

HB 300 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0608

06/11

HOUSE BILL **300**

AN ACT relative to directing the department of transportation to issue a request for proposals regarding the Conway Branch rail line and establishing a study committee to investigate the future of railroads in the state.

SPONSORS: Rep. Horrigan, Straf. 10

COMMITTEE: Public Works and Highways

ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of transportation issue a request for proposals regarding the Conway Branch rail line and establishes a study committee to investigate the future of railroads in the state.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to directing the department of transportation to issue a request for proposals regarding the Conway Branch rail line and establishing a study committee to investigate the future of railroads in the state.

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

1 1 Conway Branch Planning Group. The department of transportation shall issue a request for
2 proposals (RFP) as soon as possible for using the Conway Branch Line as a working railroad. This
3 RFP shall be open to common carriers and private carriers. The department shall provide railroad
4 companies the opportunity to submit proposals. The deadline for issuing the RFP shall be October 1,
5 2025, or earlier if possible. The rail division shall assess the costs and income related to the removal
6 of rail and ties where necessary to provide a level and safe surface for recreational activities on the
7 existing trackbed. The department shall seek funding for any trail improvements from private
8 donations, grants, or the sale of existing steel rails. The department shall issue their findings and
9 recommendations to the public on or before January 2, 2026, with copies to the governor and
10 executive council, the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, and the towns of Ossipee and
11 Madison.

12 2 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the future of railroads in
13 New Hampshire.

14 3 Membership and Compensation.

15 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

16 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
17 of representatives, including one representative from the public works committee, one representative
18 from the transportation committee, and 2 at-large representatives.

19 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

20 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
21 the duties of the committee.

22 4 Duties. The committee shall examine the future of railroads in New Hampshire.

23 5 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
24 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house
25 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
26 section. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

27 6 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
28 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house

HB 300 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025, and shall
2 submit a final report on or before November 1, 2026.

3 7 Effective Date.

4 I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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