

HB 1372 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3026

05/06

HOUSE BILL **1372**

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the feasibility of reestablishing a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe mental illness.

SPONSORS: Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 25; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29; Rep. Berry, Hills. 44

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study the feasibility of reestablishing a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe mental illness.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a commission to study the feasibility of reestablishing a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe mental illness.

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

1 1 New Section; Commission Established. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting after section 5-f the
2 following new section:

3 126-A:5-g Commission Established.

4 II. There is established a commission to study the need for, and the feasibility of,
5 reestablishing a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe and persistent mental illness.

6 I. The committee shall consist of the following members:

7 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
8 house of representatives.

9 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

10 (c) One representative of the department of health and human services, appointed by the
11 commissioner.

12 (d) One representative of the department of corrections, appointed by the commissioner.

13 III. The study committee shall:

14 (a) Review the current capacity of New Hampshire Hospital and community-based
15 mental health programs.

16 (b) Examine the number of individuals with severe mental illness who are repeatedly in
17 jails, emergency rooms, homeless encampments, or revolving-door short-term crisis beds.

18 (c) Evaluate the costs, staffing requirements, and potential sites for a new state
19 psychiatric hospital capable of providing long-term inpatient care.

20 (d) Consider best practices from other states that have recently expanded or
21 reestablished state psychiatric facilities.

22 (e) Solicit input from law enforcement, hospitals, families of affected individuals, and
23 mental health professionals.

24 IV. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
25 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the clerk of the
26 house, the clerk of the senate, and the governor on or before November 1, 2026.

27 2 Repeal. RSA 126-A:5-g, relative to the commission to study the need for, and the feasibility of,
28 reestablishing a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe and persistent mental illness, is
29 repealed.

30 3 Effective Date.

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- 1 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.
- 2 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.