

SB 410 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

01/29/2026 0098s

2026 SESSION

26-2178

09/08

SENATE BILL

410

AN ACT relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

SPONSORS: Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Rep. Bernardy, Rock. 36; Rep. Porcelli, Rock. 19; Rep. L. Miner, Rock. 7; Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes law enforcement to possess human remains, upon written consent, for the purpose of training cadaver dogs.

This bill is a request of the department of safety.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

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

1 1 Purpose. This chapter establishes the legal framework under which law enforcement agencies
2 in the state of New Hampshire may possess portions of human remains for the sole purpose of
3 training cadaver detection canines, while ensuring compliance with ethical standards and respect for
4 the deceased.

5 2 New Chapter; Possession of Human Remains for Law Enforcement Purposes. Amend RSA by
6 inserting after chapter 291-A the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 291-B

POSSESSION OF HUMAN REMAINS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES

291-B:1 Definitions.

10 As used in this chapter:

11 I. "Cadaver canine" means a dog trained to detect the scent of human remains for law
12 enforcement purposes.

13 II. "Portions of human remains" shall mean identifiable human tissue, bone, or other
14 anatomical material derived from a deceased individual.

291-B:2 Authorization and Consent to Possess Human Remains for Law Enforcement Training.

16 I. Law enforcement agencies may possess portions of human remains for cadaver canine
17 training only under the following conditions:

18 (a) Written consent is obtained from:

19 (1) The next of kin or legal representative of the deceased; or

20 (2) The deceased individual, prior to death, through a legally valid document
21 expressing their intent to donate their body or portions thereof for scientific or law enforcement
22 training purposes.

23 (b) The consent explicitly authorizes the use of the remains for training purposes and
24 identifies the specific portions to be used.

25 II. The written consent shall be maintained by both the law enforcement agency and the
26 funeral home or mortuary involved. Such documentation shall be made available for inspection by
27 the law enforcement agency or other regulatory authorities upon request.

291-B:3 Conduct During Possession of Human Remains; Return.

29 I. Upon completion of training, all remaining portions of the human remains shall be
30 returned to either:

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1 (a) The institution of higher education located in New Hampshire that assisted in the
2 preparation of the training aids; or

3 (b) A company licensed to conduct human medical waste disposal in New Hampshire.
4 Such companies shall be authorized by the New Hampshire department of environmental services to
5 collect, transport, and dispose of regulated medical waste in compliance with all applicable state and
6 federal regulations.

7 II. The funeral home or mortuary shall ensure the proper and lawful disposition of the
8 remains in accordance with RSA 290 and other applicable laws.

9 III. Institutions of higher education located in New Hampshire may assist in the
10 preparation of training aids derived from human remains for law enforcement purposes, provided
11 that:

12 (a) The institution employs or contracts with a properly trained and credentialed
13 medical professional, including a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) in a relevant anatomical or forensic
14 science field, a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.), or a doctor of medicine (M.D.), who shall
15 oversee the preparation process.

16 (b) The preparation of the training aid occurs on-site at a licensed funeral home or
17 mortuary, with the consent of the funeral director and in accordance with all applicable health and
18 safety regulations.

19 (c) The institution maintains a written agreement with the law enforcement agency
20 requesting the training aid, outlining the scope of work, handling procedures, and chain of custody
21 for the remains.

22 (d) All activities are conducted in compliance with the consent requirements outlined in
23 RSA 291-B:2, I and II.

24 291-B:4 Agency Policy Requirements. Any law enforcement agency in New Hampshire that
25 conducts training involving the possession or use of human remains for cadaver canine or related
26 law enforcement purposes shall develop and maintain a written policy governing such activities.
27 This policy shall be submitted to and kept on file with the New Hampshire police standards and
28 training council. The policy shall include, at a minimum:

29 I. A detailed acquisition plan outlining the lawful and ethical process for obtaining human
30 remains, including documentation of consent as required under RSA 291-B:2.

31 II. A handling, storage, and documentation plan that ensures the secure, respectful, and
32 traceable management of human remains throughout the training process.

33 III. A destruction or final disposition plan that complies with RSA 291-B:3 and applicable
34 state and federal regulations, including procedures for returning remains to an authorized
35 institution or licensed medical waste disposal provider.

36 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.