



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 169th General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2025 Session

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Friday, February 7, 2025

No. 11

Contains: Amendments; Bills Laid on the Table; Committee Reports; House Deadlines;
Meetings and Notices; Revised Fiscal Notes.

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The House will meet on Thursday, February 13th at 10:00 a.m. for Session. We will meet in Joint Convention with the Senate after our prayer, pledge and anthem for the purpose of hearing Governor Ayotte's budget address. Following the budget address, we will continue our regular session for the purpose of acting on House bills.

Please also hold Thursday, February 20th for Session. During the week of February 24 - 28, 2025, which coincides with most New Hampshire schools' winter recess, we will have no House Session. Chairs may choose to limit meetings or keep their meetings to public hearings only.

Pursuant to House Rule 44(d), if any House business is canceled due to inclement weather, notice will be posted on the General Court website at gencourt.state.nh.us. In addition, email notification will go out to affected Committees and Staff.

Some of you received notice that your legislative license plates are ready for pick up and have picked them up. We will continue to notify Members by email as they are ready for you. Please continue to watch for emails from House Communications (NHHouse@leg.state.nh.us) throughout the term, as - in addition to our House Calendar - this email is an official notification tool of the Office of the Speaker for House Members and General Court Staff.

As a reminder, please continue to review the House Calendars each week so you will know when your Committees are meeting, to track legislation you have sponsored, or to see which bills might be of particular interest to you or your constituents. I also want to stress to our new Members the importance of your participation at Committee hearings. Learning about the subject matter and gathering input from the public will help you to make informed decisions in judging the value or necessity of pending legislation.

Legislators are also reminded to review testimony submissions and sign-ins from our online portal for bills being considered by your committees. Simply visit: https://gc.nh.gov/house/committees/remotetestimony/submitted_testimony.aspx, choose your Committee from the drop-down list, and choose the bills you wish to view submissions on.

State offices will be closed on Monday, February 20th in observance of President's Day.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

Meetings of the chairs and vice chairs are scheduled for every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m. in Rooms 306-308 of the Legislative Office Building.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Thursday, February 13th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.
Rep. Jason Osborne, Majority Leader

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, February 13th at 9:00 a.m.** in the State House Cafeteria.
Rep. Alexis Simpson, Democratic Leader

NOTICE

ALL reports, scheduling and notices are due in the House Clerk's Office by **3:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAYS**. Reports and scheduling shall be turned in to House Committee Services for processing **no later than 1:00 p.m.** on Wednesday. Please be sure to complete that work in a timely fashion to meet the Calendar deadline.

CLOSES AT 3:00 p.m. ON:

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
 Wednesday, February 19, 2025
 Wednesday, February 26, 2025

AVAILABLE ON:

Friday, February 14, 2025
 Friday, February 21, 2025
 Friday, February 28, 2025

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2025 HOUSE DEADLINES

First Year Session Deadlines

Thursday, March 6, 2025	Last day to report HBs going to a second committee
Thursday, March 13, 2025	Last day to act on HBs going to a second committee
Thursday, March 20, 2025	Last day to report all HBs not in a second committee, except budget bills
Thursday, March 27, 2025	Last day to act on HBs not in a second committee, except budget bills
Thursday, April 3, 2025	Last day to report all remaining HBs
	Last day to report list of retained HBs
Thursday, April 10, 2025	CROSSOVER Last day to act on all bills
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Last day to report Senate Bills going to a second committee
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Last day to act on SBs going to a second committee
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Last day to report all remaining SBs
	Last day to report list of retained SBs
Thursday, June 5, 2025	Last day to act on SBs
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Last day to form Committees of Conference
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Last day to sign Committee of Conference reports (4 p.m.)
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Last day to act on Committee of Conference reports

BILLS LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 306, establishing a commission to study the short and long-term impacts of pending national and regional carbon pricing mechanisms on New Hampshire's citizens, businesses, institutions, and environment. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 526-FN, establishing a climate change and damage division in the department of environmental services. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

CONSENT CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 170, relative to the division of military pensions during divorce proceedings. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jay Markell for Children and Family Law. This bill undermines property division, contrary to the present statute, which includes all assets and liabilities as marital property and does not provide a justification for such an action. **Vote 15-1.**

HB 213, relative to wage garnishment for child support. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Sheila Seidel for Children and Family Law. This bill does not change existing wage garnishment law, but instead puts into law that child support obligors shall be informed of the option already available to them, to detail their prearranged form of payment created by themselves with the obligee. This agreement shall be detailed according to a specific form created by the Circuit Court Family Division and presented prior to the temporary hearing for waiving of garnishment of wages. Too often the justices will automatically assign wage garnishment as mandatory, eliminating the option of a payment arrangement created by the obligor and obligee. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 322, allowing a parent paying child support to retain the exclusive right to claim the child as a dependent on their tax return. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The majority of the committee had serious concerns about this bill. It would remove the ability of the court to use its discretion in individual cases. The committee also believes both parents contribute financially to the upbringing of their child, therefore alternating years is what works for these families. This bill would remove that opportunity. There are also times the obligor only pays \$50 a week; therefore, it would not be equitable to the other parent. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 325, eliminating term and reimbursement alimony in divorces granted on grounds of irreconcilable differences. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jay Markell for Children and Family Law. The committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate, based on the bill's restrictive nature as to alimony. The bill narrows judicial discretion on alimony and requires proof of fault, which may be very difficult to prove and undermines the standard that allows the parties to maintain a reasonable standard of living. **Vote 16-0.**

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 79, establishing a commission to study the privatization of the liquor commission. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The liquor sub-committee, and the Commerce Committee as a whole, after much conversation with the NH Liquor Commission members and others present, deemed that this bill did not meet the requirements to move forward. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 81, allowing patrons to take purchased alcoholic beverages into the restroom of a restaurant. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As amended, this bill allows restaurant patrons to bring their own beverages into the restroom by amending RSA 179:27, as long as the beverage was purchased on-site. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 242, relative to brew pub licenses. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill enables the holder of a brew pub license to hold an on-premises or off-premises license under certain conditions. RSA 178:13, XV is repealed and re-enacted to provide that the licensee does not hold any other type of manufacturing license, and the licensee shall be limited to self-distributing to not more than one on-premises licensee. **Vote 15-0.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 57, relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Meuse for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill was requested by the Department of Corrections. It would allow a person under the control of the department who has been approved for release under administrative home confinement to participate in post-secondary educational opportunities in the community where they have been accepted for enrollment. Under current law, residents in our state prison system approved for administrative home confinement are authorized to take part in employment and uncompensated public service outside their home as long as they return to their home before a specific time. This bill would simply add attending post-secondary educational courses as part of their confinement. Studies have found that incarcerated people who participate in college programs are 43-48% less likely to be reincarnated than those who do not. Employment rates for formerly incarcerated students also increase on average by 10%. Participants would still be subject to home confinement when not attending classes and would be responsible for the cost of their education. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 291-FN, removing certain penalties for incorrect application of fertilizers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Nancy Murphy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill as proposed would amend RSA 431:4-e such that a person or their agent that violates the statute regulating application of fertilizers on urban turf and lawn would be guilty of a violation as opposed to a misdemeanor. All those who testified agreed that the misdemeanor criminal penalty should be downgraded for a first offense but felt that there should be provisions for increased penalties for repeat offenders and their corporate agents. This issue was addressed by the amendment which updates penalties for violation of this statute. As amended, a person and their corporate agent would receive a written warning for a first offense; if found guilty of a second offense, the person will be subject to a \$250 fine per acre; and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor for a third and subsequent offenses. The prime sponsor and the committee support the amended penalties, while the minority believed the penalty for corporate agents should be higher. As passed, this bill both addresses one of NH's priority issues, the protection of NH's environment, and holds violators accountable. **Vote 15-1.**

EDUCATION FUNDING

HB 193, relative to the maximum number of credits per course eligible for the dual and concurrent enrollment program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. While most Community College System of NH (CCSNH) courses within the dual and concurrent enrollment program are 3 or 4 credits, the CCSNH does offer some trade courses in formats that are as much as 12 credits. The only change made in this bill states that a dual and concurrent enrollment course taken by a high school student in grades 10, 11, or 12 shall not exceed 4 credits. The state pays the student's enrollment tuition, which is established by statute at \$150 per course. This is a huge savings to students and families and the program is calculated to save more than \$10 million if the same courses were taken later after graduation as an adult. In accordance with statute, and if available funds remain available, a student may take up to four courses per year. The program is extremely successful; this program addresses the higher education affordability issue. **Vote 18-0.**

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 677-FN, requiring schools to maintain a supply of EpiPen injectors for use in event of an emergency. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Paul Terry for Education Policy and Administration. This bill requires public schools to maintain supplies of epinephrine auto-injectors for use in the event of an allergic emergency, requires annual reporting summarizing such supply and use, requires at least one assistive personnel to be available as many hours of the school day covered, and provides an appropriation to the Department of Education for reimbursement of such supplies. The bill follows on the heels of another bill during the last term that provided automated external defibrillators (AEDs) be available in public schools for use in the event of sudden cardiac arrests (SCAs). Epinephrine (adrenaline) injectors treat severe anaphylaxis to a variety of allergens. By ensuring that epinephrine auto-injectors medical devices are on site, readily accessible, and employed by authorized and trained personnel, furthers the objective of aiding and saving lives that absent them might die or suffer irreparable long-term injury. Testimony was unanimous in support of this bill, urging quick enactment and implementation, and the committee likewise was unanimous in our support. **Vote 18-0.**

ELECTION LAW

CACR 3, relating to recall elections. Providing that the general court may authorize recall elections. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for Election Law. This bill would permit citizens to remove an elected official before the end of their term in office. The committee felt that the public has the ability to implement their will upon an elected official, who is serving for relatively short 2 or 3 years, with a new election, in the event of suspected wrongdoing. There was also concern that this could be abused by extreme partisans. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 261, relative to election audits. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill reschedules mandatory audits of top-ticket races, such as President or Governor, to occur after recounts. Currently, at least ten State Representative races being recounted must include an audit of a top-ticket race before the recount begins. This creates delays and confusion for volunteers waiting to assist with recounts. Moving the audit to after the recount ensures smoother operations and reduces wait times while still protecting the integrity and purpose of the audit. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 336, relative to the placement of political advertisements on public right-of-ways. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for Election Law. This bill specified under what conditions political advertisements could be placed on a public right-of-way. Recently there have been various disagreements as to the placement of said advertisements when the placement on the right-of-way would seem to imply endorsement by the property owner. The Election Law Committee has received multiple bills on this topic and will seek a single legislative remedy for this issue through another bill. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 448, establishing a committee to study violations found by the April 25, 2023 ballot law commission. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Connie Lane for Election Law. This bill asks for the formation of a committee to study alleged violations of voting laws submitted by a group of citizens to the Ballot Law Commission on April 5, 2023 where they asked the commission to take action against the alleged perpetrators. Because the Ballot Law Commission does not have the authority to prosecute or penalize the alleged perpetrators, it referred all the materials provided by the citizens to the Attorney General's office for review. The Attorney General's office did not pursue any prosecutions based on the information provided to them. The citizens group is now asking for

the legislature to take action since the Ballot Law Commission and the Attorney General have not assessed penalties against the alleged perpetrators. The General Court is neither a judicial nor an executive body, and its review of the report would amount to a “report on a report.” Rather than forming a committee to examine the findings, the committee believes it would be more productive for the citizens group to propose specific legislative remedies. **Vote 16-1.**

HB 626, directing the secretary of state to implement a vulnerability disclosure program for certain election systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill directs the Secretary of State to implement a vulnerability disclosure program for certain election systems and gives the Cyber Security Committee oversight of the vulnerability program. As amended, the Secretary of State shall work with the Cyber Security Advisory Committee as enacted by RSA 21-R:16 to determine the proper manner and time frame for disclosing when a breach has occurred. **Vote 17-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 240-FN-LOCAL, removing the penalty of forfeiture for non-payment of dog licenses. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. The bill as introduced was a response to a constituent who was in the process of getting a rabies exemption for her dog and ran up against the dog registration deadline. Current statute requires that “the local governing body shall, within 20 days from June 20, issue a warrant to a local official authorized to issue a civil forfeiture for each unlicensed dog.” While it is important that local officials have the authority to enforce dog licensing, which is critical for rabies prevention, the current statute does not give local officials much leeway to work with residents who are cooperating to resolve issues. The bill as introduced would have entirely removed the civil forfeiture penalty. The amendment changes a “shall” to a “may” and thereby provides local government officials the flexibility to help residents comply with licensing requirements. **Vote 16-0.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 180, relative to critical incident stress management teams. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is an iterative improvement to the critical incident stress management team program, which provides crisis intervention designed to assist emergency response/public safety workers in coping with the psychological trauma resulting from response to a critical incident or personal experiences. While tying training to the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) training program made sense in the past, the ICISF has added a \$400 test to the certification process which creates significant financial hardship for the volunteers on these teams that in the opinion of the sponsor and this committee is unnecessary. The amendment further improves the bill by making clear that these teams may or may not be affiliated with a municipality and defines the role of team leader. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 236-FN, relative to the granting of retired status to certified public accountants. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Stephen Pearson for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill creates the designation of “CPA (Certified Public Accountant) Retired” as a permitted designation for those that meet the requirements outlined in the bill. This came as a request from the Board of Accountancy. This would allow a retired CPA to use this designation on business cards and other areas stating professional designations. This is not a new concept. 22 other states allow for a CPA Retired designation. This status does not allow for a retired CPA to act as a currently practicing CPA. What it does is allow for those retired CPAs to do volunteer work using their knowledge to assist organizing the finances of groups they wish to volunteer for. **Vote 11-1.**

HB 516-FN, relative to establishing a new full-time position at Volunteer NH. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would establish a new, full time position at Volunteer NH, paid for out of state funds. Volunteer NH is a private entity that currently receives no state funding (other than office space and incidentals). The committee was not convinced that a new, full time employee was necessary to assist Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers obtain grant, scholarship, or other aid to help them stay in New Hampshire. This was a recommendation from a 2020 study commission that urged better connection to national programs, but we received no indication that Volunteer NH had started such an effort on their own initiative. This function is solidly within the authority of this operation, and it is able to use federal funds, grants, and donations to accomplish its purposes. **Vote 10-2.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 58, establishing a committee to study legislative protections and accommodations for individuals with long COVID. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would establish a committee to study legislative protections and accommodations for individuals with long COVID. The committee felt that while the problem is real, there was nothing presented in testimony to elevate this illness above others to the point that a special committee is warranted. The committee also felt that the formation of a special committee would be premature, as a recent New England Journal of Medicine article stressed that the medical community is still trying to define long COVID. The committee therefore recommended Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 17-1.**

HB 72, extending the commission to study telehealth services. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. It is the majority opinion of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee that one of the most important medical innovations to come out of the recent COVID pandemic was the advent of telemedicine as a means of providing increased access for patients to medical care, especially for those with transportation challenges. The committee realizes this modality of care is evolving and being challenged by changes in federal policy. Therefore, it is critical the state remain in an adaptive mode. The Telemedicine Commission is critical for allowing the state to do this important work. Furthermore, the committee is pleased to see the legislation refers to synchronization with federal policy. The committee also appreciates the passion this commission brings to this important work and is pleased to encourage their endeavor by supporting this legislation. **Vote 17-1.**

HB 205-FN, relative to exempting veterans from certification fees for therapeutic cannabis. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Mazur for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee recognizes that some veterans have unique medical needs related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), chronic pain, or other service-related conditions, and we are in full support of them. The chair of the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board, a representative from the State Veterans Advisory Committee and others testified that while this bill was well intentioned there is cost shifting involved and they are not in favor of exempting veterans only. Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) already offer discounted products to veterans as well. **Vote 17-1.**

HB 301, relative to cultivation locations for alternative treatment centers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Yury Polozov for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill addresses the high cost of medicine by allowing an Alternative Treatment Center (ATC) to add a single greenhouse for medical cannabis cultivation. Current law requires indoor-only cultivation, which leads to high operational costs due to the use of high-intensity lighting. Another benefit of natural lighting is that it allows for a wider variety of products for patients. ATCs in New Hampshire struggle to compete against neighboring states. As amended, this bill permits the use of solar energy while still ensuring security, proper enclosure, and compliance with zoning and other local regulations. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 370, reestablishing the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with mental illness with an impairment primarily due to intellectual disability. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would re-establish the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with a mental illness whose impairment is primarily due to intellectual disability. The current definition of mental illness excludes impairment primarily caused by an intellectual disability. As a result, intellectually disabled individuals who experience a behavioral crisis significant enough to be hospitalized are not provided treatment and are essentially just warehoused, often for many weeks, until the crisis subsides. Because treatment is never provided, the affected individuals and their families are doomed to repeat this process over and over again with no end or help in sight. The initial commission was created in the last term to identify procedures to address this issue, but the appointment of the commission members was delayed to the point that it did not have sufficient time to come up with the necessary recommendations before the statutory deadline. The re-established commission will pick up where the old commission left off and finally develop a path to provide intellectually disabled persons suffering with mental illness the help they need and deserve. The committee therefore recommended Ought to Pass. **Vote 18-0.**

JUDICIARY

HB 337, relative to the reporting requirements of the judicial council. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dan Bergeron for Judiciary. This bill is designed to clarify the law regarding reporting requirements for the New Hampshire Judicial Council. The Judicial Council is an executive branch agency, established under RSA 494, with its membership appointed or designated by all three branches of government. At the present time, it is unclear whether non-judicial employees who are appointed by members of the judiciary must file financial disclosure forms pursuant to RSA 15-A. This bill would make it clear that they must file such disclosure forms. The bill also requires that counsel fee schedules for legal counsel and related services established by the council must be reported to the legislature and the Supreme Court. The Judiciary Committee believes this is a sensible bill that will increase the transparency of Judicial Council operations. **Vote 12-0.**

HB 480, relative to restoration of competency to stand trial for criminal defendants. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. This bill is designed to address the problem of competency restoration for persons who are charged with a criminal offense, but are found incompetent to stand trial. Under current law, there is a time period within which they are supposed to be restored to competency or their case is either dismissed or they are considered for civil commitment if dangerous. But the problem is that at the present time there is no system in place to assure that the person gets the treatment needed to be restored to competency. As a result, compared to other states, New Hampshire has a very low rate of competency restoration, i.e., in 2019 only 44% of such persons were restored to competency. As amended, the bill attempts to address this problem by establishing a pilot program in either Merrimack or Strafford County to create the position of forensic liaison (FL) in the Department of Health and Human Services. The FL's job will be to work with the court and all other interested parties, including treatment providers, to ensure that the defendant receives all treatment and services s/he needs to be restored to competency. The idea is to have a person in place (the FL) whose specific role is to make sure the defendant does what s/he needs to do to become competent again. **Vote 10-1.**

HB 697-FN, relative to witness fees in criminal cases. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for Judiciary. This bill provides witness fees and mileage reimbursement for civilian witnesses in criminal proceedings who are subpoenaed to appear in court more than once for the same proceeding. The witness fees are the same rate as allowed for witnesses in federal court. Often witnesses have to take time out of work to attend court, and may have to travel to a court which is some distance from their home. The bill does not provide for payment for the first day of court appearance, but only for second or subsequent attendance for the same case. The committee felt that, after the first day, requiring the payment of some compensation to the witness was fair. It appears that situations in which witnesses have to appear in court multiple times for the same case are not all that unusual. **Vote 11-1.**

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 225-FN, relative to the employment of military spouses in the event of involuntary deployment of service member. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Creighton for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill seeks to require employers save a position for the spouse of a military service member who has been ordered to deploy for not more than one year and one day. The employer is not required to provide benefits or pay, just hold a position for the spouse once the service member returns. The committee felt that this bill was important to demonstrate support for service members called on to deploy. **Vote 19-1.**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 139-LOCAL, relative to the official designation of holidays by municipalities and educational institutions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill would remove the requirement to use the name of official state holidays designated in RSA 31:6-a and RSA 288:4, III on official municipal and school communications, documents and calendars. Every community and school is permitted to add additional observances or celebrations to official communications, documents, and calendars as long as the official holidays designated in statute are also recognized. For this reason, the committee believes the bill is unnecessary. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 165-FN, relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda Franz for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to increase the amount that municipalities could receive from the state after a natural disaster from Municipal Road and Bridge Disaster

Relief Funding. The capped maximum per calendar year award would increase from \$25,000 to \$100,000. This increase is more in line with what current costs may be to repair infrastructural damage caused by a natural disaster. Additionally, as suggested by NH Homeland Security Emergency Management, this bill also inserts clarifying language to the existing statute to ensure that this funding only applies to this municipal disaster relief program. **Vote 18-0.**

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 745, naming a bridge in the city of Keene after Charles Redfern. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Charles Melvin for Public Works and Highways. This bill names the alternative use trail bridge spanning Rt.101 in Keene (also known as south bridge) the Charles Redfern Bridge. Mr. Redfern envisioned that abandoned railway lines could be transformed into multi-modal pathways and in 1994 founded Pathways for Keene. He has raised over \$750,000 over acquired numerous federal grants over the years to transform stranded rail lines into functional rail trails. He has served numerous leadership positions in Keene including Keene State College and in the NH Rail Trail Coalition. The City of Keene fully supports this bill and will fully fund the cost, installation, and maintenance of necessary signage with appropriate NH Department of Transportation oversight. **Vote 15-0.**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 393-FN, prohibiting mooring of boats without a permit. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill closes a loophole in the current watercraft mooring statute. New technologies, such as “spuds” and “lifts,” which are not covered by the mooring definition in RSA 270:59, III, allow watercraft to be secured in place to the bottom of a waterbody. These devices are being used to subvert mooring permits on six state lakes where they are required. The amendment addresses concerns raised during the public hearing by exempting construction barges, official watercraft, and vessels occupied by the owner such as fishing. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 449, requiring water districts to provide a water filtration system to residential customers in certain cases. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Allison Knab for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would require water districts where water is not potable to provide a water filtration system to residential customers. The committee heard that it was developed in response to the water district in one New Hampshire town having high levels of PFAS, and concern over the cost of installing a filtration system for the district. It would result in residents being provided with non-potable water in exchange for the installation of a water treatment system in their homes; however, the systems would be installed but not subsequently maintained by the water district. The bill does not include any language as to the performance standard of the filtration systems, guidelines around installation, or required sampling for effectiveness. The committee heard that residents who did not properly maintain the systems could cause a buildup of contaminants, including radioactive contaminants, that could go back into the system and impact other users. Given the time and expense involved in annually servicing these systems, it is very probable that some users would not properly maintain them. We also heard that the bill would be in violation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Acts. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 513, relative to snowmobiles and trail connectors. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Allison Knab for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would allow for a right-of-way use agreement for snowmobile operation along a section of Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton. This was made at the request of the Sutton Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club, which has been working for many years to repair a disabled trail connection in order to preserve a long-time trail system in the region. The amended version of the bill was worked on in concert with the Department of Transportation. **Vote 16-0.**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 166, establishing a committee to review Internet service providers’ infrastructure transition plan from copper to fiber. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would establish a committee to study and review Internet service providers’ infrastructure transition plans to move from copper to fiber optic cable. The committee heard from multiple providers stating that they were going full steam ahead on transitioning from copper to fiber optic. There was no mention of other cable types, which still exist. No reason was offered for the need for such a study. No one identified a specific problem with this transition and therefore we feel this study committee is unnecessary. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 436, establishing a commission to solicit reports and testimony regarding unidentified anomalous phenomena in the state. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Schneller for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill, which would establish a commission to study instances of unidentified, anomalous phenomena within NH skies and territory, did not receive an introduction from a sponsor or surrogate, had no testimony, provided no information, had no backers, and thus received the committee's bi-partisan lack of support. **Vote 17-0.**

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 120, relative to transferring statutory authority from the department of education to the department of military affairs and veterans services regarding educational support services. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Christine Seibert for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. After hearing joint testimony from both the Department of Education as well as the Department of Military Affairs and Veteran's Services, it is the unanimous decision of this committee that this legislation is a codification of current practice and would be beneficial to both parties. There were no fiscal or budgetary implications identified by either department, and the Department of Education stated preference for the Department of Military Affairs and Veteran's Services to officially take ownership of these responsibilities as they have historically been performing this task in practice. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 122-FN, relative to payment of claims arising out of actions or activities of the New Hampshire national guard. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Philip Jones for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This bill is a simple amendment to RSA 110-B:73. It increases the maximum payment for claims arising out of actions or activities of the New Hampshire National Guard from \$500 to \$1,000. It also permits such payments for claims against the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. The fiscal note states that this legislation has a total projected fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2028. This measure would take effect 60 days after being signed into law. **Vote 18-0.**

TRANSPORTATION

HB 119-FN, allowing rental companies applying to register a rental fleet to choose New Hampshire as the base jurisdiction under the International Registration Plan (IRP). **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. The intent of this bill is to allow rental car companies to register passenger vehicles as a fleet in New Hampshire. However, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) testified that rental companies already have the ability to do this under the International Registration Plan. Overall, the DMV says that this bill does not change anything. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 182-FN, prohibiting electric vehicles in commercial parking garages. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. This bill was determined by the committee to encroach into property rights of private owners and investors too much without justifiable safety risk. There are major employers who have invested in charging stations in their garages, private residential garages, and municipal garages that this law potentially affected unilaterally. If the vehicles pose a significant threat, this legislation does not address the threat. The clarity of the definition of an electric vehicle was also ambiguous when determining whether a hybrid vehicle fell under this category, so there was a lack of clarity on legislative intent. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 239-FN, defining and enabling lane filtering. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. The bill focuses exclusively on "lane filtering"- which allows motorcycles to overtake and pass motor vehicles that are stopped or traveling less than 10 miles per hour in the same lane and in the same direction. The majority of the committee felt that the bill, as presented, was too broad and could apply to too many situations, potentially creating safety concerns not only for motorcycle operators but also for other vehicle operators. Given that this bill would require a significant investment to develop an education program for both motorcyclists and the driving public, the committee felt it was best to take the spirit of the bill and possibly apply it to future legislation in a more targeted way. **Vote 15-1.**

HB 612-FN, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Veilleux for Transportation. This bill authorizes the New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue a temporary driver's license for youth operators who are about to turn 21. This temporary license may be issued up to 30 days prior to their 21st birthday and remains valid for up to 30 days after the expiration of their youth operator's license. The bill ensures that youth operators transitioning to a standard driver's license can receive their permanent, over-21 format license without requiring a separate in-person renewal after their birthday. **Vote 16-0.**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 REGULAR CALENDAR

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 238-FN, prohibiting collective bargaining agreements from requiring employees join or contribute to a labor union. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Granger for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. Due to federal law, independent workers can have their negotiating rights stripped by a union if the union chooses to represent all workers, instead of just the union workers. If a union does this, the independent workers are not allowed to get a separate contract; they are stuck with the one that the union negotiates. Unions can make a lot of money by extracting union dues from these non-union members, and can use them to increase the bargaining power of the union against the interest of the independent workers. As things are right now, independent workers are coerced to join unions against their will through this mechanism. This legislation seeks to remedy this by giving independent workers the right to work without paying dues to the union; it solves the problem of forced-unionism. This bill recognizes the value unions provide in terms of wages, benefits and training but balances those attributes with the rights of employers and workers to choose their form of employment. For these reasons, the majority of the Labor Committee recommends ought to pass on this bill. **Vote 10-9.** Rep. Mark MacKenzie for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The so-called right to work bill promotes economic insecurity by undermining and dismantling the relationship between workers and their employers. Pushed by out-of-state interests, this bill will do nothing to protect workers' freedom. The law is clear in this country, and workers have the personal freedom to choose whether to join and support a union and cannot be subject to coercion or intimidation. Further, the union has a legal obligation to represent all workers in the bargaining unit equally regardless of the workers' union status. Currently, a union can negotiate a union security agreement allowing them to charge a fee to cover only those costs which are related to the bargaining and administration of the contract and cannot charge for political activities or ancillary activities of the union. This legislation would remove this provision in the law and allow free riders to get all of the benefits as other union members and contribute nothing to this effort. This legislation undermines unions' strength and security by allowing workers to get all of the benefits of union membership and not pay anything, in spite of the law which requires the union to represent all people in the bargaining unit. This legislation is part of a national strategy driven by out-of-state interests aimed at undermining and weakening unions. Proponents of the bill suggest this will strengthen unions but hope for the opposite. Ninety-five percent of the nearly fifteen hundred people who signed in opposed the legislation. Not one union member appeared in support of the legislation. Therefore, given the facts, and the overwhelming public testimony opposing the bill the minority of the committee recommend Inexpedient to Legislate.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 346-FN, relative to licensure fees for race tracks. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Denis Murphy for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill would allow cities and towns to charge fees for licensing motor vehicle racetrack operations. The fees may range from \$0 to \$500. Licenses entail annual inspections for compliance with fire and health, concession stands, or other code enforcement ordinances that a municipality may have, and other related inspection costs. Municipalities may charge a fee from nothing up to \$500 which determines all fees related to their community needs. The original maximum inspection fee was \$100. That fee has not changed since the original bill passed in the late 60's or early 70's. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Dale Girard for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. NH RSA 31:41-a grants towns the authority to establish bylaws regulating motor vehicle tracks, including setting a fixed annual fee not to exceed \$100 for their operation. This bill seeks to increase that cap to \$500. The minority of the committee believe this issue effects a single community based upon testimony. Once bylaws are established, the existing annual fee should be sufficient to cover the review process for the upcoming season. Additionally, the annual property taxes paid by the facility, should offset any costs incurred by municipal staff. For these reasons, the minority oppose the Ought to Pass motion.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 127-FN, extending the closing date of the OHRV trails on the Connecticut River Headwaters property from September 30 to Columbus Day. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would allow a 10 mile section of OHRV trail in Pittsburg, NH to remain open until Columbus day to align with the rest of

the trails in this area. These connector trails will bring much needed revenue to the Town of Pittsburg. The representative of the owner of the property had no objection to this bill. The chairman of the HB 1188 commission to study the use of OHRVS in New Hampshire spoke in favor of this bill and presented an informal poll of the commission showing the majority of those voting in favor of this bill. A petition was submitted with over 700 signatures in support of keeping the trails open. Local businesses were in support of this bill. Before this bill was filed, a request was made to DNCR to extend the OHRV riding season with no success. Support for this bill was filed by the District 1 Executive Councilor, Joseph Kenney. **Vote 11-5.** Rep. Will Darby for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The Connecticut Lakes Headwaters is a large tract of privately owned forest lands in Coos County with a conservation easement held by the State of New Hampshire permitting the public's use of wide ranging outdoor recreational activities. The Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee, consisting of a broad set of stakeholders from surrounding towns, was created in RSA 12-A:9-b to advise state departments on compliance with the conservation easement and uses on the lands. A new five-year management plan was adopted by the Citizens Committee in April 2024, and no requests were received to increase the operating period at public hearings while it was developed. New Hampshire Fish and Game opposes the two-week operation period extension in this bill because it conflicts with the beginning of small game season, when a large number of Granite State and non-resident hunters visit the North Country in pursuit of ruffed grouse and woodcock, often hunting near the same trails used by OHRVs which puts expensive bird dogs at risk from these fast moving vehicles. The Head of Trails for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources testified that the season can be extended by petitioning the commissioner by April 1st, thereby alleviating the need to modify the statute. Ultimately, this bill allows the legislature to usurp local control to favor one activity over others, disregards inputs from the HB 1188 commission to study the use of OHRVs in New Hampshire, and is unnecessary since non-legislative solutions can extend the permitted period of OHRV use on the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters' trails in time for the 2025 season.

HB 174, increasing the maximum weight of a utility terrain vehicle to 3,500 pounds unladen dry weight. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would increase the maximum unladen dry weight limit of an OHRV to 3,500 pounds. The majority of the committee believes this will pave the way for electric OHRVs and that the noise and pollution reduction from electric OHRVs would remove noise and pollution concerns of abutters. It was discussed that presently the vehicles using these trails are not weighed and may already be in violation of the weight limit. This bill is limited to state owned trails in Coos County as well as certain other specified recreational trails. Testimony was received from the New Hampshire Off-Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA) in support of this bill to keep up with consumer demands and technological advances. The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) also submitted testimony in support of this bill for similar reasons. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Suzanne Vail for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. With upwards of 80% of the OHRV trail system in the state existing on private property, the goodwill and cooperation of landowners, loggers, and all entities that promote forest and farm management is critical to maintaining access and balanced regulation of recreation on private land. For these reasons, the 2022 HB 1188 commission to study the use of OHRVs in New Hampshire was established to examine and come up with sustainable solutions to the changes the sport has brought to the area. This bill has not been reviewed by the HB 1188 commission. By passing this bill, we are ignoring the expertise of the NH Timber Owners Association, the NH Farm Bureau Federation, and the National Wildlife Federation, all who oppose the bill. We also exclude the expertise gathered by House members from Transportation, Resources, and Municipal and County Government; state agencies; business owners; transportation experts; local officials; and abutters who rely on a process and formal discussion about responsible trail use. Our state and local economies depend on these landowners to continue granting access. If larger, heavier vehicles begin to negatively impact trails, it is entirely within the landowners' rights to revoke access, fragmenting the interconnected trail system that so many riders depend upon. Without addressing concerns that would arise at the commission hearings, we could be contributing further to the inconsistency of the term "unladen dry weight" in statute. This is not defined in the bill. An example is whether an electric vehicle includes a battery under this terminology, which remains unclear. This would complicate enforcement of this weight restriction. The minority of the committee understands that trail access is a privilege, not a right, and that maintaining strong relationships with landowners and businesses is essential to keeping the system functional and open to riders. It is not just about recreational access; it is about striking a sustainable balance that involves both education and penalties to deal with transgressions. Landowners and local businesses deserve a seat at the table when decisions are made about the future of trail use, and any shift in regulation should actively involve their voices to ensure the long-term sustainability of OHRV recreation in New Hampshire. To circumvent this process would go against our committee's statutory obligation to the stakeholders we must consider.

HB 203, relative to coast guard approved personal flotation devices while on New Hampshire state waters. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill, mandating the use of Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices during specific months in NH waters, is in direct conflict with the state's "Live Free or Die" philosophy. This proposed legislation infringes on personal liberty by imposing unnecessary government regulations that restrict individuals' freedom to engage in water activities based on their own judgment and preferences. The limited time frame and geographic scope of the mandate further demonstrate its arbitrary nature. To uphold the spirit of "Live Free or Die," the majority of the committee believes NH state representatives should oppose this bill and instead encourage education and voluntary compliance with safety recommendations. **Vote 11-5.**

Rep. Suzanne Vail for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The minority of the committee believes that the passage of this bill would save lives by increasing awareness of the elevated risk of drowning during the coldest months of the year. The NH Department of Safety reports that people die every year from drowning, almost exclusively because they are not wearing a personal flotation device. These accidents require rescues that are more complex and dangerous during colder months. Hypothermia from cold water immersion develops rapidly and instantly cripples the victim. This bill aims to educate paddlers about cold water emergencies, encourages them to wear a personal flotation device while paddling, particularly during the coldest months, and reinforces the state's commitment to water safety and education for all those who recreate on state waters.

HB 332, allowing for the establishment of a village district to protect and remediate surface waters. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Pierre Dupont for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill, which allows for the establishment of a village district to protect and remediate surface waters, adds another layer of government where the state already has the NH Department of Environmental Services to care for our water quality and enforcement. It was suggested to the committee that there are other methods of obtaining cooperation between towns, such as zoning amendments, without creating another layer of government which may increase local taxes. Testimony was received by a resident of Newbury located in the Lake Sunapee Watershed, who stated that smart, protective policies implemented by local town government was the preferred method of creating meaningful protective actions. A similar bill, HB 1250, did not pass last year. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Gregory Sargent for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill is a common-sense update to RSA 52:1, enabling voters in neighboring communities to establish a village district to protect local surface waters and remediate contamination and pollution if they so choose. Growing threats such as cyanobacteria blooms, PFAS contamination, and stormwater runoff pose serious economic and environmental risks to our communities. This legislation ensures that those communities have the ability to collaborate and act locally to ensure New Hampshire's watersheds and surface waters remain viable economic engines. As with other village districts currently in statute, this would require voters in each town to vote in favor of the district and ensures the importance of local control.

HB 334-FN, relative to the comprehensive state development plan. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ron Dunn for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill adds the following language to the existing RSA 9-A:1, III (b which sets forth the goals and policies which are relevant to the topical areas included in the plan by adding): drinking water aquifer identification and protection, protection of our lakes, rivers, estuaries, forest, wetlands and shoreline uplands, coastal marshlands, wildlife habitat, and..." to subsection (7). The majority of the committee believes that this bill and the additional language it seeks to include is not necessary. Also, the Department of Business and Economic Affairs estimate the additional requirements will lead to an indeterminable increase in costs. The department estimates this additional cost would range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 which is not affordable in this economic environment. As a result, the majority of the committee voted this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Will Darby for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would update the state's comprehensive development plan to encourage state agencies to work together towards the protection of critical natural resources including drinking water aquifers, lakes and wildlife habitat, as well as identifying the impacts of pollutants and waste disposal practices on New Hampshire's air, water, and land resources. A healthy environment is an essential component of the state's economic prosperity; for example, outdoor tourism alone contributes \$3.9 billion to the New Hampshire economy. Likewise, proactively assessing threats to vital resources guards against costly remediation, such as the ongoing PFAS drinking water contamination crisis and extensive MtBE mitigation in the past, and protects against calamities like those experienced in Maine where farmland was poisoned from toxic sludge.

HB 422-FN, increasing penalties for violations of the shoreland and water quality protection act. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill proposes an unjustifiable increase in penalties for violations of the Shoreland and Water Quality Protection Act without providing substantial evidence to support its necessity. Raising fines from \$5,000 to \$15,000 is based on assumptions rather than data-driven analysis of past fines. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) shared that the last fine was issued in 2013. The proposed fine increase appears disproportionate, considering the number of fines NHDES has enacted over the past decade. The majority of the committee proposes focusing on promoting compliance through education and awareness initiatives, and encouraging NHDES to present more data showcasing that the current fines are insufficient in curbing violations to the Shoreland and Water Quality Protection Act. **Vote 9-7.**

Rep. Gregory Sargent for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill increases the penalty for a violation of the Shoreland and Water Quality Protection Act from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and, in conjunction with last session's changes to the act, creates meaningful enforcement authority for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and municipalities. The current \$5,000 penalty is considered the "cost of doing business" by willful violators of the Act. The penalty has not changed since 1991, making the increase long overdue and necessary to deter willful violations and protect New Hampshire's shorelands and abutting waterbodies.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 4, relative to commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency (C-PACER). **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill expands the existing commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency (C-PACER) program that facilitates energy efficiency improvements to existing commercial housing stock. It makes major improvements to the program currently in place by allowing municipalities to collect energy efficiency loan payments via property taxes. This change will permit such a loan to be attached the building, not the building's current owner. This program allows municipalities to opt-in to take advantage of its features. Loan payments can be collected into an escrow account with property taxes to facilitate loan repayment. The program will allow building enhancements to apartment complexes to include energy efficiency upgrades, which typically have a long pay-back period. C-PACER will be another building block in helping our state solve its housing problem. The program uses private lenders facilitated by the state's Business Finance Authority and uses no public funds and places no obligation on municipal resources. It simply provides a convenient way to add energy efficiency loans to a building's renovation. **Vote 15-3.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill rewrites the commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency (C-PACER) program. This program has been around for a while but apparently does not work as no one has signed up to use it. This 10 page bill makes numerous changes to the program. The idea behind this program is that existing commercial loan establishments will not provide loans for some renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. There are obviously loans being issued for these types of projects but some present too large a risk for private loan providers. Of course, the solution is to have a complicated government program that will allow for loans that otherwise would not be issued. The claim is that building these energy projects are good for all and therefore the government should step in. The one question one should ask is if this program will result in loans being issued that otherwise would not, what exactly is the government providing? The proponents say there is no cost to participating municipalities or the state but if there is no cost how can there be any value?

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 55, repealing the Selective Service Compliance Act. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The original bill sought to repeal four Selective Registration Awareness and Compliance sub-paragraphs under RSA 187-A. The Department of Military and Veteran Services (DMAVS) opposed the bill for several reasons, to include that repealing the entire section could result in military organizations being compelled to hire personnel felt to be incompatible with organizational missions and morale. DMAVS did not have issues with repealing the sub-paragraphs that concerned postsecondary education and the administrative requirements impacting financial aid and enrollment. The subsequent compromise amendment (0174h) repealed the provisions that postsecondary sought to have eliminated while leaving in place the language that DMAVS sought to retain. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 64, relative to extending hiring preferences for military members and their spouses to the state and private businesses, and establishing purchase preferences for disabled veterans and military spouses regarding state supply purchases. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This measure seeks to apply certain hiring preferences currently in place for veterans to veterans' spouses as well in certain circumstances. For

example, some law enforcement organizations give hiring consideration points to veterans seeking civilian careers in law enforcement. This measure would extend certain considerations to military spouses as well. Supporters raised awareness as to the unique sacrifices and contributions that veteran spouses make as indispensable members of our military teams. **Vote 18-0.**

HCR 8, urging Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority believes that the decades-long dispute between Maine and New Hampshire over the boundary between our states re: Portsmouth Harbor and the Piscataqua River requires our federal delegation to take action and introduce legislation that could more clearly document that the entirety of the harbor lies within New Hampshire. For most of its history, the US Navy seems to have acknowledged that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was New Hampshire territory, but more recently it has taken a neutral stance. Some current tax estimates indicate the amount of Maine state income taxes collected from Portsmouth area Granite Staters working at the shipyard is as high as \$6 million a year. Considering that the New Hampshireers have zero representation at the Maine State House in Augusta, this clearly appears to be “taxation without representation.” **Vote 14-4.** Rep. Christine Seibert for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution was brought to us with the intent of providing tax relief to employees of the shipyard who reside in the State of NH. One big concern is given the number of NH citizens who work in another state, this could set a precedent for future border changes based on one employer being located within “close enough” proximity. In this case, less than half of the shipyard workers are permanent NH residents. Another unintended consequence involves the costs associated with an official location change. The Kittery, Maine, town manager states: “If New Hampshire wants the shipyard it will need to build bridges from Portsmouth to the Naval Station Island, so they can assume all the traffic congestion and infrastructure impacts, which Maine currently shoulders as the host of the shipyard.” The issue of who has jurisdiction is not new and involves fishing rights as well. The US Supreme Court unanimously ruled on a border dispute in Maine’s favor in 2001, dismissing New Hampshire’s claim to the shipyard. The court denied a New Hampshire request to reconsider, ruling that the boundary between the states is the middle of the Piscataqua River. Considerations of equity persuade the court that application of judicial estoppel is appropriate in this case. New Hampshire’s claim that the Piscataqua River boundary runs along the Maine shore is clearly inconsistent with its interpretation of the words “Middle of the River” during the 1970’s litigation to mean either the middle of the main navigable channel or the geographic middle of the river. Either construction located the “Middle of the River” somewhere other than the Maine shore of the Piscataqua River. Moreover, the record of the 1970’s dispute makes clear that this court accepted New Hampshire’s agreement with Maine that “Middle of the River” means middle of the main navigable channel, and that New Hampshire benefited from that interpretation. Notably, in their joint motion for entry of the consent decree, New Hampshire and Maine represented to this Court that the proposed judgment was “in the best interest of each State.” Were the court to accept New Hampshire’s latest view, the risk of inconsistent court determinations would become a reality. The court cannot interpret “Middle of the River” in the earlier decree to mean two different things along the same boundary line without undermining the integrity of the judicial process.

HCR 9, urging the United States to reject compliance with the European Union’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority believes that Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) is an attempt to inflict on the United States, extraterritoriality, a host of dubious measures the likes of which the American electorate recently rejected via the November elections. These measures would reduce quality of life by promoting “de growth” of energy and economics, and institute ideological nepotism via divisive and preferential DEI policies. The coercive cartel nature of the European actors here seems to conflict with the New Hampshire Constitution, Article 83. In usurping the freedoms of speech and association of private US companies, the EU compels US businesses to commit to mandatory social activism against other Americans, effectively turning them into an arm of European government. The foundation of so-called “sustainability,” as adopted by the United Nations and the EU, is really the concept of “de growth.” Simply put, it results in degrading economic activity, limiting energy production, restricting travel, and much more. For further details look to the work of prominent German-educated Japanese philosopher Kohei Saito, and his book, “Marx in the Anthropocene: Towards the Idea of De growth Communism.” This attempt by the EU to force statist policies on the American people from across the Atlantic should be seen as nothing short of a hostile act against the United States of America. This resolution requests that our federal government be firm in resisting this EU overreach while simultaneously promoting American sovereignty. **Vote 12-6.** Rep. Lily Foss for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution would urge the United States government to interfere with the affairs of private businesses and a foreign entity, the European Union. This seems like nebulous virtue-signaling concerning “DEI” and “Green New Deal” targets that don’t even exist in the EU’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). Neither this body nor Congress should interfere with a measure that the EU has

passed to regulate commerce within its own borders. Passing this resolution and imploring Congress to take some ill-advised stance will at best indicate that our General Court is willing to encourage double standards concerning a Congress that recently chose to impose regulations of its own upon ByteDance and TikTok. At worst, it could encourage yet another inflationary trade war. Claims that this resolution effort is worth the cognitive dissonance necessary to honor the idea of small government while at the same time encouraging government overreach seem to be rooted in the premise that the ends (protecting large corporations from the onerous obligation of making sure their business don't enable human rights abuses) justify the means (inserting the US government into private and foreign enterprises to challenge perceived "woke" policies). Surely our constituents don't expect us to engage in such posturing in order to strengthen our partisan bona fides. The minority urges rejection of this measure.

HR 11, urging the United States government to investigate allegations of abuse of minorities, especially Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and other religious minorities by the interim government of Bangladesh. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Christine Seibert for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution is meant to address recent reports of human rights abuses that appear to be taking place in the country of Bangladesh. While we need to keep in mind that the overall situation is still very fluid and ongoing, we are in agreement that a further investigation by the United States federal government is warranted. **Vote 18-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 201-FN, prohibiting the removal of claws from cats. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Judy Aron for the **Majority** of Environment and Agriculture. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. The majority of the committee voted Inexpedient to Legislate because there is no real need to ban this procedure or codify harsh penalties to veterinarians. We do not have statistics that demonstrate that NH has a problem with our veterinarians performing cat declawing procedures for non medical reasons. In fact, we heard testimony from NH veterinarians that the overwhelming majority of NH veterinarians already discourage or do not offer cat declawing procedures and instead work with cat owners to use behavior modification and other techniques to prevent the cat from scratching family members or destroying property. When those techniques fail, and the veterinarian determines that declawing is the only remaining solution (aside from rehoming or euthanasia) then that should remain a choice between the cat owner and the veterinarian. If an owner has tried all methods available to cease chronic scratching and if declawing was made illegal, their options would be to: abandon the cat, rehome it to an unsuspecting home, or surrender it to a shelter, or they might even take their cat to a state where cat declawing is not banned. The committee heard in testimony that cat declaw procedures are only done by NH veterinarians when medically necessary for the cat, or for instances when cat owners have medical conditions that could be life threatening if they are scratched by their cats (i.e. on blood thinners, etc.), or if it is an absolute last resort to chronic cat scratching behaviors. We also heard that modern techniques, such as laser surgery yield better and much safer results than techniques used in the past, and that declawed cats can and do live long, healthy, and happy lives. Most importantly, the majority felt very strongly that we as a legislature should not go down the road of removing autonomy from NH veterinarians and dictating to them what procedures they can and cannot offer. Our licensed veterinarians have the knowledge, experience, and wisdom to work with their clients to determine what procedures are the right ones for their pets and the legislature should not interfere with that relationship. We also understand that certain animal activist organizations are flooding state legislatures across the country with these types of bills and once they get one procedure banned they continue to try to ban others, and they use these campaigns to fundraise. For all these reasons, and more, the majority in the committee voted to Inexpedient to Legislate this bill. **Vote 9-7.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for the **Minority** of Environment and Agriculture. While reliable statistics are not available, the committee heard testimony, even from opponents of the bill, that this procedure is performed in New Hampshire. The committee heard a great deal of testimony from veterinary professionals and members of the public about the profound adverse effects that cats can suffer as a result of this procedure. The minority of the committee concludes that unnecessary declawing is inhumane and, however infrequently it might occur, should not be permitted in New Hampshire.

JUDICIARY

HB 369-FN, relative to misdemeanor sexual assault prosecutions. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for Judiciary. This bill, as amended, provides protection for minors under 18 in misdemeanor sexual assault cases. It mandates that a defendant charged with a misdemeanor sexual assault of a minor under 18 must choose to proceed in circuit court and waive the right to a jury trial, or immediately appeal to superior court for a jury trial. This provision aims to prevent minor survivors of sexual assault from enduring the ordeal of appearing for two separate trials and reliving their trauma. **Vote 11-1.**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 202-204, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. Continued public hearing on **HB 146-FN**, relative to the use of body-worn cameras.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 638-FN**, allowing an older prisoner serving a sentence of life without parole to be eligible for parole upon meeting certain criteria.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 670-FN**, raising the minimum fine for attacks by nuisance dogs.
- 11:30 a.m. **HB 700-FN**, relative to orders of protection.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 777**, codifying the law enforcement accreditation commission.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 778-FN**, authorizing the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 767-FN**, expanding requirements for reports to law enforcement by the department of health and human services.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 445**, establishing a study commission to examine the causes of and ways to alleviate the shortage of law enforcement officers in New Hampshire.
- 3:15 p.m. **HB 159-FN**, authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

EDUCATION FUNDING, Room 205-207, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. **HB 659-FN**, establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive program.
- 10:15 a.m. **HB 770-FN**, relative to establishing a program to earn tuition credits for state of New Hampshire higher education institutions through community service.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 443**, relative to terms of appointed members on the higher education commission.
- 11:30 a.m. **HB 718**, requiring the state board of education to report the unfunded financial impact to school districts for rules adopted by the board which exceed state or federal minimum standards.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 771-FN**, relative to funding for open enrollment schools.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 665-FN-A**, relative to eligibility for free school meals.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 491**, establishing a committee to study alternative funding methods for public education and how to reduce its reliance on local real estate property taxes.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206-208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HCR 10**, calling for the repeal of the Jones Act.
- 10:45 a.m. **HR 12**, urging Congress to amend the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013.
- 1:00 p.m. **HCR 1**, calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment.
- 1:30 p.m. Executive session on **HB 264-FN**, relative to delegates to an Article V convention; **HCR 3**, applying for a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States; **HCR 5**, rescinding House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 passed by the 2012 New Hampshire General Court asking that Congress call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution; **HJR 1**, affirming the natural right of persons and affirming that the state and federal government are established for the purpose of upholding, protecting, and securing these rights; **HCR 10**, calling for the repeal of the Jones Act; **HR 12**, urging Congress to amend the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013; **HCR 1**, calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (RSA 188-E:10-b), 25 Hall Street, Concord

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB

11:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 553-FN**, relative to the definition of abuse and neglect and conditions triggering a rebuttable presumption of harm in abuse and neglect cases.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EXOTIC AQUATIC WEEDS AND EXOTIC AQUATIC SPECIES OF WILD-LIFE IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 487:30), Williams Room, French Wing, Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 205-207, LOB

9:30 a.m. **HB 671-FN-A**, establishing a kindergarten literacy readiness program.

10:15 a.m. **HB 781-FN**, requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education, and making an appropriation therefor.

10:45 a.m. **HB 765-FN-L**, consolidating school administrative units and making school superintendents jobs an elected position.

11:15 a.m. Continued public hearing on **HB 571**, including Constitution Day in patriotic exercises required of public schools.

1:00 p.m. **HR 9**, urging the department of education to emphasize STEM education in public schools.

1:30 p.m. **HB 283**, relative to the list of subjects that comprise an adequate education.

2:00 p.m. **HB 768**, allowing public schools to contract with any approved private school.

2:30 p.m. **HB 431**, establishing a commission to review draft rules related to minimum standards for public school approval and state academic standards developed by the department of education. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB

1:00 p.m. Presentations from the Department of Health and Human Services. Topics to include the following: public health, developmental services, and elderly & adult services. Public comment may be allowed.

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE (RSA 14-B:2), Room 103, SH

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301-303, LOB

9:30 a.m. **HB 547-FN**, relative to county reimbursement of funds.

9:50 a.m. **HB 569**, relative to the establishment of county-wide communication districts.

10:05 a.m. **HB 643-FN**, expanding the number of Grafton County commissioners.

10:20 a.m. **HB 544-L**, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies.

10:35 a.m. **HB 125**, relative to electing Strafford county commissioners at-large.

1:00 p.m. **HB 123**, enabling municipalities to tax standing wood and timber on land used for carbon sequestration.

1:30 p.m. **HB 247-L**, authorizing municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to allow historic horse racing.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

2:00 p.m. Continued executive session on **HB 92**, prohibiting an individual from simultaneously serving on the local zoning board and planning board; **HB 272**, exempting certain agricultural practices from municipal noise regulation; **HB 149-FN**, relative to warrant article approvals at ballot referenda form of town meeting; **HB 339**, relative to municipal master plans; **HB 407**, setting a minimum threshold for the adoption of town and school budget and spending items for towns using a ballot to select such methods during town meeting; **HB 447**, relative to property tax exemptions for disabled veterans.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 126-A:85), Department of Justice, 1 Granite Place South, Concord

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 279 737 604 573 Passcode: zKPHQY

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 302-304, LOB

9:00 a.m. Continued public hearing on **HB 567-FN**, relative to the elimination of useful thermal energy from renewable energy classes.

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 674-FN**, relative to non-wire alternatives, time-of-use tariffs, and multi-year rate settings.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 681-FN**, establishing a statewide online energy data platform.
- 1:00 p.m. Executive session on **HB 575-FN**, prohibiting offshore wind energy infrastructure; **HB 654-FN**, relative to allowing small customer-generators the ability to participate in group-net metering; **HB 541**, establishing a committee to study energy and telecommunications infrastructure survivability and resiliency; **HB 224-FN**, relative to rebates to ratepayers from the renewable energy fund; **HB 460-FN**, relative to utility investments in distributed energy resources.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 723-FN**, repealing the multi-use energy data platform.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 672-FN**, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire.
- 3:00 p.m. **HB 690-FN**, directing the department of energy to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER RELATED DEMENTIA (RSA 126-A:15-a), Room 100, SH

- 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Department of Revenue Administration, and revenue estimate work session.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 430**, reducing the retention period for records of unfounded abuse and neglect reports by the department of health and human services.
- 10:20 a.m. **HB 187-FN**, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 560**, relative to parental access to a minor child's medical records.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 661-FN**, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 652-FN**, abolishing the family division, creating the office of family mediation, and reassigning the jurisdiction of the family division.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 104, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 186-FN-A**, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.
- 10:45 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 538-FN**, reallocating positions in the liquor commission.
- 1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 302**, relative to enabling the state treasury to invest in precious metals and digital assets.
- 1:45 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 639-FN**, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.
- 2:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 451-FN**, establishing the paint product stewardship program.

COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION (RSA 193-E:2-f), SAU 19 Office, 11 School Street, Goffstown

- 4:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

EDUCATION FUNDING, Room 205-207, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 443**, relative to terms of appointed members on the higher education commission; **HB 484**, relative to reallocation or repurposing of career and technical education classroom space by local school districts; **HB 319-FN**, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide transportation and meals for pupils in kindergarten; **HB 747-FN**, establishing a program for enrichment scholarships for gifted students and making an appropriation therefor; **HB 750-FN**, relative to making incentive grants for school districts that improve in certain assessment scores.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 739-FN**, relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for the use of school districts.
- 11:20 a.m. **HB 729-FN-A**, making an appropriation to the department of education for an attorney to recodify education laws.

- 12:45 p.m. Full committee work session on **HB 583-FN-L**, relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals; **HB 646-FN-L**, requiring school districts to establish an online application for participation in the free and reduced price meal program; **HB 665-FN-A**, relative to eligibility for free school meals; **HB 703-FN-A-L**, relative to prohibiting school districts from denying meals to students with unpaid meal balances, and making an appropriation therefor.
- 2:15 p.m. Full committee work session on **HB 563-FN**, relative to adequate education grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services; **HB 603-FN-A**, relative to increasing the adequacy grant for pupils receiving special education services; **HB 651-FN**, modifying the base cost and differential aid costs of an adequate education; **HB 717-FN**, relative to catastrophic aid for special education; **HB 742-FN-A**, requiring catastrophic special education state aid funding to be drawn from the education trust fund; **HB 773-FN**, relative to aid to school districts for the cost of special education.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

ELECTION LAW, Room 306-308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 684**, preventing the use of student identification cards as a means to obtain a ballot.
- 10:10 a.m. Executive session on **CACR 5**, relating to absentee ballots. Providing that no excuse shall be needed by the voter to receive an absentee ballot; **HB 136**, extending the time period for delivery of an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. to the close of the polls; **HB 158**, relative to public inspection of absentee ballot lists; **HB 217**, relative to absentee ballots; **HB 269**, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist; **HB 288**, requires that absentee ballots be requested at least 6 months prior to any election for which the absentee ballot is requested; **HB 294**, relative to the processing of absentee ballots; **HB 344**, enables the processing of absentee ballots before election day; **HB 345**, enabling selectmen to add additional polling places and requiring selectmen to give notice to voters 30 days before providing such additional polling places; **HB 403**, relative to weather conditions which enable absentee voting; **HB 418**, relative to eligibility for absentee voting; **HB 423**, requiring the consent of property owners for the placement of political advertisements on public property abutting their land; **HB 464**, prohibiting candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots; **HB 498-FN**, relative to when a person may receive an absentee ballot; **HB 608-FN**, requiring moderators to inspect absentee ballot affidavits for full execution including use of a notary, election officer, or any person authorized by law to administer oaths; **HB 686-FN**, requiring a voter to provide identification when requesting an absentee ballot.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 323**, requiring the presentation of a government-issued photographic means of identification in order to vote.
- 10:50 a.m. **HB 289**, regarding domicile qualifications for voting.
- 11:20 a.m. **HB 385-FN**, reestablishing voter identification exceptions.
- 11:40 a.m. **HB 618-FN**, enables election officials to verify the single use of an out-of-state driver's license presented when a person votes by using the centralized voter registration database.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 365-FN**, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters.
- 1:20 p.m. **HB 472**, requiring voters to prove domicile.
- 1:40 p.m. **HB 172**, restricting undeclared voters from same-day voting in a presidential or state primary.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 141**, relative to campaign disclosures for limited liability companies.
- 2:20 p.m. **HB 175**, relative to defined coordinated expenditures.
- 2:40 p.m. **HB 311-FN**, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions.
- 3:00 p.m. **HB 364**, relative to ballots delivered to elder care facilities.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 301-303, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **HB 479**, establishing a committee to study the use and problems associated with regulating the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills and transfer centers; **HB 658-FN**, raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund; **HB 707**, requiring the department of environmental services to establish a site-specific setback distance for proposed new landfills; **HR 10**, recognizing the fundamental right to have clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment; **HB 215-FN**, requiring a landfill permit applicant to submit a report listing potential harms and benefits of the project; **HB 566-FN**, requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management; **HB 153-FN**, requiring that two or more law enforcement officers

in each county receive training regarding animal cruelty; **HR 13**, opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire; **HB 179-FN**, relative to hazardous waste accident fees; **HB 171**, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.

- 11:45 a.m. Executive session on **HB 179-FN**, relative to hazardous waste accident fees; **HR 13**, opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire; **HB 658-FN**, raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 279**, establishing a committee to study recipe and process approval for homestead foods.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 304**, relative to labeling requirements for food produced in homestead kitchens.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 371**, relative to the definition of occasional food service establishment.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 150**, enabling homestead operations to use commercial kitchen equipment in preparing food for sale.
- 3:00 p.m. **HB 307**, relative to the food production area for homestead food.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FINANCE, Room 210-211, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 619-FN-A**, making an appropriation to the solid waste management fund.
- 1:30 p.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2025-0102h to HB 519-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund and support the Waypoint youth and young adult shelter. This amendment prohibits the department of health and human services from contracting with a hospital in violation of the patients' bill of rights. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.

HOUSING, Room 305, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **HB 296**, relative to issuing building permits along private roads; **HB 382**, removing authority for municipalities to regulate mandatory on-site parking requirements; **HB 577**, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs; **HB 631-FN**, permitting residential building in commercial zoning by right; **HB 685**, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.
- 2:00 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 342**, relative to the approval process for new construction.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 542-FN**, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation; **HB 442**, relative to prohibiting payment of subminimum wages; **HB 726-FN**, relative to the state minimum hourly rate; **HB 744-FN**, relative to workers' compensation indemnity benefits percentage; **HB 378-FN**, relative to an employee's unused earned time; continued executive session on **HB 735-FN**, relative to elections in collective bargaining.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 386-FN**, prohibiting nursing agencies from including non-compete clauses in contracts with health care entities.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 248**, relative to notice and update requirements regarding state employee investigations.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 280**, relative to wage payments.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 487**, relative to providing employees with advance notice of the work schedule.
- 3:15 p.m. **HB 379**, relative to youth employment during the school year and at night.
- 4:00 p.m. **HB 757**, relative to tip pooling and sharing and automatic service charges.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 181-FN-A**, relative to making the state responsible for maintaining Opticom systems for fire and emergency on state roads and making an appropriation therefor; **HB 300**, 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; **HB 375**, allowing municipalities to designate sections of state and local highways for all terrain vehicles; **HB 561**, relative to the transfer of state-owned real property to municipalities; **HB 578-FN**, erecting a sound barrier along the F.E. Everett Turnpike; **HB 713-FN**, relative to mile markers along Route 112.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 302-304, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. **HB 696-FN**, exempting electricity generators from the utility property tax and including them under the statewide education property tax, and relative to communications services tax revenues.

- 9:30 a.m. **HB 708-FN**, directing the department of energy to begin planning for the introduction of an additional overlay area code.
- 10:00 a.m. **HCR 2**, declaring the development of advanced nuclear energy technology to be in the best interest of the state of New Hampshire and the United States.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 710-FN**, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 764-FN**, prohibiting the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding, weather modification, excessive electromagnetic radio frequency, and microwave radiation and making penalties for violation of such prohibition.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 249**, allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and stop lights as stop signs.
- 10:20 a.m. **HB 411-FN**, relative to making the use of a mobile electronic device while driving a secondary offense.
- 10:40 a.m. **HB 441-FN**, relative to visible motor vehicle diesel emissions and “rolling coal”.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 461**, relative to department of safety and department of motor vehicle training and testing materials.
- 11:20 a.m. **HB 212**, allowing a 180-day operation waiver when a motor vehicle fails an emission control test.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 649-FN**, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 715-FN**, relative to personal electric vehicles.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.
- 2:00 p.m. Continued executive session on **HB 209-FN**, allowing a new vehicle purchased in the model year or before to be inspected in the second year after purchase; **HB 305**, relative to speed and red-light cameras for traffic enforcement; **HB 390-FN**, relative to adding retired fire apparatus (fire trucks) to antique vehicle exemptions; **HB 419**, requiring vehicle headlights to be on when windshield wipers are also on; **HB 414-FN**, prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle; **HB 439-FN**, relative to non-driving related violations and driver’s license suspension.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Revenue estimate work session.
- 2:00 p.m. Executive session on **HB 596-FN**, relative to reporting requirements for entities that collect meals and rooms taxes; **HB 635-FN**, relative to taxing non-profit entities who settle illegal immigrants as for-profit entities; **HB 530-FN**, increasing the amount of revenue transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the affordable housing fund; **HB 591-FN**, expanding hours for keno gaming on weekends.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 733-FN**, relative to reporting requirements for persons or entities financing lawsuits.
- 10:45 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 499-FN**, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.
- 11:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 552-FN**, relative to coverage of children under the state retiree insurance plan.
- 11:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 678-FN**, prohibiting the sale of over-the-counter weight loss and muscle building supplements to minors.
- 1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 185-FN**, relative to reimbursement rates for ambulance service providers.
- 1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 316-FN**, relative to reimbursement for ground ambulance services.
- 1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 725-FN**, relative to ground ambulance services.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 202-204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 597**, establishing a designated behavioral health access point within the enhanced 911 system.

- 10:45 a.m. **HB 602**, requiring certain offenders to participate in a victim impact program.
- 11:15 a.m. **HB 387**, relative to balloons being released into the air.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 466-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 482-FN**, relative to the penalty for driving over 100 miles per hour.
- 2:15 p.m. **HB 776-FN**, relative to the crime of aggravated driving while intoxicated.
- 3:00 p.m. **HB 473-FN**, criminalizing multiple forms of exposing children to controlled substances and allowing law enforcement to take a child into protective custody for screening and testing in an instance of suspected or actual criminal exposure to controlled substances.
- 3:30 p.m. **HB 528-FN**, legalizing the possession and use of psilocybin for persons 21 years of age or older. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

EDUCATION FUNDING, Room 210-211, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **HB 563-FN**, relative to adequate education grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services; **HB 603-FN-A**, relative to increasing the adequacy grant for pupils receiving special education services; **HB 651-FN**, modifying the base cost and differential aid costs of an adequate education; **HB 717-FN**, relative to catastrophic aid for special education; **HB 742-FN-A**, requiring catastrophic special education state aid funding to be drawn from the education trust fund; **HB 773-FN**, relative to aid to school districts for the cost of special education; **HB 137**, relative to allocating excess statewide education property tax funds for local school and municipal purposes; **HB 527-FN**, replacing the statewide education property tax with a local revenue contribution; **HB 550-FN**, modifying the base cost of an adequate education; **HB 675-FN-A-L**, increasing the total revenue raised under the statewide education property tax, requiring municipalities to remit excess statewide education property tax payments to the department of revenue administration, limiting the authority of school districts to make certain appropriations, and increasing base adequacy costs per pupil; **HB 769-FN**, relative to the base annual cost per pupil of providing the opportunity for an adequate education and statewide education property tax rate; **HB 772-FN**, establishing a foundation opportunity budget program for funding public education; **HB 739-FN**, relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for the use of school districts. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 205-207, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. Executive session on **HB 671-FN-A**, establishing a kindergarten literacy readiness program; **HB 415-FN**, removing requirements that schools provide menstrual products in restrooms; **HB 208-FN**, relative to certification requirements for school nurses; **HB 571**, including Constitution Day in patriotic exercises required of public schools; **HB 699**, relative to special education definitions; **HB 388**, requiring local school boards to issue public reports on special education in their district; **HB 730-FN**, requiring school districts to educate and provide information to students regarding adoption during health education for grades 9 through 12, and in college in certain circumstances.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 676**, relative to the composition and responsibilities of the parent and education service provider advisory commission, and establishing education freedom account impact and parent satisfaction surveys.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 740-FN**, requiring the department of education to maintain student records of chartered public school students.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 719-FN**, repealing the use of unused district facilities by chartered public schools.
- 3:00 p.m. **HB 738-FN**, requiring certain non-public schools or education service providers that accept public funds to perform background checks on all employees and volunteers.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306-308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 192-FN**, relative to recommendations of the joint committee on employee classification.
- 10:15 a.m. **HB 435**, relative to the definition of professional engineer.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 210**, establishing a commission to study the state flag and its history.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 52**, relative to legal holidays.
- 1:15 p.m. **HB 89**, designating "Within the Crystal Hills" as the official animated film of New Hampshire.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 176-FN**, relative to changing the state flag design.
- 2:45 p.m. **HB 252**, creating a state holiday to honor Daniel Webster's birthday. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES, Room 307, LOB

- 11:00 a.m. **HB 720-FN**, prohibiting the importation and sale of live bait fish from out of state.
- 12:30 p.m. **HB 573-FN-A**, relative to the funding for search and rescue operations of the fish and game department and making an appropriation therefor.
- 1:15 p.m. **HB 589-FN**, defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests.
- 2:15 p.m. **HB 545-FN**, requiring certain cervid meat processed outside of New Hampshire to be tested for chronic wasting disease before being brought into New Hampshire.
- 3:15 p.m. **HB 202**, relative to the duties of the fish and game commission.
- 3:45 p.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2025-0063h to HB 655-FN, relative to fish and game violations. This amendment removes the requirement that a crossbow permit issued for certain persons with a disability be perpetual. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 301-303, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. **HB 704-FN-A**, relative to caregiver respite and senior volunteer programs and making an appropriation therefor.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 743-FN**, relative to patient access to health care prices and billing practices.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 524-FN**, repealing the New Hampshire vaccine association.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 548-FN**, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 223**, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate within 15 miles of a critical access hospital.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. **CACR 6**, relating to the right to compute. Providing that the right of individuals to use computation resources shall not be infringed.
- 10:15 a.m. **HB 615-FN**, relative to drug forfeiture proceedings.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 509-FN**, relative to the contents of the attorney general's annual report detailing state forfeiture information for the preceding fiscal year.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 587-FN**, allowing admission of one-party audio and video recordings in certain circumstances.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 593-FN**, relative to loss of consortium involving pets.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 462-FN**, establishing a cause of action for unwarranted video imaging of residential premises.
- 3:15 p.m. **HB 614-FN**, relative to litigation alleging constitutional rights violations.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

- 10:15 a.m. Executive session on **HB 568**, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply; **HB 582-FN**, relative to safety requirements for operation of personal water crafts; **HB 595-FN**, relative to coastal resilience zones; **HB 607-FN**, relative to funding the Hampton Beach area commission and making appropriations therefor; **HB 624-FN-A**, establishing a local river management advisory committee grant program and making an appropriation therefor; **HB 629-FN**, funding the operation maintenance and repair of state dams; **HB 644-FN**, relative to flying drones in state parks; **HB 657-FN**, relative to short-notice booking access for New Hampshire residents to state parks.
- 11:30 a.m. **HB 663**, allowing the division of historic resources to expend moose plate funds to administer and fund grants.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 683-FN**, relative to off-highway recreational vehicles.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 691-FN**, prohibiting the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water systems.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.
- 2:00 p.m. Executive session on **HB 663**, allowing the division of historic resources to expend moose plate funds to administer and fund grants; **HB 683-FN**, relative to off-highway recreational vehicles; **HB 691-FN**, prohibiting the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water systems.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 203, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 402**, relative to liability as taxable income of education freedom account payments.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 483-FN**, relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 503-FN**, amending how revenues from taxes are allocated to the education trust fund.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 669-FN-A**, relative to requiring all revenue raised under the statewide education property tax to be deposited in the education trust fund, and setting an equalized statewide tax rate. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 281-A:62), New Hampshire Department of Labor, 95 Pleasant Street, Concord

- 1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:17), 2 Delta Drive, Concord**

- 1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14**ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Training Room, Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord**

- 9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.
- 12:00 p.m. Equalization subcommittee work session.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN FIRST RESPONDERS (RSA 281-A:17-e), NH Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Classroom 1, Concord

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 301-303, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 153-FN**, requiring that two or more law enforcement officers in each county receive training regarding animal cruelty.

FINANCE, Room 210-211, LOB

- 2:30 p.m. Governor's Budget presentation.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION (RSA 14:14-C), Room 104, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. Organizational meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE-IRELAND TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22-a), Department of Business and Economic Affairs, 100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord

- 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17**CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB**

- 11:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 553-FN**, relative to the definition of abuse and neglect and conditions triggering a rebuttable presumption of harm in abuse and neglect cases.

COMMISSION TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTALLY-TRIGGERED CHRONIC ILLNESS (RSA 126-A:73-a)

- 3:00 p.m. Presentation meeting.
 Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 861 1781 8803 Passcode: 669915
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86117818803?pwd=cWRXdGwQnQvc2ZRbkNOBhGc3M0dz09>
 By Phone: +13126266799,86117818803#, *669915#

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 285-FN**, relative to determination of parental rights and responsibilities.
- 10:20 a.m. **HB 177**, relative to children in placement pursuant to an episode of treatment for which the department of health and human services has a financial responsibility.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 213**, relative to wage garnishment for child support; **HB 320-FN**, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements; **HB 335-FN**, requiring courts to order a minor and their family have psychological evaluations and, if necessary, counseling, where parental rights and respon-

sibilities are contested in a family court matter; **HB 350-FN**, requiring that all family division hearings be video and audio recorded and broadcast live; **HB 433-FN**, making 17 the age of consent for marriage if either party is active duty military and removing language regarding age waivers for marriage registration records, since age waivers are no longer issued in New Hampshire; **HB 486-FN**, relative to grandparents' visitation rights; **HB 553-FN**, relative to the definition of abuse and neglect and conditions triggering a rebuttable presumption of harm in abuse and neglect cases.

1:00 p.m. **HB 10-FN**, establishing the parental bill of rights.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

HOUSING, Room 305, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 383**, relative to the authority of condominium boards and unit owners to create and amend condominium instruments.

10:30 a.m. **HB 410-FN**, relative to adding conditions to zoning boards of adjustment imposing restrictions on the building and development of residential properties.

1:00 p.m. **HB 457**, relative to zoning restrictions on dwelling units.

2:00 p.m. **HB 465**, relative to the housing opportunity zone program.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB

9:00 a.m. **HB 148**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances.

9:45 a.m. **HB 520**, relative to authorizing hearing officers of the department of education to issue subpoenas.

10:30 a.m. **HB 584-FN**, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty.

11:15 a.m. **HB 580-FN**, relative to retaliatory defamation in domestic violence and sexual violence cases.

1:00 p.m. **HB 641-FN**, establishing a private right of action for civil rights violations.

1:45 p.m. **HB 620-FN**, relative to the exercise of the freedom of religion.

2:30 p.m. **HB 633-FN**, relative to housing investment trusts.

3:15 p.m. **HB 611-FN**, abolishing recoupment procedures regarding appointed counsel for indigent criminal defendants.

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 476-FN**, relative to restrictions on elective abortion.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 203, LOB

9:00 a.m. **HB 142**, relative to the Honor and Remember Flag.

9:15 a.m. **HB 157**, establishing a study committee to examine ways to improve the usefulness of fiscal notes.

9:30 a.m. **HB 331**, relative to the secretary of state's procedures for enrolled bills.

9:45 a.m. **HB 477**, establishing a commission to study safety and security procedures in the New Hampshire state house.

1:00 p.m. **HB 314-FN**, prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities.

1:30 p.m. **HB 546-FN**, relative to financial disclosures to legislative ethics committee.

1:45 p.m. **HB 605**, relative to employment protections for members of the general court.

2:00 p.m. **HR 8**, resolving that the practice of suspending a constitutional officer to be outside the authority designated to the judiciary and appropriately delegated to the general court.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Room 306-308, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTALLY-TRIGGERED CHRONIC ILLNESS (RSA 126-A:73-a),

3:00 p.m. Presentation meeting. Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 861 1781 8803 Passcode: 669915

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86117818803?pwd=cWRXdGwQnQvc2ZRbkNOBhGc3M0dz09>

By Phone: +13126266799, 86117818803#, *669915# US (Chicago)

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF OHRVS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 215-A:44-a), Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Teams: Meeting ID: 282 387 535 833 Passcode: qAxqEj

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Room 210-211, LOB

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13), Room 302-304, LOB

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24**CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2), Room 201, LOB**

9:00 a.m. Organizational and regular meeting.

LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE (RSA 17-M:1), Room 201, LOB

9:30 a.m. Organizational and regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD (RSA 126-BB:2), DHHS Brown Building Auditorium, 129 Pleasant Street, Concord

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:30 a.m. Legislative Budget Assistant.

11:00 a.m. State Treasurer.

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1), NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Road, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. In addition to the physical location, access is also available need be remotely via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115?pwd=bUFER3I5emt3NGVueDBYYW9SZThLUT09>**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26****NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord**

8:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4**STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2), Edward Cross Training Center Facility, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke**

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB**9:30 a.m. **HB 188-FN**, relative to contempt of the general court.10:15 a.m. **HB 195-FN**, relative to the expectation of privacy in the collection and use of personal information.11:00 a.m. **HB 522-FN**, relative to the expectation of privacy in personal information maintained by the state.1:00 p.m. **HCR 11**, declaring the directives of the judicial branch in the Claremont cases that the legislative and executive branches define an “adequate education,” adopt “standards of accountability,” and “guarantee adequate funding” of a public education are not binding on the legislative and executive branches.1:45 p.m. **HR 7**, instructing the house of representatives to investigate whether grounds exist to impeach Judge David Ruoff.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

MONDAY, MARCH 10**NH COLLEGE TUITION SAVINGS PLAN ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 195-H:2), University System of New Hampshire, 5 Chenell Drive, Suite 301, Concord**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 17**STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1), NH Hospital Association- 125 Airport Road, Concord**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

REVISED FISCAL NOTES

The following bills have a revised fiscal note: HB 378, HB 498, HB 502, HB 505, HB 506, HB 508, HB 509, HB 518, HB 523, HB 525, HB 526, HB 528, HB 534, HB 536, HB 538, HB 542, HB 546, HB 553, HB 572, HB 575, HB 581, HB 583, HB 586, HB 609, HB 615, HB 616, HB 622, HB 630, HB 633, HB 635, HB 637, HB 639, HB 646, HB 648, HB 651, HB 653, HB 654, HB 658, HB 659, HB 662, HB 665, HB 669, HB 672, HB 674, HB 677, HB 680, HB 681, HB 683, HB 686, HB 687, HB 688, HB 690, HB 691, HB 696, HB 702, HB 708, HB 710, HB 711, HB 712, HB 719, HB 721, HB 729, HB 730, HB 731, HB 736, HB 738, HB 739, HB 741, HB 743, HB 750, HB 753, HB 755, HB 756, HB 759, HB 760, HB 761, HB 762, HB 763, HB 767, HB 769, HB 770, HB 771, HB 782.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Hillsborough County will hold a department wide Orientation for interested members of the convention on **Friday, February 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Bouchard Building, 329 Mast Road, Goffstown, New Hampshire.

Rep. Linda Harriott-Gathright, Clerk

Thursday, January 30, 2025, to Friday, February 14, 2025, the **Strafford** Delegation Subcommittees meet individually to discuss, review and make recommendations on their respective portions of the budget. All work and reports must be completed by Friday, February 21, 2025. Chairmen are encouraged to set up meeting dates with Janet Hilber, Administrative Assistant, as soon as possible. Please attempt to avoid overlapping subcommittee meetings in order that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and County Administrator can attend all the meetings, if possible. After the Subcommittees meet, the Chairs present their recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Full Delegation at their respective public meetings.

Rep. Cassandra Levesque, Clerk

Friday, March 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (snow date: Friday March 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m.) The **Strafford** Executive Committee meets to receive reports and review the subcommittees' recommendations and any other business that may legally come before the committee at that time. Location: Cafeteria Conference Room, Lower Level, Justice and Administration Building. Public access via Zoom: Meeting ID: 864 4166 1218 Passcode: 661356 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86441661218?pwd=GmftZoj2dnCYjeHw9b3NHTLHtQjdP.1> or By Phone: +1 305 224 1968 US

Rep. Cassandra Levesque, Clerk

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (snow date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.) The full **Strafford** Delegation meets to review Executive Committee recommendations and to adopt final budget for 2025, and to discuss any other business that may legally come before the Delegation. Jury Assembly Room, Justice and Administration Building. The budget must be approved by April 1st, or the Commissioners' Proposed Budget will be in effect. Public access via Zoom: Meeting ID: 886 9655 0988 Passcode: 608382 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88696550988?pwd=szE0WQMlvw0tJJpP1aLv8cG065quYx.1> or By Phone: +1 646 931 3860 US

Rep. Cassandra Levesque, Clerk

MEMBERS' NOTICES

The following notices are published in the House Record as a courtesy to the member(s) requesting publication. These are not official public notices and will be limited to legislative policy or legislative social activities and political meetings or events. Publication should not be construed as support for either the events listed or the views espoused by the individual or organization sponsoring the event.

All Representatives are invited to a Bible study and prayer during the lunch break on Session Days. We will meet in the Upham Walker House with Pastor Peter Chamberland for this time together. Come and be refreshed both physically and spiritually during our lunch hour. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan

All legislators and staff are cordially invited to the State House Café for a free, hearty, hot breakfast hosted by Secure Democracy USA on **Tuesday February 11th, 2024, from 7:30-9:00 a.m.** Please RSVP to Brendan Flaherty from the Dupont Group at bflaherty@dupontgroup.com.”

Reps. Michael Moffett and Mark Paige

All legislators are cordially invited to the State House Café for a free lunch hosted by Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) on **Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.** Materials will be available regarding SCAN's latest New Hampshire voter poll on early childhood education in our state. Contact Megan Brabec, State Manager, at mbrabec@savechildren.org for more information.

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner

Stay Work Play New Hampshire will hold a Legislative Reception from **4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, February 13th**, at the Hotel Concord (NH Room) 11 S Main St, Concord. Bringing together legislators, young Granite Staters, and those who employ them, this casual networking event will give you the opportunity to meet younger constituents and learn more about the issues affecting whether they might stay in, or leave, New Hampshire. Please RSVP to Corinne Benfield, Executive Director, at corinne@stayworkplay.org or online at stayworkplay.org/legislative-reception. This event is free, and food is provided.

Reps. Joe Alexander and Alexis Simpson

Delta Dental Plan of New Hampshire cordially invites all House Members to their Twenty-Fourth Annual Northeast Delta Dental Legislative Reception on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. –6:30 p.m.** at their corporate headquarters at One Delta Drive in Concord, New Hampshire. Please RSVP to Siobhan Baron at 603-223-1244 or email legreception@nedelta.com.

Reps. Jason Osborne and Alexis Simpson

The Housing Caucus cordially invites all House members and staff to their third annual legislative luncheon on **Tuesday, February 18 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in the State House cafeteria for a discussion of housing issues facing New Hampshire.

Rep. Joe Alexander

NH Life Sciences will offer free lunch at their inaugural Legislative Day on **Thursday, February 20th at 12:00 p.m. in the State House Cafeteria.** Meet their members and your constituents and hear about their impressive economic impact in communities throughout NH. They will showcase the breadth and reach of life sciences companies in NH statewide through our state's life sciences association.

Rep. Joe Sweeney

All members and staff are cordially invited to attend the NH Association of Counties Annual Legislative Conference, to be held on **Monday, February 24th** at the Grappone Center in Concord from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Guests are invited to join the NHAC for the breakfast reception or for the entire day. The breakfast reception will run from 8am-9am. In addition to networking with elected and appointed county officials from all ten of NH's counties, panel presentations will be held throughout the event with a focus on federal updates from the National Association of Counties, a NH budget update and so much more. The event is complimentary but advanced registration is requested. Please rsvp to Kate Horgan at khorgan@dupontgroup.com

Reps. Mary Jane Wallner and Keith Erf

AARP New Hampshire has rescheduled its Legislative Lunch for **Thursday, March 13th, 2024, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** at the State House Cafeteria. Lunch will feature a variety of sandwiches, salad, chips, cookies, and beverages along with vegetarian options to choose from. Lawmakers will have an opportunity to

meet AARP NH volunteers who are advocates for supporting family caregivers, protecting consumers against fraud, expanding access to affordable housing, and more. AARP NH is excited to talk with lawmakers about these issues and understand how we can work together moving forward. Please RSVP or note any dietary restrictions to Mike Padmore at mpadmore@aarp.org.

Rep. Alexis Simpson

Please join the Community College System of New Hampshire for a meet and greet in the State House cafeteria **Wednesday, April 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Legislators and staff are invited to join college and system leaders and discuss issues of importance to your region and the state. Refreshments, prepared by culinary students from Lakes Region Community College and White Mountains Community College, will be proudly served by students and faculty. The committee that leaves us the most business cards will win a delicious cake made by the colleges' culinary students.

Reps. Steven Smith and Alexis Simpson

AMENDMENTS

(LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

Amendment to HB 55

(2025-0174h)

Proposed by the Committee on State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs-r

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the Selective Service Compliance Act.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Subdivision; Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act. Amend RSA 112 by inserting after section 12 the following new subdivision:

Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act

112:13 Title. This subdivision shall be known as the Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act.

112:14 Application.

I. No person who is not in compliance with the Military Selective Service Act as provided in 50 U.S.C. app. section 451 et seq. having attained the age of 18 years, shall be eligible for employment by or service to the state or any political subdivision of the state, including all state boards, commissions, departments, agencies, and institutions.

II. A person who has authorized the department of safety to submit information to the Selective Service System pursuant to RSA 263:5-c shall be considered to be in compliance with the Selective Service Act for purposes of this section.

112:15 Responsibility for Compliance. Any official responsible for hiring employees by the state or its political subdivisions shall assure themselves that applicants comply with RSA 112:14.

112:16 Exceptions. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply:

I. If the requirement for the person to register under the Military Selective Service Act has terminated, or otherwise become inapplicable to such person;

II. If the person is serving or already has served in the military, or has a condition that would, under military rules and regulations, preclude military service; or

III. To state-supported institutions of postsecondary higher education or to decisions related to granting state-supported financial assistance for postsecondary higher education.

2 Repeal. RSA 187-A sections 38 through 41, relative to the Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act, are repealed.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2025-0174h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill relocates the Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act from RSA chapter 187-A to chapter 112, and removes the state university's requirement to enforce selective service registration.

Amendment to HB 81

(2025-0078h)

Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-c

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to consumption of beverages or liquor in areas not approved for service by the liquor commission.

Amend RSA 179:27, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. No beverages or liquor shall be served or consumed in foyers, hallways, kitchens, ~~[restrooms;]~~ or other areas not approved for service by the commission.

2025-0078h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes restrooms from the list of areas not approved for the serving or consumption of beverages or liquor.

Amendment to HB 180

(2025-0261h)

Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration–c

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Critical Incident Stress Management Teams. Amend RSA 153-A:17-a, I(e) to read as follows:

(e) “Critical incident stress management team” or “team” means the group of one or more trained volunteers, including members of peer support groups organized by a unit of state, local, or county government, or members of a union of emergency response/public safety workers, as defined in subparagraph (g), who offer critical incident stress management and crisis intervention services following a critical incident or long term or continued, debilitating stress being experienced by emergency response/public safety workers, including retired emergency response/public safety workers, and affecting them or their families. ***A team may or may not be affiliated with a municipality.***

2 Critical Incident Intervention and Management. Amend RSA 153-A:17-a, II to read as follows:

II.(a) Team members shall undergo ~~[and sustain certification standards]~~ ***initial training*** set forth in guidelines established by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) approved by the commissioner of the department of safety, or a similar organization for which the commissioner shall not unreasonably withhold approval. The team shall be registered with ~~[ICISF, or a similar organization and]~~ the commissioner of safety~~;~~ and maintain training standards to date as required.

(b) All critical incident stress management team members, sworn, civilian, or retired, shall be designated by the ***team leader***, police chief, sheriff, director of the division of state police, fire chief, commissioner of the department of corrections, superintendent of county corrections, chief of emergency medical services, director of the division of emergency services and communications, or head of a union of emergency response/public safety workers as defined by RSA 281-A:2, V-c.

(c) ***The team leader shall be a person with strong communication, problem-solving, and delegation skills, who is formally trained in individual and group critical incident stress management processes. The team leader shall be responsible for training team members, setting acceptable strategies, and monitoring team progress.***

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2025-0261h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises training requirements for critical incident stress management teams and permits the team leader to designate team members. The bill also clarifies that a team need not be affiliated with a municipality and establishes qualifications and responsibilities of the team leader.

Amendment to HB 193

(2025-0200h)

Proposed by the Committee on Education Funding–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Amendment to HB 225-FN

(2025-0075h)

Proposed by the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services–c

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 110-C:1-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

110-C:1-a Employment Protection for Spouses During Involuntary Military Mobilization of Service Members. It is the intention of this section to provide employment protections for the spouses of military service members who are involuntarily mobilized for up to one year and one day in support of war, national emergencies, or contingency operations, and ensuring job security for families during military conflicts. Furthermore, it is the intention of this section to protect employees from layoff during their spouse’s mobilization.

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. In this section:

(a) "Court" means a local court or magistrate.

(b) "Employer" means any person, company, corporation, or organization that employs 50 or more individuals in New Hampshire.

(c) "Employee" means any individual employed by an employer in New Hampshire.

(d) "Involuntary mobilization" means the ordering, calling-up, or activation of members of the uniformed services under 10 U.S.C.A. or 32 U.S.C.A., including state active duty, in response to a declaration of war, national emergency, or contingency operation.

(e) "Spouse" means a person legally married to a member of the uniformed services.

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Employees shall notify their employers of their spouse's involuntary mobilization within 30 days of their spouse receiving official notice of such mobilization. Employers shall provide the employees with written acknowledgment of the notice of deployment, explicitly confirming adherence to the terms of this section.

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, VII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VII. The employer may choose not to reemploy the employee if the employer establishes that its circumstances have so changed as to make reemployment impossible or unreasonable as defined by 20 C.F.R. Section 1002.139.

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, VIII(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) If a violation is found, the employer shall be liable for reinstatement, back pay, and any benefits lost due to the violation. The department of labor or local court, or both, may also award the employee reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

**Amendment to HB 240-FN-LOCAL
(2025-0193h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture—c

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to nonpayment of dog licensing fees.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Town or City Clerk; Dog Licenses; Warrants for Nonpayment. Amend RSA 466:14 to read as follows:

466:14 Warrants; Proceedings. The town or city clerk shall annually, between June 1 and June 20, present to the local governing body a list of those owners of dogs that have failed to license or not renewed their dog licenses pursuant to RSA 466:1. The local governing body ~~shall~~ **may**, within 20 days from June 20, issue a warrant to a local official authorized to issue a civil forfeiture for each unlicensed dog. The warrant may also authorize a local law enforcement officer to seize any unlicensed dog. The civil forfeiture may be sent by certified mail, or delivered in hand, or left at the abode of the dog owner. The cost of service shall not exceed \$7 and may be recovered by the city or town in addition to the amount of the civil forfeiture. If the unlicensed dog is seized, it shall be held in a town or city holding facility for a period of 7 days, after which time full title to the dog shall pass to the facility, unless the owner of the dog has, before the expiration of the period, caused the dog to be licensed. The owner shall pay the facility a necessary and reasonable sum per day, as agreed upon by the governing body of the town or city and the facility, for each day the dog has been kept and maintained by the facility, plus any necessary veterinary fees incurred by the facility for the benefit of the dog. Before a local law enforcement officer seizes any unlicensed dog, a written warning shall be given to the dog owner.

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

2025-0193h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the law to enable local governing bodies to issue warrants for civil forfeiture of an unlicensed dog for nonpayment of dog license fees. The law currently requires local governing bodies to issue warrants for civil forfeiture of an unlicensed dog for nonpayment of dog license fees.

**Amendment to HB 291-FN
(2025-0156h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety—c

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the penalty for incorrect application of fertilizers.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Application of Fertilizer to Urban Turf and Lawn; Penalty. Amend RSA 431:4-e by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Notwithstanding RSA 431:18, any person and the corporate agent of such person, who violates this section:

- (a) Shall receive a written warning for a first offense;
- (b) Shall be guilty of a violation and shall be subject to a \$250 fine per acre for a second offense; and
- (c) Shall be guilty of a misdemeanor for a third or subsequent offense.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

2025-0156h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes graduated penalties for the incorrect application of fertilizer depending on whether it is a first, second, or third offense.

Amendment to HB 301

(2025-0132h)

Proposed by the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–c

Amend RSA 126-X:7, XI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

XI. The department may authorize each operator of an alternative treatment center registered under RSA 126-X:7 to operate an additional cultivation location, which shall be a greenhouse, and which shall be subject to rules adopted by the department under RSA 126-X:6, III, and all applicable provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to, compliance with local zoning laws. The department shall, in conjunction with the local governing body of the town or city where the additional cultivation location would be located, solicit input from qualifying patients, designated caregivers, and residents of the town or city in which the additional cultivation location would be located.

Amendment to HB 369-FN

(2025-0167h)

Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 New Section; Sexual Assault and Related Offenses; Cases Involving Misdemeanor Sexual Assaults Against Minors. Amend RSA 632-A by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

632-A:9-a Misdemeanor Sexual Assault Prosecutions with Victim Less Than 18 Years of Age.

I. In any prosecution for a violation of RSA 632-A:4 involving a victim less than 18 years of age at the time the prosecution is commenced, and which is brought in the circuit court, the defendant may elect to either:

(a) Appeal within 30 days after the arraignment to the superior court for a jury trial pursuant to the provisions of Rule of Criminal Procedure 21(a); or

(b) Proceed with a trial in the circuit court, which will constitute a waiver of the right to a jury trial and the right to appeal for a jury trial pursuant to RSA 502-A:12 and 599:1.

II. A circuit court shall not proceed with a trial under subparagraph I(b) unless it has conducted a colloquy with the defendant and finds that the defendant has knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently waived his or her right to a jury trial.

2025-0167h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires a defendant charged with a misdemeanor sexual assault of a minor under the age of 18 to elect whether to proceed in circuit court and waive his or her right to a jury trial or to immediately appeal to superior court for a jury trial.

Amendment to HB 393-FN

(2025-0126h)

Proposed by the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development–c

Amend RSA 270:59, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. "Mooring" when used as a noun, means a mooring anchor, or other fixed object or stationary point, with or without a mooring buoy together with attached chains, cables, ropes, and pennants and related equipment used for the purpose of securing watercraft; ***or any spuds, lifts, or other devices which are an integral part of the vessel and being used to secure a boat to the bottom of the public waters of the state in lieu of a dock or pier.***

Amend RSA 270:64, IV as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. No person shall use spuds, lifts, or similar devices that are an integral part of a vessel, in lieu of a permitted mooring, on any body of water requiring a mooring permit. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following uses shall be exempt from this section:

- (a) Commercial barges engaged in their trade and moored adjacent to shorefront property with the permission of the landowner;
- (b) Vessels operated by state, local, or federal agencies; or
- (c) Vessels occupied by an operator for stabilization in the water for waterborne activities, including, but not limited to, fishing.

2025-0126h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill expands the definition of “mooring” to include spuds, lifts, and similar devices used to secure boats to the bottom of the public waters of the state. This bill also prohibits the use of spuds, lifts, or similar devices in place of a permitted mooring in waters requiring mooring permits and includes a list of exemptions.

Amendment to HB 480

(2025-0061h)

Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary—c

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 4:
2 Statement of Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

I. Individuals with severe mental illness are at increased risk of interacting with the probate court on civil commitments as well as with the criminal justice system in 2 important areas: trial competency and competency restoration.

II. As is evidenced by the number of individuals ordered for competency evaluations, the need for these evaluations has increased substantially over the last 5 years, with some state jurisdictions reporting 70 to 100 percent increases. Accordingly, New Hampshire experienced a 75 percent increase in the number of competency orders since 2015. In 2019, there was an average of 66 court orders for trial competency evaluations each month. With increases of the numbers of competency evaluations, there are more individuals court ordered for competency restoration. An individual ordered into competency restoration is expected to improve and return to court to face his or her charges upon restoration of his or her competency. Analysis of 56 published studies from 1975 to 2013 showed that nationwide, 81 percent of individuals ordered to inpatient competency restoration treatment were able to return to court.

III. In New Hampshire, there is no formal, existing system to provide treatment for individuals found incompetent to stand trial. In stark contrast to these national numbers, fewer than half of the individuals ordered into a competency restoration period are able to return to court and complete their criminal cases. Specifically, in 2019, only 44 percent of individuals were found to have their competency restored.

IV. It is imperative that the state improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the competency restoration process in New Hampshire by establishing a forensic liaison pilot program in one judicial jurisdiction as recommended by the committee to study restoration of competency as created under RSA 135:49.

3 New Subdivision; Forensic Liaison and Competency Restoration Pilot Program. Amend RSA 135 by inserting after section 49 the following new subdivision:

Forensic Liaison and Competency Restoration Pilot Program

135:50 Forensic Liaison and Competency Restoration Pilot Program Established.

I. In this section, “parties” means the prosecution, the defense, and the office of the forensic examiner.

II. The department of health and human services shall establish a 2-year pilot program creating the position of one or more forensic liaisons (FL) and contracting for all services necessary for competency restoration not otherwise covered by a third-party payer. The FL shall operate as neutral entities between the parties and the court in instances when competency is raised as an issue in a criminal case. The FL shall operate in the superior court in Merrimack or Strafford county and in the circuit courts district division in the county that is selected. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall be responsible for designating an employee of the department to hire, train, and supervise the FL, or shall contract with another entity to provide such services and any services necessary for competency restoration not covered by a third-party payer. The FL shall hold at least a bachelor’s level degree in social work, psychology, criminal justice, or sociology, or have a minimum of 2 years of work experience in a relevant field, as determined by the department or contracted entity.

III. The duties of the FL shall include the following, unless provided by an existing case manager or other provider in an effort to avoid the duplication of services:

(a) Facilitating the defendant’s attendance at the initial competency evaluation with the office of the forensic examiner.

(b) Assisting the defendant in obtaining the proper evaluations to determine the services necessary for competency restoration.

(c) Providing recommendations to the parties and the court in writing as to the most appropriate treatment or service to restore a defendant’s competency based on the evaluations in subparagraph (b) above.

(d) Assisting the defendant in obtaining and receiving any recommended services for competency restoration or that would facilitate competency restoration services.

(e) Assisting the defendant in reducing barriers to accessing and maintaining treatment and services.

(f) Sharing information with the parties and the court regarding the defendant's progress in and adherence to treatment.

(g) Sharing information with the parties and the court relating to changes in the defendant's condition relative to competency, restorability, or dangerousness.

(h) Receiving and disseminating treatment information from all mental health treatment facilities and providers with the parties and the court.

(i) Providing updates to the parties and the court as outlined in RSA 135:17 and RSA 135:17-a on the progression of competency restoration.

(j) Communicating and coordinating care with court-ordered providers.

(k) Performing any other appropriate duties as assigned by the department.

IV. The FL is entitled to all past and present relevant records and information relating to the defendant's competency. The defendant shall provide authorization for the FL to obtain all necessary mental health records. If the defendant does not provide the FL with relevant records or access to records, the FL shall notify the parties who may petition the court for an order requiring the provision of such records. All materials received by the FL shall be confidential and exempt from disclosure under RSA 91-A. The FL shall provide access to relevant records to the parties and the court for the sole purpose of assessment and evaluation of competency. Such records shall be kept confidential by the parties and the court and shall not be used for any purpose other than determination of competency, except that in the case of a person deemed not competent, not restorable, and dangerous per RSA 135:17-a, V, in which case the records shall be available to the state for the purpose of initiating a guardianship or involuntary admission. Information provided by the FL to the parties and the court regarding the defendant's treatment, or adherence thereto, shall be sealed. The court may unseal such records or updates at its discretion.

V. The FL may be ordered to appear in any proceeding in which the court determines the FL is necessary. In all cases, the parties and the court are entitled to file motions based upon reports made to them by the FL.

VI. For each year of the pilot program, the FL shall report to the department the number of cases received, the number of cases in which competency restoration was effectuated, and any recommendations to improve the competency restoration system in New Hampshire. The department shall present this report to the health and human services oversight committee.

VII. The department shall not be required to implement the pilot program established in paragraph II until such date that the program is sufficiently funded to meet the requirements of this section.

2025-0061h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the committee to study restoration of competency to submit any additional proposals on or before July 1, 2025 and requires, once adequate funding is received, the department of health and human services to establish a 2-year pilot program to create the position of one or more forensic liaisons, who will assist in competency proceedings of criminal defendants.

Amendment to HB 513

(2025-0085h)

Proposed by the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development—c

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT allowing the department of transportation to execute a right-of-way use agreement, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, from NH Route 114, traveling south for one mile.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 The commissioner of the department of transportation may, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, execute a right-of-way use agreement for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, from NH Route 114, traveling south for one mile.

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

2025-0085h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the department of transportation to draft a right-of-way use agreement, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, from NH Route 114, traveling south for one mile.

**Amendment to HB 626
(2025-0217h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Election Law-c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Secretary of State; Chief Election Officer; Duty to Investigate System Vulnerabilities. Amend RSA 652:23 to read as follows:

652:23 Chief Election Officer.

I. The secretary of state shall be the chief election officer for the state. The secretary of state shall provide information regarding voter registration procedures and absentee ballot procedures for all voters, including absent uniformed services voters, absent voters temporarily residing outside the United States, and federal ballot only voters domiciled outside the United States. Instructional and informational materials published by the secretary of state for clerks to provide such voters shall include information on how to communicate electronically with election officials.

II. *Within 180 days of the effective date of this paragraph, the secretary of state shall implement and operate a public vulnerability disclosure program which substantially meets or exceeds the recommendations contained within the publication "Guide to Vulnerability Reporting for America's Election Administrators" published by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, to make it easier for security researchers and the general public to report security vulnerabilities appropriately. The scope of the program shall include at least all of the secretary's information technology systems which bear on the integrity of the voter registration and election processes, including the centralized voter registration database and the user interfaces used by voters, town clerks, ballot clerks, and supervisors of the checklist relative to elections and voter registration. The secretary shall work with the cybersecurity advisory committee established in RSA 21-R:16, and such committee shall be responsible for the oversight of the public vulnerability disclosure program.*

III. *Upon identification of a security vulnerability, the secretary of state shall have a reasonable period to implement corrective measures before the vulnerability is publicly disclosed. The secretary shall coordinate with the cybersecurity advisory committee, established in RSA 21-R:16, to assess the nature and severity of the vulnerability and determine an appropriate remediation timeline. Until the vulnerability is adequately mitigated, disclosure shall be limited to those individuals or entities necessary to facilitate remediation and prevent exploitation. If the vulnerability remains unresolved beyond the agreed remediation period, the cybersecurity advisory committee shall determine whether disclosure is necessary in the interest of election security.*