

HB 1467-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3070

12/09

HOUSE BILL ***1467-FN***

AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement program.

SPONSORS: Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. Cornell, Hills. 22; Sen. Carson, Dist 14

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to develop the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Engagement and Excellence Program. The bill also authorizes school boards to award qualifying graduating high school students the distinction of a seal affixed to their diploma and completion of the program referenced on their transcript.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement program.

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

1 1 New Section; Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement Program. Amend RSA 189 by
2 inserting after section 11-d the following new section:

3 189:11-e Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement Program. The department of education shall
4 establish criteria by which a school board or school administrative unit board may affix the New
5 Hampshire state seal of civic excellence and engagement on a diploma awarded to a student
6 graduating from high school, as defined in RSA 194:23. The seal shall signify a student who has
7 achieved a high level of proficiency in civics education and engagement by satisfying the established
8 criteria. The criteria shall include, but is not limited to:

9 I. Successful completion of social studies courses for at least 2 school years, one of which
10 shall be a course on the United States government or civics;

11 II. Participation in at least one civic engagement project (such as community service),
12 participation in student government, or involvement in a civic organization; and

13 III. Demonstrated proficiency in civics knowledge through a standardized assessment,
14 portfolio of work that includes essays, projects, or presentations related to civics, or other mastery-
15 based assessment or work.

16 2 New Section; Diplomas; Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement. Amend RSA 194 by
17 inserting after section 23-f the following new section:

18 194:23-g Diplomas; Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement. Commencing with the classes
19 graduating high school in 2027 and for each graduating class thereafter, a school board or school
20 administrative unit board may affix the New Hampshire state seal of civic excellence and
21 engagement, pursuant to RSA 189:11-e, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high
22 level of proficiency in civics education and engagement. The school board or school administrative
23 unit board shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the New
24 Hampshire state seal of civic excellence and engagement.

25 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1467-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement program.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$81,000	\$85,000	\$89,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable		

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Engagement and Excellence Program, to be developed and administered by the Department of Education. The Department states it cannot assume this responsibility with its current resources and would require one new position (SOC 23-03) to perform required duties. The position cost is estimated to be \$81,000 in FY 2027, \$85,000 in FY 2028, and \$89,000 in FY 2029. This bill provides neither an appropriation nor authorization for new personnel. The Department adds there could be local costs incurred to implement this program, however those costs are indeterminable and would vary by district.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education