

HB 1422 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

11Mar2026... 0871h
4Jun2026... 2137EBA

2026 SESSION

26-2357
09/08

HOUSE BILL **1422**

AN ACT relative to the time to petition for a new trial.

SPONSORS: Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1; Rep. Corcoran, Hills. 28; Rep. Sabourin dit Choiniere,
Rock. 30; Rep. Berch, Ches. 6

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill allows additional time to petition for a new trial in certain circumstances.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to the time to petition for a new trial.

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

1 1 New Trials; Time. Amend RSA 526:4 to read as follows:

2 526:4 Time.

3 **I.** A new trial shall not be granted unless the petition is filed within ~~three~~ **3** years after the
4 rendition of the judgment complained of, or the failure of the suit.

5 **II.** *The time limit in paragraph I shall not apply if:*

6 (a) *The petitioner seeks a new trial in a criminal case that resulted in a*
7 *conviction of a felony or a class A misdemeanor;*

8 (b) *The petitioner is either incarcerated, subject to the terms of a sentence, or*
9 *subject to collateral consequences of the sentence;*

10 (c) *The petition specifically alleges that there is newly discovered evidence and*
11 *what that newly discovered evidence is; and*

12 (d) *The petition specifically alleges that the petitioner is innocent.*

13 **III.** *For purposes of this section, "newly discovered evidence" includes evidence that*
14 *can be subjected to new or additional forensic testing, evidence that can be subjected to*
15 *new scientific understanding, or evidence that was not available at the time of trial but is*
16 *available at the time the petition is filed. A court may deny a petition for a new trial that*
17 *is duplicative of a prior petition that was finally ruled upon by the court.*

18 **IV.** *For petitions filed under paragraph II, the court shall first determine whether*
19 *the petition has made a prima facie showing under paragraph II before granting a*
20 *hearing under RSA 526:1. If upon review, it is determined that the petition does make a*
21 *prima facie showing under paragraph II, the court shall then hold a hearing and, if the*
22 *petitioner is indigent, appoint counsel for the petitioner, to determine whether the*
23 *requirements of RSA 526:1 have been met. If upon review, it is determined that the petition*
24 *does not make a prima facie showing, the court may dismiss the petition.*

25 **V.** *Nothing in this section is intended to supersede the standard for granting a*
26 *motion for new trial as set out in RSA 526:1. For DNA evidence, RSA 651-D shall be*
27 *followed.*

28 **VI.** *When a petition for a new trial of a criminal conviction is being considered by*
29 *the court, the state shall, upon request, reactivate victim services for the victim of the crime*
30 *being reinvestigated during the reinvestigation of the case, during the pendency of the*

1 *proceedings, and, as determined by the court after consultation with the victim or victim*
2 *advocate, following final adjudication of the case.*

3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.