

HB 1522-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2398

09/08

HOUSE BILL            ***1522-FN***

AN ACT                relative to amending and adding definitions related to the protection of persons from domestic violence.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Markell, Rock. 18; Rep. DeSimone, Rock. 18; Rep. Korzen, Coos 7; Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32; Rep. W. MacDonald, Rock. 16; Rep. Mandelbaum, Rock. 21; Rep. Nelson, Rock. 13

COMMITTEE:          Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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ANALYSIS

This bill adds to the types of abuse the court can consider in determining whether to issue a domestic violence order of protection.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 amending and adding definitions related to the protection of persons from domestic violence.

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

1 1 Protection of Persons from Domestic Violence; Definitions. Amend RSA 173-B:1, I to read as  
2 follows:

3 I. "Abuse" means the commission or attempted commission of one or more of the acts  
4 described in subparagraphs (a) through ~~(h)~~ **(j)** by a family or household member or by a current or  
5 former sexual or intimate partner, where such conduct is determined to constitute a credible present  
6 threat to the petitioner's safety. The court may consider evidence of such acts, regardless of their  
7 proximity in time to the filing of the petition, which, in combination with recent conduct, reflects an  
8 ongoing pattern of behavior which reasonably causes or has caused the petitioner to fear for his or  
9 her safety or well-being:

- 10 (a) Assault or reckless conduct as defined in RSA 631:1 through RSA 631:3.
- 11 (b) Criminal threatening as defined in RSA 631:4.
- 12 (c) Sexual assault as defined in RSA 632-A:2 through RSA 632-A:5.
- 13 (d) Interference with freedom as defined in RSA 633:1 through RSA 633:3-a.
- 14 (e) Destruction of property as defined in RSA 634:1 and RSA 634:2.
- 15 (f) Unauthorized entry as defined in RSA 635:1 and RSA 635:2.
- 16 (g) Harassment as defined in RSA 644:4.
- 17 (h) Cruelty to animals as defined in RSA 644:8.
- 18 **(i) *Nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images as defined in RSA***
- 19 ***644:9-a.***
- 20 **(j) *Coercive control as defined in paragraph II-a.***

21 2 New Paragraph; Protection of Persons from Domestic Violence; Definitions. Amend RSA 173-  
22 B:1 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

23 II-a. "Coercive control" means a pattern of conduct that includes, but is not limited to, a  
24 manifestation of the defendant's intent to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, coerce, control, or  
25 compel compliance, which causes the petitioner to reasonably fear for his or her physical safety. The  
26 acts may include, but are not limited to:

- 27 (a) Isolating the petitioner from friends, relatives, or other sources of support;
- 28 (b) Depriving the petitioner of basic needs;

1 (c) Controlling, regulating, or monitoring the petitioner's activities, communications,  
2 movements, finances, economic resources, or access to services, including through technological  
3 means;

4 (d) Compelling the petitioner to engage in a specific activity, including, but not limited  
5 to, criminal conduct;

6 (e) Threatening to publish, or actually publishing, sensitive personal information  
7 relating to the petitioner, other than making a good faith report to a law enforcement agency; or

8 (f) Any single act which is intended to threaten intimidate, harass, isolate, coerce,  
9 control, or compel compliance of a petitioner to reasonably fear for their physical safety, consisting of  
10 harming, or threatening or attempting to harm, a child, relative, or animal belonging to the petitioner.

11 **3 Protection of Persons from Domestic Violence; Commencement of Proceedings.** Amend  
12 RSA 173-B:3, I to read as follows:

13 I. Any person *who has suffered abuse as defined in RSA 173-B:1, I* may seek relief  
14 pursuant to RSA 173-B:5 by filing a petition, in the county or district where the plaintiff or  
15 defendant resides, alleging abuse by the defendant. Any person filing a petition containing false  
16 allegations of abuse shall be subject to criminal penalties. Notice of the pendency of the action and  
17 of the facts alleged against the defendant shall be given to the defendant, either personally or as  
18 provided in paragraph III. The plaintiff shall be permitted to supplement or amend the petition only  
19 if the defendant is provided an opportunity prior to the hearing to respond to the supplemental or  
20 amended petition. All petitions filed under this section shall include the home and work telephone  
21 numbers of the defendant, if known. Notice of the whereabouts of the plaintiff shall not be revealed  
22 except by order of the court for good cause shown. Any answer by the defendant shall be filed with  
23 the court and a copy shall be provided to the plaintiff by the court.

24 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 1522-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to amending and adding definitions related to the protection of persons from domestic violence.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill      \*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

<b>Estimated Political Subdivision Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>County Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>County Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: [https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal\\_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf](https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf)

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association