

CHAPTER 161
HB 1266 - FINAL VERSION

04/16/2026 1324s

2026 SESSION

26-2496
07/08

HOUSE BILL ***1266***

AN ACT allowing election moderators access to the area designated for counting votes during the performance of their duties.

SPONSORS: Rep. Harb, Rock. 20

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill allows election moderators to access the area designated for counting votes during the performance of their duties.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 allowing election moderators access to the area designated for counting votes during the performance of their duties.

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

1 161:1 Elections; Counting of Votes; Disqualification of Officials. Amend RSA 659:58 to read as
2 follows:

3 659:58 Disqualification of Officials. Any election official who is also a candidate for office, other than
4 a position of an election official, shall not be allowed to remain in the area designated for the counting of
5 votes within the guardrail during the counting of ~~[votes for an office for which he is a candidate]~~ **ballots for**
6 ***which he or she is a candidate for an office other than an election official.*** Such official shall disqualify
7 himself ***or herself*** from election duties relating to the tabulation of votes; and the moderator shall appoint
8 an assistant who shall take the same oath as, serve in the same capacity as, and have all the powers of
9 the election official who is disqualified until such official may properly return. The ***election official, which***
10 ***includes the moderator, may be within the guard rails and perform other duties of their office, or other***
11 ***duties the*** moderator may assign ~~[any]~~ ***to the*** election official disqualified pursuant to this section ~~[to other~~
12 ~~duties]~~, not related to the tabulation of votes.

161:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 19, 2026
Effective Date: August 18, 2026