

HB 1541-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

04/09/2026 1313s

2026 SESSION

26-2744

08/06

HOUSE BILL

1541-FN

AN ACT requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.

SPONSORS: Rep. Porcelli, Rock. 19; Rep. Bernardy, Rock. 36; Rep. Burnham, Straf. 2; Rep. Kuttub, Rock. 17; Rep. Nelson, Rock. 13; Rep. See, Merr. 26; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13; Rep. Tenczar, Hills. 1; Rep. McGrath, Rock. 40; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. McGough, Dist 11

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.

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

1 1 Secretary of State to Prepare Containers, Sealers. Amend RSA 659:97 to read as follows:
2 659:97 Secretary of State to Prepare Containers, Sealers. The secretary of state shall, before any
3 state **and federal** election, prepare and distribute to each town and ward clerk **secure, durable,**
4 **reusable, transportable, stackable and marked** containers to be used for preserving ballots
5 **with locks, tamper-evident** [and] sealers [~~to seal each such container~~] **and registration or serial**
6 **numbers for each marked containers.** [He] **The secretary of state** shall prepare special
7 **durable and easily transportable** containers **capable of being secured** and **with tamper-**
8 **evident** sealers to be used for preserving any special and separate ballots for questions to voters.
9 The secretary of state shall prescribe the size and form of such containers, **locks** and **tamper-**
10 **evident** sealers and shall prescribe the form of any endorsement blank printed upon the sealers,
11 provided that the blank is in substance consistent with the provisions of RSA 659:95. **The secretary**
12 **of state shall prepare an annual progress report and will include the number of secure**
13 **containers replaced, locations, and planned container replacement for the following year.**

14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

LBA
26-2744
04/24/2026

HB 1541-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2026-1313s)

AN ACT requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill has no additional fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures or revenue as the Secretary of State's current operating budget can absorb the estimated expenditures related to this bill.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State