

HB 1685 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3121

07/06

HOUSE BILL

1685

AN ACT relative to establishing a technology commission to study making New Hampshire a technology-first state.

SPONSORS: Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4

COMMITTEE: Science, Technology and Energy

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a technology commission under the department of health and human services to study making New Hampshire a technology-first state.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a technology commission to study making New Hampshire a technology-first state.

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

1 1 New Section; The State and Its Government; Department of Information Technology;
2 Technology-First Commission. Amend RSA 21-R by inserting after section 9-a the following new
3 section:

4 21-R:9-b Technology-First Commission.

5 I. There is established a commission to study making New Hampshire a technology-first
6 state.

7 II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, II, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

8 (a) Three users of assistive technology, appointed by the governor;

9 (b) Two parents of users of assistive technology with no relationship to the members
10 under subparagraph (a), appointed by the governor;

11 (c) One representative from the department of education, appointed by the commissioner
12 of the department of education;

13 (d) One representative from the bureau of vocational rehabilitation, appointed by the
14 commissioner of the bureau of vocational rehabilitation;

15 (e) One representative from the bureau of developmental services, appointed by the
16 commissioner of the department of health and human services;

17 (f) One representative from assistive technology New Hampshire, appointed by the
18 program director of assistive technology New Hampshire;

19 (g) One representative from the institute on disability at the university of New
20 Hampshire, who shall have no affiliation with assistive technology New Hampshire, appointed by
21 the research director of the institute on disability at the university of New Hampshire;

22 (h) One representative from the New Hampshire council of developmental disabilities,
23 appointed by the executive director of the New Hampshire council of developmental disabilities;

24 (i) One representative from the state's medicaid program, appointed by the
25 commissioner of the department of the health and human services;

26 (j) One representative from the disability rights center of New Hampshire, appointed by
27 the executive director of the disability rights center of New Hampshire;

28 (k) One representative from able New Hampshire, appointed by the executive director of
29 able New Hampshire; and

30 (l) One representative from 3DA, appointed by the governor.

1 III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
2 attending to the duties of the commission.

3 IV. The commission shall:

4 (a) Study and address the implementation of making New Hampshire a technology-first
5 state;

6 (b) Align necessary training models and strategies for making New Hampshire a
7 technology-first state;

8 (c) Collect data and considerations from outside sources that pertain to making New
9 Hampshire a technology-first state;

10 (d) Analyze emerging assistive technologies;

11 (e) Identify potential changes to assistive technologies;

12 (f) Analyze how to better serve individuals with assistive technology needs; and

13 (g) Conduct other activities as deemed necessary by the commission.

14 V. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the
15 members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member.
16 The first meeting of the commission shall be held on September 1, 2026. The commission shall meet
17 every 90 days, and hold a final meeting on September 30, 2027. Eight members of the commission
18 shall constitute a quorum.

19 VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
20 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
21 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before October 1, 2027.

22 2 Repeal. RSA 21-R:9-b, relative to the technology-first commission, is repealed.

23 3 Effective Date.

24 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect October 1, 2027.

25 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.