

CHAPTER 261
SB 531-FN - FINAL VERSION

7May2026... 1704h

2026 SESSION

26-2112
12/09

SENATE BILL

531-FN

AN ACT

establishing a task force to study the feasibility of the creation of cosmetology-related programming in Coos County and requiring the reporting of student meal debt by school districts and public chartered schools to the department of education.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Rep. Korzen, Coos 7; Rep. Cornell, Hills. 22

COMMITTEE:

Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a task force to report on the feasibility of creating cosmetology-related programming within Coos County.

II. Extends programming on university system of New Hampshire and community college system of New Hampshire campuses to qualify as career and technical education programs as determined by the commissioner of the department of education.

III. Requires school districts and public chartered schools to maintain accurate annual records of student meal debt and to submit such records to the department of education.

The bill is a request of the department of education.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 task force to study the feasibility of the creation of cosmetology-related programming in Coos County and requiring the reporting of student meal debt by school districts and public chartered schools to the department of education.

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

1 261:1 New Section; Berlin Cosmetology Program Task Force. Amend RSA 188-E by inserting after
2 section 5 the following new section:

3 188-E:5-a Berlin Cosmetology Program Task Force.

4 I. There is established a Berlin cosmetology program task force.

5 II. The members of the task force shall be as follows:

6 (a) A representative from the department of education, appointed by the commissioner of the
7 department of education, who shall serve as chair of the task force.

8 (b) A representative of White Mountain Community College.

9 (c) A representative of the chancellor of the community college system of New Hampshire
10 (CCSNH).

11 (d) The superintendent of school administrative unit 3, or designee.

12 (e) The director of the Berlin Regional Career and Technical Center.

13 (f) A cosmetology teacher from a career and technical education center that offers a full
14 program, appointed by the commissioner of the department of education.

15 III. The task force shall report on the feasibility of the creation of cosmetology-related
16 programming in northern New Hampshire, such as the potential of establishing a cosmetology program
17 jointly housed and staffed by White Mountain Community College and the Berlin Regional Career and
18 Technical Center, including but not limited to:

19 (a) Needs and opportunities in cosmetology education and employment in the north country;

20 (b) Staffing, space, and funding needs for a program leading to licensing of graduates;

21 (c) Co-location and joint staffing opportunities for a program with CCSNH and Berlin Career
22 and Technical Center, dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities, and the feasibility of serving students
23 from other high schools;

24 (d) Consideration of inclusion of a salon facility serving the public;

25 (e) Sources of funding for construction, renovation, and equipment; and

26 (f) Feasibility of establishing a program by September 1, 2027.

27 IV. The task force shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to
28 the governor, chancellor of CCSNH, commissioner of education, Berlin school board, speaker of the
29 house of representatives, president of the senate, the chairs of committees whose responsibilities include
30 education and workforce training, and the state library, on or before June 1, 2027.

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V. The department of education may devote Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding to any costs associated with the study.

261:2 Designation of Regional Centers and Program. Amend RSA 188-E:1 to read as follows:

188-E:1 Designation of Regional Centers and Programs. The commissioner, department of education, is hereby authorized and directed to designate high schools, and public academies as defined in RSA 194:23, II, offering career and technical education programs as career and technical education centers. In instances where it is educationally and economically feasible to do so, the commissioner may designate individual career and technical education programs in other than the career and technical education centers as regional programs. ***This may include programs located on university system of New Hampshire and community college system of New Hampshire (CCSNH) campuses and programs jointly established by career and technical education centers and the university system of New Hampshire or CCSNH.*** An out-of-state school or program may be designated, when it is in the best interest of the state, as a part of the New Hampshire regional career and technical education plan.

261:3 Prospective Repeal. RSA 188-E:5-a, relative to the Berlin cosmetology program task force, is repealed.

261:4 Food and Nutrition Programs; School Lunch Meal Payments; Debt Reporting Requirement Added. Amend RSA 189:11-a, VIII to read as follows:

VIII.(a) A school lunch meal payment policy which is implemented by a school board either before or after the effective date of this section shall ensure that all students have access to a healthy school lunch, that the school district will make every reasonable effort to inform parents of the policy, and that no student will be subject to different treatment from the standard school lunch meal or school cafeteria procedures. The department of education or the state board of education, upon request of the local school board, may provide communication assistance to school districts and parents of school children regarding the school lunch meal payment policy.

(b) Each school district and chartered public school shall maintain accurate annual records of all student meal debt accrued within the district or chartered public school and shall submit such records to the department of education in the manner and form prescribed by the department. For purposes of this subparagraph:

(1) "Student meal debt" means aggregate debt arising solely from meals provided to students through the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service program or meals served pursuant to this section.

(2) "Student meal debt" shall not include debt resulting from a la carte purchases, snacks, beverages, or any other non-meal items. Such non-meal items shall not be included in the aggregate student meal debt reported to the department of education; provided, however, that such debt shall still be recorded and maintained by each school district and chartered public school.

261:5 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2027.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

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Approved: July 02, 2026

Effective Date:

I. Section 3 effective June 30, 2027

II. Remainder effective July 2, 2026

