

HB 1215 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2892

05/08

HOUSE BILL **1215**

AN ACT relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with developmental disabilities.

SPONSORS: Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 32; Rep. B. Boyd, Hills. 12; Rep. Newell, Ches. 4; Rep. Kuttab, Rock. 17; Rep. W. MacDonald, Rock. 16; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Carson, Dist 14

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill supports the right of individuals with disabilities to use their preferred method of communication within the state service delivery system, including in residential settings and schools and with other service providers.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with developmental disabilities.

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

1           1 Short Title. This act shall be known as "Grace's Law".

2           2 New Section; Services for the Developmentally Disabled; Right to Preferred Method of  
3 Communication. Amend RSA 171-A by inserting after section 4 the following new section:

4           171-A:4-a Right to Preferred Method of Communication.

5           I. An individual with a developmental disability who is receiving services under this chapter  
6 shall have the right to communicate using any of the following methods, and such methods shall be  
7 recognized and supported in group homes, schools, and public institutions within the state service  
8 delivery system:

9                   (a) Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) techniques and devices.

10                   (b) Independent use of letterboards and independent typing-based communication.

11                   (c) Sign language and non-verbal gestural systems.

12                   (d) Speech-generating devices or any other assistive technology.

13           II. Trained staff, including direct support professionals (DSPs), educators, and health care  
14 providers of communication methods shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate an  
15 individual's preferred method of communication.

16           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.