

**HB 601-FN - AS INTRODUCED**

2025 SESSION

25-0840

07/11

HOUSE BILL            ***601-FN***

AN ACT                relative to causes of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Read, Rock. 10; Rep. W. Thomas, Hills. 12; Rep. Caplan, Merr. 8

COMMITTEE:          Judiciary

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ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Creates a private cause of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.

II. Creates criminal penalties for companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 causes of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.

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

1 1 New Paragraphs; Trade and Commerce; Regulation of Business Practices for Consumer  
2 Protection; Definitions. Amend RSA 358-A:1 by inserting after paragraph V the following new  
3 paragraphs:

4 VI. "Environmental marketing claim" means a representation about an environmental  
5 attribute, including climate impact, of a product or service in connection with the marketing, offering  
6 for sale, or sale of such product or service to the public. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
7 "environmental marketing claim" includes labeling, advertising, promotional materials, and any  
8 form of appeal to the public in any medium, whether asserted directly or by implication, through  
9 words, symbols, logos, depictions, product brand names, or other means.

10 VII. "Net zero claim" means a representation that an entity has achieved, will achieve, or  
11 aims to achieve an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas  
12 emissions removed from the atmosphere.

13 VIII. "Paltering" means the use of a truthful statement relating to an industry, business,  
14 product, or service that creates an overall false, deceptive, or misleading impression or implication to  
15 the public that a specific benefit is significant, when it is, in fact, negligible as to such industry,  
16 business, product, or service.

17 IX. "Reputational advertising" means a representation to the public designed to create a  
18 perception of an industry, business, or brand by highlighting positive environmental qualities of or  
19 action taken by such industry, business, or brand, regardless of whether such representation is made  
20 in connection with the sale of a good or service.

21 2 New Paragraphs; Trade and Commerce; Regulation of Business Practices for Consumer  
22 Protection; Acts Unlawful. Amend RSA 358-A:2 by inserting after paragraph XIX the following new  
23 paragraphs:

24 XX. Making an untruthful, deceptive, or misleading environmental marketing claim,  
25 including, but not limited to:

26 (a) Engaging in paltering that misleads or deceives consumers as to the overall  
27 environmental impact of an industry, business, product, or service.

28 (b) Engaging in reputational advertising that misleads or deceives consumers as to the  
29 overall environmental impact of an industry, business, product, or service.

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1 XXI. Making an untruthful, deceptive, or misleading net zero claim, including, but not  
2 limited to, a claim that:

3 (a) Does not clearly identify the covered portion of an entity's emission portfolio and  
4 value chain, including all greenhouse gas emissions, all emission scopes, and all joint ventures,  
5 subsidiaries, and specific product categories;

6 (b) Does not distinguish between a business's emission reductions, post-emission  
7 compensation, both offsets and removals, and emission divestments, or otherwise relies on vast  
8 amounts of offsets; or

9 (c) Is not substantiated by a company plan or action.

10 3 Trade and Commerce; Regulation of Business Practices for Consumer Protection; Exempt  
11 Transactions; Limitation on Exemptions. Amend RSA 358-A:3, I to read as follows:

12 I. Trade or commerce that is subject to the jurisdiction of the bank commissioner, the  
13 director of securities regulation, the insurance commissioner, the public utilities commission, the  
14 financial institutions and insurance regulators of other states, or federal banking or securities  
15 regulators who possess the authority to regulate unfair or deceptive trade practices. This paragraph  
16 includes trade or commerce under the jurisdiction of, and regulated by, the bank commissioner  
17 pursuant to RSA 361-A, relative to retail installment sales of motor vehicles. ***The exemptions***  
18 ***provided in this paragraph shall not extend to untruthful, deceptive, or misleading***  
19 ***environmental marketing claims as defined in RSA 358-A:1.***

20 4 New Paragraph; Trade and Commerce; Regulation of Business Practices for Consumer  
21 Protection; Private Action. Amend RSA 358-A:10 by inserting after paragraph II the following new  
22 paragraph:

23 III. If an action is brought under this section alleging an untruthful, deceptive, or  
24 misleading environmental marketing claim, it shall not be required that the person who brought  
25 such action suffered any ascertainable loss as a result of the use or employment of such unlawfully  
26 deceptive act or practice.

27 5 Trade and Commerce; Regulation of Business Practices for Consumer Protection;  
28 Interpretation and Construction of Act. Amend RSA 358-A:13 to read as follows:

29 358-A:13 Interpretation and Construction of Act.

30 It is the intent of the legislature that in any action or prosecution under this chapter, the courts  
31 may be guided by the interpretation and construction given Section 5(a)(1) of the Federal Trade  
32 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(a)(1)), by the Federal Trade Commission and the federal courts. ***The***  
33 ***interpretational guidelines of this paragraph shall not extend to untruthful, deceptive, or***  
34 ***misleading environmental marketing claims as defined in RSA 358-A:1.***

35 6 New Chapter; Right of Action for Harms Connected to Climate Change. Amend RSA by  
36 inserting after chapter 546-C the following new chapter:

37 CHAPTER 546-D

1 RIGHT OF ACTION FOR HARMS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2 546-D:1 Definitions.

3 I. "Amount in controversy" means the damages claimed or relief demanded by the injured  
4 party or parties in a lawsuit.

5 II. "Extreme event attribution science" means research aimed at understanding how human-  
6 induced changes in the global climate system affect the probability, severity, and other  
7 characteristics of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and heat waves. Often, this is done by  
8 determining the likelihood of the particular event happening today compared to how it might have  
9 unfolded without human-caused increase in concentration of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

10 III. "Climate disaster" means an event that meets any of the following threshold  
11 qualifications and is determined by impact attribution science or extreme event attribution science  
12 to be substantially worsened (at least statistically significant) or caused by climate change from  
13 responsible parties' products or extreme weather attributable to climate change from responsible  
14 parties' products:

15 (a) A "major disaster", meaning either:

16 (1) Any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water,  
17 wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide,  
18 snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United  
19 States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and  
20 magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Authority  
21 to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief  
22 organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby; or

23 (2) As defined by the Stafford Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane,  
24 tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption,  
25 landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood or explosion, in  
26 any part of the United States, which in the determination of the president causes damage of  
27 sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this chapter to  
28 supplement the efforts and available resources of local, state governments and disaster relief  
29 organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship or suffering caused thereby.

30 (b) A "catastrophic incident", meaning any natural or man-made incident that results in  
31 extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population,  
32 infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions. A  
33 catastrophic event could result in sustained national impacts over a prolonged period of time; almost  
34 immediately exceed resources normally available to local, state, tribal, and private sector authorities  
35 in the impacted area; or significantly interrupts governmental operations and emergency services to  
36 such an extent that national security could be threatened.

1 (c) Any event that qualifies, would have qualified, or will qualify, for inclusion on the  
2 National Centers for Environmental Information's "Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters"  
3 program and data list.

4 (d) A gubernatorial state of emergency disaster declaration as defined in RSA 4:45.

5 IV. "Covered period" means the period from 1965 to the effective date of this chapter.

6 V. "Extreme weather attributable to climate change" means weather, climate, or  
7 environmental conditions, such as temperature, precipitation, drought, or flooding, that rank above a  
8 threshold value near the upper or lower ends of the range of historical measurements for a  
9 particular place and time of year, with unusual characteristics in terms of magnitude, location,  
10 timing, or extent. These events include those that "extreme event attribution science" determines  
11 would not have been possible without the influence of climate change.

12 VII. "Generally accepted amortization and depreciation timelines" means methods utilized  
13 and encouraged by the Internal Revenue Service and the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

14 VIII. "Gross negligence" means negligence which is materially greater than the mere  
15 absence of reasonable care under the circumstances, and which is characterized by indifference to or  
16 reckless disregard of the rights of others.

17 IX. "Harmed parties" means any person, business, or association harmed or suffering  
18 damages in the amount of at least \$10,000 as a result of a climate disaster or extreme weather  
19 attributable to climate change.

20 X. "Impact attribution science" means research aimed at understanding how global climate  
21 change affects human and natural systems, including localized physical impacts, such as floods,  
22 droughts, and sea level rise, and the corresponding effects on infrastructure, public health,  
23 ecosystems, agriculture, and economies.

24 XI. "Market-share liability" means liability that is imposed severally on each member of an  
25 industry, based on each member's share of the market or respective percentage of the qualified  
26 product placed on the market.

27 XII. "Qualified product" means a fossil fuel product including, but not limited to:

28 (a) Crude petroleum oil and all other hydrocarbons, regardless of gravity, that are  
29 produced at the wellhead in liquid form by ordinary production methods.

30 (b) Natural, manufactured, mixed, and byproduct hydrocarbon gas.

31 (c) Refined crude oil, crude tops, topped crude, processed crude, processed crude  
32 petroleum, residue from crude petroleum, cracking stock, uncracked fuel oil, fuel oil, treated crude  
33 oil, residuum, gas oil, casinghead gasoline, natural-gas gasoline, kerosene, benzine, wash oil, waste  
34 oil, blended gasoline, lubricating oil, and blends or mixtures of oil with one or more liquid products  
35 or byproducts derived from oil or gas.

36 XIII. "Responsible party" means a firm, corporation, company, partnership, society, joint  
37 stock company or any other entity or association that emitted or caused to be emitted through the

1 extracting, storing, transporting, refining, importing, exporting, producing, manufacturing,  
2 distributing, compounding, marketing, or offering for wholesale or retail sale, a qualified product  
3 with total greenhouse gas emissions of at least one billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent  
4 during the covered period. It shall not include any public utility, public authority, or the state or its  
5 political subdivisions.

6 XIV. "Statute of limitation" means the time frame set by a legislature where affected parties  
7 need to take action to enforce rights or seek redress after injury or damage, which, for the purpose  
8 and context of this chapter, is 3 years from the date that the harm commenced.

9 XV. "Strict liability" means liability that does not depend on actual negligence or intent to  
10 harm, but that is based on the breach of an absolute duty to make something safe.

11 546-D:2 Civil Action Enforcement.

12 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the requirements of this  
13 chapter shall be enforced exclusively through the civil actions described in this chapter.

14 II. Any person, other than an officer or employee of a state or local governmental entity in  
15 New Hampshire, may bring a civil action against any responsible party when the following  
16 conditions are met:

17 (a) The person qualifies as a harmed party.

18 (b) During any part of the covered period, the responsible party did business in New  
19 Hampshire, was registered to do business in New Hampshire, was appointed an agent of the state,  
20 or otherwise had sufficient contacts with New Hampshire to give the state jurisdiction over the  
21 responsible party pursuant to New Hampshire law.

22 (c) The statute of limitations for the action has not expired.

23 III. No enforcement of this chapter may be taken or threatened by this state, a political  
24 subdivision, a district or county or city attorney, or an executive or administrative officer or  
25 employee of this state or a political subdivision.

26 IV. Responsible parties are jointly and severally liable to plaintiff(s) for strict liability if they  
27 are a harmed party.

28 V. Harmed parties shall be entitled to bring an action against responsible parties for  
29 recovery of damages in:

30 (a) The county in which all or a substantial part of the events giving rise to the action  
31 occurred;

32 (b) The county of residence for any one of the natural person defendants at the time the  
33 cause of action accrued;

34 (c) The county of the principal office in this state of any one of the defendants that is not  
35 a natural person; or

36 (d) The county of residence for any plaintiff if the plaintiff is a natural person residing in  
37 this state.

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1 VI. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if a civil action is brought  
2 under this chapter in one of the venues described above, the action shall not be transferred to a  
3 different venue, including federal court, without the written consent of all parties.

4 VII. The fact that harmed parties bring legal action against responsible parties under this  
5 chapter shall not be an independent basis for enforcement of any other law of this state, or the  
6 denial, revocation, suspension, or withholding of any right or privilege conferred by the law of this  
7 state or a political subdivision, or a threat to do the same, by this state, a political subdivision, a  
8 district or county or city attorney, or an executive or administrative officer or employee of this state  
9 or a political subdivision, or a board, commission, or similar body assigned authority to do so under  
10 law, against any person. No civil action predicated upon a violation of this chapter be brought by  
11 this state, a political subdivision, a district or county or city attorney, or an executive or  
12 administrative officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision.

13 VIII. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to do any of the following:

14 (a) Limit the enforceability of any other laws that regulate or prohibit any conduct  
15 relating to climate disasters, extreme weather, greenhouse gas emissions, or consumer protection.

16 (b) Replace legally mandated disaster recovery funds, designated disaster recovery funds  
17 established via legislation or administrative rule, or contractually obligated or court-ordered  
18 insurance claim payouts.

19 IX. If a claimant prevails in an action brought under this section, the court shall award all of  
20 the following:

21 (a) The full extent of non-economic, compensatory, and punitive damages allowable  
22 under this state's laws and constitution.

23 (b) Compensatory damages in an amount of not less than the fair market value of  
24 recovering, recouping, rebuilding, or remediating the value of lost, damaged, and destroyed property.

25 (c) Compensatory damages in an amount not less than the cost of injuries to harmed  
26 parties including medical care, mental and behavioral health care, past and present pain and  
27 suffering, or emotional distress.

28 X. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a cause of action under this  
29 section shall be extinguished unless the action is brought not later than 3 years after the cause of  
30 action accrues.

31 XI. The connection of a climate disaster or extreme weather attributable to climate change  
32 to alleged injuries shall be deemed an injury in fact for all residents of, and visitors to, this state,  
33 harmed by such an event. Any such person shall have standing to bring a civil action pursuant to  
34 this chapter.

35 XII. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, none of the following is a  
36 defense to an action brought under this chapter:

37 (a) A defendant's ignorance or mistake of law.

1           (b) A defendant's belief that the requirements of this act are unconstitutional or were  
2 unconstitutional.

3           (c) A defendant's reliance on any court decision that has been overruled on appeal or by  
4 a subsequent court, even if that court decision had not been overruled when the defendant engaged  
5 in conduct that violates this chapter.

6           (d) A defendant's reliance on any state or federal court decision that is not binding on  
7 the court in which the action has been brought.

8           (e) Nonmutual issue preclusion or nonmutual claim preclusion.

9           (f) Any claim that the enforcement of this chapter or the imposition of civil liability  
10 against the defendant will violate a constitutional right of a third party.

11           (g) A defendant's assertion that this chapter proscribes conduct that is separately  
12 prohibited by any other law of New Hampshire.

13           (h) Any claim that defendants' or responsible parties' qualified products were not  
14 misused, or were not intended to be misused, in an unlawful manner.

15           (i) A defendant's assertion that state or federal laws relating to qualified products and  
16 responsible parties' operations displace, abrogate, or supersede the actions authorized under this  
17 chapter, the authority of the courts of this state to provide a forum for the action, or the authority of  
18 the courts of this state to provide a remedy to harmed parties.

19           (j) A defendant's assertion that choice-of-law and choice-of-forum clauses govern the  
20 action, regardless of whether such clauses apply to harmed parties by basis of consumer  
21 transactions.

22           (k) A defendant's assertion that plaintiff(s) assumed a risk of harm through the use of  
23 their products.

24           (l) A defendant's forum non conveniens assertion, so long as the jurisdictional  
25 requirements of this chapter are satisfied.

26           XIII. An action brought under this section may be resolved by settlement through mediation  
27 and/or arbitration upon written consent of both parties; however, mediation or arbitration may not  
28 be mandated by the courts of this state.

29           XIV. This chapter shall not be construed to impose liability on any speech or conduct  
30 protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, as made applicable to the  
31 states through the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, or by the New  
32 Hampshire constitution.

33           XV. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State of New  
34 Hampshire, a state official, or a district, county, or city attorney shall not intervene in an action  
35 brought under this section. However, this subdivision does not prohibit a person described by this  
36 subdivision from filing an amicus curiae brief in the action.

1 XVI. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a court shall not award  
2 attorney's fees or costs to a defendant in an action brought under this section, unless the plaintiff  
3 was represented by counsel in the action and plaintiff's counsel is found by the court or this state's  
4 bar association to be in violation of the rules of professional conduct or civil procedure in New  
5 Hampshire.

6 XVII. An action pursuant to this section shall not be brought against a federal government,  
7 state, political subdivision, or an employee of a federal government, state, or political subdivision on  
8 the basis of acts or omissions in the course of discharge of official duties.

9 546-D:3 Offset to Damages and Defenses to Liability.

10 I. The following are offsets to damages:

11 (a) Payments made to a harmed party pursuant to a contract of insurance will offset  
12 damages. Insurers shall have the right to bring a subrogation action against responsible parties for  
13 recovery of payments made to harmed parties under a contract of insurance regardless of whether  
14 the insured has been made whole.

15 (b) Evidence that a harmed party fully recovered from a public body for alleged injuries.

16 II. All of the following are affirmative defenses to an action brought under this chapter:

17 (a) Evidence of intentional destruction of property or intentional worsening of damage to  
18 reach the amount in controversy threshold.

19 (b) Evidence of gross negligence by the harmed party.

20 (c) The defendant has the burden of proving an affirmative defense under this  
21 subdivision by a preponderance of the evidence.

22 546-D:4 Fee and Cost Shifting From Challenges to Enforcement.

23 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person, including an  
24 entity, attorney, or law firm, who seeks declaratory or injunctive relief to prevent this state, a  
25 political subdivision, a governmental entity or public official in this state, or a person in this state  
26 from enforcing any portion of this statute, state rules of civil procedure, or any other related law that  
27 promotes consumer protection and remedies to injuries from climate disasters and extreme weather  
28 attributable to climate change, or that represents any litigant seeking that relief, is jointly and  
29 severally liable to pay the attorney's fees and costs of the prevailing party.

30 II. For purposes of this section, a party is considered a prevailing party if a court does either  
31 of the following:

32 (a) Dismisses any claim or cause of action brought by the party seeking the declaratory  
33 or injunctive relief under paragraph I, regardless of the reason for the dismissal.

34 (b) Enters judgment in favor of the party opposing the declaratory or injunctive relief  
35 under paragraph I, on any claim or cause of action.

36 III. Regardless of whether a prevailing party sought to recover attorney's fees or costs in the  
37 underlying action, a prevailing party under this section may bring a civil action to recover attorney's

1 fees and costs against a person, including an entity, attorney, or law firm, that sought declaratory or  
2 injunctive relief under paragraph I not later than the third anniversary of the date on which, as  
3 applicable:

4 (a) The dismissal or judgment under paragraph II becomes final upon the conclusion of  
5 appellate review.

6 (b) The time for seeking appellate review expires.

7 IV. None of the following are a defense to an action brought under paragraph III:

8 (a) A prevailing party under this section failed to seek recovery of attorney's fees or costs  
9 in the underlying action.

10 (b) The court in the underlying action declined to recognize or enforce the requirements  
11 of this section.

12 (c) The court in the underlying action held that any provision of this section is invalid,  
13 unconstitutional, or preempted by federal law, notwithstanding the doctrines of issue or claim  
14 preclusion.

15 V. Any person, including an entity, attorney, or law firm, who seeks declaratory or  
16 injunctive relief under paragraph I, shall not be deemed a prevailing party under this section or any  
17 other provision of this chapter.

18 546-D:5 Reading of This Chapter.

19 I. This chapter shall not be construed to do any of the following:

20 (a) Authorize the initiation of a cause of action under this act against an entity that is  
21 not a "responsible party".

22 (b) Authorize the initiation of a cause of action under this chapter when the "amount in  
23 controversy" requirements are not met.

24 (c) Wholly or partly repeal, either expressly or by implication, any other statute that  
25 regulates or prohibits any conduct relating to climate disaster or extreme weather attributable to  
26 climate change.

27 546-D:6 Sovereign, Governmental, and Official Immunity.

28 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, New Hampshire has sovereign  
29 immunity, a political subdivision has governmental immunity, and each officer and employee of this  
30 state or a political subdivision has official immunity in any action, claim, or counterclaim or any type  
31 of legal or equitable action that challenges the validity of any provision or application of this act, on  
32 constitutional grounds or otherwise. A provision of state law shall not be construed to waive or  
33 abrogate an immunity unless it expressly waives immunity under this section.

34 546-D:7 Severability.

35 I. This chapter shall be construed in all respects so as to meet all constitutional  
36 requirements. If any provision or clause of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or  
37 circumstances, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this

1 chapter, and to that end, the provisions of this chapter shall be separable from all other sections  
2 hereof and the nullification of any section from this chapter shall have no effect on the remaining  
3 sections of this chapter.

4 546-D:8 Savings.

5 I. Every and all existing litigation filed in the courts of this state under the statutes of this  
6 state shall not be expressly or impliedly preempted, displaced, mooted, or dismissed upon any other  
7 prudential consideration arguably arising from this chapter.

8 II. The remedies provided in this act are in addition to any other remedy available to a  
9 person or the state at common law or under statute. This chapter may not be interpreted to prevent  
10 a person or the state from pursuing a civil action or any other remedy available at common law or  
11 under statute.

12 III. This chapter does not:

13 (a) Relieve the liability of an entity for damages resulting from climate change, as  
14 provided by law.

15 (b) Preempt, displace, or restrict any rights or remedies of a person, the state, units of  
16 local government, or tribal government under law relating to a past, present, or future allegation of  
17 the following:

18 (1) Deception concerning the effects of fossil fuels on climate change.

19 (2) Damage or injury resulting from the role of fossil fuels in contributing to climate  
20 change.

21 (3) Failure to avoid damage or injury related to climate change, including claims for  
22 nuisance, trespass, design defect, negligence, failure to warn, or deceptive or unfair practices and  
23 claims for injunctive, declaratory, monetary, or other relief.

24 V. This chapter does not preempt, supersede, or displace any state law or local ordinance,  
25 regulation, policy, or program that:

26 (a) Limits, sets, or enforces standards for emissions of greenhouse gases.

27 (b) Monitors, reports, or keeps records of emissions of greenhouse gases.

28 (c) Collects revenue through fees or levy taxes.

29 (d) Conducts or support investigations.

30 7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

**HB 601-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT creating a private cause of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.

**FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

**METHODOLOGY:**

The bill allows for civil remedies, though it's impossible to predict the number of cases that might arise. However, the Judicial Branch has provided average cost estimates for civil cases in the Superior Court.

<b>Judicial Branch Average Cost</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
Superior Court Complex Civil Case	\$1,430	\$1,473
Superior Court Routine Civil Case	\$535	\$552
<b>Superior Court Fees</b>	<b>As of 2/12/2020</b>	
Original Entry Fee	\$280	
Third-Party Claim	\$280	
Motion to Reopen	\$160	

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Judicial Branch