the manner most beneficial to the public interest.

11 III. The commissioners may at any time remove police personnel for just cause and after a
12 hearing satisfying the requirements of due process, which cause shall be specified in an order of
13 removal except that special police officers appointed and designated as such shall serve at the
14 pleasure of the commission and may be removed for other than just cause.

15 IV. No police commission shall authorize the expenditure of unused or unencumbered funds
16 in the police department budget for the purpose of granting salary increases or other compensation
17 in excess of the step raises based upon years of service and position rank as established by the police
18 commissioners. Funds appropriated in the police department budget for vacant positions may be
19 expended only to support those positions once filled. Any unexpended funds for such vacant
20 positions shall not be used to fund other personnel or purposes. Any unused or unencumbered funds
21 in the police department budget shall lapse to the unreserved fund balance at the close of the fiscal
22 year.

23 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.