

HB 1419 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

12Mar2026... 0897h
05/07/2026 1767s

2026 SESSION

26-2321
07/09

HOUSE BILL **1419**

AN ACT establishing a committee to study whether a court with specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters should be established.

SPONSORS: Rep. McFarlane, Graf. 18; Rep. D. McGuire, Merr. 14; Rep. Mary Murphy, Hills. 27; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 25; Rep. Ulery, Hills. 13; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 32

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study whether a court with specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters should be established.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT establishing a committee to study whether a court with specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters should be established.

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

1 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the feasibility, benefits,
2 and risks of establishing a business court or an otherwise enhanced business docket with specialized
3 jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters.

4 2 Membership and Compensation.

5 I. The members of the committee shall consist of three members of the house of
6 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; one of whom shall be a
7 member of the minority party.

8 II. Legislative members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
9 attending to the duties of the committee.

10 3 Duties. The committee shall:

11 (a) Study the feasibility, benefits, and risks of establishing a court of chancery with
12 specialized jurisdiction over corporate, commercial, and equitable matters;

13 (b) Examine reforms to the business corporation act and related statutes, including the
14 potential adoption of provisions modeled after, or improving upon, Delaware general corporation law;

15 (c) Evaluate mechanisms for recruiting, appointing, and retaining chancellors and vice
16 chancellors with deep corporate law expertise, including term lengths, compensation, and
17 appointment processes;

18 (d) Investigate partnerships with the university of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce
19 school of law, or other local and regional institutions, to create clerkship pipelines, research centers,
20 and academic programs focused on corporate governance;

21 (e) Assess the fiscal impact on state revenues from franchise taxes, filing fees, and
22 related incorporation services, and recommend strategies to make New Hampshire attractive for
23 incorporation;

24 (f) Develop strategies for branding and marketing New Hampshire as a premier
25 jurisdiction for corporate governance; and

26 (g) Recommend any additional statutory or constitutional changes necessary to establish
27 a sustainable and competitive framework and business climate within the state.

28 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
29 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house

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1 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
2 section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

3 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
4 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
5 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the chief justice of the supreme court, and the state library on
6 or before November 1, 2026.

7 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.