

HB 397 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0814

11/08

HOUSE BILL **397**

AN ACT establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the department of safety.

SPONSORS: Rep. Darby, Hills. 11; Rep. Rung, Hills. 12; Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a multi-agency task force to identify solutions to increase law enforcement presence and patrols on New Hampshire waterways.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the department of safety.

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

1 1 New Section; Waterway Presence and Patrols Task Force. Amend RSA 207 by inserting after
2 section 3-e the following new section:

3 207:3-f Waterway Presence and Patrols Task Force Established.

4 I. There is established a multi-agency task force to identify solutions to increase law
5 enforcement presence and patrols on New Hampshire waterways.

6 II. The task force shall consist of the following members:

7 (a) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.

8 (b) The executive director of the department of fish and game, or designee.

9 (c) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.

10 III. The task force shall:

11 (a) Conduct a review of the current coverage of New Hampshire water bodies by
12 department of Safety marine patrol officers, including enforcement duties, water body coverage,
13 expenses, funding sources, budgets, training requirements, and recruitment challenges.

14 (b) Conduct a review of the current coverage of New Hampshire water bodies by fish and
15 game department conservation officers, including enforcement duties, water body coverage,
16 expenses, funding sources, budgets, training requirements, and recruitment challenges.

17 (c) Conduct a review of current coverage of New Hampshire water bodies by county and
18 municipal law enforcement organizations, including enforcement duties, water body coverage, and
19 training requirements.

20 (d) Consult with other stakeholders such as NH Marine Trades Association, Water
21 Sports Industry Association, NH Lakes, and the Loon Preservation Committee.

22 (e) Identify opportunities for cross-agency coordination to optimize water body patrol
23 coverage.

24 (f) Identify opportunities to supplement law enforcement patrols on water bodies with
25 officers outside of marine patrol.

26 (g) Identify opportunities to maximize the use of available federal funds for patrols of
27 New Hampshire water bodies across agencies.

28 IV. The task force shall be chaired by the commissioner of the department of safety or
29 designee. The first meeting of the task force shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
30 section. Two members shall constitute a quorum.

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V. The task force shall report its initial findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025. The task force shall report its final findings and additional recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

2 Repeal. RSA 207:3-f, relating to the waterway presence and patrols task force is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2026.

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