



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 169th General Court

Calendar and Journal of the 2025 Session

Web Site Address: www.gc.nh.gov

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Concord, N.H.

Friday, April 4, 2025

No. 19

Contains: Advisory Opinion 2025-1 and 2025-2; Amendments; Bills Laid on the Table; Committee Reports; House Bills Amended by the Senate; House Deadlines; Interpretive Ruling 2025-1, 2025-2 and 2025-3; Meetings and Notices; Revised Fiscal Notes.

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The House will meet on Thursday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m., which is the deadline to act on all House Bills. It is unlikely we will hold Session on Thursday, April 17th, but we will let you know via email once that is confirmed with certainty. We will continue to keep you updated as we progress through the remaining bills and deadlines. Please continue to hold Thursdays as possible House Session days.

A budget briefing will be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. in Representatives Hall. All Members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity as it will help us to be better informed prior to acting on these bills on the 10th. Mileage will be reimbursed to attending legislators. If you are interested in other documents used throughout the House budget process, visit the LBA website here: https://gc.nh.gov/lba/budget/fy2026_2027_budget.aspx.

I would like to thank the Members of the House Finance, Ways and Means, and Public Works and Highways Committees for their hard work and long hours putting together the House versions of the Operating and Capital budgets. We also should thank the many Staff members who are involved in this process, especially the Legislative Budget Assistant Office, House Committee Services, and the Office of Legislative Services. We truly appreciate their extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Members of these committees.

Please be sure to track your House Bills as they are scheduled for hearings in the Senate, so you may be present to introduce your bills.

Please also be attentive to notices published in this Calendar from the Legislative Ethics Committee.

Be sure to wear your legislator name badge and/or security pin on Session days to aid our Sergeant-At-Arms staff in identifying you and keeping our Chamber and anteroom secure.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

The **Finance** Committee will hold budget briefings on HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, and **HB 2-FN-A-L**, relative to the state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures on **Tuesday, April 8th, at 10:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

Rep. Kenneth L. Weyler, Chairman
Finance Committee

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, April 10th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall. Optionally, at 8:00 a.m. Republican members of the Finance Committee will be available to answer questions prior to the start of caucus.

Rep. Jason Osborne, Majority Leader

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, April 10th 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, April 9, 2025

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

AVAILABLE ON:

Friday, April 11, 2025

Friday, April 18, 2025

Friday, April 25, 2025

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2025 HOUSE DEADLINES

First Year Session Deadlines

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Thursday, June 26, 2025

CROSSOVER Last day to act on all bills

Last day to report Senate Bills going to a second committee

Last day to act on SBs going to a second committee

Last day to report all remaining SBs

Last day to report list of retained SBs

Last day to act on SBs

Last day to form Committees of Conference

Last day to sign Committee of Conference reports (4 p.m.)

Last day to act on Committee of Conference reports

Amendment to House Rule 66

As Proposed by the House Rules Committee

Amend House Rule 66 by adding the following:

Monday, September 15, 2025

Friday, September 19, 2025

Friday, November 21, 2025

Thursday, January 8, 2024

First Day to file LSRs for 2024 Session

Last Day to file LSRs for 2024 Session (4 p.m.)

Last Day to sign off LSRs for 2024 Session (4 p.m.)

Last Day to report all retained bills

Last day to introduce House Bills

NOTICE

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee, at its meeting on March 10, 2025, voted to formally issue the following interpretive rulings, which are printed below in their entirety.

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-1

Application of Recent Changes to RSA 14-C as a Result of HB 1388 (2024)

(March 10, 2025)

The Legislative Ethics Committee has received a request for an interpretive ruling from the Clerk of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. He asserts that members of the General Court have raised numerous questions regarding their responsibilities under the recusal provisions in the newly enacted HB 1388.

More specifically, he asks that the Committee address the following questions:

1. When and under what circumstances is a member required to recuse themselves from consideration of a piece of legislation? If a recusal is required, please describe the steps a member should take depending on the setting, i.e. floor session, committee meeting.
2. If recusal is not required, under what circumstances is it sufficient to file a conflict of interest?
3. If neither recusal nor a filing of a conflict of interest is necessary, when is verbal disclosure appropriate?

In response, the Committee issues the following interpretive rulings:

1. Prior to the enactment of HB 1388, there was no statutory authority or written provision in the Ethics Guidelines requiring recusal in legislative matters. For the most part, when a conflict of interest existed, upon filing a Declaration of Intent form, recusal was contemplated as an option, but it was exercised at the discretion of the legislator. This was consistent with one of the primary objectives of the Ethics Guidelines, which is public disclosure.

One exception was identified in prior rulings of the Committee. It found that recusal was required in circumstances where a legislator, or a member of the legislator's household, is being compensated by an organization, holds a position in which they are able to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization, and the organization is attempting to influence the outcome of the legislative activity. This exception was incorporated in HB 1388 and was enacted as RSA 14-C:4-a, II. For guidance on its application, see *Informal Resolution 2013-5*, *Informal Resolution 2019-2*, *Advisory Opinion 2018-1*, and *Advisory Opinion 2023-3*, available on the Committee's website.

The major change brought about by HB 1388 is the required recusal found in RSA 14-C:4-a, I. This is a requirement for recusal when a legislator has a conflict of interest as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I, and the legislator or a member of the legislator's household could "be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as an outcome of the legislative activity." The terms "direct and substantial" have yet to be defined in the context of this legislation and the Ethics Guidelines as a whole. The Committee has previously indicated its intent to create an understanding of how the definitions would be applied as factual cases are brought before the Committee. That is why it previously issued an Advisory Opinion in which it advised legislators that, until the statute is better understood, they would not be subject to the imposition of sanctions provided the legislator was acting in good faith.

However, the Committee understands that there has been confusion regarding the implementation of the recusal requirement, resulting in many questions and inconsistent behavior. Therefore, some general guidance might be beneficial pending a more in-depth application of the law. This is particularly true, as guidance previously issued by the Committee may be obsolete or, worse yet, conflict with the new recusal law.

For example, previously, the Committee advised that it was sufficient to disclose a conflict when a legislator held title to property subject to current use taxation. Under the new law, if a bill would change the formula for taxation, increasing or decreasing the amount of taxes to be paid, it may be expected to have a "direct and substantial" financial impact on the legislator, making recusal mandatory. At the same time, not all current use bills would necessarily require recusal. For example, a change in property classifications, type of vegetation, or method for filing current use liens would probably not have a direct or substantial financial impact. Recusal might not be required in those circumstances, although the legislator would still have a duty to disclose.

Many legislators are members of the New Hampshire Retirement System. It is the Committee's understanding that in the past, legislators have been inconsistent in the matter of disclosure. Many have filed Declaration of Intent forms, with some electing to participate and some opting for recusal. In some cases, legislators have filed no Declaration of Intent form but may have simply made disclosure on the Financial Disclosure Form filed at the beginning of the session. Under the new law, if a bill is introduced that changes the retirement benefit or member contribution rate, it is expected to have a direct and substantial financial impact on the legislator or a member of the legislator's household, and recusal would be required. Again, just because someone belongs to the Retirement System, does not require recusal in all cases, only if there is expected to be a direct and substantial benefit. If a bill was dealing with the structure of the Retirement System, its investment strategy, its operating procedures or its staffing, it would be unlikely that recusal would be required, although disclosure would still be appropriate.

Recusal is required when a legislator recognizes that a legislative activity could reasonably be expected to have a direct and substantial financial impact upon them or a member of their household. That could be at a committee meeting or at any time in the legislative process. At that point, the legislator should refrain from any further legislative involvement on the legislative activity and file a Declaration of Intent form with the Clerk of their respective body, noting their recusal. They should refrain from participation in any further legislative involvement with that legislative activity. Because of the way bills are heard, the Committee recognizes that legislators may not recognize conflicts before they appear at the floor session. A Declaration of Intent form with recusal should be filed immediately upon discovery of the conflict.

It should be noted that recusal is not required from participation in any official legislative activity relating to the state budget or general revenue bills.

2. When recusal is not required, conflicts which are not “direct and substantial” may still exist. In such circumstances, the emphasis remains on public disclosure. There are three forms that are used for disclosing conflicts. These are the Financial Disclosure Form, the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form and the Declaration of Intent Form. There is also the requirement to make a verbal disclosure.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM

Every legislator has a duty to complete a Financial Disclosure Form at the beginning of their term. At that point they are to disclose any business, profession, occupation, group or matter in which they or a household member may have a financial interest. If a legislator discloses having a financial interest on the form, the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure of that financial interest in certain situations. The legislator could also be required to file a Declaration of Intent Form as provided below.

GENERAL DISCLOSURE OF NON-FINANCIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS FORM

When a legislator or a legislator’s household member has a non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, which is distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large, the legislator has a duty to complete a Declaration of Intent form if the legislator has not made that disclosure on the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form. This may occur in circumstances when a legislator is an uncompensated member of a board, officer or agent of a non-profit organization. If a legislator discloses having a non-financial personal interest on the form, the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure of that non-financial personal interest in certain situations.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

When a legislator has a financial interest that could reasonably be expected to produce greater benefit or detriment to the legislator or the legislator’s household member than would accrue to any other member of a business, profession, occupation, or other group the legislator listed in the financial disclosure form, the legislator has a duty to complete a Declaration of Intent form. On the form, the legislator must declare his or her decision to either participate in or not participate in the particular official activity described on the form. If a legislator elects to declare an intention to participate in the activity, the legislator is required to detail the nature of the conflict of interest on the form.

The requirement for filing a Declaration of Intent is triggered immediately when a legislator becomes aware that a conflict of interest exists or may exist with respect to any official activity the legislator is about to undertake. An “official activity” is defined as any activity which relates to official responsibilities, including the introduction of legislation, testifying before any legislative committee or state agency, voting in committee or in house or senate session or otherwise participating in, influencing, or attempting to influence any decision of the legislature, county delegation or any state agency.

For purposes of introducing a bill, the declaration must be made prior to signing off as a sponsor or co-sponsor of a particular piece of legislation. The Declaration of Intent form must be filed with the clerk of the member’s respective body prior to the time of the official action.

If there is any question in the legislator’s mind as to whether a Declaration of Intent would be required, the better practice would be to file one.

3. Verbal disclosure is required when a legislator becomes aware of having a financial interest or a non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter. It is to be made prior to engaging in verbal advocacy at any meeting of the general court or county delegation. “Verbal advocacy” means an attempt by a legislator to influence his or her colleagues on a matter that is the subject of official

activity in a meeting of the general court or county delegation through public verbal communication. Verbal advocacy does not include casting a vote in executive session of a committee or in a full session of the House or Senate. The verbal disclosure shall consist of a short statement that identifies the financial interest or non-financial personal interest.

Verbal disclosures must be made in the following circumstances and manner:

- (a) When **testifying** before a legislative committee regarding a bill or other matter in which the legislator has a special interest, the legislator shall make the disclosure prior to testifying.
- (b) When **appointed to a subcommittee** working on a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made upon appointment to the subcommittee and at the initial subcommittee work session.
- (c) When **serving as a member of a committee** considering a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made prior to engaging in verbal advocacy.
- (d) When **addressing the full House or Senate** on a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made prior to engaging in verbal advocacy. **If the legislator does not speak on the bill, the legislator is not required to make a verbal disclosure.**
- (e) When **appointed as a member of a Committee of Conference** on a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made at the initial meeting of the Committee of Conference.
- (f) When **serving as a member of a county delegation** considering a matter in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made to all participants prior to engaging in verbal advocacy.

The Committee recognizes that the application of any law or guideline to individual circumstances may pose questions not easily addressed in an interpretive ruling, which is general in nature. Legislators are encouraged to bring questions about their specific circumstances to the Ethics Committee by requesting an advisory opinion or interpretive ruling.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

Legislative Ethics Committee

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-2

Voting on the Consent Calendar

(March 10, 2025)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann asked for guidance regarding the effect of the new recusal law (2025 HB 1388) when a conflict exists with a bill included on the Consent Calendar. Specifically, he asked if a member determines that they are required to recuse themselves from voting on a bill listed on the Consent Calendar, but wants to vote on all the other bills, does the bill have to be removed from the Consent Calendar and voted on separately.

While the current statutes provide an exception for the budget and general revenue bills, no exception is made for consent calendars. While it may not have been clear in the past, absent an exception, a strict application of the new recusal law would preclude a member from voting on the Consent Calendar if it contains a bill for which the member is required to recuse. The Committee recognizes that currently the Senate and the House have different requirements in their procedural rules for removing a bill from the Consent Calendar. In the Senate, a single member may request the removal, whereas in the House 10 members are required to make the request. In either case, if the bill is removed from the Consent Calendar, the member may file a Declaration of Intent, recuse from voting on the bill, and then vote on the balance of the calendar. But if the bill is not removed from the Consent Calendar, the member is required to file a Declaration of Intent and recuse from voting on the entire Consent Calendar.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

NOTICE

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee, at its meeting on March 24, 2025, voted to formally issue the following interpretive ruling and advisory opinions, which are printed below in their entirety.

Advisory Opinion 2025-1

Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion from Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann on Behalf of Senator Donovan Fenton (March 24, 2025)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann has requested an advisory opinion on behalf of Senator Donovan Fenton, addressing whether he is required to recuse himself from participating in HB 649-FN, a bill 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

Attorney Lehmann provided the Committee with the following facts. Sen. Fenton's family owns car dealerships in the Keene area that conduct annual physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests that are required under current law. Sen. Fenton owns an equity stake of these businesses, and he is an active participant in them. Sen. Fenton does not believe that revenue derived from inspections at his families' dealerships represent a greater or lesser percentage of revenue than other similar businesses.

The relevant statutes can be found in RSA Chapter 14-C. RSA 14-C:4-a provides as follows:

I. A legislator shall recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:

- (a) The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and
- (b) The legislator or a member of the legislator's household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.

A conflict of interest, as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I, means the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator's official activities. A special interest is defined as any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large.

Having considered the facts as presented, it is the opinion of the Committee that Senator Fenton has a conflict of interest which requires his recusal from participating in legislative activities involving HB 649-FN. Although his interest in the subject may be no greater than other businesses which perform inspections and diagnostic tests, he does have a personal interest which is greater than the public at large. Given his participation in the family business, he could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of HB 649-FN.

Because the Committee has found that recusal is required pursuant to RSA 14-C:4-a, I, it has not found it necessary to consider whether recusal would be required under the provisions of RSA 14-C:4-a, II.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 6-1]

Advisory Opinion 2025-2
Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion
from Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann
on Behalf of Senator Victoria Sullivan
(March 24, 2025)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann has requested an advisory opinion on behalf of Senator Victoria Sullivan, addressing whether she is required to recuse herself from participation in any official activities involving RSA Chapter 194-F, the statutes entitled “Education Freedom Accounts.”

Attorney Lehmann provided the Committee with the following facts. Senator Sullivan has two children who are a present and a former participant in the Education Freedom Account program. Her youngest child will be graduating in May, and no member of her family will be participating in the program after May 30, 2025. She holds no position of authority in the administration or management of the program itself.

Applying the facts as presented, the relevant statutes are:

I. A legislator shall recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:

- (a) The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and
- (b) The legislator or a member of the legislator’s household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.

As defined in RSA 14-B:1, I, “Conflict of interest” means the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator’s official activities.

A special interest, in turn, is now defined as: V. “Special interest” means any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large.

- (a) A financial interest exists where a legislator or household member could stand to gain or lose anything of material value as a result of the official activity.

In applying the statutory authority, it is highly improbable that recusal would be required. If there was current legislation to increase or reduce the financial benefit applicable to existing students, or if there was future legislation that provided a retroactive benefit to former students, Senator Sullivan could incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment, and recusal would be required. But it is more likely that any legislation relating to RSA Chapter 194-F will apply only to students after May 30, 2025, in which case, Senator Sullivan will incur no direct or substantial financial benefit or detriment and recusal will not be required.

Although recusal is unlikely, given her participation in the program, Senator Sullivan may still have a special interest in Education Freedom Accounts, and she may wish to disclose a conflict before participating in legislative activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-3
(March 24, 2025)

Representative Gregory G. Hill has asked the Legislative Ethics Committee to provide an interpretive ruling, addressing whether members of the General Court, who are themselves or have a household member who

is a retired member of the New Hampshire Retirement System (“NHRS”), are required to recuse themselves from participation in official legislative activity pertaining to 2025 House Bill 536-FN, an act relative to a cost of living adjustment in the state retirement system.

The following facts were provided by Representative Hill. HB 536-FN would provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) as a supplemental allowance to the retired members of the NHRS, or any of its predecessor systems, or a member’s beneficiary, who have been retired for at least 60 months as of July 1, 2025. The supplemental allowance would be 1-1/2% of the first \$50,000.00 of the retired member’s or beneficiaries’ annual retirement allowance.

Applying the facts as presented, the relevant statutes are:

- I. A legislator shall recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:
 - (a) The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and
 - (b) The legislator or a member of the legislator’s household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.

RSA 14-B:1, I, defines “Conflict of interest” to mean “the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator’s official activities.”

A special interest, in turn, is now defined as any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large. A financial interest exists where a legislator or household member could stand to gain or lose anything of material value as a result of the official activity.

In applying the facts as provided, the Committee interprets the statutory authority to provide that a legislator who is a retired member, or who has a household member, who is a retired member of the New Hampshire Retirement System, has a financial interest which should have been disclosed on the Financial Disclosure Form filed at the beginning of the legislative session.

If the retired legislator or family member would qualify for the proposed COLA, then the legislator could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit. Recusal would be required by RSA 14-C:4-a, I, and the legislator is required to refrain from participating in any legislative activities involving HB 536-FN.

If, however, the retired legislator or family member does not qualify for the COLA because of the length of their retirement, they would not be required to recuse as they would not be receiving a “direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment.” Although not required to recuse in those circumstances, verbal disclosure might still be required if the member intends to participate in verbal advocacy involving HB 536-FN.

The committee also notes that legislation is subject to amendment as it progresses through the legislative bodies. The above analysis is based upon the current proposal as presented to the Committee.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 6-1]

BILLS LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 96, requiring New Hampshire builders to use the 2021 Energy Building codes or a similar code that achieves equivalent or greater energy savings. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 145-FN, relative to background checks for licensed dietitians and adopting the dietitian licensure compact. Pending question: Ought to Pass with Amendment.

HB 147, relative to clarifying tax exemptions for properties used by religious, educational, and charitable organizations. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 157, establishing a study committee to examine ways to improve the usefulness of fiscal notes. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

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. Pending question: Ought to Pass with Amended.

HB 199, extending the statute of limitations on civil actions relative to damage caused by per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 251-FN, allowing the ownership of certain squirrels and raccoons. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 254, relative to options for end of life care. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 264-FN, relative to delegates to an Article V convention. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

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 347, relative to protection of employment for members of the general court. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 351, requiring landlords to give tenants of at-will tenancies at least 60-days notice to evict. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 372-L, relative to lease agreements of equipment for building or facility improvements. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 386-FN, prohibiting nursing agencies from including non-compete clauses in contracts with health care entities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 402, relative to liability as taxable income of education freedom account payments. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 408, moving the date of the state primary to the fourth Tuesday in August. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 425, allowing tax-exempt entities to keep their tax-exempt status while renting facilities or property to entities that share their mission. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 432, relative to recovery houses. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 442, relative to prohibiting payment of subminimum wages. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 460-FN, relative to utility investments in distributed energy resources. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 483-FN, relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit. 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.

HB 530-FN, increasing the amount of revenue transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the affordable housing fund. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 535-FN, relative to defining the role of the public utilities commission. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 536-FN, relative to a cost of living adjustment in the state retirement system. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 537, relative to electric rates approved by the public utilities commission for residential condominium property. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 542-FN, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 553-FN, relative to the definition of abuse and neglect and conditions triggering a rebuttable presumption of harm in abuse and neglect cases. Pending question: Ought to Pass with Amendment.

HB 568, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 581-FN, establishing a state retirement plan group for new state employee members of the retirement system. Pending question: No pending question.

HB 583-FN-L, relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 586-FN, establishing an employee assistance program for small town first responders and making an appropriation therefor. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 587-FN, allowing admission of one-party audio and video recordings in certain circumstances. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 599, establishing a committee to examine weatherization initiatives for homes in New Hampshire. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 614-FN, relative to litigation alleging constitutional rights violations. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 615-FN, relative to drug forfeiture proceedings. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 620-FN, relative to the exercise of the freedom of religion. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 637-FN, relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement annuities at age 65 for certain group I retirement system members. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 645-FN, relative to data collection and reporting requirements of the prescription drug affordability board. Pending question: Ought to Pass with Amended.

HB 654-FN, relative to allowing small customer-generators the ability to participate in group-net metering. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 674-FN, relative to non-wire alternatives, time-of-use tariffs, and multi-year rate settings. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 692, relative to utility companies adopting advanced meters. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 714-FN, creating a single primary ballot. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 726-FN, relative to the state minimum hourly wage. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 744-FN, relative to workers' compensation indemnity benefits percentage. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 755-FN, relative to the state's electric utility market. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 757, relative to tip pooling and sharing and automatic service charges. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 759-FN, relative to community energy generators. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 760-FN, relative to utility default service. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 761-FN, relative to customer energy storage. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 762-FN-A, appropriating \$30,000 to the judicial branch for the purpose of hiring a contractor to conduct a manual review of domestic violence and stalking cases and related criminal cases. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

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. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 775-FN, directing the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HCR 3, applying for a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

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. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HCR 7, recognizing abortion as a critical component of comprehensive reproductive health care. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

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. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HR 17, affirming revenue estimates for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027. Pending question: No Pending question.

2025 HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

HB 110, authorizing counties to establish revolving fund accounts. (SJ 3/28/2025)

HB 127, extending the closing date of the OHRV trails on the Connecticut River Headwaters property from September 30 to Columbus Day. (SJ 3/28/2025)

HB 399, (New Title) establishing a commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act and relative to the effective date of the C-PACER program. (House Concurs 3/6/2025)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

CONSENT CALENDAR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 240-FN-LOCAL, (New Title) relative to nonpayment of dog licensing fees. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matt Sabourin dit Choinière for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill relieves municipalities from having to enforce what is easily perceived as a frivolous statute, allowing law enforcement resources to be allocated for more urgent concerns. Unlicensed dogs are not necessarily nuisance or vicious dogs. **Vote 15-0.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 538-FN, reallocating positions in the liquor commission. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill changes the structure of the Liquor Commission to add a division of finance and audit and to rename two positions to align with the current structure. The two new positions are at the same compensation level as those they replace. This bill satisfies concerns raised in the FY2018, FY2019 and FY2020 audits and is ready for implementation now that the new point-of-sale and back-office systems are operational. **Vote 16-0.**

FINANCE

HB 67-FN-A, relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Karen Ebel for Finance. This bill moves from the current pilot agreement to a permanent agreement with the Secretary of State's office for the use of accessible voting systems in local elections. As amended, the effective date of the legislation has been delayed until December 31, 2025, per the request of the Secretary of State. Additionally, the \$100,000 appropriation has been removed because the secretary also advised that HAVA funds could be used as needed. Accessible voting systems have been in place only for state elections with a federal office on the ballot. These systems had not been made available at polling locations for local elections. As a result, except for a couple of communities that have their own accessible voting systems, individuals with disabilities were not universally afforded equal opportunities to vote privately and independently in local elections, which violates the ADA. Passage of HB 67 is intended to correct this. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 187-FN, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for Finance. Current law lets parents or guardians seek a restraining order alleging abuse of a minor only if the alleged abuser is a relative or household member. The bill removes that restriction, so the law will also apply to other cases like allegedly abusive neighbors, babysitters, etc. The only financial impact is from any extra court time for the new restraining orders. This should be minimal. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 494-FN, relative to the math learning communities program, and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. This bill passed the House on February 20 on a voice vote after unanimous support in the policy committee. The Finance committee amendment does not affect policy - it just removes the paragraph appropriating funds which is no longer needed since the appropriations will become part of the state budget through HB1. The Finance Committee unanimously supported the OTP/A motion on this bill to adopt the policy changes already approved by the House. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 552-FN, relative to coverage of children under the state retiree insurance plan. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for Finance. Currently the state retiree insurance plan allows coverage for 19 to 25 year-old children if they are full-time students. This bill, which passed unanimously in the House Finance Committee and in the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee, seeks the simple change of removing the full-time student requirement to allow coverage of all children in this age group. This brings the retiree plan in alignment with the current state employee plan and other ACA plans. The entire cost of this change will be paid by the retiree and not the state. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 566-FN, requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for Finance. This bill provides statutory support for the NH Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) current rules which require applicants for landfill permits to provide detailed leachate management plans. These plans require descriptions of how leachate would be managed, collected, and stored on site. It would also include a description of on-site treatment, if applicable. Other requirements of the plan include information about leachate transport, disposal, and contingencies in the event of unforeseen events. This bill provides the most significant enhancement for enforcement of NHDES rules and passed unanimously in the Finance Committee and the Environment and Agriculture Committee. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 650-FN, removing references to repealed funds and relative to state park and robotics education funds. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for Finance. RSA 6:12 is the compendium of all dedicated funds held by the Treasury, whether passed in law, or delivered to the Treasury to hold by court orders or on behalf of trusts. They do not appear in the General Fund, Education Trust Fund, Fish and Game Fund, or other accounts that are overseen by the legislature and produce their own annual audits. The Joint Committee on Dedicated Funds hears the results of every department's dedicated funds every five years, in a five-year rotation, suggests modifications to correct growing balances or pending deficits and inability to carry out the planned work, corrects errors and repeals references to funds that no longer exist. This bill makes two substantive modifications approved by the agencies. The existing state park fund includes both the state-owned Cannon Mountain Ski Area and Tramway, and the rest of the state parks (excluding historic buildings). The ski area generates considerable revenue, which is segregated to a separate sub-fund. The other state parks generate very little, and mostly as gifts to a specific site visited, so no system-wide planning is possible. The committee and the agency agreed to create a separate Cannon Mountain fund. Second, the committee read the robotics fund financials and realized that for the last several years, only a fraction of the robotics fund, which helps schools set up robotics programs, has been used. It is funded by an annual \$750,000 grant from general funds and has been very successful, but seems to have gotten to most of the schools capable of setting up a program, and is increasing its surpluses. Rather than delete it, the committee chose to change it from non-lapsing and cap it at \$1 million, lapsing any excess every biennium. The Finance Committee found no fiscal impact. **Vote 25-0.**

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

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. This bill passed the House on February 13 on a voice vote after unanimous support in the policy committee. It requires public schools to maintain supplies of epinephrine auto-injectors for use in the event of an allergic emergency. The Finance committee amendment does not significantly affect policy - it just removes the reference to nasal sprays and removes the paragraph appropriating funds which is not needed since testimony made it clear that drug manufacturers are making epinephrine auto-injectors available to schools at no cost. The Finance Committee unanimously supported the OTP/A motion on this bill to adopt the policy changes already approved by the House. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 733-FN, relative to reporting requirements for persons or entities financing lawsuits. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Karen Ebel for Finance. This bill enhances consumer protections and promotes transparency in commercial litigation funding by establishing clear disclosure requirements and ethical limitations on third-party financiers. By ensuring that funding agreements are disclosed to all relevant parties, prohibiting foreign entities of concern from influencing litigation, and safeguarding attorney-client decision making, this legislation upholds the integrity of the legal system while protecting claimants from potential conflicts of interest and undue external influence. As indicated by the fiscal note, the committee determined that there was no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures or revenue. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 781-FN, (New Title) requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. The bill passed the House on March 13 on a voice vote after being voted 16-1 in support by the policy committee. The bill requires school districts to adopt policies regarding cell phone use in school to at least restrict cell phone use during class instructional time, with appropriate exceptions provided. The bill does not appropriate any funds. The Finance Committee unanimously supported the OTP motion on this bill. **Vote 25-0.**

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 REGULAR CALENDAR-PART ONE

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 25-A, making appropriations for capital improvements. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. David Milz for Public Works and Highways. This bill is New Hampshire's capital budget for the coming biennium. The capital budget provides bonded funding for statewide capital improvements including construction, repairs, and investments in state-owned buildings, state facilities and parks. Such improvements aim to maintain and strengthen our state's non-highway transportation, building, and technological infrastructure and also stimulates private business growth and economic opportunity. The capital budget, as recommended by the committee, appropriates approximately \$132.5 million in general fund bonding. This budget provides funding to the Community College System for critical maintenance, IT infrastructure and increases the capacity for its welding training program at Great Bay campus and to the University System of New Hampshire for building renovations at its Plymouth and Keene campuses. Understanding the importance of outdoor recreational activities to New Hampshire's tourism industry, the committee approved funds to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway, to improve roads at the Connecticut Lake Headwaters and improve Umbagog Lake State Park Marina and facilities; to the Fish and Game Department for hatchery predatory control and inland fisheries equipment; and to Pease Development Authority for repairs at Rye and Hampton Harbors and dredging at the Market Street terminal main wharf. The budget also provides funding to the Department of Environmental Services to protect and improve our water resources, to the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Veterans Home to maintain our state-owned buildings. Through judicious use of lapse money, the committee was also able to provide support for rail and tie improvements of state-owned railroads. The committee tried to take advantage of federal and other matching funds to develop a proposal which will provide much needed projects, improvements, and jobs throughout New Hampshire. Overall, this budget leverages over \$122.7 million in federal funds for IT projects, drinking water and clean water state revolving funds, and matching funds for National Guard facilities. It is imperative that we maintain our state-owned buildings, and this proposed budget continues the commitment of the Public Works and Highways Committee to do just that. The projects for which money is appropriated will continue to encourage tourism and create jobs for many small and large contracting businesses throughout our state. **Vote 17-1.**

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 302, relative to enabling the state treasury to invest in precious metals and digital assets. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. This bill allows, limits, and restrains investments by the Treasurer in precious metals and cyber-investment ETFs. While common law already allows such activity, this bill introduces rational and reasonable restraints upon such investments to protect the state from the volatility of gold and cyber-currency investments. The Ways and Means Committee was tasked with reviewing the affect and effect of this bill on the state revenues and found that there was a limited negative impact if bad investments were made and an opportunity for large revenue receipts in certain economic environments. The Ways and Means Committee was not asked to weigh in on the policy as that had already been established by the House. The bill caps investments at 5% of the funds of the state available for investment. That is not 5% of all funds managed by the Treasury, rather only of the subset of funds allowed to be invested by law or trust applications. **Vote 11-8.** Rep. Terry Spahr for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. The intent of this crypto and precious metals bill is to enable the State Treasurer to invest in these vehicles. But as the State Treasurer pointed out in testimony in Ways and Means, there is nothing that currently prohibits the Treasurer from investing in these vehicles in certain accounts. Furthermore, the State Treasurer is a fiduciary for the funds it manages and, by law, it is obligated to invest state funds prudently for the benefit and protection of the taxpayers. The Treasury contracts with an outside registered investment advisor to add another layer of expertise and protection in investing taxpayer funds. With these protections in place and the ability for the state to already invest in crypto and precious metals, the minority doesn't see added value in this bill.

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. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. This bill seeks to correct an error wherein electricity generators, businesses that manufacture electrons for distribution on the grid, were not removed from the Utilities Property Tax (UPT) scheme when deregulation took place. The result was a massive amount of litigation regarding how to assess the properties and fit them into the fixed assessment plan of cable, conduits, poles, and wires that the UPT taxes. As a second committee, the Ways and Means Committee was tasked

with determining the affect and effect on state revenues. In very broad terms, there was a reduction in one fund, but an increase in local property tax revenues - a wash if you will. Generators are not utilities, they are producers of electrons. Conflicts arose between towns and the Department of Revenue Administration regarding how the entities should be taxed. This bill, the result of three years of study commission work, removes the ambiguity, establishes known assessment policies, adds generators to the statewide education property taxation scheme, stabilizes electricity generation taxation principles (thus reducing litigation paid for by rate payers hopefully), shows a decrease in deposits to the Education Trust Fund, but shows an increase to localities for the local property taxes. As the prime sponsor quipped in committee: "When Representative Ames, Senator Watters, and Representative Ulery agree on a plan it should be sound." **Vote 17-2.** Rep. Thomas Oppel for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. This bill requires further study and since it would not take effect until July 2027, there is no urgency to pass it this year. As currently structured, the bill would result in a \$12 million reduction in revenue to the Education Trust Fund. While the majority argues that this has been studied for multiple years by multiple commissions, questions remain about the impact this bill will have on property taxpayers who are already struggling with the long-term and continuing burden of the state's downshifting of costs like public education. That impact is still unmeasured because of the three-year exemption from statewide education property taxes the bill offers power generators who have payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements in place with municipalities. Also left unaddressed is the ability of local assessors to access information they believe is essential to develop accurate assessments without costly litigation.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 493, requiring education on child abuse and neglect for certain healthcare providers as a condition for licensure. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would require all physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to take an approved, one hour training on child abuse and neglect before their initial license and every two years afterward, for license renewal. The committee finds the bill unnecessary, since the board of medicine and the board of nursing has full authority to require specific continuing education content for any or all of its licensees. The committee was not convinced that ophthalmologists or gerontologists need such specific, repeated training, and felt that the one hour requirement was intended to lead to future requirements for two, six, or ten hour training courses. Implementing the requirement for initial licensure would also complicate that process, particularly for doctors from other states or nurse practitioners taking advantage of the nursing compact. In addition, supporters indicated that one reason for this requirement was to suppress different medical opinions in cases of suspected child abuse and the majority of the committee considered this as indoctrination. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Jaci Grote for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The minority recognizes the difficulty in diagnosing child abuse resulting from physical abuse, but more importantly neglect. We can all agree that child abuse is unacceptable. The bill itself was not ideal and a floor amendment will address the concerns from those who could not support the bill.

FINANCE

HB 66-FN, relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill makes several important changes to the right to know law. First, it replaces the undefined term "citizen" in current law with the word "person," so that anyone can make a right to know request regardless of where they live. Second, to prevent abuse of the law, it places limitations on out of state persons who make such requests. If the requester is not a media representative and has no connection to New Hampshire, i.e., is not a domiciliary, a NH taxpayer, someone who owns property here or does business here, then the government body can require the person to physically come to its offices to make the request and to get the records. Those who do have a New Hampshire connection or are members of the media can make requests remotely and request that the records be provided electronically, which the governmental body must honor if it keeps the records in the format requested and the request is not unduly burdensome. Third, the bill also specifically provides that covered records include preliminary drafts of reports and other documents that are circulated to a quorum of the body. The amendment removes the requirement that citizen-initiated appeals of the ombudsman's rulings shall have no filing fee. **Vote 16-9.** Rep. Karen Ebel for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill, as amended, significantly broadens the definition of a right-to-know requestor to include any media person wherever located, requiring no Granite State nexus and greatly increasing the compliance burden on municipalities and the state. The expansion is at odds with both Article 8 of the New Hampshire Constitution, stating that the government must be responsive to the people who formed it, and with RSA 91-A referencing the right of "every citizen" to access governmental records. While never ruling on the RSA 91-A definition of citizen, in its opinions, the NH Supreme Court has reiterated that

the purpose of the RTK law is “to provide the utmost information to the public about what its government is up to.” The statute is reasonably interpreted as giving rights only to New Hampshire residents. HB 66, as amended, also creates two classes of requestors. It allows any person to make a request to the state or political subdivisions by mail or electronic means. The bill then provides that a person with “ties to New Hampshire” or a member of the media wherever located may elect to receive the RTK response by mail, electronic means or in-person pick up. Requestors with no “ties to New Hampshire” may make a request by mail or electronically, but could be required to appear in person to retrieve the responsive documents. Fulfilling RTK requests can often take additional hours or even days to complete, sometimes simply to be used for marketing purposes by the requestor. The minority is concerned that the expansion of the definition and related costs will be an additional burden on NH taxpayers, further stressing municipal and state budgets.

HB 71-FN, prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Brian Seaworth for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill was sent to Finance as a second committee courtesy of a “worst case” scenario described in the narrative provided by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), potentially being as much as \$18m. The bill was described to have no state impact on the budget as scored by the LBA. DHHS was concerned that this bill might be read as an instruction to violate federal law and that its passage or implementation would cause the state to lose all refugee and HUD federal assistance. The majority of the committee found that the actual language of the bill is extremely narrow in its scope in that it prohibits only the conversion of a school into shelter or housing exclusively for non-citizens who have not entered the United States lawfully (as defined by federal law). After a thorough review, the majority of the Finance Committee believes that there will be no foreseeable impact on the state budget. Absent any cost, we reaffirm the policy decision made by the House 211-141. Added to the bill is a non-germane amendment which requires DHHS contracts to include a provision that contracted entities comply with the NH Patient Bill of Rights. While already state law, the addition of contract language should provide clarity. **Vote 14-11.** Rep. Jerry Stringham for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill bans the use of school and institutional facilities exclusively to shelter or house “specified aliens” under the order of the federal government, a state, or unit of local government. This prohibition excludes sheltering due to natural disasters like fires, floods and earthquakes when the housing is for less than 72 hours. The Finance Committee heard significant concerns that this bill may conflict with federal guidance, potentially resulting in the loss of federal funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This could cost the State of New Hampshire as much as \$18 million per year. Given the confusion over the word “exclusive” and the lack of evidence that specified aliens use public facilities for housing or for natural disasters in NH, the minority assert we should avoid a potential economic disaster of the man-made variety for our state and ITL this bill.

HB 115-FN, relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the **Majority** of Finance. The majority of the Finance Committee strongly supports this common sense bill which makes the state’s popular Education Freedom Accounts available to every student in the Granite State regardless of family income by the end of the upcoming biennium in the most fiscally responsible way possible, by increasing the threshold from its current 350% of the federal poverty level to 400% in the first year, then removing it altogether starting with the second year. This bill will provide the best educational fit for those students who have struggled to succeed or who are not being academically challenged in the “one size fits all” public school system. We firmly believe that access to EFAs should not be means tested, just like no means testing is required to enroll a student in a public district school. If anything, continuing to insist on means testing in children’s education normalizes the idea that means testing should be used for access to public education, which is a policy the majority firmly opposes. The EFA program is much more accountable than public schools in terms of controlling expenditures. Every expense is reviewed by a third party before being approved, and any unused funds are returned to the Education Trust Fund once the student is no longer eligible - neither of those are true for public schools. When it comes to being accountable for academic achievement, NH students’ NEAP test scores have been consistently declining since 2013, despite our student population steadily decreasing while education expenditures keep increasing faster than the inflation rate. The EFA program gives parents more power to hold schools accountable by changing schools when the current school does not help their child to achieve the needed academic performance. The misleading claim that opponents of this bill make about the lack of mandatory testing somehow making EFA’s unaccountable brazenly ignores the fact that parents know best what is good for their children, and that parents across the state are clearly unable to hold public schools accountable for the lack of academic performance shown by our falling test results. Why would any person that supports education ever oppose making it a bit easier for parents to take their children to a school that better educates them? It’s time to make EFA’s available to every New Hampshire child that needs them. **Vote 14-11.** Rep. Kate Murray for the **Minority** of Finance. The minority opposes the OTP motion on HB115. We have seen across the state

widespread disapproval of the EFA program. Beginning with the public hearing for this program on January 18th of this year, 3,253 people registered their opposition to the program, while only 770 people expressed support. At the Finance Committee public hearing, scores of people came out to speak against the program. Hundreds of emails have been sent in opposing expansion to this program. Citizens, our taxpayers, our constituents, issued statements through their town meeting process protesting the expansion of this program. Back in 2022, the original estimate for the program was predicted to be \$300,000 whereas the cost of the program was over \$14 million. The following year the program cost around \$22 million. This year the cost is more like \$28 million. By removing the cap to this program, the most reliable estimates show that the cost of this expansion could reach anywhere from \$60 million to \$100 million. Many of these vouchers are nothing more than taxpayer funded grants to people who are wealthy enough to already send their children to a private school. Many others go to families whose children have never set foot inside a public school, and cannot know whether the public school system is or is not for their child. Further, we have no standardized assessment of how well or how poorly these children are faring. At a time when we are cutting virtually every other program in the state, this is not the time to expand a program that is so costly, so unpopular, except within a very small community of people, and lacks even the most basic of guardrails. In a year when we are facing not even an efficiency budget but a starvation budget, when every agency and every department is being cut, it is egregious that we are considering expanding such an expensive and unpopular program. The minority asks that we stand for fiscal responsibility in these difficult times and that we listen to the concerns of our constituents and vote against this OTP motion.

HB 282-FN, increasing the maximum benefits for first responders critically injured in the line of duty. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Chris Muns for Finance. This bill increases the maximum amount that can be paid to first responders who are critically injured and deemed eligible under existing statute for a critical injury benefit of up to \$125,000 to a maximum total of \$1 million per biennium. The current maximum total payout per biennium is \$500,000. This bill increases the number of first responders who could receive a benefit if there is a catastrophic event that results in serious injuries to a large number of first responders. It does not increase the maximum amount that any one injured responder could receive. The financial impact is indeterminable since the extra benefits would only be paid out if there is a catastrophic event resulting in multiple first responders being injured. Fortunately, no such event has ever occurred. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 506-FN, relative to background checks during motions to return firearms and ammunition. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. This bill expedites the process of returning seized property when a citizen is no longer prohibited from possessing property because of an order of the court. No amendments were made to the bill - it still contains the same language the House passed on February 20 on a voice vote after unanimous support in the policy committee. The bill is not on the consent calendar because it may require a new position to be created within the Department of Safety. **Vote 24-1.**

HB 511-FN, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the **Majority** of Finance. The majority of the Committee on Finance believes New Hampshire must never become a sanctuary state or offer shelter to individuals who disregard our nation's immigration laws. House Bill 511 is a critical measure designed to ensure our state and local governments aggressively cooperate with federal immigration enforcement authorities. Sanctuary policies blatantly undermine the rule of law, endanger our communities, and disrespect every immigrant who follows the legal path to citizenship. HB 511, as amended, directly addresses these threats by mandating compliance with federal immigration enforcement. It provides clarity and strength, eliminating loopholes that allow dangerous sanctuary policies to take root. Local law enforcement officers deserve clear guidelines and support, not mixed messages that compromise their ability to protect our communities. Passing HB 511 sends a powerful message: New Hampshire will not tolerate illegal immigration or policies that shield criminals from accountability. Sanctuary cities are an insult to law-abiding citizens and taxpayers who expect public resources to protect their families, not those who break our laws. This bill ensures that public safety remains the highest priority and reinforces our commitment to a lawful, orderly immigration process. **Vote 14-11.** Rep. Chris Muns for the **Minority** of Finance. When this bill was recommended to the full House as OTP by the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, the members of the minority were among the 351 representatives who voted in favor of it. But when amendment 0785h came to the Finance committee, the members of the minority had to pause. Being in this country without proper documentation is not a crime. The minority does not believe this legislature should take any actions that suggests, encourages or sanctions that it is "all right" for any jurisdiction to hold individuals who have not been charged with a crime in any of our criminal correctional facilities for any length of time. The minority understands and respects the difficult job that ICE has, and that is why everything we ask them to do should be unimpeachable and consistent not only with the law but the moral principles upon which this country was founded. If we adopt this bill as amended, we will be taking the first

step down a very slippery slope that will end up making it far too easy for us – and our federal partners – to deprive our friends, family members and neighbors of their fundamental rights and what it means to live in the United State. We must ensure that no one can be picked up off the street in New Hampshire and taken to one of our jails – or a detention camp far from his/her homes – without due process or the opportunity to defend themselves against that action.

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. Kate Murray for Finance. Presently if an individual turns 21 over a weekend or an extended holiday weekend, their vertical youth license expires, and they are not able to apply for their adult horizontal license until the next business day that DMV is open. Right now their only option is to reapply for a youth license which means they either keep the vertical youth license for another five years, or they keep it for only a few days and reapply for the adult horizontal license, other scenario is not optimal. This bill allows for a 30-day youth license which will see them through until they are able to receive the horizontal adult license. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 639-FN, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the **Majority** of Finance. The majority of the Committee on Finance believes House Bill 639 represents a critical advancement for New Hampshire by establishing necessary protections and regulatory clarity for blockchain technology and digital assets. By prohibiting overly restrictive local regulations targeting digital asset mining and creating a specialized blockchain dispute docket, HB 639 positions New Hampshire as a leader in fostering innovation and technological growth. The bill provides essential safeguards for blockchain users, businesses, and innovators, ensuring that emerging technologies can thrive without undue interference or inconsistent local restrictions. HB 639 offers clear legal frameworks to address disputes, enhancing confidence among entrepreneurs and investors in the rapidly expanding blockchain and digital currency sectors. Passage of HB 639 demonstrates New Hampshire's forward-thinking approach, promoting economic growth, job creation, and technological leadership. It clearly signals our commitment to attracting and retaining cutting-edge businesses and innovators within our state. **Vote 15-10.** Rep. Chris Muns for the **Minority** of Finance. The committee heard testimony from the Director of the NH Bureau of Securities Regulation who disagreed with language in the bill that providing digital asset mining or staking services to individuals or business shall not be considered as offering a security or investment contract and therefore not subject to oversight by the bureau. Current practice and law is that anytime one person invests money in something of value, then that "something" is considered a security. The director indicated that he was unable to provide this testimony to the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee when they considered this bill. In addition, the minority is concerned at the demands on our energy resources and the impact on energy rates that digital asset mining will have. There is also language in the bill that specifically prohibits any local government agency or subdivision from having any oversight of blockchain protocols or practices within its community. The minority believes this is unacceptable, given the disruption large scale digital asset mining could have in a community. Finally, there is also an unspecified potential impact on the Judicial Branch associated with an increase in litigation within in the proposed new blockchain dispute docket, particularly if an additional judge is required. There are just too many unanswered questions and as such the minority believes the bill is inexpedient to legislate at this time.

HB 713-FN, relative to mile markers along Route 112. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jerry Stringham for Finance. This bill directs the Department of Transportation to place mile markers along the 32-mile iconic stretch of Route 112 known as the Kancamagus Highway. This beautiful, hilly and treacherous road runs through the heart of the White Mountains where there is no cell phone or radio service. When accidents or breakdowns occur, police and ambulance providers report substantial delays locating the vehicles. Good samaritans typically call 911 after they have traveled five or more miles from the site of the breakdown to an area with cell service and refer to the vehicle's location in vague terms, like "by the big rock," or "by the campground." Public Works unanimously supported the bill as it addresses a major safety risk for our citizens and visitors. The project would be 100% federal funded. The amendment provides the department with flexibility to combine this project with others to efficiently use available funds. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this bill. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 723-FN, repealing the multi-use energy data platform. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jose Cambrils for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill would repeal the multi-use energy data platform law. In 2019 this law was passed and it requires utilities to create and jointly operate a statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform. The platform is yet to be built. There is significant overlap in features between this proposed data platform and what some utilities already offer in their customer facing portals: mainly the ability for a customer to view their electricity usage and to manually share that usage with third parties. Utilities currently recover the costs of upgrading and improving their customer facing software by filing a rate

case and justifying the expense to the public utilities commission (PUC). This data platform law circumvents the normal cost-benefit justification process and simply mandates that the platform be built. The majority on the committee felt that the benefits of the platform, over what some utilities already provide, are not clear and, if there are benefits, the utilities should build this project by following the normal process, without special carve outs in statute. The cost to integrate this platform was conservatively projected to be \$4.5 to \$7 million. With the estimated cost to build the platform being in the tens of millions. **Vote 14-11.** Rep. Chris Muns for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill repeals Senate Bill (SB) 284 which was introduced at the request of the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) and signed into law by Governor Sununu in 2019. It established a statewide, utility-customer energy-data platform that would allow utilities, their customers, and authorized third parties to access the online platform and participate in the secure sharing of energy-usage data. Most of the costs to implement this platform would be passed on to the utilities' customers, but the impact on each customer's monthly bill would be negligible. The Department of Energy was unable to quantify what, if any direct cost the state would incur. The platform was intended to provide easy access to energy-usage data by innovative companies looking to develop energy-related services and also to municipalities seeking to make the benefits of retail electric choice available to their residents. It was meant to support the move towns and cities throughout the state have already made to "community choice aggregation" (CCA) plans—arrangements for securing lower energy prices or an energy-source mix that includes more renewables on the free market. The implementation of the platform has been delayed by inaction on the part of the utilities and the Department of Energy. Cancelling this will be another step backwards in our efforts to take control of our energy.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 REGULAR CALENDAR-PART TWO

FINANCE

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kenneth Weyler for the **Majority** of Finance. This was a very difficult year for a budget. We have had some of the worst economy in the last few years. Federal funds have come in surprising amounts over past years, with no expectations that they would continue. They should have been used for only one-time expenses, but inevitably caused some growth in government and other programs. This and the reduction in our economy, have left us with a challenge we have not experienced in more than a decade. This has caused some turmoil in our state and its government. For the last six months in this process, we have realized that extensive cuts will be needed. The document that was delivered to us from the Governor's Office, differed from the revenue estimates that the House adopted from the Ways and Means Committee. Having worked on at least 12 budgets, the authors found the Ways and Means Committee to be very accurate. Thus, a difference between the Governor's estimates and Ways and Means of 800 million dollars had to be accommodated. We knew that reductions had to be made. Our members have been bombarded with messages just as our committee members were. The exaggeration was especially apparent in our public hearing, where the majority of public members demanded more spending on our public schools. This ignores the fact that we have continuously increased state contributions to schools at the rate of inflation while local spending has increased above inflation ignoring the reduction in enrollment. We increased the per pupil special education funding in addition to what the Governor proposed for special education catastrophic funding. We increased funding for property poor towns. We analyzed staffing in all agencies and found many funded vacancies which we removed, including removing added staff where we did not find justification. We found many fees that had not been adjusted in decades. Adjusting these fees helped bring in new revenue to close the gap. We also looked at bringing in more revenue by a proposal to bring in slot machines. To promote this, we first believed that we had to reduce the share to charitable gaming. We got many reactions to this, and have restored the charity share. We also got strong reactions to closing the State Library, which caused us to forget that proposal. We had many small boards, commissions, and advocates, that had not operated as hoped, and had proved overly expensive. Eliminating them was replaced by adding two more judges to a special court that was funded by increases in filing fees. In short this was a difficult budget year. We look forward to continuing this process with the Senate, where we often find more revenue in the critical months of April and May. **Vote 14-11.** Rep. Mary Jane Wallner for the **Minority** of Finance. After extensive budget cuts, the minority believes that HB 1 falls short in providing funding for the services that the people of the Granite State deserve and expect from their state government. Agencies came before Finance having already cut their budgets several percent as directed by Governor Ayotte and those budgets were cut deeply yet again by the majority. The Judicial Branch, already concerned about closing courts and curtailing jury trials, and the Department of Justice were both subjected to millions of dollars of back of the budget cuts that will affect the administration of justice in this state. The Department of Environmental Services budget was reduced by tens of millions, much of it in state aid grants

for municipal wastewater plant improvements, as well as a back of the budget cut. Perhaps the worst of all was abolishing nearly 100 filled positions at the Department of Corrections (DOC). The DOC has worked very hard to fill a variety of vacant positions, from food services to program instructors, not to mention corrections officers. These cuts would be an untenable setback. The budget as proposed by the majority reduces the state contribution to the University System of NH by \$50 million dollars, a drastic reduction that will negatively impact the courses and services offered to students. At the same time, the majority increases the budget for the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program by \$16 million dollars, despite the program containing no academic assessment of students or guardrails to protect against fraud. This budget brushes aside the voices of thousands of people who turned out to express their opposition to EFA expansion, through emails, public meetings and town halls. Further, this budget infringes on local control by attempting to impose a budget cap on what local municipalities can spend on education. One outcome of this is that underfunded schools will remain underfunded in perpetuity. Municipalities have made it clear that they are opposed to such an action. In other matters, this budget raids the opioid fund to support law enforcement, and uses the emergency 911 fund to support basic operations in the Department of Safety. The HB 1 cuts to DHHS services will significantly impact all Granite Staters. A county cap increase to 3% increases the burden on property taxpayers. Compounded with 3% Medicaid rate cuts, the pressure on our county nursing homes, as well as other providers to maintain basic care, will be challenged. Key programs are eliminated including family planning, tobacco prevention and cessation, Choose Love, peer-to-peer grief support, and Department of Corrections parental education. Other areas significantly underfunded are Community Mental Health Support, cut by \$37.8 million for the biennium, and the Developmental Services waitlist funding, cut by \$31.3 million.

HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kenneth Weyler for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill is called enabling legislation. It is where the changes to fees, revenue, expenditures, and reorganization which are included in HB 1, where only the funding pages are shown. Any law changes that affect the budget must be shown in this separate bill. As the Finance Committee received bills from the policy committees as the second committee, we endeavored to include them in the budget by amending HB 2. Some of these bills we moved ought to pass, or ought to pass as amended, if they did not have large effects on the budget. In order to create a balanced budget, many adjustments had to be made. We added some increases in fees, many of which had not been increased in decades. This also helped balance the budget with fewer cuts. There is hardly any agency of the state that is not affected, as the difference between the Governor's proposal and the Ways and Means estimates is almost 5% of the proposal, even after the supposed 4% cut in the proposal. There is a change in the Group II retirement which has the support of the Governor, the unions, and the committee. There are more than 100 amendments to this bill, many of which came from the Governor's proposal, and many from the committee. Funds are moved around, small boards, which were not judged efficient, were eliminated by assigning those roles to the court system. Some rules and definition were changed. It directs the sale of some state properties, including some highway rest areas, the Tirrell House, the Philbrook, Center, and the Sununu Youth Services Center. Some TANF surplus will be used for Child Care. Puts a floor on the Catastrophic Aid, so that no less than 80% must be paid. To balance the 3% added to the County Cap, the \$25 million due to the counties from the COVID FMAP distribution will be paid in four yearly distributions. Takes the money from the State Scholarship Advisory Committee, and transfers it to the USNH Grant for two years. Repeals the Division of Arts in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. These are a sample of the small changes that needed to be made to balance the budget. This is typical of many of these enabling bills in the past, and may even have fewer pages. **Vote 14-11.** Rep. Mary Jane Wallner for the **Minority** of Finance. Given many draconian changes and cuts to state agencies, the minority cannot support HB 2, as amended. As with any budget, there are provisions the minority supports, particularly with respect to Group 2 retirement and changes to landfill siting in the state. The minority also support the effort to update agency fees to realistic levels to increase revenue to support state services. But on balance, these are far outweighed by the radical actions, such as the abolishment of the Office of Child Advocate, the NH Council for the Arts, the Commission on Aging, the Human Rights Commission, slashing of most of the BEA's travel and tourism marketing budget and more. The majority would abolish about 100 filled positions at the Department of Corrections. The appropriation for the Sununu Youth Development Center settlement fund is only \$20 million for the biennium, far too little to maintain the claims program just put into place last year. In addition, the majority has added legislation that would decimate our renewable energy initiatives and decimates our renewable energy fund. In this amended budget, the threshold for the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program is eliminated in FY27. Contrary to the stated intent of the program since its inception, this opens EFA's to all regardless of income, resulting in an expected financial impact of between \$60 and \$100 million without new guardrails to prevent abuse of funds. With regard to Video Lottery Terminals, the HB 2 proposal gives 70% of the proceeds to the operator and only 30% to the state and New Hampshire charities. The operator distribution in HB 2 greatly exceeds the Governor's proposal of 45%, which aligns with our neighboring states, resulting in less to education and

our state's charities. This proposal also diverts funds from the opioid abatement trust fund in order to support law enforcement operations. HB 2 lowers the percent of BPT and BET going to the education trust fund from 41% to 32%, resulting in fewer dollars designated solely for educational expenditures. HB 2 prevents municipalities from setting their own school budgets by mandating a cap on the amount that can be spent, usurping local control and solidifying underfunded schools in perpetuity. This budget also places an unreasonable burden on the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) by asking it to monitor and track down voters who have, for whatever reason, not applied for a NH driver's license. There are many valid reasons why an individual would not want or need a driver's license; but if the new program is tied to any issue pertaining to voting, follow up responsibility should fall to the Secretary of State - not the DMV - to prevent breaches of privacy. The local decision whether to adopt Keno is taken away in this proposal, retroactively undoing the original agreement made when introduced in NH. Finally, the majority amendment to HB 2 adopts a policy change with a "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" (DEI) ban in public schools and spaces without a public hearing, clear definitions, or detailed plans for terminating existing contracts and reporting. The vaguely-written DEI ban puts NH at great risk of mandating the exclusion of people with disabilities, veterans, and other protected classes from public hearing and life. This exposure will very likely result in litigation, and fails the test of fiscal responsibility. HB 2 changes the Medicaid program by requiring a 5% income copay for certain individuals with Granite Advantage and families with kids on CHiP, as well as doubled prescription copays. These people are low-income and struggling to meet basic needs and will likely go without health care, or just won't pay. The bill has no direction for how payments will be collected, and the administration of these changes will likely be significant compared to any incoming funds. The increase in uninsured patients will result in skyrocketing uncompensated care, take steps backwards in battling substance use disorder, and will cost the state more overall in the end. The bill requires the sale of the Philbrook Center which plays a vital role as a transitional housing center to discharge patients from NH Hospital. Last biennium the budget included long-overdue rate increases for providers that helped to finally bring stability to our health care and mental health care systems. Unfortunately, HB 2 includes a 3% rate cut across the board that will have direct workforce impact and will reduce the number and quality of services available to those in need. Rolling back rates will once again destabilize the entire network of care in the state. For these reasons, the minority of the Finance Committee cannot support this budget.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 17-N:1), Room 212, LOB

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

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

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO THE ROAD TOLL, ROAD TOLL REGISTRATION CHARGES, AND REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, INCLUDING ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STATE'S HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES AND THEIR RESULTING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT (RSA 21-J:49), Room 201, LOB

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 205-207, LOB

10:00 a.m. **SB 69-L**, relative to acceptance of or rejection of charitable contributions, gifts, or donations by local school boards.

10:15 a.m. **SB 206-FN**, requiring public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of cell phones by students.

10:30 a.m. **SB 57**, establishing a study committee to analyze reducing the number of school administrative units.

11:00 a.m. **SB 97-FN**, relative to intra-district public school transfers.

1:00 p.m. **SB 210**, establishing a study committee to study the issue of school bullying.

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

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

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301-303, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 42**, relative to notice of death affidavits.
- 10:15 a.m. **SB 217**, relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects.
- 10:35 a.m. **SB 78**, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period.
- 10:45 a.m. **SB 105**, enabling towns to adopt budget caps.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

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

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 65-FN**, relative to stormwater management for solar arrays.
- 9:30 a.m. **SB 230-FN**, relative to electric utility restructuring and investment in distributed energy resources.
- 10:00 a.m. **SB 232**, clarifying certain net metering terms and conditions.
- 1:00 p.m. **SB 233-FN**, establishing an energy reliability and large-scale storage task force.
- 1:30 p.m. **SB 108-FN**, relative to the department of energy.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 63-FN**, relative to funding for the division of travel and tourism.
- 10:45 a.m. **SB 51**, relative to decal fees and the statewide public boat access program.
- 11:15 a.m. **SB 107-FN**, enabling the state treasurer to invest certain fish and game funds.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8**CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 22-FN**, relative to disclosure of criminal history and criminal records to the child care licensing unit of the department of health and human services.
- 10:15 a.m. **SB 23-FN**, expanding the crime of endangering the welfare of a child.
- 10:30 a.m. **SB 161**, making technical corrections to statutes governing out-of-state placements for children.
- 11:00 a.m. **SB 77-FN**, providing children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases the identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters.
- 11:30 a.m. **SB 278-FN**, including qualifying convictions from other states as grounds for termination of parental rights petitions.
- 1:15 p.m. **SB 72-FN**, establishing a parents' bill of rights in education.
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

- 9:30 a.m. **SB 91-FN**, allowing one-time special appraisals of residences located in commercial zones.
- 10:00 a.m. **SB 173**, relative to residential property subject to housing covenants under the low income housing tax credit program.
- 10:30 a.m. **SB 174**, prohibiting planning boards from considering the number of bedrooms a given unit or development has during the hearing and approval process.
- 11:00 a.m. **SB 188-FN**, allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections.
- 11:30 a.m. **SB 281**, prohibiting municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances.
- 1:00 p.m. **SB 282**, relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings.
- 1:30 p.m. **SB 283**, relative to the calculation of floor-area-ratios under local building ordinances.
- 2:00 p.m. **SB 284**, relative to the required maximum number of residential parking spaces.
- 2:30 p.m. **SB 170**, relative to development and related requirements in cities, towns, and municipalities.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. **SB 28**, relative to workers' compensation claims involving emergency responders with acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.
- 10:00 a.m. **SB 67-FN**, relative to workers' compensation and resolution of payment disputes.
- 10:30 a.m. **SB 169**, requiring employers to provide certain information regarding cost sharing to employees receiving workers' compensation benefits.

- 11:00 a.m. **SB 171**, relative to required pay for remote work.
 2:00 p.m. Executive session on **SB 28**, relative to workers' compensation claims involving emergency responders with acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder; **SB 67-FN**, relative to workers' compensation and resolution of payment disputes; **SB 169**, requiring employers to provide certain information regarding cost sharing to employees receiving workers' compensation benefits; **SB 171**, relative to required pay for remote work.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

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

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 14-FN**, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses.
 10:30 a.m. **SB 15-FN**, relative to establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting.
 11:00 a.m. **SB 54-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.
 11:30 a.m. **SB 62**, relative to law enforcement participation in a federal immigration program.
 12:00 p.m. **SB 71-FN**, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.
 1:30 p.m. **SB 41-FN**, changing the reckless driving minimum penalties.
 2:00 p.m. **SB 49-FN**, establishing the crime of and penalties for unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems.
 2:30 p.m. **SB 140-FN**, establishing a domestic violence fatality review committee.
 3:00 p.m. **SB 149-FN**, relative to the crime of aggravated driving while intoxicated.
 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. **SB 34**, relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program.
 10:30 a.m. **SB 100-FN**, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination.
 11:30 a.m. **SB 96**, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents.
 Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306-308, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **SB 74-FN**, relative to real property annual reporting requirements of state departments for permitting programs.
 1:30 p.m. **SB 196-FN**, relative to the exemption from competitive bidding requirements for certain state agency projects.
 2:00 p.m. **SB 193-FN**, requiring the head of each state agency to submit a strategic plan for program activities.
 2:45 p.m. **SB 201-FN**, relative to classified and unclassified positions.
 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. **SB 18**, permitting the commissioner of health and human services to authorize additional beds for a pediatric intermediate care facility under certain circumstances.
 10:00 a.m. **SB 37**, relative to residential care and health facility licensing.
 10:30 a.m. **SB 92-FN**, relative to the collection of birth worksheet information.
 11:00 a.m. **SB 118-FN**, relative to the personal needs allowance of residents of nursing homes; making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility staff; and establishing the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund.
 1:00 p.m. **SB 119-FN**, relative to Medicaid pharmaceutical services.
 1:30 p.m. **SB 202**, relative to Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia training for first responders.
 2:00 p.m. **SB 251**, establishing a commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks and the continued development of coordinated responses to public health incidents and emergencies in New Hampshire.
 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

- 10:30 a.m. **SB 146-FN**, relative to medical examiner's certificates and medical certification of the death record.

- 11:00 a.m. **SB 148-FN**, prohibiting those convicted of murder from financially profiting from the death of the victim.
- 1:30 p.m. **SB 189**, relative to fetal death records.
- 2:00 p.m. **SB 263**, criminalizing and creating a private right of action for the facilitation, encouragement, offer, solicitation, or recommendation of certain acts or actions through a responsive generative communication to a child.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:17), 1 Delta Drive (Training Room), Concord

- 1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

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

- 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee meeting.

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF PERFLUORINATED CHEMICALS (RSA 126-A:79-a), This meeting will take place by remote conference.

- 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Please register for the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals meeting on April 11, 2025 2:00 PM EST at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5671215450474413150>
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. You also may join the meeting by phone: Call in Number: 1 (562) 247-8422 Access Code: 115-413-777 Webinar ID: 947-509-755 The following email address will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: Amy.E.Rousseau@des.nh.gov **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** You may also call Amy Rousseau at 603-271-8801.

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.

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

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 143**, relative to the impaired driver care management program and recovery residences.
- 10:30 a.m. **SB 145-FN**, establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor.
- 11:00 a.m. **SB 258-FN**, establishing crimes related to the fraudulent use of gift cards.
- 12:00 p.m. **SB 262-FN**, relative to the penalty for trafficking in persons under 18 years of age.
- 1:30 p.m. **SB 267-FN**, relative to the penalty for engaging in prostitution as a patron.
- 2:00 p.m. **SB 300-FN**, criminalizing the creation of child intimate visual representations.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3), AMC Highland Center, Washburn Room (U.S. Rte 302, Bretton Woods)

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

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

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

EDUCATION FUNDING, Room 205-207, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on retained **HB 742-FN-A**, requiring catastrophic special education state aid funding to be drawn from the education trust fund.

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

- 9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

- 9:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **SB 65-FN**, relative to stormwater management for solar arrays; **SB 230-FN**, relative to electric utility restructuring and investment in distributed energy resources; **SB 232**, clarifying certain net metering terms and conditions; **SB 233-FN**, establishing an energy reliability and large-scale storage task force; **SB 108-FN**, relative to the department of energy.
- 10:00 a.m. Executive session on **SB 65-FN**, relative to stormwater management for solar arrays; **SB 230-FN**, relative to electric utility restructuring and investment in distributed energy resources; **SB 232**, clarifying certain net metering terms and conditions; **SB 233-FN**, establishing an energy reliability and large-scale storage task force; **SB 108-FN**, relative to the department of energy.
- 1:00 p.m. **SB 106-FN**, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.
- 2:00 p.m. **SB 228-FN**, relative to the limitations on community customer generators.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15**EDUCATION FUNDING, Room 205-207, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 98-FN**, extending the donations to regional career and technical education center programs.
- 10:15 a.m. **SB 99-FN**, relative to regional career and technical education agreements.
- 10:45 a.m. **SB 195**, relative to the composition and duties of the New Hampshire advisory council on career and technical education.
- 11:00 a.m. **SB 294-FN**, relative to lab fees for career and technical education courses.
- 11:30 a.m. **SB 209-FN**, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.
- 12:45 p.m. **SB 204-FN-A**, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide meals to students during school hours, reimbursing schools for meals provided to students at no cost, and making an appropriation therefor.
- 1:45 p.m. **SB 295-FN**, relative to education freedom accounts.
- 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. **SB 84-FN**, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing.
- 11:00 a.m. **SB 166**, relative to notice required prior to sale of a manufactured housing unit located in a resident-owned community.
- 11:30 a.m. **SB 163**, prohibiting local moratoria and limitations on building permits.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16**COUNTY-STATE FINANCE COMMISSION (RSA 28-B:1), Brown Building, 129 Pleasant St., Concord**

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

CURRENT USE BOARD (RSA 79-A:3), Department of Revenue Administration, Training Room, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 141-FN**, extending the time to petition for a new trial in certain cases.
- 10:30 a.m. **SB 268**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.
- 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

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 27-FN**, relative to dwellings over water.
- 10:45 a.m. **SB 241-FN-A**, relative to construction of a public pier on Hampton Beach and making an appropriation therefor.
- 11:30 a.m. **SB 299**, relative to penalties for contractors violating water pollution and waste disposal regulations.
- 1:00 p.m. **SB 110-FN**, relative to terrain permitting.

- 2:00 p.m. Executive session on ***SB 27-FN***, relative to dwellings over water; ***SB 241-FN-A***, relative to construction of a public pier on Hampton Beach and making an appropriation therefor; ***SB 299***, relative to penalties for contractors violating water pollution and waste disposal regulations; ***SB 110-FN***, relative to terrain permitting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

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. Regular meeting. Join Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86117818803?pwd=cWRXdlgwQnQvc2ZRbkNObGhGc3M0dz09>
 Meeting ID: 861 1781 8803 Passcode: 669915

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

- 11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

NEW HAMPSHIRE CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22), BEA, Kingsman Room, 100 Main St., Concord

- 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

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

- 9:00 a.m. ***SB 236***, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy.
- 9:30 a.m. ***SB 112-FN***, relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities.
- 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session ***SB 106-FN***, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering; ***SB 228-FN***, relative to the limitations on community customer generators; ***SB 236***, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy; ***SB 112-FN***, relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities.
- 1:00 p.m. Executive session on ***SB 106-FN***, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering; ***SB 228-FN***, relative to the limitations on community customer generators; ***SB 236***, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy; ***SB 112-FN***, relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

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

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES, Room 307, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. ***SB 31-FN***, establishing an apprentice guide license.
- 10:20 a.m. ***SB 32***, relative to the fish and game commission.
- 10:40 a.m. ***SB 235***, enabling funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire. 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), NH Department of Labor, 95 Pleasant St., Concord, NH

- 11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

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

- 9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

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

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SIEC) (RSA 21-P:48, IV), Marine Patrol Bureau, 31 Dock Road, Gilford

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 12

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

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

3:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86117818803?pwd=cWRXdGwQnQvc2ZRbkNOBhGhGc3M0dz09>

Meeting ID: 861 1781 8803 Passcode: 669915

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.

REVISED FISCAL NOTES

The following bills have a revised fiscal note: HB 66, HB 85, HB 86, HB 112, HB 211, HB 215, HB 240, HB 284, HB 327, HB 369, HB 378, HB 494, HB 496, HB 498, HB 502, HB 505, HB 506, HB 508, HB 509, HB 511, HB 514, HB 517, HB 518, HB 521, HB 523, HB 524, HB 525, HB 526, HB 528, HB 534, HB 535, HB 536, HB 538, HB 542, HB 546, HB 547, HB 553, HB 566, HB 572, HB 574, HB 575, HB 581, HB 583, HB 586, HB 607, HB 608, HB 609, HB 615, HB 616, HB 619, HB 621, HB 622, HB 624, HB 630, HB 633, HB 635, HB 637, HB 639, HB 646, HB 648, HB 650, HB 651, HB 652, HB 653, HB 654, HB 657, HB 658, HB 659, HB 662, HB 665, HB 669, HB 671, 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 716, HB 719, HB 720, HB 721, HB 725, HB 726, HB 727, HB 729, HB 730, HB 731, HB 733, 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 775, HB 782. SB 60, SB 73, SB 87, SB 112, SB 147, SB 160, SB 170, SB 201.

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

Members who receive constituent inquiries into their client case with the Department of Health and Human Services are welcomed to forward the inquiry to DHHS for follow-up. You will not receive any information back other than the case is being placed in a queue and being reviewed. Contact Ms. Kathie Capron, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the Commissioner, (603) 271-9445, Kathleen.A.Capron@dhhs.nh.gov

Reps. Lucy Weber and Jess Edwards

The spate of measures in front of this body that have dire consequences for New Hampshire renters proves that the perspective of those who rent their homes is needed to ensure fairness for us as well as property owners. We representatives who rent must join together to make sure our voices are heard. If any of my colleagues are interested in forming a bipartisan renters' caucus, please see me in person or email me.

Rep. Lily Foss

Pocket-Size Copies of the NH Constitution are available. The passage of HB 1323 (2024), RSA 5:5-b, allowed for copies of State Constitution to be furnished. These pocket-size copies of the NH Constitution are now available in the Secretary of State's office for \$1 each.

Reps. Peternel, Drye and Dan McGuire

All legislators and staff are cordially invited to join the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association (NHADA) for our annual Legislative Crossover Reception on **Thursday, April 10, 2025** at 3:30 p.m. (or following the end of the session day) at the Hotel Concord, 11 South Main Street, New Hampshire Room, (third floor), Concord. NHADA has historically hosted this event which offers legislators a wonderful opportunity to unwind and enjoy the company of fellow legislators and staff in a fun, social gathering.

Speaker Packard

Legislators are invited to join the New Hampshire YMCA's for a Legislative Lunch on **Thursday, April 10th** during the House Session lunch break at St. Paul's Church, Concord, NH (adjacent to State House). Enjoy a delicious lunch and learn about our work supporting New Hampshire children and families.

Reps. Jason Osborne and Alexis Simpson

Legislators & staff are cordially invited to the annual Walmart lunch and health screening in the State House cafeteria on **Thursday, April 10th** starting at **11:30 a.m.**

Rep. Steven Smith

The Housing Caucus cordially invites all House and staff members to their first annual Crossover Cocktails event on **Thursday, April 10 from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** at Tandy's.

Rep. Joe Alexander

The House of Representatives is cordially invited to join behavioral health crisis stakeholders to "Coffee for the Crisis Line" on **Tuesday, April 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** in the State House Cafeteria. Please drop by for fresh coffee and donuts and learn about the crisis system and sustainable funding for the 988 call centers.

Rep. Mark Pearson

The NH Oral Health Coalition invites you to our 2025 Legislative Luncheon "#Oral Health Matters: It's All Connected" hosted on **May 29th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in the NH State House cafeteria. This year's event includes oral health and dental providers and programs from your local communities that serve those needing affordable and accessible care. Additionally, we will celebrate the NH Smiles – Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit on its 2nd Birthday. Please RSVP to Gail Brown gbrown@NHOralHealth.org or 603-415-5550. See you there. All Representatives and their staff members are Welcome!

Rep. Tom Buco

To all my friends in the New Hampshire Legislature. Always inspired by my Mom who dealt with the challenges of rheumatoid arthritis her entire life, I am honored to be named the Medical Honoree for the 2025 New Hampshire Arthritis Foundation Walk to Cure Arthritis, the premier event of the arthritis community committed to conquering arthritis for the nearly 60 million Americans, including hundreds of thousands of children, who live with this debilitating disease's daily pain and challenges. I invite you to join my team, "Make No Bones About It." The event begins at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester on **May 10, 2025, at**

10:00 a.m. You can walk, run, crawl, or wheel your way. The walk ends on the infield. Those who contribute \$10 or more receive a free ticket to the Fisher Cats game to follow. See me for more details on how to sign up. This event raises money to advance arthritis treatments and find a cure, develop resources, and take action to improve people's lives. Your help is needed now more than ever. Together, we can improve the lives of 1 in every 4 Americans who battle arthritis and ultimately cure the disease. Please join us. Thank you!

Rep. David Nagel

AMENDMENTS (LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

Amendment to HB 1-A (2025-1474h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r
https://gc.nh.gov/bill_status/pdf.aspx?id=12300&q=amendment

Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL (2025-1488h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r

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

1 New Paragraphs; Fish and Game; Endangered Species Conservation Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 212-A:2 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of environmental services.

VII. "Department" means the department of environmental services.

2 Fish and Game; Endangered Species Conservation Act; Conservation Program. Amend RSA 212-A:9 to read as follows:

212-A:9 Conservation Programs.

I. The executive director shall establish such programs, including acquisition of land or aquatic habitat or interests therein, as are deemed necessary for the conservation of endangered or threatened species. The executive director shall utilize all authority vested in the fish and game department to carry out the purposes of this section.

II. In carrying out programs authorized by this section the executive director shall consult with other states having a common interest in particular threatened or endangered species of wildlife and may enter into agreements with federal agencies, other states, political subdivisions of this state or private persons with respect to programs designed to conserve endangered or threatened species of wildlife including, where appropriate, agreements for administration and management if any are established under this section or utilized for conservation of endangered or threatened species of wildlife.

III. All other state departments and agencies, to the extent possible, consistent with their authorities and responsibilities, shall ~~assist and cooperate with the executive director in the furtherance of the purposes of this chapter for the conservation of endangered or threatened species. They shall~~ take such action as is reasonable and prudent to insure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by them do not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species or result in the destruction or modification of habitat of such species which is determined by the executive director to be critical, by requiring that all such action is designed to avoid ~~and~~, minimize, **and mitigate** harm to such species and habitat designated as critical. **Other departments and agencies may consult with the executive director or hire their own internal wildlife biologists to carry out the requirements of this paragraph. The executive director shall assist other departments and agencies in carrying out this paragraph.** For the purpose of this statute, "appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species" shall be defined in rules adopted by the executive director pursuant to RSA 541-A. The provisions of RSA 212-A or any rule promulgated under this chapter shall not be applicable to a state department or agency when that state department or agency, in the process of undertaking an action, is required by federal law or regulation to address the environmental impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat, of that action.

IV. To meet the requirements of paragraph III, the department of environmental services shall complete the review for any permit, approval, or written authorization required pursuant to RSA 482-A, RSA 485-A, and RSA 236. The department of environmental services shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to implement the review process and establish a fee schedule for any requested reviews. Such rulemaking shall commence within 90 days of the effective date of this paragraph. The revenue collected from this section shall be deposited into the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III.

V. Any reviews conducted to fulfill the requirements of paragraph III for any permit, approval, or written authorization shall be conducted as follows:

(a) Reviews shall not exceed 60 days from receipt of all information as required by rules developed pursuant to paragraph IV;

(b) The time to complete the review may be extended with written authorization from the applicant;

(c) If the agency or department requests additional information from the applicant necessary to complete the review, the time it takes the applicant to respond shall not count against the 60 day timeline in subparagraph (a); and

(d) If the review period is not completed within the required timelines, except as provided for in subparagraph (c), then the permit, approval, or written authorization shall be deemed to not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species.

3 Department of Environment Services; Position Established. There shall be an environmental scientist position established within the department of environmental services, compensated under SOC 19, Payband 8, for the purpose of administering the environmental species act conservation program under RSA 212-A:9, III.

4 Fish and Game; Endangered Species Conservation Act; Threatened and Endangered Species Compensatory Mitigation Fund. Amend RSA 212-A:16 to read as follows:

212-A:16 Threatened and Endangered Species Compensatory Mitigation Fund.

I. There is hereby established in the state treasury a separate fund to be known as the threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund into which payments made pursuant to this section shall be credited. The fund shall be non-lapsing and continually appropriated to the ***fish and game*** department, for the purpose of funding projects that facilitate a net conservation benefit to threatened and endangered species, including, but not limited to critical habitat creation or restoration and the monitoring and maintenance of such areas. The state treasurer shall invest the fund as provided by law and any interest received on such investment shall be credited to the fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the executive director may accept payment for deposit into the fund for an unavoidable loss of critical habitat from a proposed activity without the approval of the governor, the governor and council, or the commission. The executive director shall approve disbursements from the fund following consultation with the commissioner [of the department of environmental services]. The [department] ***executive director*** shall submit an annual report by October 1, 2022, and every year thereafter, to the fiscal committee, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library, summarizing all deposits and expenditures from the fund. The report shall include, but not be limited to a description of all projects undertaken.

II. The executive director shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A for the ***disbursement of money from the*** threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund no later than one year following the effective date of this section. ***Those rules shall establish an administrative fee that the executive director may collect from payments made to the fund to cover the cost of operation of the fund.***

III. ***The department of environmental services shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A regarding when mitigation payments to the fund are required for impacts to threatened and endangered species or the habitats of threatened and endangered species, pursuant to RSA 206:33-g, II, resulting from the issuance of a permit by the department of environmental services, and the calculation of those payments.***

5 Public Recreation; New Hampshire Native Plant Protection; Definitions. Amend RSA 217-A:3, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Environmental review" means a [natural heritage bureau] review of potential impacts to protected species and exemplary natural community occurrences to enable planning, permitting, and funding.

6 Public Recreation; New Hampshire Native Plant Protection; Cooperation with Other State Agencies. Amend RSA 217-A:7 to read as follows:

217-A:7 Cooperation with Other State Agencies.

I. All state agencies, consistent with their authority and responsibilities, shall assist and cooperate with the commissioner to carry out the purposes of this chapter. To the extent possible actions funded or carried out by state agencies shall not jeopardize the continued existence of any protected plant species or exemplary natural community.

II. ***If another state agency or department requires an environmental review to meet its obligations in paragraph I, they shall consult with the department of environmental services. The department of environmental services may charge a fee of not less than \$50 for screening the database for instances of protected species and may charge a fee for providing an environmental review. Such fees shall be sufficient to cover the cost of building and maintaining a database for instances of protected species, for screening the database for instances of protected species, and for providing an environmental review. Fees shall be deposited in the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III. The commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources shall be responsible for providing the data necessary for the database.***

III. The department of environmental services shall adopt rules to establish the process for requesting a screening and for the environmental review process in paragraph II. Such rulemaking shall begin within 90 days of the effective date of this section. The commissioner shall assist and cooperate with the department of environmental services to ensure the agency has the information necessary to adequately complete the environmental review process.

7 Public Recreation; New Hampshire Native Plant Protection; Natural Heritage Bureau Fund Established. Amend RSA 217-A:7-a to read as follows:

217-A:7-a Natural Heritage Bureau Fund Established.

I. The commissioner may charge a fee ~~[for screening department records for instances of protected species or environmental review;]~~ for using inventory and information services~~;~~ and for publications and reports to recover the costs of providing products and services ~~[and a reasonable portion of the costs associated with building and maintaining the database].~~

II. Fees shall be sufficient to cover the costs of providing services and producing and providing products authorized by this chapter.

III. Fees shall be fixed in a schedule prepared and revised as necessary by the natural heritage bureau, approved by the commissioner, and established in rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A. The fees charged under this paragraph shall be deposited in the fund established in paragraph IV.

IV. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the natural heritage bureau fund. Moneys collected under this section and RSA 217-A:6, III shall be deposited in this fund. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the commissioner ~~[for the purposes of providing environmental reviews;]~~ for the costs of providing publications or reports to the public, for the costs of providing inventory and information services, and to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

8 New Paragraph; Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Definitions. Amend RSA 482-A:2 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

VIII-a. "Boathouse" means a docking structure having a permanent roof covering one or more boat slips.

9 New Paragraph; Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Definitions. Amend RSA 482-A:2 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

IX-a. "Structural height" means the vertical distance from its lowest dock surface of a structure to the highest point of the structure.

10 Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Excavating and Dredging Permit; Certain Exemptions. Amend RSA 482-A:3, I(b)-(d) to read as follows:

(b) The application fee for shoreline structure projects shall be ~~[\$400]~~ **\$600** plus an amount based on the area of dredge, fill, or dock surface area proposed, or a combination thereof, which shall be ~~[\$4]~~ **\$6** per square foot for permanent dock surface area; ~~[\$2]~~ **\$3** per square foot for seasonal dock surface area; and ~~[\$.40]~~ **\$0.60** per square foot for dredge or fill surface area or both. For projects involving only the repair, reconstruction, or reconfiguration of an existing docking structure, the application fee shall be ~~[\$400]~~ **\$600**.

(c) The application fee shall be ~~[\$400]~~ **\$600** for minimum impact dredge and fill projects and for non-enforcement related publicly funded and supervised restoration projects as defined by rules, regardless of impact classification, if undertaken by other than the person or persons responsible for causing the restoration to be needed. The application fee for all projects under this chapter which are not covered by subparagraph (b) or (c) or paragraphs IV-a, V, X through XII, XV, XVI, or XVII through XIX shall be ~~[\$.40]~~ **\$0.60** per square foot of proposed impact, with a minimum fee of ~~[\$400]~~ **\$600** for all such projects that impact fewer than 600 square feet.

(d) If an owner chooses to voluntarily register existing docking structures, at the time the owner registers the structures with the department, he or she shall also submit a nonrefundable fee of ~~[\$200]~~ **\$300**.

11 Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Administrative Provisions. Amend RSA 482-A:11, III(a) to read as follows:

III.(a) Upon written notification to the department by a municipal conservation commission, a local river management advisory committee, or the New Hampshire Rivers Council that it intends to investigate any notice received by it pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, the department shall not make its decision on the application that is the subject of the notice until it has received and acknowledged receipt of a written report from such commission, local river management advisory committee, or the council, or until 40 days from the date of filing with the municipal clerk of such notice, whichever occurs earlier~~;~~ ~~subject to an extension of up to 40 days, as permitted by the commissioner, for good cause shown~~. In connection with any local investigation, a conservation commission may hold a public informational meeting or a public hearing, the record of which shall be made a part of the record of the department. ~~[Where the commissioner grants an extension, the time limits prescribed by RSA 482-A:3, XIV(b) shall be suspended for up to 40 days as agreed to by the applicant and the department.]~~ If a conservation commission, a local river management advisory committee, or the New Hampshire Rivers Council makes a recommendation to the department in its report, the department shall specifically consider such recommendation and shall make written findings with respect to each issue raised in such report which is contrary

to the decision of the department. If notification by a local conservation commission, local river management advisory committee, or the New Hampshire Rivers Council pursuant to this paragraph, is not received by the department within 14 days following the date the notice is filed with the municipal clerk, the department shall not suspend its normal action, but shall proceed as if no notification has been made.

12 Terrain Alteration. Amend RSA 485-A:17, II to read as follows:

II.(a) The department shall charge a fee for ~~[each review of plans]~~ **applications**, including project inspections, required under this section. ~~[The plan review fee shall be based on the total area to be disturbed.]~~ **For projects that qualify for a permit by notification allowed by paragraph II-a, the application fee for a permit by notification shall be \$3,125.** Except for ~~[property subject to RSA 483-B:9]~~ **projects that qualify for a permit by notification allowed by paragraph II-a**, the fee for ~~[review of plans]~~ **applications** encompassing an area of at least ~~[100,000]~~ **150,000** square feet but less than 200,000 square feet shall be ~~[\$3,125]~~ **\$6,250**. ~~[For the property subject to RSA 483-B:9, the fee for review of plans encompassing an area of at least 50,000 square feet but less than 200,000 square feet shall be \$3,125.]~~ An additional fee of ~~[\$1,250]~~ **\$2,500** shall be assessed for each additional area of up to 100,000 square feet to be disturbed. **For any property subject to RSA 483-B:9, the fee for review of plans encompassing an area of at least 50,000 square feet but less than 150,000 square feet shall be \$5,000. For all other projects, the fee shall be \$500 plus \$0.005 per square foot of disturbance.** No application shall be accepted by the department until the fee required by this paragraph is paid. All fees required under this paragraph shall be paid when plans are submitted for review and shall be deposited in the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III.

(b) The department shall charge a non-refundable fee of \$500 ~~[plus a \$.10 fee per square foot of disturbance associated with the amendment request]~~ for each request to amend a permit that requires plans to be reviewed.

13 Permit by Notification. RSA 485-A:17, II-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

II-a. By January 1, 2026, the department shall adopt rules to establish a permit by notification for projects with plans encompassing an area less than 150,000 square feet that are not subject to RSA 483-B:9.

14 New Section; Boathouse Requirements. Amend RSA 482-A by inserting after section 26 the following new section:

482-A:26-a Boathouse Requirements.

I. Any boathouse constructed after July 1, 2025, and located over public waters shall not exceed a structural height of 18 feet, have no second floor, and minimize storage to accommodate only those items, such as life-jackets, paddles, and rigging, reasonably related to the use of a boat. No boathouse over public waters existing as of July 1, 2025, shall be modified to increase its structural height or to add additional floors.

II. For the purposes of this section, "public waters" means all natural ponds of more than 10 acres and all tidal waters up to the high water mark at the level of the mean high tide.

15 Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Restrictions on Use of Structures Built Over the Waters of the State; Penalty. Amend RSA 482-A:27 to read as follows:

482-A:27 Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of RSA 482-A:26 **or 482-A:26-a** shall be required to remove the structure or portion of the structure constructed, reconstructed, repaired, converted, or modified in violation of said section and shall be subject to the civil, criminal, and other penalties set forth in RSA 482-A:13, 14, and 14-b. Any criminal fine collected for a violation of RSA 482-A:26 shall accrue to the use of the municipality in which the structure is located.

16 New Paragraph; Cell Phone Use Policy. Amend RSA 189:1-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. School boards and boards of trustees of chartered public schools shall develop and adopt a policy governing the use of student cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices in schools. The policy shall, at a minimum, restrict the use of student personal cell phones during class instruction, with approved exceptions determined by the superintendent or their designee for student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs. School district policies shall not prohibit students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or students with disabilities, from using a device necessary to support their learning as identified in their individualized education program (IEP) or a plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794. Policies shall also not prohibit the use of devices required to support emergent multilingual students through appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

17 New Subdivision; Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee. Amend RSA 149-M by inserting after section 64 the following new subdivision:

Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee

149-M:65 Declaration of Purpose.

The legislature and the executive branch recognize that the selection of sites for major solid waste disposal facilities may have significant statewide, regional and local impacts that are not fully evaluated through existing regulatory review. Accordingly, the legislature and the executive branch find that it is in the public interest to establish a procedure to evaluate the local, regional and statewide benefits and burdens of a new

major solid waste facility that are not captured by existing regulatory reviews, including noise, odor, aesthetics, local and regional economic impacts, property value impacts, nature and source of waste, need, impacts on tourism, recreation and traffic, and other similar impacts.

149-M:66 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. "Acceptance" means a determination by the committee that it finds that the application is complete and ready for consideration.

II. "Administrator" means the administrator of the site evaluation committee established pursuant to RSA 162-H:3-a.

III. "Affected municipality" means any municipality or unincorporated place in which any part of a major solid waste disposal facility is proposed to be located and any municipality or unincorporated place from which any part of the proposed major solid waste disposal facility will be visible or audible, including off-site traffic impacts.

IV. "Certificate" means the document issued by the committee, containing such terms and conditions as the committee deems appropriate, that authorizes the applicant to proceed with the proposed site and facility.

V. "Commence construction" means any clearing of the land, excavation or other substantial action that would result in long-term impacts to the site of the proposed facility, but does not include land surveying, optioning or acquiring land or rights in land, changes desirable for temporary use of the land for public recreational uses, necessary subsurface explorations to determine hydrogeologic and soil conditions, work required as part of an application to any federal, state, or local authority, or other preconstruction monitoring or testing to establish background information related to the suitability of the site for the proposed use.

VI. "Committee" means the solid waste evaluation committee established by this chapter.

VII. "Department" means the department of environmental services.

VIII. "Major solid waste disposal facility" means a location, system, or physical structure for the collection, separation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, or disposal of solid waste with a proposed waste acceptance rate greater than 100,000 tons per year. Major solid waste disposal facility does not include any facility proposed to be constructed by a New Hampshire municipal government.

IX. "Filing" means the date on which the application is first submitted to the committee.

X. "Person" means any individual, group, firm, partnership, corporation, cooperative, municipality, political subdivision, government agency, or other organization.

149-M:67 Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Established.

I. There is hereby established a committee to be known as the New Hampshire solid waste evaluation committee consisting of 5 members, as follows:

(a) The chairperson of the waste management council established under RSA 21-O:9, who shall serve as chairperson of the committee. If there is an appeal pending before the waste management council related to the major solid waste disposal facility, then the chairperson of the wetlands council, water council or air resources council established under RSA 21-O, selected by the commissioner of the department, shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

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

(c) Two members and, when required by RSA 149-M:68, an alternate member, appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council, including a member who serves on a local conservation commission and a member who has expertise in the private waste management industry.

(d) One public member and, when required by RSA 149-M:68, an alternate public member, appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council as described in RSA 149-M:68, with expertise or experience in one or more of the following areas: business management; environmental protection; natural resource protection; solid waste disposal facility design, construction, operation, or management; community and regional planning or economic development; municipal or county government; or the governing of unincorporated places.

II. All members, including those who sit for a member recused under RSA 149-M:68, shall refrain from ex parte communications regarding any matter pending before the committee. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the committee's business.

III. The committee shall be administratively attached to the department of environmental services.

IV. The chairperson shall serve as the chief executive of the committee and may:

(a) Serve as presiding officer.

(b) Delegate to other members the duties of the presiding officer, as appropriate.

(c) Establish, with the consent of the committee, the budgetary requirements of the committee.

(d) Engage personnel in accordance with this chapter.

V. The presiding officer may appoint a hearing officer to perform the functions described in RSA 149-M:70, V.

149-M:68 Members Appointed By The Governor With The Consent Of Council.

I. Members and alternate members appointed under RSA 149-M:67, I(c) and (d) shall serve 4-year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Any member chosen to fill a vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member who is succeeded.

II. If at any time the member appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council must recuse himself or herself from a matter before the committee or is not otherwise available for good reason, the alternate member shall replace such member.

III. No member nor any member of his or her family shall receive income from entities that own or operate, or have applied to own or operate, major solid waste disposal facilities in New Hampshire. The members appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council and their alternates shall comply with RSA 15-A and RSA 15-B.

IV. Any member appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council may be removed from office in accordance with RSA 4:1.

149-M:69 Administrator and Other Committee Support.

The administrator shall provide support to the committee. If the administrator is not available or the position is vacant, the committee may hire an independent contractor at the expense of the applicant. The administrator shall be under the supervision of the chairperson when performing duties for the committee. The administrator shall be compensated for work performed for the committee as set forth in RSA 149-M:85. The administrator, or chairperson in the absence of an administrator, with committee approval, may engage additional technical, legal, or administrative support to fulfill the functions of the committee as necessary.

149-M:70 Powers and Duties of the Committee; Rules.

I. The committee shall:

- (a) Evaluate and issue any certificate under this chapter for a major solid waste disposal facility.
- (b) Determine the terms and conditions of any certificate issued under this chapter.
- (c) Adjudicate enforcement matters.
- (d) Assist the public in understanding the requirements of this chapter.
- (e) Deny applications for a certificate based on such findings and rulings as may be necessary to support its decision to deny.

II. The committee shall hold hearings as required by this chapter and such additional hearings as it deems necessary and appropriate and, in addition to the requirements under RSA 91-A, ensure adequate and timely public notice of no less than 7 calendar days.

III. The committee may delegate to the administrator or such state agency or official as it deems appropriate the authority to specify the use of any technique, methodology, practice, or procedure approved by the committee within a certificate issued under this chapter, or the authority to specify minor changes in the major solid waste disposal facility configuration to the extent that such changes are authorized by the certificate for those portions of a proposed major solid waste disposal facility project.

IV. The committee shall not delegate its authority or duties except as provided under this chapter.

V. In any matter before the committee, the presiding officer, or a hearing officer designated by the presiding officer, may hear and decide procedural matters that are before the committee, including procedural schedules, consolidation of parties with substantially similar interests, discovery schedules and motions, and identification of significant disputed issues for hearing and decision by the committee. Undisputed petitions for intervention may be decided by the hearing officer and disputed petitions shall be decided by the presiding officer. Any party aggrieved by a decision on a petition to intervene may within 10 calendar days request that the committee review such decision. Other procedural decisions may be reviewed by the committee at its discretion.

VI. The committee shall issue such rules to administer this chapter, pursuant to RSA 541-A, after public notice and hearing, as may from time to time be required.

149-M:71 Prohibitions and Restrictions.

I. No person shall commence construction of any major solid waste disposal facility within the state unless it has obtained a certificate pursuant to this chapter. Such facilities shall be constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the terms of the certificate and any other federal, state, or local permits or approvals. Such certificates are required for changes or additions to existing facilities that propose an annual throughput of greater than or equal to 100,000 tons per year. Such a certificate shall not be transferred or assigned without approval of the committee. Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, any approved major solid waste facility shall not be constructed, operated, or closed in a manner materially different than the manner in which it was presented in the application for a certificate as modified and conditioned by such certificate.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 541-A:29 or any other law to the contrary, an application for a certificate from the committee shall be approved or denied by the committee prior to final decisions on all other state agency permit applications. Applications for certificates may be filed and evaluated by the committee concurrently with other state approvals and public hearings may be scheduled concurrently with hearings held by other state agencies as part of their permitting process for the same facility.

III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, for facilities under review by the department for a permit on or prior to July 1, 2025, an application for a certificate from the committee shall be approved or denied after other state agency approvals have been obtained. The committee shall not consider technical questions already considered by other state or federal agencies, nor include terms or conditions in a certificate that have already been reviewed and decided upon by other state or federal agency regulatory reviews.

149-M:72 Application for Certificate.

I. All applications for a certificate for a major solid waste disposal facility shall be filed with the administrator or the chair of the committee.

II. Upon filing of an application, the chairperson or designated presiding officer shall expeditiously conduct a preliminary review to ascertain if the application contains sufficient information to carry out the purposes of this chapter. If the application does not contain such sufficient information, the chairperson or designated presiding officer shall, in writing, expeditiously notify the applicant of that fact and specify what information the applicant must supply.

III. To carry out the committee's duties in RSA 149-M:70, each application shall:

(a) Describe in reasonable detail the types and quantities of waste and their characteristics proposed to be accepted and size of each major part of the proposed facility.

(b) Describe in reasonable detail the source of waste to be accepted.

(c) Describe how the proposed facility satisfies the criteria listed under RSA 149-M:11, III.

(d) Identify both the applicant's preferred choice and other alternatives it considers available for the site and configuration of each major part of the proposed facility and the reasons for the applicant's preferred choice.

(e) Describe in reasonable detail the impact of each major part of the proposed facility on existing local, regional, and state land uses.

(f) Document that written notification of the proposed project, including appropriate copies of the application, has been given to the appropriate governing body of each affected municipality, as defined in RSA 149-M:66, III. The application shall include a list of the affected municipalities.

(g) Provide analysis on the local, regional and statewide visual impact of the proposed facility during construction, operation, and post-closure and the visual impacts as evaluated through a visual impact assessment prepared in accordance with professional standards by an expert in the field.

(h) Provide information in reasonable detail about the impacts on local, regional and state property values, human health, tourism, outdoor recreation, wildlife, traffic, noise, and odor by the proposed facility. These analyses shall be conducted in accordance with professional standards by an expert in these fields.

(i) Provide a reasonable amount of information relative to how new contaminants of concern not regulated by a permit issued by the department, will be monitored, evaluated and managed over the proposed life of the facility.

(j) Provide a reasonable amount of information relative to the economic impacts of the proposed facility on affected municipalities, the region, and the state.

(k) An assessment of greenhouse gas and other emissions emanating from the facility and from transport of solid waste-related material and by-products to and from the proposed facility.

(l) Potential economic benefits to the local area and potential infrastructure improvements associated with the proposed project.

(m) Provide such additional information as the committee may require or request to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

IV. To the extent any information provided in the application was submitted and considered by a state agency as part of its permitting evaluation and decision under RSA 149-M:71, III, the applicant shall specify what information was so considered and the statutory and regulatory authority for that agency's consideration of the information.

V. For all information submitted with the application that was prepared by an outside consultant or expert, the applicant shall submit the qualifications of such consultants or experts to prepare such information.

VI. The committee shall require the applicant to hire an independent third party at the expense of the applicant and agreed upon by the committee in consultation with the municipality where the facility is proposed to be located, to peer review any assessments provided under this section.

VII. The chairperson or designated presiding officer shall decide whether to accept the application as administratively complete within 60 days of filing. If the chairperson or designated presiding officer rejects an application because it determines it to be administratively incomplete, the applicant may choose to file a new and more complete application or cure the defects in the rejected application within 10 days of receipt of notification of rejection.

VIII. Public information sessions shall be held in accordance with RSA 149-M:76.

IX. Within 180 days of the acceptance of an application, the committee shall issue or deny a certificate for the proposed major solid waste disposal facility.

X. The applicant shall immediately inform the committee of any substantive modification to its application.

XI. The committee may require state agencies with relevant technical expertise to participate in committee proceedings.

XII. The department shall conduct a review of the application information submitted pursuant to RSA 149-M:72, III(c) to determine whether the facility has demonstrated that it satisfies the criteria in RSA 149-M:11, III. Such review shall be conducted in accordance with RSA 149-M:11. The department shall report its findings to the committee in order to inform the committee's decision on the application.

XIII. The committee may deny a permit application based upon the criteria in RSA 149-M:9, IX.

XIV. A state agency may intervene as a party in any committee proceeding in the same manner as other persons under RSA 541-A.

149-M:73 Disclosure of Ownership.

Any application for a certificate, or for change in ownership and transfer of certificate, shall be signed and sworn to by the person or executive officer of the association or corporation making such application and shall contain the following information:

I. Full name and address of the person, association, or corporation.

II. If an association or limited liability company, the name of the state under which it was formed, the names and residences of the members of the association or limited liability company.

III. If a corporation, the name of the state under which it is incorporated with its principal place of business and the names and addresses of its directors, officers and stockholders.

IV. If doing business in a form other than as an association, limited liability company or corporation, the form of the business, the name of the state under which it was formed, and the names and residences of anyone with a financial, ownership or control interest in the organization.

V. The location or locations where an applicant is to conduct its business.

VI. A statement of assets and liabilities of the applicant and other relevant financial information of such applicant.

VII. The committee shall administratively approve changes of ownership and transfers of certificates within 90 days of a petition if it determines the new certificate holder has adequate financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure construction and operation of the facility in continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the certificate and any federal, state and local permits.

149-M:74 Application and Filing Fees.

I. A person filing with the committee an application for a certificate for a major solid waste disposal facility, shall pay to the committee at the time of filing a fee determined in accordance with the fee schedule described in paragraph II. If an application for a certificate for a major solid waste disposal facility is deemed incomplete pursuant to RSA 149-M:72, VII, and a new application is submitted thereunder, the unused portion of the initial application fee shall be refunded to the applicant or credited to the filing of the new application. The committee may in its discretion provide for a credit or refund in other circumstances that are unforeseen by the applicant.

II. The fees under paragraph I shall be determined in accordance with a fee schedule posted by the committee on its website, which shall include the following amounts:

(a) Application fee for a major solid waste disposal facility: \$20,000 base charge and \$1,000 per additional 10,000 tons/year throughput in excess of 100,000 tons per year.

(b) Filing fees for administrative proceedings:

(1) Petition for committee jurisdiction: \$500.

(2) Certificate transfer of ownership: \$1,000.

(3) Request to modify a certificate: \$1,000.

III. All fee charges shall be deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee fund established in RSA 149-M:84 and shall be nonlapsing and accounted for as a separate line item.

IV. The committee shall review and evaluate the application fees and filing fees in the fee schedule in subparagraphs II(a) and (b) at least once each year. The committee may increase any amount in the fee schedule by no more than the increase in the consumer price index from the prior year, provided that any such increase shall occur not more frequently than once during any 12-month period. Modifications to the fee schedule shall be posted on the committee website, with a link prominently displayed on the home page.

149-M:75 Counsel for the Public.

I. The chair or the administrator shall notify the attorney general of all administrative proceedings. The attorney general may appoint an assistant attorney general as counsel for the public in administrative proceedings. Upon notification that an application for a certificate has been filed with the committee in accordance with RSA 149-M:72, the attorney general shall appoint an assistant attorney general as a counsel for the public. The counsel shall represent the public in all aspects of the committee's authority. The counsel shall be accorded all the rights and privileges, and responsibilities of an attorney representing a party in formal action and shall serve until the decision to issue or deny a certificate is final.

II. This section shall not be construed to prevent any person from being heard or represented by counsel; provided, however, the committee may compel consolidation of representation for such persons as have, in the committee's reasonable judgment, substantially identical interests.

149-M:76 Public Hearing; Studies.

I. At least 30 days prior to filing an application for a certificate, an applicant shall hold at least one public information session in the affected municipality where the proposed facility is to be located. This session may be held concurrent with a public session held as a requirement of any other state permit or approval.

II. The committee may order the applicant to provide such additional public information sessions in affected municipalities as are reasonable to inform the public of the proposed project.

III. Within 90 days after acceptance of an application for a certificate, the committee shall hold at least one public information session in each the municipality where the proposed facility is proposed to be located.

IV. Subsequent public hearings shall be in the nature of adjudicative proceedings under RSA 541-A and shall be held in the municipality in which the proposed facility is to be located or in Concord, New Hampshire, as determined by the committee. The committee shall give adequate public notice of the time and place of each subsequent hearing.

V. The committee shall adopt rules regarding the timing and method of notices for public information sessions and public hearings and the any other requirements regarding such sessions and hearings.

VI. The committee shall consider and weigh all evidence presented at public hearings and shall consider and weigh written information and reports submitted to it by members of the public prior to the closing of the record of the proceeding. The committee shall provide an opportunity at one or more public hearings for comments from the governing body of each affected municipality and residents of each affected municipality. The committee shall consider, as appropriate, prior committee findings and rulings on the same or similar subject matters, but shall not be bound thereby.

VII. The solid waste evaluation committee shall require from the applicant whatever information it deems necessary to assist in the conduct of the hearings, and any investigation or studies it may undertake, and in the determination of the terms and conditions of any certificate under consideration.

VIII. The committee and counsel for the public shall conduct such reasonable studies and investigations as they deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this chapter and may employ a consultant or consultants, legal counsel and other staff in furtherance of the duties imposed by this chapter, the cost of which shall be borne by the applicant or certificate holder in such amount as may be approved by the committee. The committee and counsel for the public are further authorized to assess the applicant or certificate holder for all travel and related expenses associated with the processing of an application or other proceedings under this chapter.

IX. Times for conducting public hearings and rendering a decision on the application may be extended for good cause upon written request of the applicant.

149-M:77 Judicial Review.

Decisions made pursuant to this chapter shall be appealed in accordance with RSA 541.

149-M:78 Monitoring and Enforcement.

I. The department shall monitor the construction and operation of any major solid waste disposal facility granted a certificate under this chapter, after all other subsequent approvals are obtained, to ensure compliance with such certificate and enforce the terms and conditions of any such certificate. With the exception of the authority retained by the state agencies in accordance with paragraph V, the department may delegate the authority to monitor the construction or operation of any major solid waste disposal facility granted a certificate under this chapter to such state agency or official as it deems appropriate but shall ensure that the terms and conditions of the certificate are met. Any authorized representative or delegate of the department shall have a right of entry onto the premises of any part of the solid waste generation facility to ascertain if the facility is being constructed or operated in continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the certificate. During normal hours of business administration and on the premises of the facility, such a representative or delegate shall also have a right to inspect such records of the certificate-holder as are relevant to the terms or conditions of the certificate.

II. Whenever the department administratively determines, on its own or in response to a complaint, that any term or condition of any certificate issued under this chapter or prior law is being violated, it shall, in writing, notify the certificate holder of the specific violation and order the person to immediately terminate the violation. If, 15 days after receipt of the order, the person has failed or neglected to terminate the violation, the department shall notify the committee, which may suspend the person's certificate. In addition to suspension, if, after 15 days of receipt of the order, the person has failed or neglected to terminate the violation, the committee may impose a fine not to exceed \$5,000 per day until the violation is corrected. Except for emergencies, prior to any suspension or imposition of a fine, the committee shall give written notice of its consideration of suspension or imposition of a fine and of its reasons therefor and shall provide opportunity for a prompt hearing.

III. In addition to other remedies provided in this chapter, upon petition of the department, the committee may suspend a certificate if the committee determines that a person has made a material misrepresentation in the application, or in the supplemental or additional statements of fact, or studies required of the applicant, or if the committee determines that the person has violated the provisions of this chapter, or any rule adopted under this chapter. Except for emergencies, prior to any suspension, the committee shall give written notice of its consideration of suspension and of its reasons therefor and shall provide an opportunity for a prompt hearing.

IV. Upon petition of the department, the committee may revoke any certificate that is suspended after the person holding the suspended certificate has been given at least 90 days' written notice of the committee's consideration of revocation and of its reasons therefor and has been provided an opportunity for a full hearing.

V. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, each state agency having permitting or other regulatory authority shall retain all of its powers and duties of enforcement.

VI. The full amount of costs and expenses incurred by the department and committee in connection with any enforcement action against a person holding a certificate, in which the person is determined to have violated any provision of this chapter, any rule adopted by the department or committee, or any of the terms and conditions of the issued certificate, shall be assessed to the person and shall be paid by the person to the committee. Any amounts paid by a person to the committee pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee fund established in RSA 149-M:84.

VII. The department may adopt rules in furtherance of its monitoring and enforcement responsibilities under this chapter.

149-M:79 Records.

Complete verbatim records shall be kept by the committee of all hearings, and records of all other actions, proceedings, and correspondence of the committee, including submittals of information and reports by members of the public, shall be maintained, all of which records shall be open to the public inspection and copying as provided for under RSA 91-A. Committee records regarding pending applications for a certificate shall also be made available on a website.

149-M:80 Temporary Suspension of Deliberations.

If the committee, at any time while an application for a certificate is before it, deems it to be in the public interest, it may temporarily suspend its deliberations and time frames established under this chapter.

149-M:81 Findings and Certificate Issuance.

I. Any certificate issued by the committee shall be based on the record. The decision to issue a certificate in its final form or to deny an application once it has been accepted shall be made by a majority of the committee.

II. The committee may consult with interested regional agencies and agencies of border states in the consideration of certificates.

III. After due consideration of all relevant information regarding the potential siting, including potential significant impacts and benefits, the committee shall determine if issuance of a certificate will serve the objectives of this chapter. In order to issue a certificate, the committee shall find that:

(a) The applicant has adequate financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure construction, operation, and closure of the facility in continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the certificate.

(b) The facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.

(c) The facility satisfies the criteria in RSA 149-M:11, III.

(d) The net public benefit of the facility to the region shall outweigh any adverse impact of the facility on human health, aesthetics, historic preservation, economic impacts to the region, tourism, outdoor recreation, regional and statewide business development, wildlife, noise, odor, traffic impacts, existing land uses, including property values, characteristics and source of waste, and any other impacts assessed as part of the application pursuant to RSA 149-M:72, III.

(e) Issuance of a certificate will serve the public interest of the citizens of New Hampshire.

IV. The committee shall issue an order granting or denying a certificate. Such order shall summarize and address issues of concern expressed during public information sessions and hearings to ensure that the public's voice has been heard and recorded.

V. A certificate of site and facility may contain such reasonable terms and conditions, including, but not limited to the authority to require bonding, as the committee deems necessary. Such certificates, when issued, shall be final and subject only to judicial review.

VI. The committee shall condition the certificate upon the results of applicable federal and state approvals or appeal processes and required federal and state agency studies whose study period exceeds the application period.

149-M:82 Penalties.

I. Any construction or operation of major solid waste disposal facilities without first obtaining a certificate from the committee, or any material violation of the terms and conditions of a certificate issued by the committee, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation or for each day of a continuing violation. Such violation may also be enjoined by the superior court upon application of the attorney general.

II. Whoever purposely or knowingly commits any violation of any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if a natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person.

149-M:83 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter, or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this chapter are severable.

149-M:84 Fund Established; Funding Plan.

There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a nonlapsing, special fund to be known as the solid waste evaluation committee fund. All application and other filing fees received by the committee under this chapter shall be deposited in the fund. All moneys in the fund shall be continually appropriated to the committee and shall be used to pay for operating costs of the committee and the partial salary of the administrator. If the administrator position is vacant, the fund may be used to pay an independent contractor to perform those duties. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the committee may engage the department for additional technical, legal, or administrative support to fulfill the requirements of this chapter, the cost of which shall be charged directly to the applicant or major solid waste disposal facility owner.

149-M:85 Compensation and Reimbursement.

I. The public members of the committee shall be compensated for all time spent on committee business, including compensation and reimbursement for major solid waste disposal facility proceeding time and expenses. Compensation shall be provided on a pro rata basis, based upon the daily salary rate of an unclassified position at the initial step in grade FF under RSA 94:1-a, I(a).

II. State agencies represented on the committee shall be reimbursed for major solid waste disposal facility proceeding time and expenses incurred by their respective members or designees, except that time spent for the first 5 full days of their participation with respect to any application or other proceeding concerning a major solid waste disposal facility shall not be subject to reimbursement. The rate of reimbursement to each respective agency shall be based on a pro rata share of the employee's salary, benefits, and related costs.

III. The department of justice shall be reimbursed in the same manner as described in paragraph II for major solid waste disposal facility proceeding time and expenses that are incurred by the counsel for the public.

IV. All persons or agencies seeking compensation or reimbursement under this section shall keep detailed time and expense records which shall be submitted to the chairperson or administrator and used to determine the amount of compensation or reimbursement. The chairperson or administrator shall develop a recordkeeping system and accounting and payment procedures.

V. Compensation shall not be provided to members of the committee for initial meetings conducted prior to acceptance of application fees. The department shall provide support for the adoption of rules established by the committee.

149-M:86 Solid Waste Permit Applications Suspended.

I. The department shall not issue any permit approvals that authorize new capacity for major solid waste disposal facilities until rules are adopted by the committee or until July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 149-M:9, the department shall not issue any permit to construct or operate a new landfill facility in New Hampshire under RSA 149-M:9 until July 1, 2028. The department may accept applications, evaluate them for completeness, and request more information to make an application complete, but shall not proceed to further evaluation or process any applications, notwithstanding RSA 541-A:29, in order that any evaluation of need, benefit, harm, or appropriateness of the site proposed will await the development of new regulations, data, technologies, and policies.

III. Nothing in paragraph II shall be construed to prohibit the expansion or modification of any landfill facilities on any site on which, as of December 1, 2022, a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D landfill exists that has been permitted in accordance with RSA 149-M:9.

IV. In this section, the term "site" means a single parcel or adjacent parcels, owned in their entirety by a landfill operator or its affiliates as of December 1, 2022, including a site where one or more public utility easements traverse the site.

18 New Subparagraph; Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

(400) Moneys deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee fund as established in RSA 149-M:84.

19 Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions; Eligible Student. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public elementary or secondary school and whose annual household income at the time the student applies for the program is less than or equal to [350] **400** percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). [No] **After June 30, 2026, no** income threshold need be met in subsequent years **for a kindergarten through grade 12 student to enroll in the EFA program**, provided the student otherwise qualifies. Students in the special school district within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

20 New Paragraph; Definition; Vested. Amend RSA 100-A:1 by inserting after paragraph XXXVII the following new paragraph:

XXXVIII. «Vested» means that a member is eligible for a benefit after 10 years of service. The calculations of earnable compensation under RSA 100-A:1, XVII, and average final compensation under RSA 100-A:1, XVIII, shall not be reduced after 3 years of service.

21 Earnable Compensation. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XVII to read as follows:

XVII. "Earnable compensation" shall mean:

(a) For **group I** members who have attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus any overtime pay, holiday and vacation pay, sick pay, longevity or severance pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance stipend or bonus, additional pay for extracurricular and instructional activities for full-time teachers and full-time employees who are employed in paraprofessional or support position, additional pay for instructional activities of full-time faculty of the community college system, and any military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation paid to, or on behalf of, the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except cash incentives paid by an employer to encourage members to retire, supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation, and teacher development pay that is not part of the contracted annual salary. ~~[Compensation for extra and special duty, as reported by the employer, shall be included but limited during the highest 3 years of creditable service as provided in paragraph XVIII.]~~ However, earnable compensation in the final 12 months of creditable service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 1-1/2 times the higher of the earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months or the highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average final compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the final 12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or employer contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in the computation of average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit for members of governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable compensation for all employees~~;~~ **and** teachers~~;~~ ~~permanent firemen, and permanent policemen]~~ who first become eligible for membership in the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include compensation in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment from a retirement eligible position, with the limited exceptions of disability related severance pay paid to a member or retiree no later than 120 days after a decision by the board of trustees granting the member or retiree disability retirement benefits pursuant to RSA 100-A:6 and of severance pay which a member was entitled to be paid within 120 days after termination but which, without the consent of the member and not through any fault of the member, was paid more than 120 days after the member's termination. The member shall have the burden of proving to the board of trustees that any severance payment paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment is earnable compensation and meets the requirements of an asserted exception to the 120-day post-termination payment requirement.

(b)(1) For **group I** members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus compensation over base pay. Compensation over base pay shall include as applicable, subject to subparagraphs (2)~~;~~ ~~(3), and (4);~~ **and (3)**, any overtime pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance stipend or bonus, annual longevity pay, additional pay for extracurricular and instructional activities for full-time teachers and full-time employees who are employed in paraprofessional or support position, additional pay for instructional activities of full-time faculty of the community college system~~;~~ ~~compensation for extra and special duty;~~ and any military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation paid to, or on behalf of, the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation and teacher development pay that is not part of the contracted annual salary.

~~[(2) Compensation over base pay shall be limited during the highest 5 years of creditable service as provided in paragraph XVIII.]~~

~~[(3)] (2)~~ Earnable compensation shall not include compensation for extra and special duty for members who commence service on and after July 1, 2011.

~~[(4)] (3)~~ Earnable compensation shall not include incentives to encourage members to retire, severance pay or end-of-career additional longevity payments, and pay for unused sick or vacation time. Earnable compensation in the final 12 months of creditable service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 11/2 times the higher of the earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months or the highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average final compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the final 12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or employer contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in the computation of average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit for members of governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable compensation for all employees~~;~~ **and** teachers~~;~~ ~~permanent firemen, and permanent policemen]~~ who first become eligible for membership in the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include compensation in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment from a retirement eligible position.

(c) For group II members who attained vested status prior to September 1, 2013, the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus any overtime pay, holiday and vacation pay, sick pay, longevity or severance pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance stipend or bonus, additional pay for instructional activities, and any military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation paid to, or on behalf of, the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except cash incentives paid by an employer to encourage members to retire, supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation. Compensation for extra and special duty, as reported by the employer, shall be included but limited during the highest 3 years of creditable service as provided in paragraph XVIII. However, earnable compensation in the final 12 months of creditable service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 1-1/2 times the higher of the earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months or the highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average final compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the final 12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or employer contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in the computation of average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit for members of governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable compensation for all permanent firemen and permanent policemen who first become eligible for membership in the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include compensation in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment from a retirement-eligible position, with the limited exceptions of disability-related severance pay paid to a member or retiree no later than 120 days after a decision by the board of trustees granting the member or retiree disability retirement benefits pursuant to RSA 100-A:6 and of severance pay which a member was entitled to be paid within 120 days after termination but which, without the consent of the member and not through any fault of the member, was paid more than 120 days after the member's termination. The member shall have the burden of proving to the board of trustees that any severance payment paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment is earnable compensation and meets the requirements of an asserted exception to the 120-day post-termination payment requirement.

(d)(1) For group II members who have not attained vested status prior to September 1, 2013, the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus compensation over base pay. Compensation over base pay shall include, as applicable and subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3), any overtime pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance stipend or bonus, annual longevity pay, compensation for extra and special duty, and any military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation paid to or on behalf of the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation that is not part of the contracted annual salary.

(2) Earnable compensation shall not include compensation for extra and special duty for members who began service on or after July 1, 2011.

(3) Earnable compensation shall not include incentives to encourage members to retire, severance pay, end-of-career additional longevity payments, or pay for unused sick or vacation time. Earnable compensation in the final 12 months of creditable service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 1 1/2 times the higher of the earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months or the highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average final compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the final 12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or employer contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in the computation of average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit for members of governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable compensation for all permanent firemen and permanent policemen who first become eligible for membership in the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include compensation in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment from a retirement-eligible position.

22 Average Final Compensation. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XVIII to read as follows:

XVIII. «Average final compensation» shall mean:

(a) For group I members who have attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, the average annual earnable compensation of a member during his or her highest 3 years of creditable service, or during all of the years in his or her creditable service if less than 3 years. For purposes of this calculation, the inclusion

of the average annual compensation for extra and special duty in the 3 years shall not exceed the average annual amount of compensation for extra and special duty paid to the member over the member's last 7 years of creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, as reported by the employer in accordance with RSA 100-A:16, VI, or over all of the years in his or her creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, if less than 7 years.

(b) For group II members who attained vested status prior to September 1, 2013, the average annual earnable compensation shall be calculated based on the member's highest 3 years of creditable service, or during all years of creditable service if less than 3 years. For purposes of this calculation, the inclusion of the average annual compensation for extra and special duty in the 3 years shall not exceed the average annual amount of compensation for extra and special duty paid to the member over the member's last 7 years of creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, as reported by the employer in accordance with RSA 100-A:16, VI, or over all of the years in the member's creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, if less than 7 years.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) For group I members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 or who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, the average annual earnable compensation of a member during his or her highest 5 years of creditable service, or during all of the years in his or her creditable service if less than 5 years. For purposes of inclusion in this calculation, the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation in the highest 5 years shall not exceed the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation over all the member's years of service on or after January 1, 2012, but excluding the highest 5 years.

~~[(c)(1)]~~ (d)(1) For group II members who commenced service ~~[prior to July 1, 2011]~~ **on or after July 1, 2001**, and who have not attained vested status prior to ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, the average annual earnable compensation of a member during his or her highest 5 years of creditable service, or during all of the years in his or her creditable service if less than 5 years. For purposes of inclusion in this calculation, the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation in the highest 5 years shall not exceed the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation over all the member's years of service on or after ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**.

(2) For group II members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, ~~[and who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012]~~ the average annual earnable compensation of a member during his or her highest 5 years of creditable service, or during all of the years in his or her creditable service if less than 5 years. For purposes of inclusion in this calculation, the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation in the highest 5 years shall not exceed the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation over all the member's years of service on or after January 1, 2012, but excluding the highest 5 years.

23 Group II Service Retirement Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(a) to read as follows:

II. Group II Members.

(a) Any group II member in service, who is in vested status before ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, who has attained age 45 and completed 20 years of creditable service, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, who has attained age 50 and completed 25 years of creditable service, and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d), or any group II member in service who has attained age 60 regardless of the number of years of creditable service, may retire on a service retirement allowance upon written application to the board of trustees setting forth at what time not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days subsequent to the filing thereof the member desires to be retired, notwithstanding that during such period of notification the member may have separated from service. Provided, however, that a group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not receive a service retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5; but may receive a reduced allowance after age 50 if the member has at least 25 years of creditable service where the allowance shall be reduced, for each month by which the date on which benefits commence precedes the month after which the member attains 52.5 years of age, by 1/4 of one percent.

24 Group II Service Retirement Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(b)(2) to read as follows:

(2) For members who are in vested status before ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, a state annuity which, together with his or her member annuity, shall be equal to 2-1/2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 40 years, or for members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, a state annuity which, together with his or her member annuity, shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 42.5 years, and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d) with the maximum number of years of creditable service not in excess of the limits under RSA 100-A:6-a, but only for group II members in service who have attained age 60 regardless of the number of years of creditable service, or who work up to their full age and service requirements and retire under service retirement. If a member retires prior to reaching full age and service requirements, then their annuity multiplier remains the same as their first 15 years of creditable service.

25 Group II Service Retirement Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(c)(1) to read as follows:

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of RSA 100-A to the contrary, any group II member who is in vested status before ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, and has retired on or after the effective date of this subparagraph after attaining the age of 45 with at least 20 years of creditable service, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, and retires after the effective date of this subparagraph after attaining the age of 50 with at least 25 years of creditable service, and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, who qualify as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d), shall receive a minimum annual service retirement allowance of \$10,000. If such group II member has elected to convert the retirement allowance into an optional allowance for the surviving spouse under RSA 100-A:13, the surviving spouse shall be entitled to a proportional share of the \$10,000.

26 Group II Service Retirement Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(d) to read as follows:

(d) Active group II members who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011 and who have not attained vested status prior to ~~[January 1, 2012]~~ **September 1, 2013**, shall be subject to the following transition provisions for years of service required for regular service retirement, the minimum age for regular service retirement, and for the first 15 years of creditable service, the multiplier used to calculate the retirement annuity ~~[, which shall be applicable on, or after January 1, 2012]~~ according to the following table:

Creditable service on January 1, 2012	Minimum years of service	Minimum age attained	Annuity multiplier
(1) Less than 4 years	24 age	49	2.1%
(2) At least 4 years but less than 6 years	23 age	48	2.2%
(3) At least 6 years but less than 8 years	22 age	47	2.3%
(4) At least 8 years but less than 10 years]	21 age	46	2.4%
(1) Less than 1 year	24	age 49	2.1%*
(2) At least 1 years but less than 2 years	24	age 49	2.1%*
(3) At least 2 years but less than 3 years	24	age 49	2.1%*
(4) At least 3 years but less than 4 years	24	age 49	2.1%*
(5) At least 4 years but less than 5 years	23	age 48	2.2%*
(6) At least 5 years but less than 6 years	23	age 48	2.2%*
(7) At least 6 years but less than 7 years	22	age 47	2.3%*
(8) At least 7 years but less than 8 years	22	age 47	2.3%*
(9) At least 8 years but less than 9 years	21	age 46	2.4%*

* The annuity multiplier applied to creditable service earned beyond 15 years of creditable service, shall be 2.5 percent, but only for group II members in service who have attained age 60 regardless of the number of years of creditable service, or who work up to their full age and service requirements and retire under service retirement. If a member retires prior to reaching full age and service requirements, then their annuity multiplier remains the same as their first 15 years of creditable service.

27 Retirement System; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2012” with “September 1, 2013”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

28 Retirement System; 2026 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “September 1, 2013” with “January 1, 2014”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

29 Retirement System; 2027 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1,

2014” with “January 1, 2015”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

30 Retirement System; 2028 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2015” with “January 1, 2016”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

31 Retirement System; 2029 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2016” with “January 1, 2017”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

32 Retirement System; 2030 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2017” with “January 1, 2018”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

33 Retirement System; 2031 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2018” with “January 1, 2019”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

34 Retirement System; 2032 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2019” with “January 1, 2020”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

35 Retirement System; 2033 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing “January 1, 2020” with “January 1, 2021”: 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

36 Medical and Surgical Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 21-I:30, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. Any vested deferred state retiree may receive medical and surgical benefits under this section if the vested deferred state retiree is eligible. To be eligible, a group I vested deferred state retiree shall have at least 10 years of creditable service with the state if the employee’s service began prior to July 1, 2003 or 20 years of creditable service with the state if the employee’s service began on or after July 1, 2003 and a group II vested deferred state retiree shall have at least 20 years of creditable service with the state if the employee’s service with the state began on or after July 1, 2010. In addition, if the vested deferred state retiree is a member of group I, such retiree shall be at least 60 years of age to be eligible. If the vested deferred state retiree is a member of group II who is in vested status before January 1, 2012, such retiree shall not be eligible until 20 years from the date of becoming a member of group II and shall be at least 45 years of age, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not be eligible until 25 years from the date of becoming a member of group II and shall be at least 52.5 years of age~~[-and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, H(d)].~~

37 Definitions; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1) to read as follows:

(d)(1) For group II members ~~[who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2021]~~ who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus compensation over base pay. Compensation over base pay shall include, as applicable and subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3), any overtime pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance stipend or bonus, annual longevity pay, compensation for extra and special duty, and any military differential pay, plus the fair market

value of non-cash compensation paid to or on behalf of the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation that is not part of the contracted annual salary.

38 Definitions; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) through (3) to read as follows:

(b)(1) For a group II member who is ~~[in vested status before January 1, 2012]~~ **who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, the later of the date that the member has both attained age 45 and completed 20 years of creditable service; **or**

(2) For a group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, the later of the date that the member has both attained age 52.5 and completed 25 years of creditable service.[]

~~[(3) For a group II member who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011, and who has not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, H(d); or]~~

39 Service Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(a) to read as follows:

(a) Any group II member in service, ~~[who is in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, who has attained age 45 and completed 20 years of creditable service, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 who has attained age 50 and completed 25 years of creditable service~~[], and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2021, as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, H(d)], or any group II member in service who has attained age 60 regardless of the number of years of creditable service, may retire on a service retirement allowance upon written application to the board of trustees setting forth at what time not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days subsequent to the filing thereof the member desires to be retired, notwithstanding that during such period of notification the member may have separated from service. Provided, however, that a group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not receive a service retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5; but may receive a reduced allowance after age 50 if the member has at least 25 years of creditable service where the allowance shall be reduced, for each month by which the date on which benefits commence precedes the month after which the member attains 52.5 years of age, by 1/4 of one percent.~~

40 Service Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(b)(2) to read as follows:

(2) For members ~~[who are in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, a state annuity which, together with his or her member annuity, shall be equal to 2- 1/2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 40 years, or for members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, a state annuity which, together with his or her member annuity, shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 42.5 years~~[], and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2021 shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, H(d) with the maximum number of years of creditable service not in excess of 40.5 years].~~

41 Service Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(c)(1) to read as follows:

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of RSA 100-A to the contrary, any group II member who ~~[is in vested status before January 1, 2021 and]~~ **commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, has retired on or after the effective date of this subparagraph after attaining the age of 45 with at least 20 years of creditable service, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 and retires after the effective date of this subparagraph after attaining the age of 50 with at least 25 years of creditable service, ~~[and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2021 who qualify as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, H(d);]~~ shall receive a minimum annual service retirement allowance of \$10,000. If such group II member has elected to convert the retirement allowance into an optional allowance for the surviving spouse under RSA 100-A:13, the surviving spouse shall be entitled to a proportional share of the \$10,000.

42 Disability Retirement Benefit; 2034 Changes. Amend RSA 100-A:6, II(b) to read as follows:

(b) Upon ordinary disability retirement, the group II member shall receive an ordinary disability retirement allowance which shall consist of: a member annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of his or her accumulated contributions at the time of his or her ordinary disability retirement; and a state annuity which, together with his or her member annuity, for members who ~~[are in vested status before January 1, 2012]~~ **commenced service before July 1, 2011**, shall be equal to 2 1/2 percent of his or her average final compensation at the time of ordinary disability retirement multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 40 at the time of ordinary disability retirement, or for members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation at the time of ordinary disability retirement multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 42.5 at the time of ordinary disability retirement, ~~[and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, H(d) with the maximum number of years of creditable service not in excess of the limits under RSA~~

~~100-A:6-a provided]~~, however, that such allowance shall not be less than 25 percent of the member's final compensation at the time of his or her disability retirement. Members who retire upon ordinary disability or qualify for accidental death benefits as outlined in RSA 100-A:8 shall not be subject to the full age and service requirements listed under RSA 100-A:5, II(d).

43 Disability Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:6, II(d)(1) through (3) to read as follows:

(1) For members ~~[who are in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who commenced service before July 1, 2011**, any group II member who has more than 262/3 years of service, a supplemental disability retirement allowance shall be paid. Such supplement shall be equal to 21/2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service in excess of 262/3 but not in excess of 40 years.

(2) For members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, any group II member who has more than 331/3 years of service, a supplemental disability retirement allowance shall be paid. Such supplement shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service in excess of 331/3 but not in excess of 42.5 years.

~~[(3) For group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, calculation of the supplemental allowance shall use the percentage multipliers for the corresponding years of creditable service on January 1, 2012 in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d) with the range for the number of excess years for the supplement adjusted proportionally.]~~

44 Vested Deferred Retirement Benefit; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:10, II(b) to read as follows:

(b) For members ~~[who are in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who commenced service before July 1, 2011**, upon the member's attainment of age 45, provided the member would then have completed 20 years of creditable service, otherwise the subsequent date on which such 20 years would have been completed, or for members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, upon the member's attainment of age 50, provided the member would then have completed 25 years of creditable service, otherwise the subsequent date on which such 25 years would have been completed, ~~[and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d);]~~ or at any time after age 60, a group II member who meets the requirement of subparagraph (a) may make application on a form prescribed by the board of trustees and receive a vested deferred retirement allowance which shall consist of: (1) A member annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of accumulated contributions on the date the member's retirement allowance commences; and (2) A state annuity which, together with the member annuity, shall be equal to a service retirement allowance based on the member's average final compensation and creditable service at the time the member's service is terminated. Provided, however, that a group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not receive a vested deferred retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5; but may receive a reduced allowance after age 50 if the member has at least 25 years of creditable service where the allowance shall be reduced, for each month by which the date on which benefits commence precedes the month after which the member attains 52.5 years of age, by 1/4 of one percent.

45 Method of Financing; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:16, I(aa) to read as follows:

(aa) The board of trustees shall certify to the proper authority or officer responsible for making up the payroll of each employer, and such authority or officer shall cause to be deducted from the compensation of each member, except group II members who are in vested status before January 1, 2012 with creditable service in excess of 40 years, and group II members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 or who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 with creditable service in excess of 42.5 years as provided in RSA 100-A:5, II(b) and RSA 100-A:6, II(b), on each and every payroll of such employer for each and every payroll period, the percentage of earnable compensation applicable to such member. No deduction from earnable compensation under this paragraph shall apply to any group II member ~~[who is in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, with creditable service in excess of 40 years, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 or who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 with creditable service in excess of 42.5 years as provided in RSA 100-A:5, II(b) and RSA 100-A:6, II(b), and this provision for such members shall not affect the method of determining average final compensation as provided in RSA 100-A:1, XVIII. In determining the amount earnable by a member in a payroll period, the board may consider the rate of compensation payable to such member on the first day of a payroll period as continuing throughout the payroll period and it may omit deduction from compensation for any period less than a full payroll period if such person was not a member on the first day of the payroll period, and to facilitate the making of deductions it may modify the deduction required of any member by such an amount as shall not exceed 1/10 of one percent of the annual earnable compensation upon the basis of which such deduction is made. The amounts deducted shall be reported to the board of trustees. Each of such amounts, when deducted, shall be paid to the retirement system at such times as may be designated by the board of trustees and credited to the individual account, in the member annuity savings fund, of the member from whose compensation the deduction was made.

46 Minimum Age; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:19-b, II to read as follows:

II.(a) For a member ~~[who is in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ ***who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011,*** and, who has completed 20 or more years of combined creditable service, one year shall be deducted from age 60 for each year of creditable group II service, provided that the age shall not be less than 45 years.

(b) For a member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 and who has completed 25 or more years of combined creditable service, one year shall be deducted from age 60 for each year of creditable group II service, provided that the age shall not be less than 50 years, and provided that a the member shall not be eligible to receive a retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5.

~~[(c) For members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, minimum age shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d) with one year deducted from age 60 to not less than the adjusted minimum age.]~~

47 Reduced Early Retirement; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:19-d to read as follows:

100-A:19-d Reduced Early Retirement. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any retirement system member who has creditable service in both group I and group II with at least 10 years combined creditable service, and who has attained an age which is at least 45 ~~[for members who are in vested status with group II service before January 1, 2012]~~ ***for members who commenced service before July 1, 2011,*** or at least 50 for members who commenced group II service on or after July 1, 2011, and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d), and is within 10 years of the minimum age set forth in RSA 100-A:19-b, may elect to retire and have benefits commence immediately as a reduced split-benefit service retirement allowance. Application shall be as provided in RSA 100-A:5, I(c). The allowance shall be determined as a split-benefit service retirement allowance in accordance with RSA 100-A:19-c, and the total combined split-benefit service allowance shall be reduced by the percentages shown in RSA 100-A:5, I(c), based on the total combined length of creditable service, for each month by which the date on which benefits commence precedes the month after which the member attains the minimum age set forth in RSA 100-A:19-b.

48 Funding; Appropriations. The sum of \$27,500,000 per state fiscal year is hereby appropriated to the retirement system to fund the cost of benefits under this act. Such sums shall be transferred on July 1 each year until 2034. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

49 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(9), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

50 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(8), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

51 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(7), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

52 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(6), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

53 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(5), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

54 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(4), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

55 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(3), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

56 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(2), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

57 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

58 Repeal. RSA 100-A:1, XXXVII(d)(1) relative to group II service retirement definition.

59 Effective Date.

I. Sections 28 and 49 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

II. Sections 29 and 50 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

III. Sections 30 and 51 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2028.

IV. Sections 31 and 52 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2029.

V. Sections 32 and 53 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2030.

VI. Sections 33 and 54 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2031.

VII. Sections 34 and 55 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2032.

VIII. Sections 35 and 56 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2033.

IX. Sections 36 through 47, and 57 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2034.

60 Games of Chance; Definition of High Stakes Tournament. Amend RSA 287-D:1 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

IX-a. "High-Stakes Tournament" means a tournament of a game of chance in which the required buy-in for participation in the tournament is \$2,500 or greater.

61 Games of Chance; Definitions. Amend RSA 287-D:1, XII to read as follows:

XII. ***"Video lottery terminal" or "VLT" means any device which, upon payment of bills, coins or vouchers, is available to play or operate and may entitle the patron to receive cash, vouchers, or electronic credits redeemable for cash. The results, including options available to the patron, are randomly determined by the device. A device may use spinning reels or video displays or both. This definition does not include any device that sells lottery tickets, pari-mutuel wagers, nor any device which is operated through, utilizes, or is played on or with assistance from the Internet.***

XIII. “Wager” means a monetary agreement between 2 or more persons that a sum of money or other valuable thing shall be paid to one of them on the happening or not happening of an uncertain event. Wager may be used synonymously with the term “bet.”

XIV. *“Wide-Area Progressive Link” means a networked gaming system that connects electronic gaming devices located at multiple licensed gaming establishments to a common progressive jackpot pool, allowing for contributions from each linked machine, regardless of location, to incrementally increase a shared jackpot prize, which can be won by any eligible player participating on any of the linked devices.*

62 Games of Chance; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 287-D:3, XVII to read as follows:

XVII. *The licensing and enforcement of VLT licensees, terminals, and compliance requirements under RSA 287-J.*

XVIII. Other matters related to the proper administration of this chapter.

63 New Section; Games of Chance; High-Stakes Tournaments. Amend RSA 287-D by inserting after section 3 the following new section:

287-D:3-a High-Stakes Tournaments. A licensed game operator employer may conduct a high-stakes game of Chance Tournament provided that:

I. The tournament is held at a facility licensed to conduct games of chance under RSA 287-D.

II. The tournament is conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the lottery commission.

III. The game operator submits the tournament structure, entry fees, rake structure, and prize payout distribution to the lottery commission at least 30 days prior to the tournament start date for approval.

IV. The tournament is conducted using approved dealers and equipment.

64 New Section; 24-Hour Gaming and Liquor Sales. Amend RSA 287-D by inserting after section 4-a the following new section:

287-D:4-b 24-Hour Gaming and Liquor Sales. Any municipality may, by majority vote of its legislative body, authorize gaming facilities licensed under this chapter to operate for up to 24 hours per day. Such authorization may include the ability for such facilities to serve liquor for up to 24 hours per day, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

65 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Games of Chance; Wagers. RSA 287-D:16 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

287-D:16 Wagers. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no maximum wager shall apply to any game of chance conducted under this chapter, or any historic horse race under RSA 284:22-b, including table games, historic horse racing, and VLT wagers.

66 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Games of Chance; Prizes. Amend RSA 287-D:20 to read as follows:

287-D:20 Prizes.

I. In games where chips have no monetary value, ***except for high-stakes tournaments, as defined in RSA 287-D:1, XI-a***, 3 percent of all funds collected from players, less moneys used by the lottery commission to fund authorized personnel expenses and related costs, shall be paid to the state treasurer to be deposited into the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. Such payments shall be made once per month not later than the [5th] ***15th*** day of the month for the funds collected in the previous month.

I-a. In high-stakes tournaments, as defined in RSA 287-D:1, XI-a, 5 percent of house winnings, after prizes paid, less moneys used by the lottery commission to fund authorized personnel expenses and related costs, shall be paid to the state treasurer to be deposited into the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. Such payments shall be made once per month not later than the 15th day of the month for the funds collected in the previous month.

II. In games where chips have monetary value, 10 percent of the rake or house winnings and other moneys collected by the game operator that are not paid out as prizes to players, less moneys used by the lottery commission to fund authorized personnel expenses and related costs, shall be paid to the state treasurer for deposit into the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. Such payments shall be made once per month not later than the [5th] ***15th*** day of the month for the funds collected in the previous month.

III. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cash value of free bets and promotional credits of all table games, historic horse racing (HHR), and VLTs shall be exempted from revenues subject to charity allocation and payments to the state, so long as the cash value of such promotions for each type of game, whether it be table games, HHR, or VLTs, does not exceed 15 percent of the total revenue from that type of game for a given month.

67 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Games of Chance; Unlawful Gambling Machines. RSA 287-D:26 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

287-D:26 Unlawful Gambling Machines. No person shall possess or operate any gambling machine, slot machine, or other gaming device, unless specifically authorized under RSA 287-D or RSA 284:22-b, or licensed by the lottery commission.

68 New Chapter; Video Lottery Terminals. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 287-I the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 287-J VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS

287-J:1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter these words shall have the following meaning:

- I. "Applicant" means an individual or entity applying for a license under this chapter.
- II. "Commission" means the lottery and gaming commission.
- III. "Gross video lottery revenue" means the total of all sums actually received by a VLT licensee from operation of video lottery terminals, minus the total of all sums actually paid out as winnings to patrons.
- IV. "Facility" means a facility licensed under RSA 287-D for the conduct of charitable gaming.
- V. "Video lottery terminal" or "VLT" means any device which, upon payment of bills, coins or vouchers, is available to play or operate and may entitle the patron to receive cash, vouchers, or electronic credits redeemable for cash. The results, including options available to the patron, are randomly determined by the device. A device may use spinning reels or video displays or both. This definition does not include any device that sells lottery tickets, pari-mutuel wagers, nor any device which is operated through, utilizes, or is played on or with assistance from the Internet.
- VI. "VLT license" means a license issued in accordance with this section, to offer video lottery terminals to the public.
- VII. "VLT licensee" means a game operator employer licensee that has been granted a VLT license under this section.
- VIII. "Voucher" means a printed wagering instrument, issued by a video lottery terminal at a facility, that has a fixed dollar wagering value which can only be used to acquire an equivalent value of cashable credits or cash.

287-J:2 Enforcement. The commission, with the assistance of the attorney general and the chief of police of any city or town where licensed facilities are located, shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. To enforce the requirements of this chapter, the commission may exercise all rights of enforcement, including but not limited to its subpoena power, investigation authority, and authority to issue administrative orders and fines, granted to the commission by RSA 287-D.

287-J:3 Rulemaking. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

- I. The application procedure for VLT licenses for game operators.
- II. Information to be required on VLT license applications for VLT licenses for game operators.
- III. The conducting and operation of video lottery terminals.
- IV. Accountability controls to ensure game integrity, including, but not limited to, cash, prizes, income, expense and financial reporting, and recordkeeping to be implemented by VLT licensees in addition to requirements set forth in RSA 287-D:22.
- V. Investigation and enforcement to ensure compliance with this chapter.
- VI. Other matters related to the proper administration of this chapter.

287-J:4 Eligible Operators.

I. To be eligible for a VLT license, the applicant shall have been licensed or eligible for licensure to sell pari-mutuel pools on historic horse races under RSA 287-D and under RSA 284:22-b as of the effective date of this chapter. A license shall not be permitted to be transferred or sold.

II. Applicants eligible to obtain a VLT license pursuant to paragraph I of this section shall submit to background, financial, and suitability checks pursuant to RSA 287-D:11 and RSA 287-D:12, to ensure the applicant's ability to conduct video lottery terminals in accordance with the provisions of RSA 287-D and this chapter. An entity found suitable for gaming by the commission as of the effective date of this chapter shall satisfy paragraph I and RSA 284:22-b. The applicant for a VLT license shall submit to the commission a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the division of state police to conduct a criminal history records check through its state records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to release a report of the applicant's criminal history and record information, including confidential criminal history record information, to the commission. Floor space allocated to VLTs shall represent no more than 70 percent of a facility's total gaming space.

287-J:5 Operation of Video Lottery Terminals.

I. Prior to use all VLTs shall have been tested by an independent testing laboratory and approved by the commission to ensure integrity and proper working order.

II. There shall be no bet limit imposed on VLTs.

III. No VLT shall be operated except within the facility of an eligible VLT licensee during the facility's approved hours of play of charitable games.

IV. Floor space allocated to VLTs and to historic horse racing terminals, as authorized by RSA 284:22-b, shall represent no more than 70 percent of a facility's total gaming space.

V. VLTs shall operate to ensure a minimum average daily aggregate payback of 88 percent computed for all VLTs operated at each facility on a quarterly basis, except for machines that are tied to a wide-area progressive link, which shall have minimum average daily aggregate payback of 80 percent. For historic horse racing pools authorized by RSA 284:22-b tied to a wide-area progressive link, the commission on such pools shall be set at a rate no greater than 20 percent.

VI. VLTs shall operate pursuant to any other such characteristics as the commission may establish by rule to safeguard the integrity of gaming in New Hampshire.

287-J:6 Revenue Share.

I. Each video lottery terminal licensee shall collect a tax equal to 30 percent of gross video lottery revenue, less any free play offered by the operator, for distribution under paragraph II.

II.(a) Each licensee shall distribute 35 percent of the amount collected under paragraph I to charitable organizations with whom the licensee contracts on each licensed game date. Each VLT licensee shall contract with 2 licensed charitable organizations for each game date.

(b) The remainder of the total amount collected by the licensee under paragraph I shall be paid to the commission and distributed as follows:

(1) 0.25 percent for payment of problem gaming services by the commission; and

(2) The remaining 64.75 percent restricted to accounting unit 06-56-56-560040-4079 in the department of education for the purpose of distributing state adequacy grants to public school districts.

III. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the cash value of free bets and promotional credits of all table games, historic horse racing, and VLTs shall be exempted from revenues subject to charity allocation and payments to the state, so long as the cash value of such promotions for each type of game, whether table games, historic horse racing, or VLTs, does not exceed 15 percent of the total revenue from that type of game for a given month.

287-J:7 Unclaimed Vouchers.

I. Vouchers shall remain valid for 180 days from the date printed, after which the obligation of the VLT licensee to pay the patron any value remaining on a voucher expires.

II. Before the end of each calendar month, the VLT licensee shall report and remit the total value of vouchers that expired during the preceding calendar month in a format prescribed by the commission.

III. Such moneys shall become a part of the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j.

287-J:8 Election of Central Monitoring System or Audit.

I. If the lottery commission elects to implement a central monitoring system for VLTs, the state shall bear all associated costs, including any connectivity fees, service fees, or equipment fees.

II. If the state chooses not to implement a central monitoring system, the state shall be responsible for conducting audits of VLT and associated costs.

69 Opioid Abatement Trust Fund; Substance Abuse Enforcement Program. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, funds from the opioid abatement trust fund, established under RSA 126-A:83, may be appropriated to the department of safety, as authorized by the general court. The funds are intended to cover overtime costs for county and local law enforcement officers participating in the substance abuse enforcement program, established in RSA 21-P:66. Specifically, the funding may support officers in Coos, Grafton, Carroll, and Sullivan counties in carrying out law enforcement activities related to the program, which aims to prevent or reduce overdose deaths and other opioid-related harms.

70 Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Staff. Amend RSA 71-B:14 to read as follows:

70-B:14 Staff. ~~[The board shall have upon its staff at least one review appraiser who shall be a classified state employee and who shall be competent to review the value of property for tax and eminent domain purposes. In addition,]~~ The board shall have such clerical and technical staff as may be necessary within the limits of appropriation made therefor.

70-A Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Staff; Offices. Amend RSA 498-A:15 and RSA 498-A:16 to read as follows:

498-A:15 Clerk; Staff. ~~[The board shall have a clerk who shall be appointed by the board and who shall be a classified state employee.]~~ In the exercise of the authority and performance of the duties prescribed by law, the board shall have the authority, within the limits of the appropriation for such purposes, to employ such ~~[other]~~ staff as it shall deem necessary.

498-A:16 Offices; Hearings. The board shall be provided with suitable office space in Concord, together with such furnishings and office equipment as shall be necessary for the administration of its business, **and with a suitable room in which it may hold hearings. Any party may elect to participate in a just compensation hearing under RSA 498-A:24 though electronic or telephonic means consistent with RSA 91-A.** All hearings before the board shall be open to the public~~[-and each hearing shall be held in the county in which the declaration has been filed unless the parties agree to a hearing elsewhere. To the extent of available space, hearings shall be conducted in the respective county courthouse; otherwise, they shall be held in such place or places, accessible to the public, as the board shall direct].~~

71 Department of Business and Economic Affairs; Division of Planning and Community Development Established. The subdivision heading preceding RSA 12-O:53 and RSA 12-O:53 are repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

Planning and Community Development

12-O:53 Division of Planning and Community Development. There is established within the department the division of planning and community development under the supervision of a classified director of the division of planning and community development. The director of the division of planning and community development shall administer and supervise the programs related to planning and development, broadband, and housing within the department and shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner of the department.

12-O:53-a Office of Planning and Development.

I. There is established the office of planning and development within the department of business and economic affairs, division of planning and community development. The office shall be under the supervision of the director of the division of planning and community development, who shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner.

II. The office of planning and development shall:

- (a) Plan for the orderly development of the state and the wise management of the state's resources.
- (b) Compile, analyze, and disseminate data, information, and research services as necessary to advance the welfare of the state.
- (c) Encourage and assist planning, growth management, and development activities of cities and towns and groups of cities and towns with the purpose of encouraging smart growth.
- (d) Encourage the coordination and correlation of state planning by agencies of state government.
- (e) Participate in interstate, regional, and national planning efforts.
- (f) Administer federal and state grant-in-aid programs assigned to the office by statute or executive order.
- (g) Participate and advise in matters of land use planning regarding water resources and floodplain management.
- (h) Take a leadership role in encouraging smart growth and preserving farmland, open space land, and traditional village centers.
- (i) Administer the following programs: the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, the national flood insurance program, and the land conservation investment program. The office shall employ necessary personnel to administer these programs.
- (j) Perform such other duties as the commissioner may assign.

72 State Development Plan. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 12-O:54, I and 12-O:54, I(a) to read as follows:

I. The office of planning and development, under the direction of the ~~[commissioner]~~ **director of the division of planning and community development**, shall:

(a) Assist ~~[the commissioner]~~ in preparing, publishing, and revising the comprehensive development plan required under RSA 9-A.

73 Change "Director of the Office of Planning and Development" to "Director of the Division of Planning and Community Development". Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing "director of the office of planning and development" with "director of the division of planning and community development": 12-O:57; 17-M:2, V; 21-O:5-a, I(d); 21-P:48, I(h); 36-B:1; 78-A:25, III; 162-L:15, II(b); 233-A:2, I(f); 432:19, II(c); 482-A:32, II(c); 483:8, II; 483-A:6, III.

74 State Development Plan; Office of Planning and Development. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 9-A:2 and 9-A:2, I to read as follows:

9-A:2 Office of Planning and Development. The office of planning and development, under the direction of the ~~[commissioner of business and economic affairs]~~ **division of planning and community development**, shall:

I. Assist ~~[the commissioner]~~ in preparing, publishing and revising the comprehensive development plan.

75 New Hampshire Workforce Development; State Workforce Innovation Fund. Amend RSA 12-O:45 to read as follows:

12-O:45 State Workforce Innovation Fund.

I. There is hereby established the state workforce innovation fund which shall be nonlapsing and administered by the commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs. Said fund shall be for the purpose of receiving financial assistance under the ~~[Workforce Investment Act of 1998]~~ **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014** and providing funds for grants and other workforce development initiatives.

II. The fund shall be distributed or expended by the commissioner after consultation with the State Workforce Innovation Board established in RSA 12-O:44 and the approval of the governor and council for any of the following purposes:

(a) ~~[Workforce Investment Act]~~ **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014** Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

(b) ~~[Workforce Investment Act]~~ **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014** Youth programs.

(c) ~~[Workforce Investment Act]~~ **U.S. Department of Labor**, Senior Community Service Employment programs.

(d) ~~[Workforce Investment Act]~~ **U.S. Department of Labor** Disability programs.

(e) ~~[Workforce Investment Act]~~ **U.S. Department of Labor** Regional Innovation and National Emergency grant programs.

(f) Other projects, programs, or grants recognized as being beneficial to workforce development initiatives and consistent with the goals of the ~~[Workforce Investment Act]~~ **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014**.

III.(a) The department may accept gifts, grants, donations, or other moneys for the purposes of this section. Said moneys shall be deposited into the state workforce innovation fund.

(b) The commissioner may enter into contracts and agreements and may take other actions that may be necessary or desirable to effect the transfer to it of operations currently conducted by ~~[the Workforce Opportunity Council, Inc. or the New Hampshire Workforce Opportunity Council under the Workforce Investment Act]~~ **the department of business and economic affairs**, and to effect the transfer of assets utilized by them in doing so; and, the commissioner may assume, bear, and agree to perform those contracts of ~~[the Workforce Opportunity Council, Inc. or the New Hampshire Workforce Opportunity Council]~~ **the state workforce innovation board** that may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of this section.

IV. The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs shall have the authority to enter into such agreements for leasing real property, acquiring goods, and engaging services to perform Rapid Response activities in accordance with this subdivision. The commissioner shall provide the governor and council an information item not less frequently than semi-annually describing all such agreements and amounts expended pursuant thereto. Such agreements shall be made pursuant to forms of agreement that shall be approved by governor and council which forms of agreement have been reviewed by the attorney general and the commissioner of the department of administrative services.

~~[V. In accordance with RSA 282-A:181 through RSA 282-A:184, the commissioner of the department of employment security shall have the authority to make grants to New Hampshire employers for the purpose of training employees in accordance with this chapter, such grants not to exceed the amounts specified in RSA 282-A:87, IV(a)(2), and not to exceed to any single employer in any grant year the sum of \$70,000, unless first approved by governor and council. The commissioner shall provide the governor and council an information item not less frequently than semi-annually describing all such grants expended pursuant thereto. Such grants shall be made pursuant to a form of agreement that shall be approved by governor and council after review by the attorney general and the commissioner of the department of administrative services.]~~

76 New Section; Unemployment Compensation; Job Training Program; State workforce Innovation Grants. Amend RSA 282-A by inserting after section 184 the following new section:

282-A:185 State Workforce Innovation Grants. In accordance with RSA 282-A:181 through RSA 282-A:184, the commissioner of the department of employment security may make grants to New Hampshire employers for the purpose of training employees in accordance with RSA 12-O:45, such grants not to exceed the amounts specified in RSA 282-A:87, IV(a)(2), and not to exceed to any single employer in any grant year the sum of \$70,000, unless first approved by governor and council. The commissioner shall provide the governor and council an information item not less frequently than semi-annually describing all such grants expended pursuant thereto. Such grants shall be made pursuant to a form of agreement that shall be approved by governor and council after review by the attorney general and the commissioner of the department of administrative services.

77 Repeal; Commission on Aging. RSA 19-P, relative to the commission on aging, is repealed.

78 Health and Human Services Oversight Committee; Reference Removed. Amend RSA 126-A:15, IV to read as follows:

IV. Directly or through an ancillary body, the oversight committee shall ~~[serve as the legislative liaison for the state commission on aging, established under RSA 19-P:1, and shall]~~ consider the major problems facing elderly citizens.

79 System of Care for Healthy Aging; Reference Removed. Amend RSA 151-E:27, IV to read as follows:

IV. Beginning November 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the department shall report to the governor~~;~~ ~~the state commission on aging established in RSA 19-P:1]~~ and the joint legislative committee on health and human services established in RSA 126-A:13. The report shall provide detailed information regarding the status of the implementation of this subdivision.

80 Department of Corrections; Funding Transfer Authority. The following classes within the department of corrections shall be exempt from the transfer restrictions in RSA 9:17a, 9:17c, classes 10-personal services-perm classified, 11- personal services unclassified, 12-personal services-unclassified, 18-overtime, 19-holiday pay, 50- personal service-temp/appointed and 60-benefits. The department is authorized to transfer funding in these classes within and amongst all accounting units provided that quarterly these transfers are reported to the fiscal committee within 60 days of the end of that quarter. In the event class 18 overtime expenditures are more than amounts appropriated and transferred from vacant positions, the commissioner may request,

with prior approval of the fiscal committee, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. Upon fiscal committee and governor and council approval, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

81 Department of Corrections; Qualifications and Compensation of Certain Officials. Amend RSA 21-H:7 to read as follows:

21-H:7 Qualifications and Compensation of Certain Officials.

I. The commissioner, assistant commissioner, ~~[director of personnel and information, director of rehabilitative services, and the]~~ division directors, **deputy warden, and deputy directors** of the department shall be qualified to hold such positions by reason of education and experience.

II. The salaries of the commissioner, assistant commissioner, ~~[director of personnel and information, director of rehabilitative services, and the]~~ division directors, **deputy warden, and deputy directors** of the department shall be as specified in RSA 94:1-a.

82 The State Prisons; Sale of Prison Products; Industries Inventory Account. Amend RSA 622:28-a, I to read as follows:

I. An industries inventory account shall be maintained to enable the state prisons to implement RSA 622:26-28. ~~[Except for]~~ **All** permanent personnel, ~~[all]~~ operating expenses, materials, supplies, overtime and purchase and repair of equipment determined to be necessary for the growing or manufacture of products for resale shall be a proper charge against this account. Charges for the sale of goods and services produced by the industries program shall be sufficient to defray the expenditures charged against this account and any sums obtained therefrom shall be a credit to the account.

83 Department of Health and Human Services; State Grant in Aid.

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, there is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$5,000,000 for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of \$5,000,000 for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, from the opioid abatement trust fund, established under RSA 126-A:83, for the purpose of providing year-round emergency shelter services to individuals with an opioid and/or co-occurring substance use or mental health disorder. Such shelter programs must provide supportive services designed to assist people obtain recovery and permanent housing to achieve self-sufficiency.

84 Department of Health and Human Services; Prospective Repeal Regarding the Exemption from Certain Transfer Procedures Extended. Amend 2018, 163:11, IV as amended by 2019, 346:64, as amended by 2021, 91:27, and as amended by 2023, 79:215, to read as follows:

IV. Section 10 of this act shall take effect June 30, ~~[2025]~~ **2027**.

85 Effective Date. Section 84 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

86 Prospective Repeal Regarding Eligibility for Services Extended. Amend 2011, 209:6, I, as amended by 2013, 140:1, I, as amended by 2015, 276:41, I, as amended by 2017, 156:85, I, as amended by 2019, 346:61, I, as amended by 2021, 91:404, as amended by 2023, 79:198, to read as follows:

I. Section 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, ~~[2025]~~ **2027**.

87 Health and Human Services; Graduate Medical Education Payments Suspended.

The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend the provision of direct and indirect graduate medical education payments to hospitals as provided in 42 C.F.R. section 413.75 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. Upon approval of the state plan amendment, and as of the effective date of the state plan amendment, any obligations for payment of direct and indirect graduate medical education shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

88 Health and Human Services; Suspension of Catastrophic Aid Payments to Hospitals. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend all catastrophic aid payments to hospitals effective for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

89 Medicaid to Schools Program; Fiscal Committee Approval of Supplemental Funding. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, in the event funds appropriated in accounting unit 05-95-47-0010-7207 Medicaid to schools are insufficient, the department of health and human services may accept and expend additional federal funds with the prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court. Any request to the fiscal committee shall include a detailed explanation of the types of assistance the department is providing to school districts to ensure eligibility for reimbursement under the Medicaid to schools program.

90 Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Medicaid Services. Any funds appropriated to activity 05-95-47-470010, division of Medicaid services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, shall not lapse until June 30, 2027, and shall be treated as restricted revenue for the purpose of funding expenditures in account 05-95-47-470010-7948, Medicaid care management. The department of health and human services is authorized to accept and expend any matching federal funds for the purposes of this section without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

91 Effective Date. Section 90 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

92 Suspension Pending Funding; WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the WIC farmers' market nutrition program established by RSA 132:12-f shall be suspended until such time as the commissioner of the department of health and human services determines that sufficient funds are available to implement the program.

93 New Paragraph; Gifts to the State. Amend RSA 4:8 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. Notwithstanding paragraph I, the commissioner of the department of health and human services may accept gifts of personal property valued at \$250,000 or less for the benefit of the department. The commissioner shall distribute unrestricted gifts based on his or her assessment of departmental needs. The commissioner shall file an annual report to the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor on or before November 1, disclosing the nature and value of all gifts received by the department and how those gifts were allocated.

94 Department of Health and Human Services; Unclassified Positions Established.

I. There are hereby established 2 unclassified supervising regional attorney positions in the department of health and human services.

II. The salary of the unclassified positions established in paragraph I shall be in accordance RSA 94:1-a, I.

III. The incumbents in the classified positions, establish by 2024, 377:8 shall be offered the opportunity to transfer into the unclassified positions established in paragraph I.

IV. The classified positions established by 2024, 377:8 shall be abolished on June 30, 2027, or upon transfer of the incumbents in accordance with paragraph III, whichever is sooner.

95 Department of Health and Human Services; Bureau of Adult and Elderly Services; Congregate Housing and Services; Suspension. Congregate housing provided for under the Medicaid waiver pursuant to RSA 151-E and congregate services provided for in RSA 161-F:37 are hereby suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

96 Department of Health and Human Services; Positions Established; Staffing. Amend the introductory clause of RSA 126-A:9, I to read as follows:

I. There shall be established within the department the following unclassified positions[~~in addition to existing unclassified positions and positions established in paragraph II of this section~~].

97 Department of Health and Human Services; Positions Established; Staffing. Amend RSA 126-A:9, II(b) to read as follows:

(b) The commissioner shall appoint a person to each *unclassified* position [~~established pursuant to subparagraph (a)~~] **authorized by the legislature**. Any [~~vacancy~~] **vacant position not established under paragraph I** shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The annual salary of such unclassified employees shall be as prescribed in RSA 94:1-a **and RSA 94:3-b, II**. The provisions of RSA 21:33-a shall not apply to appointments made under this subparagraph.

98 Repeal; Mental Health Medical Supervisor Position. RSA 126-A:9, I(c), relative to appointment of an unclassified mental health medical supervisor, is repealed.

99 Department of Health and Human Services; General Provisions; Drug Prescriptions. Amend RSA 126-A:3, V to read as follows:

V. Pharmacists shall substitute generically equivalent drug products for all legend and non-legend prescriptions paid for by the department of health and human services, [~~including the Medicaid program~~] unless the prescribing practitioner specifies that the brand name drug product is medically necessary. Such notification shall be in the practitioner's own handwriting **or as otherwise authorized by law or regulation** and shall be retained [~~in the pharmacist's file~~] **by the pharmacy. Pertaining to Medicaid, pharmacists shall dispense brand name drug products to Medicaid beneficiaries when the brand name drug product is listed on the department's Medicaid preferred drug list, and not substitute generically equivalent drugs**. The provisions of paragraph III shall not apply to the dispensing by a pharmacy for medical assistance reimbursement for legend and non-legend drugs. The commissioner, in consultation with pharmacy providers, shall establish medical assistance reimbursement for legend and non-legend drugs. For Medicaid fee for service [~~clients~~] **beneficiaries**, no prior authorization [~~for generically equivalent drugs shall be required~~] **shall be required for generic drug products unless the drug class is recommended by the drug utilization review board for clinical appropriateness and safety utilization review**.

100 New Paragraph; Public Health; Department of Health and Human Services; General Provisions. Amend RSA 126-A:3 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

V-a.(a) When deemed medically necessary and cost effective by the department of health and human services' chief medical officer, a standing order may be issued by the chief medical officer for certain Medicaid covered over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical supplies, and laboratory tests. Such standing order shall be reviewed annually by the chief medical officer for continuation or discontinuation of the standing order.

(b) The chief medical officer's standing order, as provided in subparagraph (a), shall also permit non-Medicaid recipients to obtain over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical supplies, and laboratory tests

pursuant to the standing order. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit insurers from applying appropriate medical management techniques or require insurers to pay for the cost of these items unless expressly stated by the insurer's terms of coverage.

(c) No health care professional, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, who issues a standing order, or who dispenses, or distributes over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical supplies, or laboratory tests by standing order shall be subject to any criminal or civil liability, or any professional disciplinary action, for any action authorized by this paragraph or any outcome resulting from an action authorized by this paragraph.

101 Appropriation; Developmental Services; Pilot Program. Amend 2022, 272:9, VII as amended by 2023, 79:548 to read as follows:

VII. There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$2,800,000, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of implementing the pilot program plan or the pilot itself, for developmental services established in this section. This appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, [2025] **2027, to continue services for those enrolled.** Additionally, the department may accept and expend any applicable federal funds, and any gifts, grants, or donations that may be available for the purposes of the pilot program. ~~[In the event of any remaining funds not otherwise expended after reaching the cap of serving 20 eligible individuals under the pilot program, the department may allocate funding and provide services to additional eligible individuals.]~~ The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

102 Effective Date. Section 101 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

103 Expanding Access to Court-appointed Counsel for Children in Dependency Proceedings; Prospective Effective Date Extended. Amend 2024, 296:6 to read as follows:

296:6 Effective Date.

I. Sections 3 and 5 of this act shall take effect August 1, 2026.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect ~~[July 1, 2025]~~ **January 1, 2026.**

104 Department of Health and Human Services; Division for Children, Youth and Families; Classified Positions Established; Appropriation.

I. There is hereby established 3 unclassified staff attorney positions in the department of health and human services for the purposes of fulfilling responsibilities related to expanded access to court-appointed counsel for children in out-of-home placements pursuant to 2024, 296. The salaries of the unclassified positions established in this paragraph shall be established in accordance with RSA 94:1-a, I.

II. From general funds appropriated to the department of health and human services in account 05-95-95-952010-5680, \$155,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$310,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be used for the purpose of funding the positions established in paragraph I. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the department may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

105 Department of Health and Human Services; Pharmacy Copays; Medicaid Program. The department of health and human services shall file a Medicaid state plan amendment on or before January 1, 2026, to increase the prescription drug copay amount to \$4, subject to federal limitations on cost sharing and eligibility limitations.

106 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Managed Care. The department of health and human services is hereby directed to complete no more than one Medicaid rate filing with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services each state fiscal year for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

107 Department of Health and Human Services; New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program; Premiums Established. The department of health and human services shall file a Medicaid waiver and state plan amendment, if necessary, on or before July 1, 2026, to institute premiums, subject to federal limitations on cost sharing and eligibility limitations, for individuals participating in the Granite Advantage Health Care Program who have income at or above 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit.

108 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Program; Premiums Established. The department of health and human services shall file a Medicaid state plan amendment on or before January 1, 2026, to institute premiums, subject to federal limitations, for households with children enrolled in Medicaid with income at or above 255 percent of the federal poverty limit.

109 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Eligibility. To restore income verification for Medicaid redetermination to pre-public health emergency income verification standards for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department of health and human services shall allow the federal public health emergency Social Security Act Section 1902e(14)(A) waiver authorities to expire effective June 30, 2025.

110 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Child Care Scholarship Program. To avoid a waitlist for the New Hampshire child care scholarship program, the commissioner of the department of health and human services may request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. If approved by governor and council, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury otherwise not appropriated.

111 Department of Information Technology; Salary Grades for Certain Positions. Amend the following positions in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) to read as follows:

GG Department of information technology director, ***user services division***

GG Department of information technology director, ***user experience division***

GG Department of information technology assistant director, [~~agency software division~~] ***business relationship management division***

HH Department of information technology director, ***business relationship management division***

HH Department of information technology director, ***infrastructure and operations division***

112 Department of Justice; Division of Legal Counsel. Amend RSA 7:8-b to read as follows:

7:8-b Division of Legal Counsel.

I. There is hereby established, within the office of the attorney general, a division of legal counsel. The division shall be supervised by an associate attorney general appointed under RSA 7:16.

II. The division of legal counsel shall consist of the following units:

(a) A bureau of civil law.

(b) [~~A transportation and construction bureau.~~] ***A public safety and infrastructure bureau, as provided in RSA 21-M:12.***

(c) [~~An office of the solicitor general.~~] ***A civil rights unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing the New Hampshire Law Against Discrimination and the New Hampshire Civil Rights Act, bringing civil enforcement actions on behalf of the public to redress discriminatory acts and civil rights violations, and enforcing any other state or federal antidiscrimination laws that authorize the attorney general to enforce them.***

(d) ***A charitable trusts unit, which shall be responsible for administering the duties assigned to the attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19 through 7:32-a.***

(e) ***An election law unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing violations of New Hampshire election laws under RSA 7:6-c and the Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.***

[~~HH. The division shall also be responsible for administering the duties assigned to the attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19 through 7:32-a.~~]

113 Department of Justice; Division of Legal Counsel. Amend RSA 21-M:7 to read as follows:

21-M:7 Division of Legal Counsel.

I. There is established within the department a division of legal counsel. The division shall be supervised by an associate attorney general appointed under RSA 21-M:3.

II. The division of legal counsel shall consist of the following units:

(a) A bureau of civil law.

(b) A public safety and infrastructure bureau, ***as provided in RSA 21-M:12.***

(c) ***A civil rights unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing the New Hampshire Law Against Discrimination and the New Hampshire Civil Rights Act.***

(d) ***A charitable trusts unit, which shall be responsible for administering the duties assigned to the attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19 through 7:32-a.***

(e) ***An election law unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing violations of New Hampshire election laws under RSA 7:6-c and the Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.***

[~~HH. The division shall also be responsible for administering the duties assigned to the attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19 through 32-a.~~]

114 Repeal; Bureau of Civil Law; Regulation of Charitable Trusts. RSA 21-M:11, II(c), relative to responsibility for the regulation of charitable trusts by the bureau of civil law, is repealed.

115 Department of Justice; Private Practice Prohibited. Amend RSA 7:6-d to read as follows:

7:6-d Private Practice Prohibited. The attorney general, deputy attorney general, assistant attorneys general and all attorneys employed by the department of justice shall not directly or indirectly engage in the private practice of law, nor shall they accept any fees or emoluments other than their official salaries for any legal services. Private practice of law shall not include the provision of legal services without charge to the members of an attorney's family when the same shall not conflict with the attorney's official duties. The provisions of this section shall not apply to [~~the director of charitable trusts, nor to~~] special counsel retained by the attorney general.

116 Director of Charitable Trusts; Authority. Amend RSA 7:19, I to read as follows:

I. RSA 7:19 through [~~32-a~~] ***7:32-b*** inclusive shall apply to all trustees holding property for charitable purposes and to all persons soliciting for charitable purposes or engaging in charitable sales promotions; and the attorney general shall have and exercise, in addition to all the common law and statutory rights, duties and powers of the attorney general in connection with the supervision, administration and enforcement of charitable trusts, charitable solicitations, and charitable sales promotions, the rights, duties and powers set forth in RSA 7:19 through [~~32-a~~] ***7:32-b*** inclusive. The attorney general shall also have the authority to prepare and maintain a register of all charitable trusts heretofore or hereafter established or active in this

state. However, this subdivision does not apply to the United States; any state, territory or possession of the United States; the District of Columbia; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or to any of their agencies or governmental subdivisions or to any religious organization which holds property for charitable or religious purposes or their integrated auxiliaries or to conventions or associations of churches.

117 Attorney General; Enforcement of the Election Laws. Amend RSA 7:6-c, I to read as follows:

I. Upon receipt of a signed written complaint, or upon his or her own motion, the attorney general may in his or her discretion, conduct investigations to determine whether any violation of the election **or lobbying** laws has occurred and may prosecute anyone responsible for such a violation. In conducting an investigation under this section the attorney general may enlist the aid of the county attorneys, the state police, and other public officers. In the exercise of his or her powers and duties under this section, the attorney general may hold hearings and require the attendance of individuals by the use of subpoena and may require the production of books, documents, records, and other tangible goods by use of subpoena duces tecum. Any testimony required by the attorney general at a hearing which he or she is empowered to hold under this section shall be given under oath. The attorney general shall maintain records of complaints and investigations of alleged violations of the election laws.

118 Education; Special Education; Liability for Children With Disabilities in Certain Court Ordered Placements. Amend RSA 186-C:19-b, V to read as follows:

V. If the total amount required for court ordered placements or placements for an episode of treatment exceeds the amount appropriated to the department for such payments, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant from the ~~[education trust]~~ **general** fund for such sum to satisfy the state's obligation under this section.

119 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Lottery; Establishment. Amend RSA 284:21-j, I to read as follows:

I. The state treasurer shall credit all moneys received from the lottery commission under RSA 284, RSA 287-D, and RSA 287-E, and interest received on such moneys, to a special fund from which the treasurer shall pay all expenses of the commission incident to the administration of this subdivision and all administration and enforcement expenses of racing and charitable gaming under RSA 284, RSA 287-D, and RSA 287-E. Any balance left in such fund after such expenses are paid shall be ~~[deposited in the education trust fund established under RSA 198:39]~~ **restricted to accounting unit 06-56-56-560040-4079 in the department of education, for the purpose of distributing state adequacy grants to public school districts.**

120 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Lottery; Operation of Keno Games. Amend RSA 284:47, II to read as follows:

II. A licensee may retain 8 percent of the proceeds from keno games. The remainder, less the administrative costs of the lottery commission and prize payouts, shall be ~~[deposited in the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39]~~ **restricted to accounting unit 06-56-56-560040-4079 in the department of education, for the purpose of distributing state adequacy grants to public school districts.**

121 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Sports Betting; Proceeds to Education Fund. Amend RSA 287:I-9 to read as follows:

287-I:9 Proceeds to Education Fund. The proceeds received by the commission from sports wagering, less the administrative costs of the commission, prizes paid, and payments for problem gambling services, shall be ~~[deposited in the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39]~~ **restricted to accounting unit 06-56-56-560040-4079 in the department of education, for the purpose of distributing state adequacy grants to public school districts.**

122 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 198:39, I(g), relative to using monies in the education trust fund for the statewide assessment program.

II. RSA 198:39, I(j), relative to using monies in the education trust fund to fund school building aid.

III. RSA 198:39, I(k), relative to using monies in the education trust fund for tuition and transportation funds to school districts for students attending career and technical education programs.

IV. RSA 198:39, I(l), relative to using monies in the education trust fund for special education aid to school districts.

V. RSA 198:39, I(m), relative to using monies in the education trust fund for payments to education service providers on behalf of school districts for children with disabilities in certain court ordered placements or placements for an episode of treatment.

VI. RSA 198:39, I(n), relative to using monies in the education trust fund for grants for leased space to approved chartered public schools.

VII. RSA 198:39, II(g), relative to depositing into the education trust fund monies relative to sweepstakes and the lottery.

VIII. RSA 198:39, II(j), relative to depositing into the education trust fund monies collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the lottery commission.

123 Chartered Public Schools; Funding. Amend RSA 194-B:11, I(c) to read as follows:

(c) The ~~commissioner of the~~ department of education shall calculate and distribute chartered public school tuition payments as set forth herein. The first payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil amount multiplied by the number of eligible pupils **enrolled and** present on the first day of the current school year. Such payment shall be made no later than 15 days after the department of education receives the ~~attendance~~ **approved enrollment** report. The December 1 payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil amount multiplied by the membership on ~~November~~ **October** 1, and the March 1 payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil amount multiplied by the membership on February 1. To calculate the final payment, ~~the commissioner of~~ the department of education shall multiply the per pupil amount by the average daily membership in attendance for the full school year, and subtract the total amount of the first 3 payments made. The remaining balance shall be the final payment. Eligible chartered public schools shall report membership in accordance with RSA 189:1-d. In this subparagraph, "membership" shall be as defined in RSA 189:1-d, II. Tuition amounts shall be prorated on a per diem basis for pupils attending a school for less than a full school year. **The average daily membership in attendance for the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School shall be calculated by converting each credit completed into an average daily membership metric utilizing the basis that 12 half-credits equal 1.0 average daily membership. No full-time enrolled pupil at the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School shall have an average daily membership that exceeds 1.0.**

124 New Subparagraph; Chartered Public Schools; Funding. Amend RSA 194-B:11, I by inserting after subparagraph (e) the following new subparagraph:

(f) The first 3 payments made pursuant to subparagraph (c) to the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School shall be made based on the estimated end of year full-time student and full-time equivalent student average daily membership in attendance calculation. The department may make a May 1 payment distribution to the Virtual Learning Academy using the most current data to ensure the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School receives an estimated 90 percent of adequacy distribution before the end of the fiscal year. The department of education may adjust down the December 1 or March 1 payment on the estimated average end of year enrollment during the school year for any charter school with a 20 percent or greater enrollment decline after the first day of school.

125 Determination of Education Grants. Amend RSA 198:41, VI to read as follows:

VI. ~~[When final determination year data is available, but not later than April 1,]~~ The department shall make a final determination of grant amounts **by October 1**. A municipality's grant estimate shall not be less than 95 percent of the estimate reported pursuant to paragraph IV. The department shall adjust the April grant disbursement required pursuant to RSA 198:42 so that the total amount disbursed for the fiscal year shall match the final grant determination.

VI-a. The final determination of the grant amount can be modified after October 1 after a vote in the affirmative by the state board under the following conditions:

(a) The department or a school district petitioned the state board to modify the October 1 grant determination prior to January 15 of the same fiscal year and the school board votes in the affirmative to accept the petition by February 15;

(b) The change being considered within the scope of the petition shall have a total adequacy dollar impact greater than \$10,000 for at least one municipality; and

(c) The petition specifically identifies the municipality or municipalities requiring change in the final grant amount and the amount being modified.

126 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Services Other Than Counsel. RSA 604-A:6 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

604-A:6 Services Other Than Counsel.

I. In any criminal case in which counsel has been appointed to represent a defendant who is financially unable to obtain investigative, expert or other services necessary to an adequate defense in his or her case, counsel may apply therefor to the court, and, upon finding that such services are necessary and that the defendant is financially unable to obtain them, the court shall authorize counsel to obtain the necessary services on behalf of the defendant. The court may, in the interests of justice and upon finding that timely procurement of necessary services could not await prior authorization, ratify and approve such services after they have been obtained. The court shall determine reasonable compensation for the services and direct payment upon the filing of a claim for compensation supported by an affidavit specifying the time expended, the nature of the services rendered, the expenses incurred on behalf of the defendant, and the compensation, if any, received in the same case for the same services from any other source.

II. The administrative judges of the circuit and superior court may designate classes of routine, necessary services, under \$1,500 per service, that are not subject to the procedure above. Invoices classified as routine and necessary may be submitted directly to the judicial council for review and payment. These invoices shall include a certification by the attorney assigned to the case that the services were necessary to representation in the matter that the attorney was assigned to.

III. The executive director of the judicial council may, upon review of any particular invoice, decline to process such invoice without judicial review, and may direct the attorney to go through the process outline in paragraph I.

IV. Vendor invoices and certifications under this section will be retained by the judicial council.

V. Any indigent defendant appearing pro se may seek services as outlined in paragraph I.

127 Contract Services. Amend RSA 604-A:6-a to read as follows:

604-A:6-a Contract Services. The state of New Hampshire, by the judicial council and with the approval of governor and council, may, within the limits of appropriations, contract with qualified firms or individuals in the state to provide stenographic, **interpretation, translation, transportation, investigation, and psychological, psychiatric, mental health, and substance abuse evaluations** and clerical services where, pursuant to RSA 604-A:6, the defendant has been found to be eligible for such services. The executive director of the judicial council shall authorize payments to such individuals and firms as provided for under this section.

128 Compensation of Counsel. Amend RSA 604-A:4 to read as follows:

604-A:4 Compensation of Counsel.

I. [Subject to the provisions of RSA 604-A:6,] Counsel appointed pursuant to this chapter to represent the defendant, at the conclusion of the representation or any segment thereof, shall be reasonably compensated therefor and shall be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred. A separate claim for compensation and reimbursement shall be made to each court before which the counsel represented the defendant. Each claim shall be supported by a written statement specifying the time expended, services rendered and expenses incurred while the case was pending before the court. Each court before which the counsel represented the defendant shall fix the compensation and reimbursement to be paid the counsel for services rendered and expenses incurred while representing the defendant in proceedings before the court; however, no justice shall approve any unreasonable or unnecessary charge.

II. The administrative judges of the circuit and superior court may order that any invoice for fees that falls within the limits of the supreme court rules governing assigned counsel may be submitted directly to the judicial council for review and payment.

III. The executive director of the judicial council may, upon review of any particular invoice, decline to process such invoice without judicial review, and may direct the attorney to go through the process outline in paragraph I.

IV. Vendor invoices and certifications under this section shall be retained by the judicial council.

129 New Section; Protective Legislation; Payment of Wages; Wage Claim Settlement Account. Amend RSA 275 by inserting after section 53 the following new section:

275:53-a Wage Claim Settlement Account. A special fund is hereby established in the state treasury for the purpose of receiving and distributing wages in accordance with RSA 275:53, II. The commissioner shall administer the fund. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund, and all moneys in the fund shall be held in trust by the state treasurer and shall not constitute money or property of the state.

130 New Subparagraph; Wage Claim Settlement Account. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

(400) Moneys deposited in the wage claim settlement account fund established pursuant to RSA 275:53-a.

131 Repeal. RSA 281-A:30, relative to the special fund for active cases, is repealed.

132 Effective Date. Section 131 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2025.

133 Workers Compensation; Hearings and Awards. Amend RSA 281-A:43, II to read as follows:

II. A decision of the commissioner, the commissioner's authorized representative, or the board shall take effect and shall become final, in the absence of an appeal from it, 30 days from the date of the decision. Payment of weekly compensation and entitlement to medical and vocational benefits, if necessary and so ordered by the commissioner or the board, shall begin or continue as soon as possible, but no later than 5 working days after ~~the decision's effective date~~ **issuance of the decision**, and shall not be terminated except in accordance with the terms of the decision or of a final court determination. If the commissioner determines that the employer or carrier has failed to comply with any order, then the commissioner may assess a penalty not to exceed \$100 for each day of noncompliance, beginning on the date of notification of its assessment. Upon continued failure to comply with an order to make payment of the compensation or medical benefits, or to institute vocational rehabilitation, or to pay the penalty, or any combination thereof, the commissioner shall petition the superior court for an injunction to comply. The commissioner shall deposit into the department of labor restricted fund established in RSA 273:1-b any penalty collected under this section.

134 Workers Compensation; Appeals Board; Composition. Amend RSA 281-A:42-a, I to read as follows:

I. There is established a compensation appeals board. ~~[Until January 1, 2024,]~~ The board shall consist of a pool of ~~[33]~~ **27** members, of which ~~[11]~~ **9** members shall represent labor, ~~[11]~~ **9** members shall represent employers or workers' compensation insurers and ~~[11]~~ **9** members shall be attorneys who shall be neutral. ~~[On January 1, 2024, the commissioner shall identify 2 seats from each of the 3 sectors that are vacant or of~~

~~an expired term, and eliminate those seats, reducing the entire pool to 27 members in total.]~~ Members of the board shall be appointed by the governor and council from a list of nominees submitted by the commissioner. The commissioner shall submit at least 2 nominees for each vacancy to be filled. Any person appointed by the governor and council who is not qualified or who ceases to be qualified in the capacity in which such person is serving on the appeals board shall be replaced by the governor and council. Terms of board members shall be 3 years, except the initial appointments shall be staggered so that no more than 1/3 of the members' terms shall expire in the same year. Members of the board shall have at least 5 years' experience in the area of workers' compensation or human resources or administrative law. As a condition to maintaining eligibility to hear appeals, board members shall have at least 10 hours annually of training and briefing in the area of workers' compensation and relevant disciplines. The commissioner, or designee, with the assistance of the attorney general's staff shall supervise and approve the training. The commissioner shall have the authority to suspend the eligibility of any member of the board who is not in compliance with such annual training requirements, and to reinstate such member's eligibility upon compliance. The commissioner may suspend from active participation any board member who fails to render a decision or order within 30 days of the hearing as required by RSA 281-A:43, I(b). The commissioner may rescind the suspension once the board member is in compliance with RSA 281-A:43, I(b). Appeals from a decision of the commissioner or the commissioner's representative shall be heard de novo by a 3-member panel, composed of an attorney who shall serve as chair, one member representing labor and one member representing employers or workers' compensation insurers. At least 2 like votes shall be necessary for a decision by the panel. The board shall hear appeals, in accordance with RSA 281-A:43, I(b), from the decisions of the commissioner made pursuant to RSA 281-A:43. No person who is an interested party or an employee of an interested party shall participate as a member of the panel. The board shall conduct its proceedings in such a manner as to ensure a fair and impartial hearing.

135 Confidentiality of Workers Compensation Claims. Amend RSA 281-A:21-b to read as follows:

281-A:21-b Confidentiality of Workers' Compensation Claims. Proceedings and records of the department of labor **and the compensation appeals board** with respect to workers' compensation claims under RSA 281-A shall be exempt from RSA 91-A. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the department of labor **or the compensation appeals board** from releasing information on a person's claim or claims to the person, the person's legal representative, attorney, health care providers, employer, the employer's workers' compensation insurer, the attorneys for the employer or employer's insurer, or state and federal agencies with relevant jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, information relating to a person's claim or claims may be released to other parties only with the prior written permission of the claimant.

136 Department of Labor; Reports. Amend RSA 273:10 to read as follows:

273:10 Reports. [He] **The labor commissioner** shall transmit to the legislature a report upon these matters when [he] **the labor commissioner** shall deem the occasion of sufficient importance, with such recommendations as [he] **the labor commissioner** shall think advisable. [He] **The labor commissioner** shall biennially make a report of the proceedings of the department of labor to the governor and council, containing the transactions of the office and such other matters and recommendations as [he] **the labor commissioner** shall deem proper.

137 Workers Compensation; Hearings and Awards. Amend RSA 281-A:43, I(a) to read as follows:

I.(a) In a controversy as to the responsibility of an employer or the employer's insurance carrier for the payment of compensation and other benefits under this chapter, any party at interest may petition the commissioner in writing for a hearing and award. The petition shall be sent to the commissioner at the department's offices in Concord and shall set forth the reasons for requesting the hearing and the questions in dispute which the applicant expects to be resolved. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall schedule a hearing, either in Concord or at a location nearest the employee as determined by the commissioner, by fixing its time and place and giving notice at least 14 days prior to the date for which it is scheduled. The hearing date shall be set for a time not to exceed 6 weeks from the date the petition was received. In those instances where an expedited hearing is requested, the petition for hearing shall set forth the facts in sufficient detail to support the request for an expedited hearing. The commissioner, or his or her authorized agent shall, in his or her discretion, determine whether the need exists for an expedited hearing. Any requests for an expedited hearing shall be periodically reviewed by the commissioner to determine whether such requests are given proper attention. The commissioner shall also identify any overutilization by the requesting parties and responses given to such requests by the commissioner. An annual report of the expedited requests, responses, the number of continuances, the reasons for such continuances, the number of requests for hearing, and the time within which the hearings were held shall be made annually to the advisory council established in RSA 281-A:62. The notice may be given in hand, via first class mail, or, ~~[upon consent of the parties;]~~ by electronic transmission **to any party with that party's consent**. Continuances of any hearing are discouraged; however, should a continuance be necessary, the parties requesting such continuance shall file with the department a written petition for such continuance at least 7 days prior to the hearing. Failure to file such a petition shall bar any right to a continuance. Thereafter, a continuance may only be granted

upon the commissioner's finding that a compelling need exists so as to require a continuance. At such hearing, it shall be incumbent upon all parties to present all available evidence and the person conducting the hearing shall give full consideration to all evidence presented. In addition, the person conducting the hearing shall freely and comprehensively examine all witnesses to determine the merits of the matter. Also, the person conducting the hearing may recess the hearing to a date certain and direct the parties, or either of them, to provide such further information that may be necessary to decide the matter. No later than 30 days after the hearing, the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall render a decision and shall forthwith notify the parties of it. When appropriate, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, may render a decision at the hearing. Unless excused for good cause shown, or a party has not received notice, failure of any or all parties at interest to appear at a duly scheduled hearing or to petition for a continuance shall bar such parties from any further action concerning an adverse decision, a decision by default, or a dismissal of a petition for hearing and award. The commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall serve notice of a pending default, default decision, or dismissal of a petition for hearing and award on the defaulting party via certified mail, return receipt requested. Upon receipt of undeliverable certified mail, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall stay the proceedings for up to one year from the date of the receipt of undeliverable certified mail during which time the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall make all reasonable attempts to provide notice to the defaulting party. If notice cannot be provided within one year, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall render a decision in favor of the non-defaulting party.

138 Elevator and Accessibility Lifts; Inspection Report and Certificates; Fee; Penalty. Amend RSA 157-B:5, I to read as follows:

I. Subsequent to the inspection of an elevator or accessibility lift, an inspector shall file with the commissioner an inspection report on a form prescribed by the commissioner indicating whether or not the elevator or accessibility lift is certifiable and shall provide a copy of the inspection report to the owner or the owner's designee. When an elevator or accessibility lift passes inspection, the commissioner shall furnish an ~~inspection certificate to its owner or the owner's designee on a form prescribed by the commissioner. A fee of \$50 shall be charged for each certificate. If the fee is not paid within 30 days of the date on which the certificate is issued, the certificate shall be void.~~ **invoice for a fee of \$75 to the unit owner or designee. Upon receipt of the fee, the commissioner shall issue an inspection certificate to its owner or the owner's designee on a form prescribed by the commissioner, with a separate fee required for each certificate.**

139 Labor Commissioner; Civil Penalties. Amend RSA 273:11-a, I to read as follows:

I. In addition to any criminal penalty provided under this title, the commissioner may, after hearing, impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500, **unless specifically authorized to do so by another provision of law**, as determined by the commissioner, for any violation of the provisions of, or any rule adopted pursuant to, this title, except RSA 273-A, RSA 273-C, and RSA 282-A. All moneys collected under this section shall be deposited into the department of labor restricted fund established in RSA 273:1-b.

140 New Subparagraphs; Labor Commissioner; Civil Penalties. Amend RSA 273:11-a, III by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraphs:

(i) Failure to comply with RSA 281-A regarding the workers compensation law.

(j) Violations pursuant to RSA 276-A relative to youth labor laws.

141 New Paragraph; Workers Compensation; Payment for Second Injuries from the Special Fund. Amend RSA 281-A:54 by inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraph:

XI. In the event the commissioner denies reimbursement, the employer or employer's insurance carrier may petition the commissioner in writing for a hearing within 30 days of the date of the notice of denial. The petition shall be sent to the commissioner at the department's offices in Concord and shall identify each alleged error of law, fact, or reasoning that the petitioning party wishes to challenge. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall schedule a hearing and give notice at least 14 days prior to the date for which it is scheduled. Unless excused for good cause shown, or a party has not received notice, failure of any or all parties at interest to appear at a duly scheduled hearing or to petition for a continuance shall bar such parties from any further action concerning an adverse decision, a decision by default, or a dismissal of a petition for hearing. The scope of the hearing shall be limited to each alleged error of law, fact, or reasoning that the petitioner raised in their petition for hearing. The documentary evidence admissible at the hearing shall be limited to the forms and supporting documentation submitted by the petitioner to the commissioner in support of the denied reimbursement request, and any responsive communications or orders from the commissioner regarding the denied reimbursement request. No later than 30 days after the hearing, the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall render a decision and shall forthwith notify the parties of it. When appropriate, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, may render a decision at the hearing. Any party in interest aggrieved by the rendered order or decision of the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative may appeal to the supreme court pursuant to RSA 541.

142 New Paragraph; Workers Compensation; Reimbursement for Payment of Additional Compensation. Amend RSA 281-A:55-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. In the event the commissioner denies reimbursement for requests made under this section, the employer or employer's insurance carrier may petition the commissioner for a hearing pursuant to RSA 281-A:54, XI.

143 New Hampshire Retirement System. The funds in accounting unit 1051 shall not lapse until June 30, 2027.

144 Department of Safety; General Fund Lapse to Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services Fund. Unspent general funds appropriated to the fire safety administration accounting unit 66310000 shall lapse to the fire standards and training and emergency medical services fund established in RSA 21-P:12-d, on June 30, 2026.

145 Effective Date. Section 144 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 2026.

146 Department of Safety; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 263:12, VI to read as follows:

VI. Manufacture, advertise for sale, sell, or possess any fictitious, facsimile or simulated license to drive a motor vehicle ***unless specifically authorized by the director.***

147 Department of Safety; Provision for Federal Identification Database Prohibited. Amend RSA 260:14-a, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the department may provide driver history records to a federal entity ***or their authorized agents*** for uses authorized in RSA 260:14, IV, RSA 260:14, IV-a, and RSA 260:14, V.

148 Department of Safety; Division of Fire Safety. Amend RSA 21-P:15-a to read as follows:

21-P:15-a Hazardous Materials Incident Response Coordinator. There is created within the department of safety, division of fire safety, the classified~~[, full-time]~~ position of hazardous materials incident response coordinator. ~~[The position shall be at labor grade 23.]~~ The coordinator~~[shall be appointed by the state fire marshal and]~~ shall oversee the preparedness of the state's regional hazardous materials response teams as provided in RSA 21-P:12, III. ***During full-time service as hazardous materials incident response coordinator, the hazardous materials incident response coordinator shall be eligible to be a group II member, if he or she was a group II member or receiving a group II retirement allowance prior to being hired into this position.***

149 Department of Safety; Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services. Amend RSA 153-A:1, I to read as follows:

I. The general court declares that it is the policy of the state of New Hampshire to save lives and speed the healing of persons in need of medical services by providing an emergency medical and trauma services system that will bring an injured or sick person under the care of properly trained individuals in the shortest practical time, and that will provide safe transportation to the most appropriate treatment center prepared to receive the sick or injured person. It is the policy of the state of New Hampshire to ~~[insure]~~ ***ensure*** that the sick or injured person is safely transported in properly equipped vehicles which are designed to supply supportive care and which are able to communicate with medical treatment centers. ~~[The use of properly licensed wheelchair vans for hire is to ensure that patients confined to a wheelchair are transported in equipped vehicles driven by personnel approved by the division.]~~

150 Department of Safety; Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services. Amend RSA 21-P:12-b, II(f) to read as follows:

(f) License emergency medical care providers, emergency medical service units, emergency medical service instructor/coordinators, emergency medical service training agencies, ~~[emergency medical services dispatchers,]~~ and emergency medical service vehicles~~[, including wheelchair vans for hire]~~.

151 Repeal. RSA 21-P:12-b, II(d), relative to division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services responsibility for a communications network for EMS units, is repealed.

152 Department of Safety; Chief of Policy and Planning. Amend RSA 21-P:5-b to read as follows:

21-P:5-b Chief of Policy and Planning. The commissioner of safety shall nominate a chief of policy and planning for appointment by the governor, with the consent of the council. The chief of policy and planning shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of education and experience and shall perform such duties as are assigned. ***Notwithstanding RSA 100-A:3 or any other law to the contrary, membership in the retirement system shall be optional. If the incumbent opts to become a member of the retirement system, the incumbent may enroll as a group II member if he or she was a group II member or was receiving a group II retirement allowance prior to appointment.***

153 Repeal. RSA 11:6, RSA 6:12, I(b)(134), RSA 624:16, V, and 1909, 131, relative to the Benjamin Thompson trust fund, are repealed.

154 Budget and Appropriations; Revolving Funds. Amend RSA 9:16-a, II-a(e) to read as follows:

(e) The following classes shall not lapse in the first year of the operating budget: class 028-transfers to general services, class 040-indirect costs, class 041-audit funds set aside, class 042-additional fringe

benefits, class 061-unemployment compensation, class 062-workers compensation, class 064-retiree pension benefit-health insurance, class-210 bond insurance, [and] class-211 property casualty insurance, **class-043 debt service treasury, and class 044 debt service other agencies.**

155 Repeal. RSA 31-A, relative to revenue sharing with cities and towns, is repealed.

156 Repeal. 2023, 79:512 and 2023, 79:513, relative to wastewater state aid grants, are repealed.

157 Record of Wells; Monitoring Wells. Amend RSA 482-B:10, I(c)(1) to read as follows:

(1) Coordinates provided by global positioning technology in units of **decimal** degrees [and decimal minutes] of latitude and longitude, with at least [3] **5** decimal places of precision and referenced to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) datum or its successor;

158 Repeal. RSA 485-A:4, IX-a, relative to water pollution and waste disposal, is repealed.

159 Repeal. RSA 487:43, relative to aquatic invasive species decal, is repealed.

160 New Paragraph; Acquisition by State of Certain Dams and Water Rights; Acquisition Authorized. Amend RSA 482:48 by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

XII. For a consideration of \$1, the department of environmental services may accept an easement from the abutting property owners of all rights necessary for access, and to store equipment during repair, reconstruction, maintaining, and operation of Pequawket Dam in the Town of Conway, Horn Pond Dam in the Town of Wakefield, and Souhegan Site #35 in the Town of New Ipswich for the purpose of repairing and reconstructing these dams. The rights and easements the department is authorized to acquire for the benefit of the state shall be exempt from taxation as long as the easements are held by the state. Except for the \$1 consideration, nothing in this paragraph shall mandate or authorize the expenditure of any funds or capital in relation to its provisions.

161 Department Of Environmental Services; Commissioner; Assistant Commissioner; Directors; Chief Operations Officer; Compensation. Amend RSA 21-O:2, III(c) to read as follows:

(c) The commissioner shall, after consulting with the waste management council, nominate for appointment by the governor and council a director of waste management. Each nominee shall hold a **baccalaureate or** master's degree from a recognized college or university with major study in environmental sciences, chemistry, civil engineering, public health, public administration, or a related field, and have 5 years' experience in a high level supervisory or administrative position in a public or private agency engaged in waste management, environmental health, or a related discipline.

162 Department of Environmental Services; Air Resources Council. Amend RSA 21-O:11, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established an air resources council which shall be composed of 11 members, including one representing the [steam power] **electric** generating industry; one representing the oil industry; one representing the natural gas industry; **one representing the renewable energy industry**; one representing the manufacturing component of industry; one representing the field of municipal government; and [6] **5** members appointed at large who shall represent the public interest, one of whom shall be [a licensed practicing physician or other health care professional possessing expertise in the field of public health and the health-related impacts of air pollution] **in the field of public health**, one of whom shall represent the field of recreation, and at least one of whom shall represent environmental interests. The council members who shall represent the public interest may not derive any significant portion of their income from persons subject to permits or enforcement orders, and may not serve as attorney for, act as consultant for, serve as officer or director of, or hold any other official or contractual relationship with any person subject to permits or enforcement orders. All potential conflicts of interest shall be adequately disclosed. The members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council. Each member shall serve for a term of 4 years.

163 Department of Environmental Services; Waste Management Council. Amend RSA 21-O:9, I-II to read as follows:

I. There is established a waste management council consisting of the following, appointed by the governor and council, each of whom shall serve a 4-year term:

(a) A chairman, representing the public interest;

(b) Three municipal officials, at least 2 of whom shall be elected officials, representing the public interest[, nominated by the New Hampshire Municipal Association];

(c) An expert in public health, representing the public interest;

(d) A local conservation commission member, representing the public interest[, nominated by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions];

(e) A professor or assistant professor of environmental science or sanitary engineering, representing the public interest;

(f) A representative of the private waste management industries;

(g) A licensed sanitary or environmental engineer from private industry;

(h) A representative of the municipal public works field;

(i) A representative of the business or financial communities;

(j) [Repealed.]

(k) A representative of communities which recycle or recover solid waste, representing the public interest[, ~~nominated by the New Hampshire Resources Recovery Association~~]; and

(l) A representative of private industries that generate hazardous waste.

II. One member of the council shall be elected vice chairman by the members of the council. ***When the chairman is absent, it shall be the duty of the vice-chairman to assume and administer the duties of the chairman.*** All members shall be New Hampshire residents. The members representing the public interest shall not have any official or contractual relationship with, or receive any significant portion of their income from, any person subject to division of waste management permits or enforcement orders. Members shall disclose all potential conflicts of interest, and shall not vote on matters in which they have a direct interest. The council may elect other officers.

164 Department of Environmental Services; Water Council. Amend RSA 21-O:7, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) Thirteen of the members shall be public members appointed by the governor, with the consent of the council, who shall serve for terms of 4 years. Of these members, 2 shall represent the industrial interests of the state; one shall represent the vacation home or private recreational interests of the state; one shall represent the agricultural interests of the state; one shall be an employee of any municipal or privately-owned waterworks in the state; one shall be a representative of the septage hauling industry[, ~~nominated by the New Hampshire Association of Septage Haulers~~]; one shall be a member of a statewide nonprofit conservation or environmental organization; one shall be a treatment plant operator; one shall be a designer or installer of septic systems[, ~~nominated by the Granite State Designers and Installers Association~~]; one shall represent **a** New Hampshire rivers **council**[, ~~nominated by the New Hampshire Rivers Council~~], and one shall represent **a** New Hampshire lakes **association**[, ~~nominated by the New Hampshire Lakes Association~~]. The 2 remaining members shall be appointed and commissioned respectively as the chairman and vice chairman of the council;

165 Department of Environmental Services; Wetlands Council. Amend RSA 21-O:5-a, I(f) to read as follows:

(f) Eight members of the public appointed by the governor and council for a term of 3 years or until a successor is chosen. One of these shall be a member of a municipal conservation commission at the time of appointment[, ~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions~~]; one shall be a supervisor, associate supervisor, former associate supervisor, or former supervisor, of a conservation district at the time of appointment[, ~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts~~]; one shall be a municipal official other than a member of the conservation commission at the time of appointment, [~~and be nominated by the New Hampshire Municipal Association~~]; one shall be a natural resource scientist[, ~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists~~]; one shall be a member of the construction industry[, ~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire~~]; one shall be a member of the marine industry[, ~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Marine Trades Association~~]; one shall have experience in environmental protection and resource management at the time of appointment[, ~~and be one of 4 nominees submitted, 2 each, by the New Hampshire Audubon Society and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests~~]; and one shall be a farm or forest landowner[, ~~and be one of 2 nominees submitted, one each, by the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association~~]. One member of the council shall be elected annually as chairperson by the members of the council.

166 New Sections; New Hampshire Lakes Number Plates. Amend RSA 261 by inserting after section 261:97-f the following new sections:

261:97-g New Hampshire Lakes Number Plates.

I. The director may issue special number plates, to be called "Love NH Lakes" number plates. The design of these special plates shall be determined by the division of motor vehicles, in consultation with the department of environmental services. The plates shall prominently display a loon on a lake. The plates shall retain the "live free or die" logo. Such plates shall be issued only upon application and upon payment of a \$30 fee that shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee and any other number plate fees otherwise required.

II. The director may issue vanity "Love NH Lakes" number plates. The fee for any such vanity conservation number plate shall be the fee as provided in RSA 261:97-g, I, in addition to the fees for vanity plates which are otherwise established by law. The vanity plate portion of the fee shall be distributed as provided in RSA 261:89 and RSA 263:52.

III. The director shall establish a numbering system and method of distribution.

IV. Plates shall be renewed on an annual basis for \$30 per set. Of this sum, the department shall retain an amount as is necessary to recover production and administrative costs as approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. The remaining funds shall be paid to the state treasurer and distributed to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund under RSA 485-A:61. The cost of replacement number plates shall be identical to the cost of initial number plates and the revenue from replacement number plates shall be distributed in the same manner as revenue derived from initial number plates.

261:97-h Plate Use. “Love NH Lakes” plates may be used on passenger motor vehicles and recreation vehicles.

261:97-i Commercial Use of Plate Design. The commissioner of safety shall ensure that the plate design is registered with the secretary of state. The commissioner, with the approval of the governor and council, shall have the authority to enter into contractual arrangements for the commercial use of the “Love NH Lakes” plate design. Any royalties or proceeds derived from such contracts shall be deposited into the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund under RSA 485-A:61.

167 Funds Derived From “Love NH Lakes” Number Plates. Amend RSA 485-A:61 to read as follows:

485-A:61 Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund Established. There is hereby established in the department of environmental services the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund which shall be maintained by the state treasurer in distinct and separate custody from all other funds. The state treasurer may invest the fund in accordance with RSA 6:8. Any earnings on fund moneys shall be added to the fund. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of environmental services. The cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund shall be used to fund loans, grants, and reimbursements in accordance with this subdivision. Funds from any bond proceeds, grants, loan repayments, legislative appropriations, donations, **“Love NH Lakes” number plates under RSA 261:97-g and RSA 261:97-i**, and other funds shall be credited to this fund.

168 Water Management and Protection; Water Pollution and Waste Disposal; Sewage Disposal Systems; Fees. Amend RSA 485-A:30 to read as follows:

485-A:30 Fees.

I. Any person submitting plans and specifications for a subdivision of land shall pay to the department a fee of [~~\$300~~] **\$450** per lot. Said fee shall be for reviewing such plans and specifications and making site inspections. Any person submitting plans and specifications or an application for a permit by rule as provided in RSA 485-A:33, IV for sewage or waste disposal systems shall pay to the department a fee of [~~\$290~~] **\$450** for each system. Said fee shall be for reviewing such plans and specifications or application for permit by rule, making site inspections, the administration of sludge and septage management programs, and establishing a system for electronic permitting for waste disposal systems, subdivision plans, and permits and approvals under the department’s land regulation authority. The fees required by this paragraph shall be paid at the time said plans and specifications or application for permit by rule are submitted and shall be deposited in the subsurface systems fund established in paragraph I-b. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “lot” shall not include tent sites or travel trailer sites in recreational parks which are operated on a seasonal basis for not more than 9 months per year.

I-a. In addition to fees required under paragraph I, any person submitting plans and specifications or an application for a permit by rule as provided in RSA 485-A:33, IV for sewage or waste disposal systems shall pay to the department a fee of [~~\$10~~] **\$25** for each system for use in the septage handling and treatment facilities grant program to municipalities under RSA 486:3, III. The fees required by this paragraph shall be paid at the time said plans and specifications or application for permit by rule are submitted and shall be deposited in the septage management fund established in paragraph I-c.

I-b. The fees collected under paragraph I shall be deposited in the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III for the purpose of paying all costs and salaries associated with the subsurface systems program and other land resources management programs.

I-c. There is hereby established the septage management fund into which the fees collected under paragraph I-a shall be deposited. The fund shall be a separate, nonlapsing fund, continually appropriated to the department for the purpose of paying costs associated with the septage handling and treatment facilities grant program or for research, engineering analysis, or septage sampling and analysis by the department to advance septage management in the state of New Hampshire.

II. [Repealed].

III. Any person submitting plans and specifications as a resubmission for reapproval of such shall not be required to pay any additional fee under RSA 485-A:30, I or I-a if changes to such plans and specifications would not constitute a new subdivision under the provisions of RSA 485-A:2, XIII.

169 Unfunded Positions; Authorization. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any executive branch department or agency may fill unfunded positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2027, provided that the total expenditures for such positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personnel and benefit services.

170 Highways and Other Public Works; Application for and Administration of Federal Aid. Amend RSA 124:4 to read as follows:

124:4 Application for and Administration of Federal Aid. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the governor and council are hereby authorized to designate from time to time, as they may deem in the best interest of the state, the proper persons or agencies in the state government to take all necessary action to apply for, receive, and administer any federal benefits, facilities, grants-in-aid, or other federal

appropriations or services made available to assist state activities, for which the state is, or may become eligible. All such moneys in excess of [~~\$50,000~~] **\$100,000** made available, after designation by the governor and council, may be expended by the proper persons or agencies in the state government only with the prior approval of the joint legislative fiscal committee. In addition to such other instruments, documents, and agreements as may be executed under the authority of this section, such persons or agencies may execute indemnification agreements, with the approval of governor and council, in the name of the state with and for the benefit of the United States whenever such execution is required as a condition of receipt of such federal assistance.

171 Appropriations; Transfers Authorized. Amend RSA 9:16-a, I to read as follows:

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every department as defined in RSA 9:1 is hereby authorized to transfer funds within and among all accounting units within said department, ***with the approval of the commissioner of the department of administrative services***, provided that any transfer of \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council, and provided that no funds may be transferred in violation of the provisions of RSA 9:17-a, 9:17-b, 9:17-c, or 9:17-d or in violation of any restrictions otherwise provided by law. The restrictions included in RSA 9:17-a, 9:17-b, 9:17-c, or 9:17-d shall not apply if a transfer is necessary to satisfy a federal maintenance of effort requirement to ensure the receipt of federal funds.

172 Bridges House Special Account; Establishing the Bridges House Special Account Fund. Amend RSA 4:9-s to read as follows:

4:9-s Establishing the Bridges House Special Account Fund. There is hereby established in the state treasury the bridges house special account fund. [~~The funds may be comprised of~~] ***The governor is authorized to accept*** public funds, gifts, grants, donations or any other source of funds, [~~and~~] ***which*** shall be used for the purposes of the care, maintenance, repair of, and additions to, the bridges house, or for any other relevant purpose deemed appropriate by the bridges house advisory board. The fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department ***of administrative services***.

173 Capital Project Overview Committee; Duties. Amend RSA 17-J:4 to read as follows:

17-J:4 Duties. The capital project overview committee shall review the status of capital [~~budget~~] projects both during and between legislative sessions. Each state agency with capital [~~budget~~] projects shall report to the department of administrative services, in the format the department of administrative services prescribes, for the quarters ending September 30, December 31, March 31, and June 30. The department of administrative services shall combine these reports and present the summarized report to the capital project overview committee for review quarterly on the first of November, February, May, and August. The department of administrative services, division of public works design and construction shall, within 90 days of the approval of funding for any capital [~~budget~~] project, submit a timeline or schedule for such project to the capital project overview committee for review.

174 General Provisions; Divisions of Procurement and Support Services, Public Works Design and Construction, and Plant and Property. Amend RSA 21-I:11, I(a)(6)(A)-(B)(i) to read as follows:

(A) Be sufficiently high to defray all administrative, warehousing, processing, distribution, and transportation costs incurred by the surplus distribution section and to allow the accumulation of a working capital reserve equal to the cost of [6] **3** months' operation of the surplus distribution section so that the operation of said section shall result in no expense to the state; and

(B) Be maintained by the treasurer in one of 2 separate, restricted funds:

(i) The surplus distribution section administrative assessments fund, into which shall be deposited funds received by the department by virtue of the disposition of surplus property ***and which shall be continually appropriated and nonlapsing***; and

175 New Subparagraph; General Provisions; Division of Accounting Services. Amend RSA 21-I:8, I by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) After exhausting any relevant appeal process, state agencies may use funds in existing class 60, or other appropriate budget class, to pay any penalties, fines, interest or other costs imposed on the state of New Hampshire by the NH retirement system or by the IRS, relating to employer payments, reporting or audits. The department of administrative services will seek concurrence of the department of justice prior to processing any such payment and will facilitate and charge applicable state agencies as necessary.

176 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Horse and Dog Racing; Administrative and Rulemaking Provisions. Amend RSA 284:21-i, II(c)(1) to read as follows:

(1) The price for which tickets for drawings shall be sold; not to exceed [~~\$30~~] **\$50** per ticket.

177 Business Profits Tax; Distribution of Funds. Amend RSA 77-A:20-a, I to read as follows:

I. The commissioner shall determine [~~41~~] **30** percent of the revenue produced by the tax imposed by RSA 77-A:2 for each fiscal year and shall certify such amounts to the state treasurer by October 1 of that year for deposit in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39.

178 Business Enterprise Tax; Distribution of Funds. Amend RSA 77-E:14, I to read as follows:

I. The commissioner shall determine [41] **30** percent of the revenue produced by the tax imposed by RSA 77-E:2 for each fiscal year and shall certify such amounts to the state treasurer by October 1 of that year for deposit in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39.

179 Tobacco Tax; Distribution of Funds. RSA 78:24 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:
78:24 Distribution of Funds.

I. Tax revenue on all tobacco products sold at retail in this state imposed by RSA 78:2 shall be divided with 30 percent of that total revenue deposited in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39 and the remaining revenue deposited in the general fund.

II. The commissioner shall certify such amount to the state treasurer for deposit in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39. Such estimates shall be certified on June 1, September 1, December 1, and March 1 of each year.

180 Tax on Transfer of Real Property; Distribution of Funds. RSA 78-B:13, I, is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I. Tax revenue collected by RSA 78-B:1 shall be divided, with 30 percent of that total revenue deposited in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39 and the remaining revenue deposited in the general fund.

181 Appropriation; Cannon Mountain Tramway. 2023, 79:510 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

79:510 Appropriation; Cannon Mountain Tramway. The sum of \$18,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, is hereby appropriated to the department of natural and cultural resources for the maintenance and operation of the tramway at Cannon Mountain. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Any remaining funds hereby appropriated shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, 2025.

182 Effective Date. Section 181 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

183 County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitations on Payments. Amend RSA 167:18-a, II(a) to read as follows:

II.(a) ***Notwithstanding subparagraph III(a), due to exigent circumstances, an additional one percent shall be added to the annual increase on the cap on county billings for each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2027, resulting in annual increases of 3 percent for each year of that biennium.*** The total billings to all counties made pursuant to this section shall not exceed the amounts set forth below for state fiscal years [2024-2025] **2026-2027**:

(1) State fiscal year [2024] **2026**, [-\$131,849,659] **\$135,805,149**.

(2) State fiscal year [2025], **2027** [\$131,849,659]; **\$139,879,303**.

184 New Paragraph; Revenue Stabilization Reserve Account. Amend RSA 9:13-e by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. Notwithstanding any other provision of RSA 9:13-e, in the event of a general fund operating budget deficit at the close of fiscal year 2025, as determined by the official audit performed pursuant to RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the state comptroller shall notify the fiscal committee and the governor of such deficit and request approval to transfer funds from the revenue stabilization reserve account to eliminate such deficit.

185 Department of Energy; Transfer of Funds. The department of energy shall transfer any uncommitted moneys from the renewable energy fund, established in RSA 362-F:10, to the general fund on July 1, 2025.

186 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget, the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section[, excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the department of energy to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives and offshore wind initiatives, including the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation. Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary] ***that exceed administration costs and funding for the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation, as determined by the department, shall be credited to the general fund in a timely manner, as determined by the commission.*** All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

187 2027 Prospective Change; Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget, the department of energy shall, in a timely manner, seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section ~~[that are in excess of administration costs, funding for the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation, and incentive payments, shall be credited to the general fund, in a timely manner, as determined by the commission]~~ **that exceed administration costs, funding for the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation, and incentive payments as determined by the department, shall be credited to all retail electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis in a timely manner, as determined by the commission.** All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

188 Effective Date. Section 187 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

189 Mechanical Licensing; Inspectors. Amend RSA 153:34, I and II to read as follows:

I. The ~~[office of professional licensure and certification]~~ **department of safety** with the approval of the ~~[board and the executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification]~~ **state fire marshal** shall have the authority to appoint such inspectors as are necessary to insure compliance throughout the state with practices consistent with the public safety and welfare. Any person so employed shall be under the administration and supervisory direction of the ~~[office of professional licensure and certification]~~ **department of safety**.

II. An inspector appointed under this subdivision shall have the authority to enter any premises in which a fuel gas fitter or plumber subject to regulation is performing, or has completed, work regulated under this subdivision for the purpose of making such inspection as is necessary to carry out his or her duties under this subdivision. If consent for such inspection is denied or not reasonably obtainable, the **state fire marshal** ~~[executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification]~~, or his or her designee, may obtain an administrative inspection warrant under RSA 595-B.

190 Electricians; Inspectors. Amend RSA 319-C:5, I to read as follows:

I. The ~~[office of professional licensure and certification]~~ **state fire marshal** shall be empowered to appoint such inspectors as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter **and RSA 319-C**. Any person so employed shall be under the administration and supervisory direction of the ~~[office of professional licensure and certification]~~ **state fire marshal**.

191 New Paragraph; Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Definitions. Amend RSA 313-A:1 by inserting after paragraph XIII the following new paragraph:

XIII-a. "Shop" means barbershop, mobile barbershop, and salon as defined in this section, as well as any other business location for barbering, cosmetology, or esthetics in New Hampshire.

192 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Rulemaking Authority. Amend RSA 313-A:8, VI to read as follows:

VI. The regulation of tanning facilities including:

- (a) Sanitation and hygiene standards to be met and maintained by tanning facilities;
- (b) Standards for approving the training curricula and programs used for training tanning device operators;
- (c) Registering tanning facilities;
- (d) Standards for the inspection of tanning devices **upon application for initial licensure**;
- (e) Standards for the consumer consent form required under RSA 313-A:30, IV.

193 New Paragraph; Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Rulemaking Authority. Amend RSA 313-A:8 by inserting after paragraph XIV the following new paragraph:

XV. Criteria for determining what other one-time certification programs are the equivalent of an OSHA certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours and is earned in barbering, cosmetology, manicuring, and/or esthetics for the purposes of operating a shop or school under this chapter.

194 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Licensure Required. Amend RSA 313-A:9, II(a) to read as follows:

(a) Operate a ~~[barbershop, salon,]~~ **shop** or school unless such establishment is at all times under the direct supervision and management of a professional licensed under this chapter.

195 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Barbers. Amend RSA 313-A:10, I(c)(1) to read as follows:

(1) A minimum of 800 hours of training in a school of barbering approved by the office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with **this chapter and** criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A; or

196 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Barbers. Amend RSA 313-A:10, III(c)(1) to read as follows:

(1) A minimum of 1,500 hours of training in a school of master barbering approved by the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with this chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A;** or

197 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Cosmetologists. Amend RSA 313-A:11, I(c)(1) to read as follows:

(1) A minimum of 1,500 hours of training in a school of cosmetology approved by the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with this chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A;** or

198 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Manicurists. Amend RSA 313-A:12, I to read as follows:

I. Have completed a course of at least 300 hours of professional training in manicuring, in a school approved by the [board] **the office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with this chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A** and passed an examination; or

199 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Estheticians. Amend RSA 313-A:13 to read as follows:

313-A:13 Qualifications; Estheticians. To be issued an esthetics license by the office of professional licensure and certification, an applicant shall, in addition to satisfying the requirements of RSA 313-A:11, I(a), (b), and (e), have completed a course of at least 600 hours of training in a school approved by the [board] **the office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with this chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A** and have passed an examination. An apprenticeship approved by the board may be substituted for the required training. Estheticians who have practiced professionally in this state for a period of at least 3 years prior to July 1, 1989, and who have satisfied the requirements of RSA 313-A:11, I(a), (b), and (e) and the training requirements of this section shall not be required to take the examination provided for in this section to be eligible for licensure under this chapter. Credit towards the hours requirement for esthetician training may be given to a licensed cosmetologist or barber for equivalent training in the cosmetology or barber program in a school approved by the board upon certification of the training by the school. Credit towards the hours requirement for esthetician training may be given to a licensed massage therapist for massage therapy training deemed equivalent by the board. Cosmetologists licensed under this chapter may obtain the training hours in subjects required by the board in increments at separate schools, but must present certifications to the office for all required hours and curriculum subjects.

200 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Shop Licensure. Amend RSA 313-A:19 to read as follows:

313-A:19 Shop Licensure.

I. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, as owner, manager, or agent, to open, establish, conduct, or maintain a ~~[salon, barbershop, or mobile barbershop]~~ **shop** without first having obtained a shop license from the board. Application for such shop license shall be made to the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** in writing and shall state the name and address of the owner of such shop, the shop's address or, in the case of a mobile barbershop, the business mailing address of the owner, and such other information as may be required by the board **or office of professional licensure and certification**. Licenses under this section shall be conspicuously posted within the licensed establishment.

II. Any licensed barber, cosmetologist, manicurist, or esthetician shall, upon written application accompanied by the required fees, receive a license to operate a salon, barbershop, or mobile barbershop in this state, provided that the salon, barbershop, or mobile barbershop meets all requirements established in the rules of the board, **including passing an inspection**.

III. In the event of a change of location of any licensed shop and upon notice thereof, the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** shall issue a transfer of licensure of such shop to its new location, provided such new location meets the requirements of this section. The board may ~~[revoke]~~ **take disciplinary action, in accordance with RSA 310, against** any shop license upon a finding that such shop fails to comply with this chapter or the rules adopted by the board, **or has committed professional conduct as defined in RSA 310**; ~~provided that, before any such certificate shall be revoked, the holder shall have notice thereof and be granted a proper hearing~~. **Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the board from taking disciplinary action in accordance with RSA 310 against any licensee managing or working at a shop.**

IV. In addition to licenses issued under paragraph II, the board may issue a license to an owner of a salon or barbershop who does not personally engage in cosmetology, barbering, or esthetics, provided the salon or barbershop shall fulfill all requirements ~~[set forth in the rules of the board]~~ **for licensure** and provided

further that the owner has paid the required license fee for such salon or barbershop and employs a licensed cosmetologist, barber, manicurist, or esthetician as manager in the salon or barbershop. However, this section shall not authorize such owner to practice cosmetology, barbering, manicuring, or esthetics unless the owner has a cosmetologist, barber, or esthetician license.

V. Anyone holding a shop license may obtain a one-time Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours, or its equivalent, relative to health, safety, disinfection, and sanitation, in the professional service that is regulated by this chapter and is offered at the shop. The board may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A as to what other one-time certification programs may be considered equivalent to an OSHA certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours earned in barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, or manicuring.

201 New Section; Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Operating a School. Amend RSA 313-A by inserting after section 19 the following new section:

313-A:19-a Operating a School.

I. Applicants for initial licensure as a school shall meet all requirements established in the rules of the board, including passing an inspection.

II. Anyone holding a school license may obtain a one-time Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours, or its equivalent, relative to health, safety, disinfection, and sanitation in each professional service that is regulated by this chapter and taught at the school. The board may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A as to what other one-time certification programs are the equivalent of an OSHA certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours earned in barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, or manicuring.

III. It shall be the obligation of any individual who opens, establishes, conducts, maintains, or manages a school to ensure it maintains compliance with this chapter and board rules. Failure to maintain compliance shall constitute conduct sufficient to support disciplinary proceedings initiated pursuant to RSA 310. This provision shall not be construed to prevent the board from also taking disciplinary action against any licensee working at such school.

202 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Inspectors. RSA 313-A:21 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

313-A:21 Inspectors.

I. The executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or his or her designees shall be authorized to enter and make reasonable examination and inspection of any shop or school during business hours for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the administrative rules of the board and the provisions of this chapter are being observed. The executive director or his or her designees shall file a report with the board of such findings with respect to each inspection made. Any salaries and necessary expenses of employed inspectors shall be charged against the fees and other moneys collected by the board.

II. Sanitary inspections of all shops and schools shall be made at the time of initial licensure and biannually thereafter, unless a shop or school has obtained an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certificate or its equivalent pursuant to RSA 313-A:19 or RSA 313-A:19-a. Sanitary inspections may also be made for investigations conducted pursuant to RSA 310:9, regardless of whether a shop or school has obtained a certificate.

203 Repeal. RSA 313-A:24, V, relative to applicants for apprentice certificates providing a social security number, is repealed.

204 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases; Registration Certificates and Permits. Amend RSA 430:33, II to read as follows:

II. No person, other than a commercial applicator, shall apply pesticides in this state without first obtaining a written permit from the division except as provided in RSA 430:46. An annual application for a permit with a fee of [~~\$20~~] **\$60** shall be collected by the division for each permit, except that no fee shall be collected from any nonprofit entity or from any governmental entity. The division shall require each applicant for a permit to demonstrate, by examination or other procedure prescribed by the board in rules, the applicant's competence and ability to use pesticides in accordance with standards of the board. Permit holders shall maintain routine operational records pursuant to rules of the board, which records shall be open to inspection at reasonable times by the division or its agents. Operational records for the preceding calendar year shall be submitted to the division by an applicant for renewal of a permit. Upon submission of such records and satisfaction of such other conditions as the board may by rule impose, the division shall renew a permit.

205 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases; Application for Registration and Permits. Amend RSA 430:34, III to read as follows:

III. Each application for initial examination of a commercial or private applicator shall be accompanied by an examination fee of [~~\$5~~] **\$15** for each category or commodity group in which such examination is requested. When an applicator has been examined by the division and found not qualified, the applicant shall be re-examined at a subsequent date in accordance with rules adopted by the board, provided that each application

for re-examination shall be accompanied by a re-examination fee of [\$5] **\$15** for each category or commodity group in which re-examination is requested. A separate application and re-examination fee shall be filed by the applicant each time a re-examination is requested.

206 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases; Pesticide Dealer License. Amend RSA 430:35, II and III to read as follows:

II. Application for a license shall be accompanied by a [\$20] **\$60** annual license fee. Dealer applications for renewal received beyond the December 31 deadline shall be subject to a \$10 late registration fee. Application for a license shall be on a form prescribed by the division and shall include the full name of the person applying for such license. If such applicant is an individual, receiver, trustee, firm, partnership, association or corporation, the full name of each member of the firm or partnership or the names of the officers of the association or corporation shall be given on the application. Such application shall further state the principal business address of the applicant in the state and elsewhere and the name of a person domiciled in this state authorized to receive and accept service of summons of legal notices of all kinds for the applicant, and any other necessary information prescribed by the division; provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to a pesticide applicator who sells pesticides only as an integral part of his pesticide application service when such pesticides are dispensed only through apparatuses used for such pesticide application; provided, further, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any federal, state, or county agency which provides pesticides for their own programs.

III. Each applicant shall satisfy the division as to his knowledge of the laws and rules governing the use and sale of pesticides and his responsibility in carrying on the business of a pesticide dealer through examination. In addition, each employee or agent of a pesticide dealer who sells or recommends restricted-use pesticides or state restricted-use pesticides shall obtain a pesticide dealer license. Each application for initial examination for a dealer license shall be accompanied by an examination fee of [\$5] **\$15**. When an applicant has been examined by the division and found not qualified, the applicant shall be re-examined at a subsequent date in accordance with rules adopted by the board, provided that each application for re-examination shall be accompanied by a fee of [\$5] **\$15**.

207 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases; Statement Required. Amend RSA 430:38, III to read as follows:

III.(a) The registrant shall pay an annual fee **of at least \$160** for each pesticide registered as follows:

- (1) A restricted use pesticide.
- (2) A general use pesticide, other than a specialty/household pesticide.
- (3) A specialty/household pesticide.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the amount of the fees charged under subparagraph (a). ~~Until such rules are adopted, the fees under subparagraph (a) shall be the same as the fees which were in effect on June 30, 2015.]~~

208 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Soil and Plant Additives; Registration. Amend RSA 431:4, I to read as follows:

I. Each brand and grade of fertilizer shall be registered in the name of that person whose name appears upon the label before being distributed in this state. The application for registration shall be submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of [\$75] **\$128** per grade of each brand sold.

209 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Soil and Plant Additives; Registration. Amend RSA 431:27, I to read as follows:

I. Each separately identified product shall be registered before being distributed in this state. The application for registration shall be submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished or approved by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of [\$50] **\$100** per product. The fees collected under this section shall be deposited with the state treasurer into the agricultural products regulatory fund. Upon approval by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to the applicant. All registrations expire on January 1 of the following year.

210 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Horticultural Growing Media; Registration and Inspection Fees; Fund Established. Amend RSA 433-A:6 to read as follows:

433-A:6 Registration and Inspection Fees; Fund Established. The commissioner shall collect a [\$50] **\$96** annual registration and inspection fee for each product registered. The fees collected under this section shall be deposited with the state treasurer into the agricultural products regulatory fund established in RSA 435:20, IV. Moneys from the fund shall be used to offset costs associated with registration and inspection of horticultural growing media.

211 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Animal Care, Breeding and Feed. Amend RSA 435:20, II and III to read as follows:

II. No person shall distribute in this state a commercial feed, except a customer-formula feed, which has not been registered pursuant to the provisions of this section. Applications for registration, accompanied by

a ~~[\$75]~~ **\$120** per-product registration fee, shall be submitted in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. Upon approval by the commissioner, a registration shall be issued to the applicant. All registrations shall expire on December 31 of each year.

III. The commissioner may refuse to register any commercial feed not in compliance with the provisions of this subdivision and to cancel any registration subsequently found not to be in compliance with any provision of this subdivision; provided that upon the refusal of registration, the ~~[\$75]~~ **\$120** registration fee shall be returned to the applicant; and provided further that no registration shall be refused or ~~[cancelled]~~ **canceled** unless the applicant or registrant has been given an opportunity to appear at a hearing before the commissioner and to amend his or her application in order to comply with the requirements of this subdivision.

212 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Standards for Farm Products; Official Grades and Standards. Amend RSA 426:1 to read as follows:

426:1 Official Grades and Standards. The commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food, whenever, in the commissioner's opinion, the public good so requires, may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing official grades and standards for farm products which are produced within the state for purposes of sale. **Fees for maple product permits shall not be less than \$33 and other product permits shall not be less than \$13.**

213 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Soil and Plant Additives; Inspection Fees and Tonnage Reports. Amend RSA 431:6, I to read as follows:

I. There shall be paid to the commissioner for all fertilizers distributed in this state to nonregistrants an inspection fee **of at least \$0.37** on each ton of fertilizer sold **with a minimum fee of at least \$9 as** ~~[in a manner and at a fee]~~ prescribed by the commissioner by rules; provided, that sales or exchanges between importers, manufacturers, distributors, or registrants are exempted.

214 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; New Hampshire Seed Law; Duties and Authority of Commissioner; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 433:7, III(1)-(m) to read as follows:

(1) Seed labeling license standards and procedures, including, but not limited to, application forms ~~[and fees]~~.

(m) Establish licensing fee of not less than \$94 per company.

~~[(m)]~~ **(n)** The enforcement of this subdivision.

215 Weights and Measures Fees. Amend RSA 438:10-a to read as follows:

438:10-a Fees for Licensing Commercial Devices.

The following annual device license fees shall be charged for the following categories:

- I. Scales 100 pounds or less, other than precision scales, ~~[\$18]~~ **\$35** each;
- II. Scales over 100 pounds to 2,000 pounds, ~~[\$27]~~ **\$50** each;
- III. Scales over 2,000 pounds to 5,000 pounds, ~~[\$54]~~ **\$100** each;
- IV. Non-vehicle scales over 5,000 pounds, ~~[\$90]~~ **\$165** each;
- V. Vehicle scales, ~~[\$180]~~ **\$330** each;
- VI. Lift truck/forklifts, on board weighing systems/scales, ~~[\$90]~~ **\$165** each;
- VII. On board weighing systems/scales, refuse or recyclable materials collection trucks, ~~[\$90]~~ **\$165** each;
- VIII. Precision scales, ~~[\$36]~~ **\$65** each;
- IX. Retail motor fuel dispensers, except liquefied petroleum gas and natural gas dispensers, ~~[\$18]~~ **\$35** per meter;
- X. Liquefied petroleum gas retail motor fuel dispensers, ~~[\$54]~~ **\$100** per meter;
- XI. Natural gas retail motor fuel dispensers, ~~[\$54]~~ **\$100** per meter;
- XII. Liquid vehicle tank meters, except liquefied petroleum gas and natural gas meters, ~~[\$54]~~ **\$100** per meter;

XIII. Liquid bulk storage meters, ~~[\$90]~~ **\$165** per meter;

XIV. Liquefied gas meters, ~~[\$90]~~ **\$165** per meter;

XV. Taxi meters, ~~[\$27]~~ **\$50** per meter; and

XVI. Linear and cordage measures, ~~[\$18]~~ **\$35** per meter.

216 New Section; Weights and Measures; Registered Service Agencies. Amend RSA 438 by inserting after section 438:14-a the following new section:

438:14-b Registered Service Agencies. Registered service agencies that employ a service technician who is registered with the division of weights and measures to test, adjust, repair, certify, reject, add, remove, or replace a commercial weighing or measuring device, shall pay an annual registration fee of \$250, to be collected by the division.

217 Water Management and Protection; Dams, Mills, and Flowage; Annual Registration Fee. Amend RSA 482:8-a to read as follows:

482:8-a Annual Registration Fee. Annual registration fees for dams shall be payable to the department on January 1 of each calendar year. Yearly dam registration fees shall be based on classification as follows: Low hazard potential = ~~[\$400]~~ **\$800**; Significant hazard potential = ~~[\$750]~~ **\$1,500**; High hazard potential =

~~[\$1,500]~~ **\$3,000**. If the hazard classification designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a dam differs from the classification designated by the department, the annual dam registration fees shall be based on the classification designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission except that a dam which is classified as a non-menace dam by the department shall be exempt from the annual dam registration fee for as long as the dam is classified by the department as a non-menace dam. Revenues from this annual registration are to be collected by the department and deposited in the dam maintenance fund established in RSA 482:55 to be used for the inspection of dams.

218 Water Management and Protection; Dams, Mills, and Flowage; Preliminary Filing of Information. Amend RSA 482:9, II(a)-(d) to read as follows:

- (a) Non-hazard potential dam ~~[\$2,000]~~ **\$4,000**
- (b) Low hazard potential dam ~~[\$3,000]~~ **\$6,000**
- (c) Significant hazard potential dam ~~[\$4,000]~~ **\$8,000**
- (d) High hazard potential dam ~~[\$4,000]~~ **\$8,000**

219 Public Health; Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund; Automotive Oil Fee. Amend RSA 147-B:12, I to read as follows:

I. A fee of ~~[\$.02]~~ **\$0.05** per gallon of automotive oil shall be assessed at the time of import to this state. Persons licensed under RSA 146-A:11-b, II shall be liable for payment of this additional fee which shall be collected and enforced by the department of safety in the manner described in RSA 146-A:11-b. The department of environmental services may waive all or any portion of penalties or interest for good cause. All fee revenues shall be deposited in the hazardous waste cleanup fund in accordance with RSA 147-B:6, I-d.

220 Hazardous Waste Generator Self-Certification. Amend RSA 147-A:5, IV(b) to read as follows:

(b) Each hazardous waste generator that generates less than 220 pounds/100 kilograms of hazardous waste per month shall pay non-refundable fees at a rate of ~~[\$60]~~ **\$90** per year for the period of ~~[-January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007]~~ **July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2025**, and at a rate of ~~[\$90]~~ **\$140** per year beginning July 1, ~~[2007]~~ **2025**, to cover department expenses for conducting the self-certification program and hiring of program staff. Total fees due for each year shall be submitted with the self-certification declaration form required under subparagraph (a).

221 Public Health; Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund; Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund Fees. Amend RSA 147-B:8, I to read as follows:

I. Each hazardous waste generator that generates in a 3-month period 660 pounds or more of unrecycled hazardous waste shall pay a quarterly fee of ~~[\$0.06]~~ **\$0.12** per pound or a minimum of \$100, to the department.

222 Public Health; Solid Waste Management Fund. RSA 149-R:4-6 are repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

149-R:4 Purpose and Use of the Fund.

I. The fund shall be used to support the administration and implementation of the department's solid waste technical assistance, planning, regulatory and permitting activities, including, but not limited to, waste reduction and diversion technical assistance, reducing the expense to municipalities of hazardous waste materials disposal and recycling, long term solid waste management planning, education and outreach efforts, and administration of payments in accordance with paragraphs II and III.

II. The fund shall be used to provide annual payments to New Hampshire municipalities, for source reduction and recycling efforts, to offset payments made by the municipality associated with the solid waste disposal surcharge established under RSA 149-R:5, based upon the tonnage of solid waste for which the municipality was financially responsible for disposal at a New Hampshire landfill, incinerator, or waste-to-energy facility. Administration of the payment program shall be in accordance with procedures established by rulemaking under the authority of RSA 149-R:6, IV and V. Such rulemaking shall specifically address the unique circumstances for municipalities that own and operate a facility that is subject to RSA 149-R:5, or that are part of a solid waste district that owns and operates such a facility, to ensure that the costs incurred by those municipalities are offset consistent with this chapter.

III. The fund shall be used to provide matching grant funding to New Hampshire municipalities, private entities, and businesses for projects that will provide a demonstrated, significant improvement in waste diversion methods and contribute to a reduction of wastes, including hazardous waste materials, requiring disposal, including a regional or municipal materials recovery facility operated by a public or private entity, and other regional recycling efforts.

IV. The fund may be used to hire consultants or contractors, or to pay other necessary expenses directly associated with approved activities in this chapter.

V. The department is authorized to solicit funds from any source, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies, gifts, donations of money, grants, legislative appropriations, or any matching funds and incentives. Notwithstanding RSA 4:8 and RSA 14:30, VI, the commissioner may accept and deposit such funds directly into the solid waste management fund to be used for the purpose described in RSA 149-R:4.

149-R:5 Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge.

I. Beginning January 1, 2026, solid waste disposed of at a New Hampshire landfill, incinerator, or waste-to-energy facility shall be subject to a surcharge at the rate of \$3.50 per ton. Notwithstanding RSA 149-M:4, XXII, materials used as cover material at landfills shall not be subject to the surcharge.

II. Such surcharge shall be paid quarterly to the department by each holder of a permit issued pursuant to RSA 149-M for a New Hampshire landfill, incinerator, or waste-to-energy facility for the solid waste disposed at such facility, on forms and with supporting documentation as provided for in rulemaking conducted pursuant to RSA 149-R:6, I, II, and III.

III. The first payment of the surcharge shall be due to the department no later than April 30, 2026 and within 30 days of each quarter's end thereafter.

IV. The department shall deposit surcharges collected under this section into the fund.

V. Failure to pay surcharges within 30 days of the date due shall result in the assessment of interest at a rate established by rule pursuant to RSA 149-R:6, VII. The commissioner may waive all or any portion of interest for good cause. The department shall deposit interest collected under this section into the fund.

149-R:6 Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules, after public hearing and pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

I. The time, amount, and manner of payment of solid waste disposal surcharges.

II. Required records to be kept by facility permit holders of the type and quantity of solid waste disposed.

III. Certified reports required to be submitted with surcharge payments by facility permit holders.

IV. The time, amount, and manner of payments to New Hampshire municipalities pursuant to RSA 149-R:4, II.

V. Certified reports required to be submitted by municipalities requesting payments pursuant to RSA 149-R:4, II.

VI. Administering matching grants pursuant to RSA 149-R:4, III.

VII. Establishment of the interest rate applied to late payments pursuant to RSA 149-R:5, V.

149-R:7 Penalties and Other Enforcement.

I. Any person who violates any of the provision of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each violation. Each day a surcharge is not paid after it is due in accordance with RSA 149-R:5, III shall be a separate violation.

II. In addition to an action to recover unpaid surcharges and interest owed, any violation of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule adopted under this chapter, may be enjoined by the superior court upon application of the attorney general.

III. The provisions of RSA 7:15-a shall not apply to the collection of unpaid surcharges, and all money collected under this section shall be deposited into the fund.

149-R:8 Biennial Report. The department shall include in its biennial report required under RSA 149-M:29, II, information relative to the activities and finances of the solid waste management fund.

223 Certified Hazardous Waste Coordinator Program. Amend RSA 147-A:5, III(b) to read as follows:

(b) Each application for initial or renewal of a hazardous waste coordinators certification shall be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of [~~\$125~~] **\$225** per year to cover department expenses for conducting the certification program.

224 New Subparagraph; Waste Management Rules. Amend RSA 149-M:7 by inserting after paragraph XV the following new paragraph:

XV-a. Relative to the safe management of solid waste. Such rules shall promote the hierarchy established under RSA 149-M:3, and shall develop and enforce siting, design, operation, and closure requirements.

225 New Paragraphs; Groundwater Protection. Amend RSA 149-M:9 by inserting after paragraph XV the following new paragraphs:

XVI. No permit shall be issued by any division of the department for the siting of a new landfill if any part of the actual solid waste disposal area is proposed to be located sufficiently close to any existing drinking water well, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire, as defined in RSA 483-B:4, XVI, such that groundwater on the landfill site would be able to reach the water body within 5 years of migrating off-site due to any leak, spill, or other failure.

XVII.(a) The department shall establish a site-specific setback distance for any proposed new landfill from any drinking water wells, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire, as defined in RSA 483-B:4, XVI. The setback distance shall be sufficient to prevent any contaminated groundwater at any part of the landfill footprint or leachate storage or piping infrastructure from reaching any existing drinking water wells, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire within 5 years. The setback distance shall be calculated as follows:

(1) The applicant shall hire a hydrogeologist who has never worked with or been contracted through a third party with any applicant's current or previous projects, at the applicant's expense, to estimate based upon adequate and representative on-site field testing of both the landfill footprint and leachate storage or

pipng infrastructure, the estimated velocity of groundwater in both surficial geological deposits and bedrock. The velocity shall be estimated by calculating the 95th percentile upper confidence limit of the mean measured rate, using the formula recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency at EPA 600-R-97/006.

(2) The 5-year distance-of-travel estimate shall be calculated by multiplying the velocity, in units of feet per year, by 5.

(3) The setback from any existing drinking water well, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire shall be the greater of the 5-year distance-of-travel estimate calculated in subparagraph (2) or 1,500 feet.

(b) No permit shall be issued by any division of the department for the siting of a new landfill that fails to conform to the setback distance as calculated using the method set forth in subparagraph (a).

(c) In this section, "new landfill" excludes any expansion or modification of any landfill facilities on any site where, as of January 1, 2025, a RCRA Subtitle D landfill exists that has received all permits necessary to operate at present and is currently operating under such permits at the time it files an application to expand.

(d) In this section, "site" means a single parcel or adjacent parcels, owned in its entirety by a landfill operator or its affiliates as of January 1, 2025, including a site where one or more public utility easements traverse the site.

XVIII. The department shall not issue a permit for a new landfill or landfill expansion unless the applicant conducts subsurface investigations in sufficient numbers and locations to properly describe the surficial stratigraphy and the bedrock beneath and adjacent to the proposed solid waste boundary, at least to the depth of any aquifers currently used to provide drinking water to residents. Pump tests shall be conducted at selected locations as needed to evaluate aquifer yield and connectivity of bedrock fractures using the department's database of the location and depth of private drinking water wells.

XIX. All landfill facilities shall have at least one employee or contracted personnel at the site 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, beginning from the date the landfill begins accepting waste and continuing until final closure.

XX. No permit shall be granted for a landfill unless undisturbed in-situ soils for 20 feet immediately beneath the footprint and underneath all leachate storage and transfer infrastructure have a maximum saturated hydraulic conductivity of 1×10^{-4} centimeters per second (cm/sec) or less. If the above in-situ soils do not meet the maximum hydraulic conductivity criterion of 1×10^{-4} cm/sec, no amount of imported soil can overcome such deficiency, and the tract shall be deemed impermissible for use as a landfill.

XXI. No permit shall be granted for a landfill unless the subgrade below the liner consists of soil with a saturated hydraulic conductivity of 1×10^{-4} cm/sec or less.

XXII. All references to number-year storm events regarding solid waste landfill permitting requirements in relation to design, maintenance, leachate management, etc., shall have the value of a 100-year storm with a 50 percent margin of safety.

XXIII. The department shall incorporate the "Ford Act" found at 40 C.F.R. 258 into landfill permitting requirements, specifically the provision limiting the construction or establishment of municipal solid waste landfills within 6 miles of certain smaller public airports.

226 Permit Denial. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 149-M:9, IX to read as follows:

IX. The department ~~may~~ **shall** deny a permit application under this section to a person if any of the following applies:

227 Rulemaking. The introductory paragraph of RSA 149-M:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

The commissioner shall have the responsibility and authority to adopt rules, under RSA 541-A, that are necessary to protect the public health and the environment with an ample margin of safety relative to this chapter, including rules relative to:

228 Boat Fee Decals. Amend RSA 270-E:5-a, II(a) to read as follows:

(a) ~~[\$9.50]~~ **\$12.50** for each decal specified in paragraph I. The fees collected under this subparagraph shall be paid into the lake restoration and preservation fund established under RSA 487:25.

229 Per Diem; Public Employee Labor Relations Board. Amend RSA 273-A:2, VII to read as follows:

VII. The members of the public employee labor relations board shall be paid ~~[\$50]~~ **\$250** a day and their necessary expenses while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

230 Court Fees and Fines; Equitable Fee Schedule; Credit Card Service Charge. Amend RSA 490:26-a to read as follows:

490:26-a Court Fees and Fines; Credit Card Payments.

I. The supreme court shall establish by rule an equitable fee schedule for all courts in the state.

II. ~~[-(a) Except as provided in subparagraph (b), a \$25 surcharge shall be added to each civil filing fee for all courts. This surcharge shall be deposited in the general fund.~~

(b) The following shall be exempt from the surcharge under subparagraph (a):

(1) Actions relating to children under RSA 169-B, RSA 169-C, and RSA 169-D.

(2) Domestic violence actions under RSA 173-B.

(3) ~~Small claims actions under RSA 503.~~

(4) ~~Landlord/tenant actions under RSA 540, RSA 540-A, RSA 540-B, and RSA 540-C.~~

(5) ~~Stalking actions under RSA 633:3-a~~

H-a.] The supreme court may establish by rule an equitable fee of not less than \$25 to be added to a fine whenever a court extends the time for the payment of the fine. An equitable fee assessed by a court under this paragraph shall be paid prior to or simultaneously with the payment of the fine.

III.(a) All court fees, surcharges, and fines paid into any court may be paid by credit card in lieu of cash payment.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the supreme court may, in establishing a fee schedule, establish a service charge for the acceptance of a credit card, debit card, or such other means of electronic payment.

231 Electric Renewable Energy Classes. Amend RSA 362-F:4, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) Wind energy, **except that mandated by government procurements.**

232 Electric Renewable Energy Classes. RSA 362-F:4, I(h) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(h) Solar energy if the solar energy produces electricity.

233 Minimum Electric Renewable Portfolio Standards. Amend RSA 362-F:3 to read as follows:

362-F:3 Minimum Electric Renewable Portfolio Standards. For each year specified in the table below, each provider of electricity shall obtain and retire certificates sufficient in number and class type to meet or exceed the following percentages of total megawatt-hours of electricity supplied by the provider to its end-use customers that year, except to the extent that the provider makes payments to the renewable energy fund under RSA 362-F:10, II:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2025 and thereafter
Class I	0.0%	0.5%	1%	2%	3%	3.8%	5%	6%	15% (*)
Class II	0.0%	0.0%	0.04%	0.08%	0.15%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%
Class III	3.5%	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%	1.4%	1.5%	3.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Class IV	0.5%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%

*Class I increases an additional 0.9 percent per year from 2015 through 2025. A set percentage of the class I totals shall be satisfied annually by the acquisition of renewable energy certificates from qualifying renewable energy technologies producing useful thermal energy as defined in RSA 362-F:2, XV-a. The set percentage shall be 0.4 percent in 2014, 0.6 percent in 2015, 0.8 percent in 2016, and increased annually by 0.2 percent per year from 2017 through 2023, **and then reduce to 1.7 percent beginning on August 1, 2027**, after which it shall remain unchanged. ~~[Class II shall increase to 0.5 percent beginning in 2018, 0.6 percent beginning in 2019, and 0.7 percent beginning in 2020, otherwise]~~ Classes ~~[H-IV]~~ **III and IV** shall remain at the same percentages from 2015 through 2025 except as provided in RSA 362-F:4, V-VI.

234 Electric Renewable Energy Classes. Amend RSA 362-F:4, V to read as follows:

V. For good cause, and after notice and hearing, the department of energy may accelerate or delay by up to one year, any given year's incremental increase in class I ~~[or H]~~ renewable portfolio standards requirement under RSA 362-F:3.

235 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Definitions. Amend RSA 362-F:2, XV to read as follows:

XV. "Renewable energy source," "renewable source," or "source" means a class I, ~~[H,]~~ III, or IV source of electricity or a class I source of useful thermal energy. An electrical generating facility, while selling its electrical output at long-term rates established before January 1, 2007, by orders of the commission under RSA 362-A:4, shall not be considered a renewable source.

236 Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget, the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section~~[-excluding class H moneys,]~~ shall be used by the department of energy to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives and offshore wind initiatives, including the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation. ~~[Class H moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire.]~~ All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary. All fund moneys ~~[including those from class H]~~ may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

237 Renewable Energy Fund. RSA 362-F:10, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. Beginning July 1, 2027, these rates shall be fixed at the following levels:

(a) Class I - \$42, except for that portion of the class electric renewable portfolio standards to be met by qualifying renewable energy technologies producing useful thermal energy under RSA 362-F:3, which shall be \$30.

(b) Class III - \$42.

(c) Class IV - \$37.

238 Renewable Energy Certificates. Amend RSA 362-F:6, II-a to read as follows:

II-a. The department of energy shall establish a methodology to estimate the total yearly production for customer-sited sources that are net metered under RSA 362-A:9 and for which class I ~~or H~~ certificates are not issued. For purposes of estimation, the department of energy shall use a capacity factor rating of 20 percent for each class I installation. ~~[The department of energy shall separately estimate class II output using a capacity factor rating equal to the annual PV Energy Forecast issued by the Distributed Generation Working Group under ISO New England, or its successor.]~~ Providers of electricity required to obtain and retire certificates under RSA 362-F:3 shall receive an annual credit for such production according to its class. By February 28 of each year, the department of energy shall compute and make public credit percentages that are equal to the estimated production for the prior calendar year in each class divided by the total amount of electricity supplied by providers of electricity to end-use customers in the prior calendar year, with the result converted to a percentage. Each provider may then, at the time of its annual report filing under RSA 362-F:8, claim a class I ~~and a class H~~ certificate credit equal to the credit percentage times the total megawatt-hours of electricity supplied by the provider to its end-use customers the prior calendar year.

239 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 362-F:4, I(h), relative to class II sources.

II. RSA 362-F:4, II, relative to class II renewable energy.

III. RSA 362-F:15, I, relative to class II increases.

240 Effective Date. Sections 231 through 239 of this act this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

241 New Hampshire Energy Policy. RSA 378:37 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows: 378:37 New Hampshire Energy Policy.

It is the policy of the sovereign state of New Hampshire and purpose of this chapter, to promote affordable, reliable, diverse, and secure energy resources for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

I. New Hampshire shall promote the development of resources to achieve the purpose of this chapter, fostering a range of technology types, including reliable, on-demand, and firm resources, while allowing for customer choice.

II. New Hampshire shall promote the development of resources, tools, and infrastructure to enhance the state's ability to ensure the state's energy independence by removing regulatory barriers to innovation to ensure that the state can procure affordable, reliable, and secure energy resources, consistent with RSA 362-F.

III. New Hampshire shall allow market forces and market-based mechanisms to drive prudent use of energy resources. Government intervention to economically advantage one technology over another shall be time-limited, narrow, and necessary to achieve a specific policy goal.

IV. New Hampshire shall pursue energy conservation and efficiency according to market principles, focusing on market transformation, and in accordance with cost-effective fiscal strategies as authorized by the legislature, and consistent with RSA 374-F.

V. New Hampshire shall maintain an environment that allows for accurate market signals while balancing affordable consumer prices, price stability, energy reliability, public health and safety, and the financial stability of utilities and energy suppliers.

VI. State regulatory processes shall balance economic costs with the level of review necessary to ensure protection of the state's various interests, and where federal action is required, New Hampshire will collaborate to encourage expedited federal review and action.

242 Sununu Youth Services Center; Possession and Relinquishment. Amend 2023, 2:4 to read as follows:

2:4 Possession and Relinquishment of the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC). As of the date of the opening of the youth development center set forth in section 2 of this act, and notwithstanding RSA 4:40, the department of administrative services shall take possession of the entire property currently housing the SYSC on South River Road in Manchester, New Hampshire. The department shall relinquish the property and any revenues received shall be deposited in the general fund. ***Until such time the property is relinquished, the department shall request an appropriation, subject to the approval from the fiscal committee and the governor and executive council, funds necessary to maintain the property. The governor shall draw a warrant from funds not otherwise appropriated.*** The department shall consult with the city of Manchester, the New Hampshire department of business and economic affairs, and other organizations, as appropriate, prior to any sale of the property. In relinquishing the property, the return of the property to an entity that will enhance the tax and business tax rolls of the city of Manchester and the state of New Hampshire shall be a high priority. Any relinquishment of the SYSC shall be approved by the governor and council.

243 Youth Detention Center; Construction Funds. Amend 2023, 79:443 to read as follows:

79:443 Youth Detention Center; Construction Funds. Notwithstanding any other act of the legislature or law to the contrary, any secured treatment facility constructed to replace the current Sununu Youth Services Center shall be funded entirely with federal discretionary funds appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, including any funds which have previously been allocated by the governor but which have not been expended. No state general funds shall be appropriated for the purpose of constructing the replacement facility and any funds appropriated to the project shall not be transferred or used for any other purpose. ***The use of general funds or federal discretionary funds which may become available, may be utilized to support activities or infrastructure to integrate facilities or operations between Hampstead Hospital and the replacement facility. The department shall undertake an initiative to consider establishment of a new permanent name for the Youth Development Center.***

244 Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund; Attorney's Fees; Periodic Payment. Amend RSA 21-M:11-a, XV to read as follows:

XV. The administrator may approve all fees and costs of attorneys who represent claimants in proceedings before the administrator. The administrator shall not approve any request of an attorney for fees or costs which are not reasonable. The administrator shall not approve an attorney's fee in excess of 33.33 percent of the amount of the award. All costs and attorney's fees paid to a claimant's attorney shall be paid from the amount awarded to the claimant. ***Whenever the administrator determines that a claim shall be paid in periodic payments pursuant to subparagraph XII(a), the administrator shall require that any attorney's fee approved under this paragraph be paid in equal installments and over the same number of years as the periodic payment schedule that is applicable to the amount awarded to the claimant. The administrator shall add an interest assessment of 5 percent of the remaining unpaid amount of the fee per annum for each year of repayment, which shall be compounded annually.***

245 Youth Development Center Settlement Fund; Appropriations.

The sum of \$10,000,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to the youth development center YDC settlement fund established in RSA 21-M:11-a, II. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

246 Department of Justice; Approval of Settlement Agreement in Michael Gilpatrick v. N.H. D.H.H.S, et al.

Pursuant to RSA 14:35-b, the settlement agreement executed by the department of justice in the case of *Michael Gilpatrick v. N.H. D.H.H.S, et al.*, Docket No. 217-2021-CV-00479, including the payment of \$10,000,000 to plaintiff Michael Gilpatrick and all other terms of the settlement agreement dated March 5, 2025, is hereby approved, and the sum of \$10,000,000 is hereby appropriated for the purpose of fulfilling the state's obligations under the settlement agreement. The payment of \$10,000,000 to plaintiff Michael Gilpatrick shall be made pursuant to the processes established by the department of justice and department of administrative services pursuant to RSA 99-D:2, RSA 541-B, and the terms of the settlement agreement.

247 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Division of Arts; Removed. Amend RSA 12-A:1 to read as follows:

12-A:1 Establishment. There shall be a department of natural and cultural resources under the executive direction of a commissioner of natural and cultural resources, consisting of a division of forests and lands, a division of parks and recreation, a division of libraries,~~[-a division of arts,]~~ and a division of historical resources, which shall also be known as the state historic preservation office. The department's purpose shall be to ensure the efficient coordinated function of the ~~[5]~~ 4 divisions, whereby the interests of protection and responsible management of natural and cultural resources, public enjoyment of state parks and forests, the state library, arts, film and digital media, and historic resources are each held to be of integral importance in the overall functioning of the department. All functions of the former department of cultural resources are hereby transferred, as of July 1, 2017, to the department of natural and cultural resources.

248 Powers and Duties of Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; State Library and Arts Removed. Amend RSA 12-A:1-c to read as follows:

12-A:1-c Powers and Duties of Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

I. The department of natural and cultural resources shall be responsible for the following general functions:

- (a) Providing information services to state government.
- (b) Developing strategies for the conservation, management, and protection of the state's forests and lands and the promotion of the state's parks and recreation resources.
- (c) Developing and coordinating a statewide library service network.
- (d) ~~[Stimulating and encouraging public interest and participation in the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts.]~~
- (e) Sponsoring state historic preservation activities.
- ~~[(f) [Repealed.]]~~

II. The commissioner shall assign, with the approval of the advisory commission, such duties and functions to the [5] 4 divisions of the department, as in his or her discretion will best effectuate the purposes, powers, and duties set forth in this section and as otherwise provided by statute.

249 New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs Established. Amend RSA 12-A:14-a, II to read as follows:

II. The commission shall consist of 15 members who derive from geographically diverse areas of the state and are representative of the diverse groups, organizations, and individuals knowledgeable about Native American history, culture, and affairs as follows:

(a) The director or designee of the division of travel and tourism development, department of business and economic affairs.

(b) The director or designee of the Native American Program at Dartmouth College.

(c) An archaeologist appointed by the director of the division of historical resources.

(d) ~~The director or designee of the state council on the arts.~~

~~(e) Eleven~~ **Twelve** members from the public at large, who shall be representatives from the Native American community, appointed by the governor from recommendations prepared by the director of the division of historical resources. All interested individuals shall submit a letter to the director of the division of historical resources stating why they wish to be considered and their qualifications accompanied by 3 letters of recommendation.

250 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 19-A, relative to the council on the arts.

II. RSA 21-K:6, relative to the division of the arts.

III. RSA 6:12,I(b)(103), relative to the state art fund.

IV. RSA 12-A:2-k, IV, relative to the administration of the division of the arts.

251 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Division of Parks and Recreation; Bureau of Trails; Grant-in-Aid. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, and notwithstanding any provision of law or administrative rule to the contrary, the limitations on percentages of grant-in-aid administered by the department of natural and cultural resources, division of parks and recreation, bureau of trails, for the development and maintenance of OHRV trails on private, municipal, state, or federal lands shall be as follows:

I. For the grant period of June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026:

(a) Eighty percent of the cost of renting equipment required to complete a project.

(b) Eighty percent of the cost of purchasing trail maintenance equipment.

(c) Eighty percent of the cost of reconditioning trail grading equipment.

(d) Eighty percent of the cost of operations for summer trail grading.

II. For the grant period of June 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027:

(a) Eighty percent of the cost of renting equipment required to complete a project.

(b) Eighty percent of the cost of purchasing trail maintenance equipment.

(c) Eighty percent of the cost of reconditioning trail grading equipment.

(d) Eighty percent of the cost of operations for summer trail grading.

252 Powers and Duties of the Hampton Beach Commission. Amend the introductory paragraph to RSA 216-J:3 to read as follows:

Subject to available funds, the Hampton Beach area commission shall:

253 Hampton Beach Master Plan Fund. Amend RSA 216-J:5 to read as follows:

216-J:5 Hampton Beach Master Plan Fund. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the Hampton Beach master plan fund which shall be kept separate and distinct from all other funds and shall be continually appropriated to the commission. Such fund shall be the depository of all gifts, grants, or donations made to the commission pursuant to RSA 216-J:4. Implementation expenses, the expenses of the commission, its commissioners, ~~and~~ any employees of the commission, ***and operations and initiatives of the commission***, shall be paid from such fund. Any moneys in such fund shall not lapse into the general fund of the state.

254 Department of Business and Economic Affairs; Division of Travel and Tourism Budget; Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue; Suspension. The provisions of RSA 12-O:11-b, crediting a portion of meals and rooms tax revenue to the division of travel and tourism, are hereby suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

255 Department of Transportation; Sale of Rest Areas and Welcome Centers. To the extent permitted by federal law, the department of transportation shall sell or lease, for commercial use only, non-turnpike rest areas and welcome centers by July 1, 2026, unless such facilities are leased by an entity or organization that agrees to assume any and all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of such rest areas or welcome centers.

256 Assistant State Treasurers. Amend RSA 6:28 to read as follows:

6:28 Appointment; Removal. The state treasurer may appoint [2] assistant state treasurers who shall hold office during good behavior. The governor and council may remove an assistant for cause as they may remove the treasurer.

257 Tax on Meals and Rooms; Disposition of Revenue; Suspension of Deposits Into the Meals and Rooms Municipal Revenue Fund. RSA 78-A:26, III, relative to tax revenue deposited into the meals and rooms municipal revenue fund for distribution to cities, towns and unincorporated places, shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. The amount of meals and rooms tax deposited into the municipal revenue for distribution to the unincorporated towns, unorganized places, towns, and cities shall be \$137,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and \$137,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 as appropriated in the operating budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. These funds shall be distributed based on the methodologies used for the distribution of such funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

258 Treasury Department; Transfer of Funds. Notwithstanding any provision of RSA 195-H:12 to the contrary, the state treasury shall transfer any uncommitted moneys from the governor's scholarship fund, established in RSA 195-H:12, to the general fund on July 1, 2025.

259 Salaries Established. Amend RSA 94:1-a, I(b) by deleting the following:

HH Office of the child advocate director

260 Commissioner of Health and Human Services. Amend RSA 126-A:5, XXXIII(a) to read as follows:

(a) On or before September 1, 2019, the commissioner shall submit a report on the New Hampshire 10-year mental health plan of 2018 containing the priorities for implementation of the plan to the oversight committee on health and human services, established under RSA 126-A:13, the chairpersons of the house and senate policy committees with jurisdiction over health and human services matters, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, **and** the governor[, ~~and the office of the child advocate established in RSA 21-V~~]. The commissioner shall submit a report on or before September 1, 2020 and annually thereafter on the status of the implementation of the 10-year mental health plan including, but not limited to, unmet benchmarks and recommendations for any necessary barrier resolution or necessary adjustments or modifications to the plan to better serve New Hampshire citizens, to the oversight committee on health and human services and the chairpersons of the house and senate policy committees with jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The annual report shall include any recommendations by the commissioner for legislation as needed or appropriate in achieving important benchmarks in fully implementing the 10-year mental health plan.

261 Notice and Record-Keeping Requirements. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 126-U:7, II to read as follows:

II. A facility employee or school employee who uses seclusion or restraint, or if the facility employee or school employee is unavailable, a supervisor of such employee, shall, within 5 business days after the occurrence, submit a written notification, on a form developed by the department of education and department of health and human services[, ~~in consultation with the office of the child advocate,~~] containing the following information to the director or his or her designee:

262 Residential Treatment Programs; Certification Required. Amend RSA 169-F:9, III-V to read as follows:

III. The team shall develop a standard operating procedure and form for assessment of the programs to be completed during each in-person visit[, ~~in consultation with the office of the child advocate~~].

IV. The department shall assess and certify every in-state and out-of-state program including residential treatment programs and psychiatric residential treatment programs prior to entering into an agreement for payment, and prior to the placement of any child in that facility. To be certified by the department, the program shall demonstrate compliance with staff training and program requirements and offer an appropriate therapeutic milieu and culture centered in trauma-informed care, in accordance with standards adopted by the department[, ~~in consultation of the office of the child advocate~~].

V. The department shall make monitoring visits at least twice per year, including at least one unannounced visit, to all facilities where New Hampshire children are currently placed by the state in residential treatment. The department shall continue to make annual certification or technical assistance visits to all certified residential placement facilities; if a child is being placed at a residential facility that did not currently have a New Hampshire child placed, the department shall make a visit prior to the placement of that child unless a department visit has occurred within the past 120 days. Clear and comprehensive records shall be maintained by the department on each facility showing the dates and findings of each such visit. Such records shall be available to the facility[, ~~and provided to the office of the child advocate~~], as well as included in the paperwork for the certification and/or re-certification process. If the facility is found not to be in compliance with the statute, the rules adopted by the commissioner, or the contract, if applicable, a corrective action plan shall be submitted to the department, and the department shall notify the licensing agency of that facility[, ~~and the office of the child advocate~~]. Failure to submit an acceptable plan or a failure to take the necessary corrective actions shall result in the immediate removal of all New Hampshire children from that facility, and/or revocation of the certification.

263 Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights. Amend RSA 170-G:21, XIV to read as follows:

XIV. To be informed of the process for contacting the child protective services worker's supervisor, or other department staff, **and** the guardian ad litem[, ~~and the office of the child advocate~~].

264 Claimant Eligibility; Compensation. Amend RSA 21-M:8-h, II to read as follows:

II. The claimant, guardian ad litem [~~or child advocate~~], or parent may file a claim for compensation within 2 years of the crime, unless good cause is shown. A claimant who was the victim of sexual abuse or human trafficking under subparagraph I(a)(3), or a guardian ad litem, [~~child advocate~~], or parent on behalf of such claimant, may file a claim at any time.

265 Oversight of Children in Care; Department Responsibilities. Amend RSA 169-F:7, II to read as follows:

II. The department shall develop[~~in consultation with the office of child advocate~~], a standard operating procedure and form for monthly visits with children conducted by the department, pursuant to RSA 169-F:5, I, to be completed during each monthly in-person visit.

266 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 21-V, relative to the office of the child advocate.

II. RSA 132:41, III(1), relative to child fatality review committee.

267 Participation by Members; Retirement System; Defined Contribution Plan. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 100-A:3, I(a) to read as follows:

I.(a) Any person who becomes [~~an~~] **a political subdivision** employee, teacher, permanent policeman, or permanent fireman after the date of establishment, **or who begins state employee service before January 1, 2026** working in a position for an employer under this chapter as determined by common law standards, shall become a member of the **defined benefit** retirement system as a condition of employment. In addition, employees appointed to an unclassified position with no fixed term on or after July 1, 2011, **and before January 1, 2026**, shall become members of the **defined benefit** retirement system as a condition of employment if they are receiving benefits from the retirement system. Any retirement benefit collected by such an unclassified employee shall be suspended during the period of employment. Membership in the retirement system shall be optional in the case of elected officials, officials appointed for fixed terms, employees appointed to an unclassified position with no fixed term prior to July 1, 2011, or those employees of the general court who are eligible for membership in the retirement system. [~~Other~~] Elected officials and officials appointed for fixed terms shall, however, be eligible for membership in the retirement system only under the following conditions:

268 Unfunded Accrued Liability; Group III Members. Amend RSA 100-A:16, II(e)(1) to read as follows:

(e)(1) Immediately following the actuarial valuation prepared as of June 30 of each fiscal year, the board shall have an actuary determine the amount of the unfunded accrued liability for each member classification, proportionally reduced using sums dedicated as provided in RSA 21-I:95, II, as the amount of the total liabilities of the state annuity accumulation fund on account of such classification which is not dischargeable by the total of the funds in hand to the credit of the state annuity accumulation fund on account of such classification, and the aforesaid normal contributions to be made on account of the members in such classification during the remainder of their active service. The amount so determined with respect to each member classification shall be known as the “unfunded accrued liability” with respect to such classification. **The accrued liability contribution percentage chargeable to a group III employer shall be 10.11 percent.**

269 New Subdivision; Group III; Retirement System Defined Contribution Plan. Amend RSA 100-A by inserting after section 58 the following new subdivision:

Group III Retirement System Defined Contribution Plan

100-A:59 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. “Commission” means the deferred compensation commission under RSA 101-B.

II. “Member” means a person who is required to or elects to participate in the plan established in this subdivision.

III. “Plan” means the group III defined contribution plan established for members. The defined contribution retirement plan is a plan in which savings are accumulated in an individual account for the exclusive benefit of the member or beneficiaries. The plan is established effective January 1, 2026, at which time contributions by members begin.

100-A:60 Group III; Defined Contribution Plan Established. There is hereby established a retirement benefit plan for members required to, or who voluntarily elect to, enroll in the plan, who began service on or after January 1, 2026. The defined contribution retirement plan is intended to qualify under 26 U.S.C. section 401(a) and section 414(d), the Internal Revenue Code, as a qualified retirement plan established and maintained by the state for its employees. All qualifying contributions shall be held and invested by the commission. All assets received by the plan shall be held for the exclusive benefit of plan participants and their beneficiaries and applied solely as provided by the plan. The commission shall determine the terms and provisions of the plan not inconsistent with this subdivision, the Internal Revenue Code, or other applicable law and shall provide for the plan’s administration.

100-A:61 Membership. Any state employee other than a teacher, permanent policeman, or permanent fireman, who was entered on the payroll on a full-time or eligible part-time basis on or after January 1, 2026 shall as a condition of employment be a member of the group III defined contribution plan established in

this subdivision; except that membership shall be optional in the case of elected officials, officials appointed for fixed terms, unclassified state employees, or those employees of the general court who are eligible for membership in the retirement system.

100-A:62 Administration; Rulemaking.

I. The administrator of the plan shall be the executive director of the deferred compensation plan, who shall have the assistance and services of the department of administrative services for all duties and responsibilities under this subdivision. The department of administrative service may employ and assign staff to the executive director and commission for the administration of the plan.

II. The executive director shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the procedure for administration of the investment options of members and beneficiaries, benefit distributions, and forms necessary for the administration of this subdivision.

100-A:63 Administration of Plan. The commission may contract with a third-party administrator for the plan for the administration of assets accumulated under each participant's account.

100-A:64 Powers of the Commission. The commission, in addition to its powers and duties set forth in this subdivision and RSA 101-B, shall have the following powers and duties to establish the plan and trust and administer the provisions of this subdivision:

I. The commission may commingle or pool assets with the assets of other persons or entities.

II. The commission shall pay all administrative fees, costs, and expenses of managing, investing and administering the plan, and the individual investment accounts from the balance of such individual investment accounts except as otherwise provided under this subdivision or as the legislature otherwise provides by appropriation.

III. The commission shall have the power to change the terms of the plan as may be necessary to maintain the tax-qualified status of the plan.

IV. The commission may establish a process for election to participate in the plan by those employees eligible to do so for whom participation is not mandatory.

V. The commission may allow an inactive participant to maintain the participant's individual investment account within the plan.

VI. The commission shall ensure that participants are provided with educational materials about investment options and choices.

100-A:65 Contributions by Member. The member participating under this subdivision shall contribute 7 percent of earnable compensation to the plan.

100-A:66 Limitations on Contributions. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this plan, the annual total member contributions to each individual's account under this plan, including any additional voluntary contributions under RSA 101-B, may not exceed, for any limitation year, the amount permitted under 26 U.S.C. section 415 at any time. If the amount of a member's defined contribution plan contributions exceeds the limitation of 26 U.S.C. section 415(c) for any limitation year, the administrator shall take any necessary remedial action to correct an excess contribution.

100-A:67 Contributions by Employer. Employers under the plan shall contribute an amount equal to 2.42 percent of a member's earnable compensation for deposit in the member's individual account.

100-A:68 Investment of Individual Accounts.

I. A member's individual account shall be invested as authorized in RSA 101-B.

II. Except to the extent clearly set out in the terms of the investment plans offered by the employer to the employee, the employer is not liable to the participant for investment losses if the prudent investment standard has been met.

III. The employer, administrator, state, or commission, or a person or entity who is otherwise a fiduciary, is not liable for any participant's investment loss that results from the participant's directing the investment of plan assets allocated to the participant's account.

100-A:69 Vesting. Employee contributions and investment return attributable to contributions shall be 100 percent vested as of the date of contribution or accrual. Any contribution by the employer shall be 100 percent vested after 2 years of service. The 2 years of service need not be continuous.

100-A:70 Withdrawal of Funds. Distributions from an account of a member shall be permitted in the following circumstances, subject to applicable rules and limitations under federal regulations:

I. Termination of employment.

II. Retirement.

III. Upon turning age 59½ and still employed as limited by federal regulations.

IV. If the member becomes disabled.

V. If the member dies.

VI. Financial hardship as defined in applicable federal regulations.

VII. Required distributions.

100-A:71 Required Distributions. All payments under this subdivision shall start and be made in compliance with the minimum distribution requirements and incidental death benefit rules of Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(9). The commission shall take any action and make any distributions it may determine are necessary to comply with those requirements.

100-A:72 Health Insurance Group Insurance Inclusion. Any retired member and his or her beneficiaries may participate in the retiree group insurance programs authorized by RSA 21-I:26 through RSA 21-I:36 at his or her own expense unless otherwise provided.

270 Medical and Surgical Benefits. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 21-I:30, VI to read as follows:

VI. For the purposes of this section, "retired employee" means each group I **or group III** state employee who:

271 Medical or Surgical Benefits. Amend RSA 21-I:30, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. Any vested deferred state retiree may receive medical and surgical benefits under this section if the vested deferred state retiree is eligible. To be eligible, a group I **or group III** vested deferred state retiree shall have at least 10 years of creditable service with the state if the employee's service began prior to July 1, 2003, or 20 years of creditable service with the state if the employee's service began on or after July 1, 2003, and a group II vested deferred state retiree shall have at least 20 years of creditable service with the state if the employee's service with the state began on or after July 1, 2010. In addition, if the vested deferred state retiree is a member of group I **or group III**, such retiree shall be at least 60 years of age to be eligible. If the vested deferred state retiree is a member of group II who is in vested status before January 1, 2012, such retiree shall not be eligible until 20 years from the date of becoming a member of group II and shall be at least 45 years of age, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not be eligible until 25 years from the date of becoming a member of group II and shall be at least 52.5 years of age, and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d).

272 Medical and Surgical Benefits. Amend RSA 21-I:30, XI to read as follows:

XI. A state employee who commences service on or after July 1, 2011 and who is eligible for benefits under this section shall not receive such benefit until attaining age 52.5 if the state employee retired from group II service with the state or attaining age 65 if the state employee retired from group I **or group III** service with the state.

273 Additional Medical and Surgical Benefits. Amend RSA 21-I:30-a, I and II to read as follows:

I. The state shall pay a premium for permanent group hospitalization, hospital medical care, surgical care, and other medical and surgical benefits for the surviving spouse and dependent children of a deceased group I, ~~or~~ group II, **or group III** state employee or retirement system member who dies as the natural and proximate result of injuries suffered while in the performance of duty, provided that:

(a) Any such child shall qualify as a dependent under the provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36 and be under 18 years of age, or if a full-time student, be under 26 years of age.

(b) Any such surviving spouse shall cease to be qualified for medical and surgical benefits under this section upon the remarriage of the surviving spouse.

(c) No surviving spouse or dependent children shall be qualified or continue to be qualified for medical and surgical benefits under this section while receiving medical insurance or health care benefits from any other employer-sponsored plan.

(d) The state shall pay the premium for supplemental medical and surgical benefits under this section for any such child who qualifies as a dependent under the provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36 and who is eligible for Medicare benefits.

II. In the case of the surviving spouse and dependent children of a group I, ~~or~~ group II, **or group III** state employee or retirement system member who are eligible for medical and surgical benefits under this section and also under the provisions of RSA 100-A:50-55, the state shall pay the difference between the amount paid under RSA 100-A:52 and the premium paid under paragraph I.

274 Initial Funding; Appropriation. All initial fees, costs and expenses of establishing and administering the plan and investing the assets of the plan under RSA 100-A:59 through 100-A:72 shall be borne by the state general fund until July 1, 2026, after which they will be borne by the participants and paid from assessments against the balances of the individual investment accounts as established by the commission. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for the sum necessary for such administration out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

275 Liquor Commission; Division of Enforcement and Licensing Renamed Division of Licensing. Amend RSA 176:8 to read as follows:

176:8 Divisions and Directors. The commission shall have 3 divisions under the direction of unclassified division directors. The directors shall be nominated by the commissioner for appointment by the governor with the consent of the council and shall serve for terms of 4 years dependent upon maintaining good behavior and competence. There shall be a division of marketing, merchandising, and warehousing, a division of administration, and a division of ~~[enforcement and]~~ licensing. The director of the division of ~~[enforcement and]~~ licensing shall be subject to a background check by the state police prior to appointment.

276 Liquor Commission; Liquor Investigator Renamed Liquor Specialist. Amend RSA 176:9 to read as follows: 176:9 Liquor ~~[Investigator]~~ **Liquor Specialists**; Training.

I. The commission may, subject to rules adopted by the director of personnel, employ and dismiss liquor ~~[investigators]~~ **license specialists**. Liquor ~~[investigators]~~ **license specialists** shall, under the direction of the commission, investigate any or all matters arising under this title.

II. ~~[Any new liquor investigator employed by the commission under this section after August 13, 1985, shall, within 6 months of employment, satisfactorily complete a preparatory police training program as provided by RSA 106-L:6, unless he or she has already completed such a program.]~~

HH. The commissioner, deputy commissioner, assistant, or liquor ~~[investigator]~~ **license specialist**, may enter any place where liquor, beverages, tobacco products, e-cigarettes are sold or manufactured, ~~[at any time]~~ **only during business hours**, and may examine any license or permit issued or purported to have been issued under the terms of this title. They shall make complaints for violations of this title.

277 Closing of State Stores; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 177:2, II to read as follows:

II. In order to properly reflect the operating expenses of each state store, the commission shall prepare annually an indirect cost allocation plan for all indirect operating expenses of the commission. All such expenses of the commission, with the exception of the ~~[enforcement and]~~ licensing division operating expenses, shall be included in the plan and allocated to all state stores on a consistent, rational basis. No later than 30 days following the closure of any state liquor store, the commission shall submit a revised indirect cost allocation plan to the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council for approval.

278 Liquor/Wine/Beverage Warehouse License; Division of Enforcement and Licensing Renamed. Amend RSA 178:11, V to read as follows:

V. Liquor/wine/beverage warehouseurs shall submit a monthly report both to the liquor commission ~~[enforcement]~~ and licensing division and the marketing, merchandising, and warehousing division of the commission by the fifteenth day of the following month indicating the quantity, type, size, and brands of all product received, stored, or shipped on their premises.

279 On-Premises Cocktail Lounge Licenses; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 178:22,V(h)(12) to read as follows:

(12) Violations of subparagraph ~~(h)~~ (11) of this subparagraph shall be investigated by the ~~[enforcement]~~ **licensing** division of the liquor commission and directed to the department of justice for examination of issues unrelated to this title.

280 Fees; Expiration Dates; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 178:29, VIII(b) to read as follows:

(b) After one year, a licensee may select the anniversary month in which to renew a license. A licensee may change the anniversary renewal month of a license once by making a written request to the director of ~~[enforcement and]~~ licensing. A licensee who changes the anniversary renewal month of a license shall not change the anniversary renewal month for a period of 3 years from the selected month. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to be contrary to the provisions of RSA 178:3 or commission rules.

281 Transportation of Beverages and Wine; Liquor Investigators Renamed. Amend RSA 179:15, V to read as follows:

V. Every person operating such a vehicle, when engaged in such transportation or delivery, shall carry a copy of the license in the vehicle so operated, and shall carry such evidence as the commission by rule may prescribe showing the origin and destination of the beverages and wines being transported or delivered. Upon demand of any ~~[law enforcement officer, investigator,]~~ **liquor license specialist** or employee of the commission, the person operating such vehicle shall produce for inspection a copy of the license and the evidence required by this section. Failure to produce such license or evidence shall constitute prima facie evidence of unlawful transportation. Except as otherwise provided, beverages and wines may be transported within the state only by a railroad or steamboat corporation or by a person regularly and lawfully conducting a general express or trucking business, and in each case holding a valid carrier's license issued by the commission. Nothing in this section shall prohibit individual retail licensees from arranging for the delivery of wine products to a location central for the parties involved.

282 Retention of Invoices and Sale and Delivery Slips; Liquor Investigators Renamed. Amend RSA 179:35 to read as follows:

179:35 Retention of Invoices and Sale and Delivery Slips. All invoices, sales slips and delivery slips, current and covering a period of 60 days prior to the current date pertaining to purchases of beverages and liquor shall be retained by the licensee on the premises or be readily available for examination by the commission or its liquor ~~[investigators]~~ **license specialists**.

283 Prosecutions; Liquor; January 1, 2026. RSA 179:59 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

179:59 Prosecutions. The commission shall appoint liquor license specialists whose primary function shall be the proper prosecution of this title. The liquor license specialists shall have statewide jurisdiction, with ref-

erence to enforcement of all laws either in cooperation with, or independently of, the officers of any county or town. The commission shall have the primary responsibility for the enforcement of all liquor and beverage laws upon premises where liquor and beverages are lawfully sold, stored, distributed, or manufactured. Any person violating the provisions of any law may be prosecuted by the commission or any of its investigators as provided in this section, or by county or city attorneys, or by sheriffs or their deputies, or by police officials of towns.

284 Interference with Liquor Investigators; Renamed Liquor License Specialists. Amend RSA 179:60 to read as follows:

179:60 Interference With Liquor ~~[Investigators]~~ **License Specialists**. It shall be unlawful to ~~[resist or attempt to resist arrest by a liquor investigator, or to]~~ obstruct~~;~~ or to intimidate or interfere with a liquor ~~[investigator]~~ **license specialist** in the performance of ~~[his]~~ **their** duty. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

285 Enforcement and Licensing Renamed. Amend RSA 21-J:14, V(d)(9) to read as follows:

(9) An officer or employee of the division of enforcement of the liquor commission, pursuant to an agreement for exchange of information between the department and the division of ~~[enforcement]~~ **licensing**, for the purposes of, and only to the extent necessary for, the administration and enforcement of RSA 78:16. Officers or employees of the division of ~~[enforcement]~~ **licensing** having any confidential and privileged department information obtained from the department pursuant to the exchange agreement authorized under this subparagraph shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

286 Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 179:13, V to read as follows:

V. Each wholesale distributor, brew pub licensee, or beverage manufacturer shall notify any retailer reported to the commission pursuant to RSA 179:13, I who is delinquent in making payment of accounts. Notification shall be delivered in writing to the licensee by a representative of the wholesaler, brew pub licensee, or beverage manufacturer. Proof of notification shall be forwarded to the commission, whose ~~[enforcement]~~ **licensing** division shall issue an administrative notice for a violation of the provisions of RSA 179:13, I and shall forward a report of violation for administrative action. Any license issued to any business violating the provisions of RSA 179:13, I may be suspended by the commission for nonpayment of accounts which are delinquent more than 15 days from the date of the wholesale distributor's, brew pub licensee's, or beverage manufacturer's notification, providing the requirements of this section have been met.

287 Effective Date. Section 283 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

288 Magistrates; Permitted to Continue Duties. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any magistrate appointed to that position before January 31, 2025 pursuant to RSA 491-B:1 as that law existed on January 31, 2025, may continue to exercise the duties of the magistrate, as provided by RSA 491-B:2 as that law existed on January 31, 2025, except no magistrate shall conduct bail hearings or make bail determinations. Any magistrate so appointed may continue to exercise those duties until the end of any term commenced before January 31, 2025, or the end of their employment with the judicial branch, whichever is earlier, but in no event later than January 1, 2030.

289 Effective Date. Section 288 of this act shall take effect September 21, 2025 at 12:01 a.m.

290 Superior Court; Commercial Court Docket. RSA 491:7-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows: 491:7-a Commercial Court Docket.

I. Without limiting the jurisdiction vested in any court in the state, the supreme court may establish by court order not inconsistent with this section, a commercial court docket in the superior court which shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine disputes identified in paragraph II.

II. The court shall have jurisdiction to hear:

(a) Commercial disputes when:

(1) The parties have consented to the jurisdiction of the commercial court docket by agreement or stipulation;

(2) At least one party is a "business entity," which means a corporation, a statutory trust, a business trust or association, a real estate investment trust, a common law trust, any other unincorporated business, including a partnership, whether a general or a limited liability partnership, or limited partnership, including a limited liability limited partnership, a limited liability company, a professional association, or a joint venture;

(3) No party is a consumer, which means an individual who purchases or leases merchandise primarily for personal, family, or household purposes;

(4) If money damages are sought, the amount in controversy exceeds \$50,000 or such other greater amount as the supreme court determines by rule; and

(5) The principal claim or claims arise from or involve one or more of the following:

(A) Claims arising from breach of contract or fiduciary duties, fraud, misrepresentation, business tort, or statutory violations arising out of business dealings or transactions.

(B) Claims arising from transactions under the Uniform Commercial Code.

(C) Claims arising from the purchase, sale, and lease of commercial real or personal property or security interests therein.

- (D) Claims related to surety bonds.
- (E) Franchisee/franchisor relationships and liabilities.
- (F) Malpractice claims of non-medical professionals in connection with rendering services to a business enterprise.
- (G) Real estate title petitions.
- (H) Shareholder derivative actions.
- (I) Commercial class actions.
- (J) Commercial bank transactions.
- (K) Actions relating to the internal affairs or governance; dissolution or liquidation rights obligations between and among owners, including shareholders, partners, or members; or liability or indemnity of managers, including officers, directors, managers, trustees, or members or partners functioning as managers, of corporations, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies or partnerships, professional associations, business trusts, joint ventures, or other business enterprises.
- (L) Business insolvencies and receiverships.
- (M) Other complex disputes of a business or commercial nature.
- (b) Appeals from decisions of local land use boards, including, but not limited to decisions of municipal planning boards, zoning boards, historic district commissions, and conservation commissions. All appeals to superior court filed pursuant to RSA 677 and all proceedings for such appeals, shall be assigned to the commercial court docket. The jurisdiction of this docket shall not include appeals of decisions by state agencies.
- (c) Any case formerly under the jurisdiction of the board of tax and land appeals, or any case where the principal claim or claims arise from or involve:
 - (1) Questions of taxation brought by a taxpayer.
 - (2) Appeals by municipalities relating to the equalized valuation of property determined by the commissioner of revenue administration pursuant to RSA 21-J:3, XIII. Any municipality aggrieved by its own equalized valuation as determined by the commissioner of revenue administration shall appeal to the superior court in writing within 30 days of notice of its final equalized valuation by the commissioner. The court shall hear and make a final ruling on such appeal within 60 days of its receipt by the board. Any further appeal shall be filed with the clerk of the supreme court within 20 days after the date the decision is issued by the superior court to the municipality. The supreme court shall give any appeal under this subsection priority in the court calendar.
 - (3) The condemnation of property for public uses and the assessment of damages therefor as provided in RSA 498-A.
 - (4) Orders for reassessment properly brought pursuant to RSA 71-B:16.

III. The court shall have the jurisdiction to hear all proceedings of any case for which it has jurisdiction, including motion practice, discovery, injunctive relief, alternative dispute resolution, and hearing on the merits with or without a jury.

IV. For any case heard pursuant to subparagraph II(b), the court shall hold a structuring conference within 30 days of its receipt of the notice of appeal. At the structuring conference the court shall set a deadline for the filing with the court of the certified record and shall schedule a hearing on the merits to be held within 60 days of receipt of the certified record. The court shall issue a decision on the merits within 60 days of the hearing. The court may extend any of the deadlines established in this paragraph upon agreement of the parties or for other good cause shown, but if the extension is based upon good cause, the court shall articulate in its order granting the extension the specific facts and circumstances that warrant the extension.

V. The presiding justice of the former business and commercial dispute docket and the presiding justice of the former land use review docket shall continue their respective appointments as justices of the commercial court docket. The governor with the consent of the executive council may appoint a third justice to the commercial court docket, who shall be qualified by reason of such person's knowledge and experience in tax law matters. This justice shall be an additional justice of the superior court, which shall increase by one the number of authorized justices of the superior court as provided in RSA 491:1. The chief justice of the superior court, following the appointment or designation of the initial third justice, may designate such additional justices to preside over commercial court docket cases, as necessary, based upon caseload, disqualification of the presiding justice, or efficient allocation of judicial resources.

VI. The justices of the commercial court docket shall be associate justices of the superior court and shall be entitled to the compensation and benefits provided to all such justices under applicable law, including, but not limited to, RSA 491-A:1 and RSA 100-C.

VII. The workload of the justices of the commercial court docket shall be the matters before that docket. The justices may be assigned to any other matter within the jurisdiction of the superior court or sit by designation on any other court in the same manner as any other associate justice of the superior court, as determined to be necessary by the chief justices of the superior and supreme court.

291 Superior Court; Justices. Amend RSA 491:1 to read as follows:

491:1 Justices. The superior court shall consist of a chief justice, appointed by the governor and council to a 5-year term, and [22] **24** associate justices. Said justices shall be appointed and commissioned as prescribed by the constitution and shall exercise the powers of the court unless otherwise provided. The chief justice shall be appointed from among the associate justices. In the event that the chief justice resigns as chief justice or is not reappointed at the expiration of the 5-year term, he or she may return to the position of associate justice, whether or not an associate justice vacancy then exists.

292 Repeal. RSA 491:7-b, relative to land use review docket, is repealed.

293 Chapter Name Change. The chapter name preceding RSA 354-A is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

LAWS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

294 Title and Purpose of Chapter. Amend RSA 354-A:1 to read as follows:

354-A:1 Title and Purposes of Chapter. This chapter shall be known as the “Law Against Discrimination.” It shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the public welfare, health and peace of the people of this state, and in fulfillment of the provisions of the constitution of this state concerning civil rights. The general court hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any of its inhabitants because of age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability or national origin are a matter of state concern, that such discrimination not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state and threatens the peace, order, health, safety and general welfare of the state and its inhabitants. ~~[A state agency is hereby created with power to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment, in places of public accommodation and in housing accommodations because of age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability or national origin as herein provided; and the commission established hereunder is hereby given general jurisdiction and power for such purposes.]~~ In addition, the **state departments and** agencies [and councils so created] shall exercise their authority to assure that no person be discriminated against on account of sexual orientation.

295 Definitions; Employer. Amend RSA 354-A:2, VII to read as follows:

VII. “Employer” does not include any employer with fewer than 6 persons in its employ, an exclusively social club, or a fraternal or religious association or corporation, if such club, association, or corporation is not organized for private profit, as evidenced by declarations filed with the Internal Revenue Service or for those not recognized by the Internal Revenue Service, those organizations recognized by the New Hampshire secretary of state. Entities claiming to be religious organizations, including religious educational entities, may file a good faith declaration with the ~~[human rights commission]~~ **department of justice** that the organization is an organization affiliated with, or its operations are in accordance with the doctrine and teaching of a recognized and organized religion to provide evidence of their religious status. “Employer” shall include the state and all political subdivisions, boards, departments, and commissions thereof.

296 Fair Housing; Exemptions. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 354-A:15, VIII(a)(3)(C) to read as follows:

(C) The housing facility or community complies with rules ~~[adopted by the commission]~~ for verification of occupancy, which shall:

297 Complaints; Pending Cases. RSA 354-A:21 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

354-A:21 Complaints; Pending Cases.

I. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory practice prohibited by this chapter may initiate a civil action for legal or equitable relief by filing a complaint with the superior court.

II. For any case pending before the state commission for human rights as of the effective date of this section, the person who initiated such case may refile the case in the superior court. Any filing fee normally charged shall be waived. Any applicable statute of limitations shall be considered tolled for the duration of the time that the case was pending before the commission for human rights.

298 Posting of Notices. Amend RSA 354-A:23 to read as follows:

354-A:23 Posting of Commission Notices. Every person, employer, employment agency, labor union, real estate agency and rental office subject to this chapter shall post in a conspicuous place or places on his premises a notice to be prepared or approved by the **department of justice** ~~[commission]~~, which shall set forth excerpts of this chapter and such other relevant information which the ~~[commission]~~ **department of justice** deems necessary to explain the chapter. Any employer, employment agency, real estate agency, rental office or labor union refusing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person.

299 Construction. Amend RSA 354-A:25 to read as follows:

354-A:25 Construction. No provision of this chapter shall be deemed to supersede any other provision of law for the protection of minors or for the regulation of the employment of minors. The provisions of this chapter shall be construed liberally for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed to repeal any of the provisions of the civil rights law or any other law of this state relating

to discrimination because of age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability or national origin[; but, as to acts declared unlawful by this chapter the procedure provided in this chapter shall, while pending, be exclusive and the final determination therein shall exclude any other action, civil or criminal, based on the same grievance of the individual concerned. If such individual institutes any action based on such grievance without resorting to the procedure provided in this chapter, such person may not subsequently resort to the procedure in this chapter, provided, however, that nothing in this section shall prevent any individual from applying for or receiving unemployment compensation while the procedure provided for in this chapter is pending or after the procedure provided in this chapter has been concluded. This section shall not prevent the commission for human rights from investigating and acting upon a complaint of discrimination when the complainant has also filed a claim for unemployment compensation in which the issue of illegal discrimination is raised].

300 Procedure on Public School Complaints. Amend RSA 354-A:28 to read as follows:

354-A:28 Procedure on Public School Complaints.

I. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory practice prohibited under RSA 354-A:27 may initiate a civil action in superior court against a school or school district for legal or equitable relief[, or file a complaint with the commission as provided in RSA 354-A:21]. The attorney general may also initiate such a civil action in superior court [or by complaint with the commission].

II. Any complaint filed with the commission pursuant to paragraph I shall comply with and be subject to the procedures outlined in this chapter, with the exception that such complaints may be removed to superior court at any time in compliance with RSA 508:4].

301 Change of School or Assignment. Amend RSA 193:3, IV(d) to read as follows:

(d) The decision by a school district or a public academy to deny enrollment of a non-resident pupil shall not be based, in whole or in part, on whether such pupil is a child with a disability as defined in RSA 186-C:2, I, or a child that requires an accommodation under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. If a parent or guardian believes the denial was based upon the child's disability, such parent may appeal the decision to the state board of education consistent with the provisions of RSA 21-N:11, III or file a complaint with the [state commission for human rights under RSA 354-A:28] **superior court**. The decision of a parent to enroll a child in a chartered public school shall not be subject to the provisions of this section.

302 Discrimination in Public Schools. Amend RSA 193:38 to read as follows:

193:38 Discrimination in Public Schools. No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in public schools because of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, familial status, disability, religion, or national origin, all as defined in RSA 354-A. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory practice prohibited under this section, including the attorney general, may initiate a civil action against a school or school district in superior court for legal or equitable relief[, or with the New Hampshire commission for human rights, as provided in RSA 354-A:27-28]. In this section, "race" means immutable traits associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles and "protective hairstyles" means hairstyles or hair type, including braids, locs, tight coils or curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, Afros, twists, and headwraps.

303 Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination. Amend RSA 193:40, III to read as follows:

III. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section, including the attorney general, may initiate a civil action against a school or school district in superior court for legal or equitable relief[, or with the New Hampshire commission for human rights as provided in RSA 354-A:34].

304 Discrimination Based on Protective Hairstyles. Amend RSA 275:37-e to read as follows:

275:37-e Discrimination Based on Protective Hairstyle. No person shall be subjected to discrimination in employment because he or she wears a protective hairstyle. In this section, "protective hairstyles" means hairstyles or hair type, including braids, locs, tight coils or curls, corn rows, Bantu knots, Afros, twists, and head wraps. A person subjected to discrimination based on wearing a protective hairstyle shall have a private cause of action [and shall be exempt from the jurisdiction of the human rights commission and the provisions of RSA 354-A]. This section shall not apply to those employed by the department of corrections.

305 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 354-A:2, II, relative to definition of commission.

II. RSA 354-A:3, relative to state commission for human rights.

III. RSA 354-A:4, relative to general powers and duties of the chair.

IV. RSA 354-A:5, relative to general powers and duties of the commission.

V. RSA 354-A:9, X and XI, relative to the definitions of conciliation and conciliation agreement.

VI. RSA 354-A:11, VII through IX regarding authority and responsibilities of the commission.

VII. RSA 354-A:18-a, relative to exemptions for protective hairstyles.

VIII. RSA 354-A:21-a, relative to choice of forum.

IX. RSA 354-A:22, relative to judicial review and enforcement.

X. RSA 354-A:24, relative to criminal penalty.

306 Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Dissolution.

I. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, effective on October 1, 2025, the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA), as created by RSA 71-B, shall be dissolved, without any further action, and the rights, powers, adjudicatory duties, and properties of the BTLA shall, on such date, be exercised, performed, owned, and held by the superior court system as established in RSA 491. All real estate, property rights, personal property, funds, moneys, revenues, receipts, contract rights, trust agreements, rights or interests of the BTLA in any trusts or trust property, or other intangible assets, equipment, or other ownership, possessory, or security interests or mortgages of any kind whatsoever, or any portion thereof, held by the BTLA, including funds previously appropriated by the state for the BTLA, shall be deemed for record notice and otherwise, as applicable, to belong to the superior court on the same basis and with the same interest as previously held by the BTLA, as applicable. Any and all obligations and liabilities of the BTLA shall become obligations and liabilities of the superior court. Any resolution taken, commitment made, or any other action made by the BTLA shall become resolutions of the superior court.

II. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all duly existing contracts, leases, trusts, or obligations of the BTLA that are in force immediately before the effective date of the dissolution of the BTLA shall be deemed to be the obligations of the superior court. No existing right or remedy under this section shall be lost, impaired or affected by this act. The superior court shall have authority to exercise all rights and enjoy all interests conferred upon the BTLA by the contracts, leases, or obligations.

III. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the transfer of the assets, liabilities, obligations and debt of the BTLA to the superior court under this act shall be effective upon dissolution of the BTLA and shall bind all persons with or without notice and without any further action or documentation. Without derogating from the foregoing, the superior court may, from time to time, execute and record and file for registration with any registry of deeds or the land court or with the secretary of state, as appropriate, a certificate confirming the superior court's ownership of any interest in real or personal property formerly held by the BTLA and transferred pursuant to the provisions of this act and establishing and confirming the limits of property so transferred.

IV. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this act shall not limit or impair the rights, remedies, or defenses of the state, the superior court, or the BTLA in or to any action or proceeding. Actions and proceedings against or on behalf of the BTLA shall continue unabated and, from and after the date of dissolution of the BTLA, may be completed against or by the superior court.

V. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all orders, rules and regulations duly made and all approvals duly granted by the BTLA, which are in force immediately before the effective date of this act, shall continue in force and the provisions thereof shall thereafter be enforced, until superseded, revised, rescinded or canceled, in accordance with law, by the superior court.

VI. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all books, papers, records, documents, equipment, buildings, facilities, cash and other property and assets, both personal and real, including all such property and assets held in trust, which on October 1, 2025, are in the custody of the BTLA shall be transferred to the superior court.

VII. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the term the 'Board of Tax and Land Appeals' or 'the BTLA', wherever either appears in a general or special law, except as they appear in this act, shall mean the 'superior court'; provided, however, that such change of reference shall not restrict or limit in any manner the exercise by the superior court of its rights, powers, adjudicatory duties or purposes, or to its ownership and holding of properties and assets under any provision of law applicable to the superior court, including without limitation the power of the superior court. The superior court shall not assume any statutory duty of the BTLA that conflicts with its role and functions as a court.

VIII.(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this section shall facilitate the orderly transfer of the proceedings, rules and regulations, property, and legal obligations of the following functions of state government from the BTLA to the superior court.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this section shall facilitate the orderly transfer of the employees, proceedings, rules and regulations, property and legal obligations of the following functions of state government from the BTLA to the superior court.

(c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the employees of the BTLA are hereby transferred to the superior court, without interruption of service, salary or compensation, or benefits, if any, notwithstanding any change in title or duties resulting from such reorganization, and without loss of accrued rights to holidays, sick leave, vacation and benefits. Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer upon an employee a right not held immediately before the date of said transfer, or to prohibit a reduction of salary grade, transfer, reassignment, suspension, discharge, layoff or abolition of position not prohibited before such date.

(d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all orders, rules and regulations duly made and all approvals duly granted by the BTLA, which are in force immediately before the effective date of this act, shall continue in force and shall thereafter be enforced, until superseded, revised, rescinded or canceled, in accordance with law, by the superior court.

(e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all books, papers, records, documents, equipment, buildings, facilities, cash and other property, both personal and real, including all such property held in trust, which immediately before the effective date of this act are in the custody of the BTLA shall be transferred to the superior court.

(f) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all duly existing contracts, leases, assets and obligations of the BTLA shall continue in effect but shall be assumed by the superior court. No existing right or remedy of any character shall be lost, impaired or affected by this act.

(g) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all transfers under this section shall be completed by October 1, 2025.

307 Superior Court; Receipt of Functions, Powers, Duties.

I. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all of the functions, powers, duties, records, personnel, and property of the BTLA established are hereby transferred, as of October 1, 2025, to the superior court.

II. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, existing rules, orders, and approvals of the BTLA which are associated with any functions, powers, and duties, transferred to the superior court, shall continue in effect and be enforced by the superior court until they expire or are repealed or amended in accordance with applicable law.

III. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the superior court may require any person or entity subject to its jurisdiction as a result of the BTLA's dissolution to appear before it in any proceeding, matter, or other similar appearance to continue matters that had been before the BTLA.

308 Housing Appeals Board; Positions Eliminated. Amend RSA 94:1-a, I(b) to remove the following positions from the subparagraph:

DD	Housing appeals board	member
DD	Housing appeals board	chair

309 Repeal. RSA 679, relative to the housing appeals board, is repealed.

310 Applicability. Upon the passage of this act, the housing appeals board shall cease to accept any new cases or cases eligible to be transferred before the board. The board shall cease and desist any and all activities within 60 days following the passage of this act.

311 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 21-I:108, II, relative to outreach and marketing of the Granite state paid family leave plan.

II. RSA 282-B:6, II relative to outreach and marketing of the Granite state paid family leave plan.

312 New Chapter; Office of State and Public Sector Labor Relations. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 273-D the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 273-E

OFFICE OF STATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR LABOR RELATIONS

273-E:1 Definitions.

In this chapter:

I. "Office" means the office of state and public sector labor relations created by RSA 273-E:2.

II. "Public employee labor relations board" means the board created by RSA 273-A:2.

III. "Personnel appeals board" means the board created by RSA 273-D:1, I.

IV. "Right to know ombudsman" means the position created by RSA 91-A:7-a.

273-E:2 The Office.

I. There is hereby created an office of state and public sector labor relations consisting of the public employee labor relations board, the personnel appeals board, and the right to know ombudsman. The purpose of the office is to consolidate the physical location of the public employee labor relations board, the personnel appeals board, and the right to know ombudsman and to have the public employee labor relations board provide administrative support to the personnel appeals board and the right to know ombudsman.

II. The public employee labor relations board shall be responsible for the operations of the office and shall provide the personnel appeals board and the right to know ombudsman with use of its hearing room for the conduct of official business. The public employee labor relations board shall also provide administrative support and workspace to the personnel appeals board and the right to know ombudsman to the extent of their respective budgets, the public employee labor relation board's available staff, and its other resources.

III. The public employee labor relations board, the right to know ombudsman, and the personnel appeals board shall have separate budgets organized under category 2 "Administration of Justice and Public PRTN" and department "Office of State and Public Sector Labor Relations."

IV. The public employee labor relations board shall continue to independently exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon it pursuant to RSA 273-A. The New Hampshire administrative rules Pub 100-300 shall remain in full force and effect.

V. The personnel appeals board shall continue to independently exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon it pursuant to RSA 273-D. The New Hampshire administrative rules Per 100-200 shall remain in full force and effect.

VI. The right to know ombudsman shall continue to independently exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon it pursuant to RSA 91-A:7-a. The New Hampshire administrative rules Rko 100-300 shall remain in full force and effect.

313 Definitions; Public Employee Labor Relations; Per Diem. Amend RSA 273-A:2, VII to read as follows:

VII. The members of the public employee labor relations board shall be paid ~~[\$50]~~ **\$250** a day and their necessary expenses while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

314 Office of Right-to-Know Ombudsman. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 91-A:7-a to read as follows:

There is hereby established the office of the right-to-know ombudsman to be administratively attached to the ~~[department of state under RSA 21-G:10]~~ **office of state and public sector labor relations under RSA 273-E. The right-to-know ombudsman shall be paid a stipend of \$200 in each biweekly state payroll cycle for such work performed outside of scheduled sessions. The right-to-know ombudsman shall also be paid \$400 for each day devoted to the work of the office and shall be reimbursed for travel, professional development, and other business-related expenses. The right-to-know ombudsman shall be paid \$50 per hour for time spent on the drafting of final decisions.** The ombudsman shall be appointed by the governor and council and shall have the following minimum qualifications:

315 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. 2022, 250:5, relative to the right-to-know ombudsman.

II. 2022, 250:6, relative to repealing certain provisions relative to the right-to-know ombudsman.

III. 2022, 250:7, relative to the effective date of the repeal of certain provisions of the right to know ombudsman.

316 Effective Date. Section 315 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

317 New Subparagraph; Termination of Tenancy; Expiration of Term. Amend RSA 540:2, II by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) For a lease or tenancy with an original term of 6 months or longer, or for a lease or tenancy with a term of less than 6 months that has been renewed to a total period of 6 months or longer, the lease or tenancy shall expire, provided that the landlord has given the tenant written notice at least 60 days before the termination date of the lease term, stating that the lease will not be renewed and the tenant must vacate the rental property at the end of the lease term.

318 Effective Date. Section 317 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

319 Public Health; Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Definitions; Alternative Treatment Center. Amend RSA 126-X:1, I to read as follows:

I. "Alternative treatment center" means a **domestic business corporation organized under RSA 293-A, a domestic limited liability company organized under RSA 304-C, or a not-for-profit [entity] voluntary corporation organized under RSA 292 that is** registered under RSA 126-X:7 **and** that acquires, possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, sells, supplies, and dispenses cannabis, and related supplies and educational materials, to qualifying patients, designated caregivers, other alternative treatment centers, and visiting qualifying patients.

320 Public Health; Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Departmental Administration; Alternative Treatment Centers; Application Form. Amend RSA 126-X:7, IV(a)(4) to read as follows:

(4) The name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and board member of the alternative treatment center. The board of directors **or board of managers, as applicable**, for the ~~[nonprofit]~~ **alternative treatment center** shall include at least one physician, advance practice registered nurse, or pharmacist licensed to practice in New Hampshire and at least one patient qualified to register as a qualifying patient. The majority of board members **or managers, as applicable**, shall be New Hampshire residents. A medical professional listed in this subparagraph may be a member of the alternative treatment center board **of directors or managers, as applicable**, but shall not maintain an ownership interest in the center.

321 Public Health; Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Alternative Treatment Centers; Requirements. Amend RSA 126-X:8, I to read as follows:

I. An alternative treatment center ~~[shall]~~ **may** be operated on a **for-profit or** not-for-profit basis for the benefit of its patients. An alternative treatment center need not be recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

322 New Paragraphs; Public Health; Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Alternative Treatment Centers; Requirements. Amend RSA 126-X:8 by inserting after paragraph XVIII the following new paragraphs:

XIX. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an alternative treatment center shall be subject to RSA 293-A if organized as a domestic business corporation, RSA 304-C if organized as a domestic limited liability company, and RSA 292 if organized as a voluntary corporation.

XX. An alternative treatment center organized as a voluntary corporation under RSA 292 may convert from a voluntary corporation under RSA 292 to either a domestic business corporation organized under RSA 293-A or a limited liability company organized under RSA 304-C in any of the following ways:

(a) By adopting a plan of entity conversion in accordance with RSA 293-A or RSA 304-C, as applicable, that includes a provision prohibiting the sale of memberships or shares to a foreign corporation for a period of 3 years, provided that each such conversion shall be authorized by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the board of directors at a meeting duly called for the purpose or by unanimous written consent.

(b) By adopting a plan of merger in accordance with RSA 293-A that includes a provision prohibiting the sale of memberships or shares to a foreign corporation for a period of 3 years, for which the domestic business corporation shall be the surviving entity, provided that, such merger shall be authorized by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the board of directors of the alternative treatment center at a meeting duly called for the purpose or by unanimous written consent.

(c) By adopting a plan of merger in accordance with RSA 304-C that includes a provision prohibiting the sale of memberships or shares to a foreign corporation for a period of 3 years, for which the domestic limited liability company shall be the surviving entity, provided that, such merger shall be authorized by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the board of directors at a meeting duly called for the purpose or by unanimous written consent.

XXI. Articles of entity conversion or articles of merger, as applicable, shall be signed and submitted to the secretary of state pursuant to RSA 293-A or RSA 304-C, as applicable, and the secretary of state shall approve all such filings submitted pursuant to this section.

XXII. The secretary of state shall certify such articles of entity conversion or articles of merger and shall provide them to the department. Upon receipt, the department shall update the existing licenses held by the converted or merged alternative treatment center.

XXIII. For the purposes of converting or merging an alternative treatment center pursuant to this section, notwithstanding any provision in the articles of agreement or alternative treatment center license applications to the contrary, the members of an alternative treatment center's board of directors may determine that a plan of entity conversion or merger is consistent with its corporate charter, and such voluntary corporation may surrender its articles of agreement in connection with the plan of entity conversion or merger.

323 Voluntary Corporations and Associations; Powers of Corporations; Change of Name; Amending Articles; Conversion and Merger. Amend RSA 292:7 to read as follows:

292:7 Change of Name; Amending Articles.

I. Any corporation now or hereafter organized or registered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and any existing corporation which may have been so organized or registered, may change its name, increase or decrease its capital stock or membership certificates, merge with or acquire any other corporation formed pursuant to this chapter, or amend its articles of agreement, by a majority vote of such corporation's board of directors or trustees, at a meeting duly called for that purpose, and by recording a certified copy of such vote in the office of the secretary of state and in the office of the clerk of the town or city in this state which is its principal place of business. In the case of a foreign nonprofit corporation registered in New Hampshire, a copy of the amendment or plan of merger, certified by the proper officer of the state of incorporation, shall be filed with the secretary of state, together with the fee provided in RSA 292:5. The surviving corporation in a merger shall continue to have all the authority and powers vested in the merging corporations, including any powers previously conferred upon them by the legislature.

II. An alternative treatment center registered pursuant to RSA 126-X and organized under this chapter may, pursuant to RSA 126-X:8, XX, convert to either a domestic corporation organized under RSA 293-A or a limited liability company organized under to RSA 304-C, and may merge with a domestic business corporation organized under RSA 293-A or a limited liability company organized under RSA 304-C.

324 New Subparagraph; New Hampshire Business Corporation Act; Domestication and Conversion; Entity Conversion Authorized. Amend RSA 293-A:9.50 by inserting after paragraph (f) the following new subparagraph:

(g) Alternative treatment centers registered pursuant to RSA 126-X and organized pursuant to RSA 292 may become a domestic corporation pursuant to a plan of conversion in accordance with RSA 126-X:8, XX and this subdivision. The alternative treatment center shall be deemed to be a domestic unincorporated entity for purposes of applying RSA 293-A:9.50 through RSA 293-A:9.56, except that approval of the conversion shall be as outlined in RSA 126-X:8, XX.

325 Limited Liability Companies; Statutory Conversions; Statutory Conversions of Other Business Entities to Limited Liability Companies. Amend RSA 304-C:149, I to read as follows:

I. Any other business entity, ***including alternative treatment centers pursuant to RSA 126-X:8, XX,*** may make a statutory conversion of its business organization form to the limited liability company business organization form under this act by complying with the requirements of this section and with applicable law governing the other business entity. ***Approval of a conversion of an alternative treatment center pursuant to this paragraph shall be as outlined in RSA 126-X:8, XX.***

326 New Paragraph; Limited Liability Companies; Statutory Conversions; Statutory Conversions of Other Business Entities to Limited Liability Companies; Approvals of Statutory Conversion. Amend RSA 304-C:149 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. In the case of the conversion of an alternative treatment center registered under RSA 126-X and organized pursuant to RSA 292, such conversion shall be approved by the board of directors in accordance with RSA 126-X:8, XX.

327 Town Property; Authority of Select Board. Amend RSA 41:11-a to read as follows:

41:11-a Town Property.

I. The ~~[selectmen]~~ **select board** shall have authority to manage all real property owned by the town and to regulate its use, unless such management and regulation is delegated to other public officers by vote of the town, or is governed by other statutes, including but not limited to RSA 31:112, RSA 35-B, RSA 36-A:4, and RSA 202-A:6.

II. The authority under paragraph I shall include the power to rent or lease such property during periods not needed for public use, provided, however, that any rental or lease agreement for a period of more than one year shall not be valid unless ratified by vote of the town.

III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, the legislative body may vote to ~~[authorize the board of selectmen]~~ **grant the select board the authority** to rent or lease any municipal property for a term of up to 5 years ~~[without further vote or ratification of the town]~~. Once adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the legislative body at any duly warned meeting, ~~[provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect]~~ **however, such rescission shall not terminate any existing leases.**

IV. The governing body may choose to send to the planning board a list of real property owned by the town and managed by the select board that is in their judgment appropriate for development for residential use. No property acquired under tax deed pursuant to RSA 80 shall be added to this list.

328 New Paragraph; Duties of the Planning Board. Amend RSA 674:1 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

VII. The planning board may vote to designate any property recommended to it as appropriate for development as a residential use by the select board pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, IV, as appropriate for development for residential use and forward a description of said property to the office of planning and development pursuant to RSA 12-O:55, VIII.

329 New Paragraph; Data and Information Services; Descriptions of Property to be Compiled. Amend RSA 12-O:55 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Pursuant to RSA 674:1, VII, compile descriptions of municipally and county-owned property determined to be appropriate for residential development by the select board as a residential use into a publicly available list of properties available for grant or loan funding pursuant to RSA 12-O:72-a.

330 New Section; Partners in Housing Program. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting after section 72 the following new section:

12-O:72-a Partners in Housing Program. The department shall establish a program, known as the partners in housing program, for the purpose of building workforce housing. Properties identified on the list created pursuant to RSA 674:1, VII shall be given priority for program funding. Available funding may be made by the department to housing developers to whom a municipality or county, pursuant to RSA 28:8-c, transfers ownership of the municipally or county-owned property for the purpose of residential development where at least 20 percent of the housing units to be developed will be affordable for a period of at least 20 years. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to implement the provisions of this section no later than December 1, 2026.

331 New Paragraphs; Power to Review Site Plans. Amend RSA 674:43 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. If the planning board has submitted a property description to the office of planning and development, then the local governing body may further vote to authorize that properties in the municipality on the list generated pursuant to RSA 12-O:55, VIII qualify for expedited review and approval pursuant to RSA 676:4, III.

VII. If the local legislative body of a municipality has by ordinance or resolution authorized minor site plan review pursuant to RSA 674:43, III, then all solely residential development projects proposing to construct workforce housing, as defined in RSA 674:58, IV, that are included on the list generated pursuant to RSA 12-O:55, VIII, may also qualify for expedited review and approval pursuant to RSA 676:4, III.

VIII. The local legislative body of a municipality may by ordinance or resolution adopt pattern zoning regulations to accelerate the construction of infill housing in neighborhoods. To meet the definition of infill housing, projects must be new residential development constructed on vacant lots interspersed among lots with existing, non-vacant development. Pattern zoning provides permit-ready designs with appropriate zoning and regulations to speed the process of building high quality infill housing that is compatible with existing homes in the neighborhood.

332 Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program Fund; Compilation of Property. Amend RSA 12-O:74 to read as follows:

12-O:74 New Hampshire Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program Fund. There is hereby established in the state treasury the New Hampshire housing champion designation and grant program fund, for the purpose of funding the grant programs established in RSA 12-O:72 and~~;~~ RSA 12-O:73, **and the compilation of municipally and county-owned property determined to be appropriate for residential development pursuant to RSA 12-O:72-a and 674:1, VII**. The fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department.

333 Effective Date. Sections 327 through 332 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

334 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Determination of Financial Ability. Amend RSA 604-A:2-c to read as follows:

604-A:2-c Determination of Financial Ability. The determination of a defendant's financial ability to obtain counsel shall be made by comparing the defendant's assets and incomes with the minimum cost of obtaining qualified private counsel. The defendant's assets shall include all real and personal property owned in any manner by the defendant, excluding only those assets which are exempt from attachment and execution under RSA 511:2. The defendant's income shall include all income, whether earned or not, from any source, unless exempt from attachment under any state or federal law, and shall be reduced only by the amount of expenses which are reasonably necessary for the maintenance of the defendant and his dependents. In determining a defendant's financial ability to obtain counsel, the rules adopted by the commissioner under RSA 604-A:10, IV, shall contain a method for considering the defendant's ability to borrow some or all of the necessary funds. ~~[The rules shall also consider the possibility of the defendant paying his counsel fees in periodic installments.]~~

335 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Appointment of Counsel for Nonpayment or Nonperformance; Cross-Reference Deleted. Amend RSA 604-A:2-f, IV to read as follows:

IV. When the court appoints counsel to represent a defendant in a proceeding under this section, the court shall grant the defendant relief from the obligation to repay the state for appointed counsel fees ~~[under RSA 604-A:9, I(b);]~~ if the court determines that the defendant is financially unable to repay.

336 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Commissioner of Administrative Services. Amend RSA 604-A:10, IV to read as follows:

IV. The commissioner of administrative services shall, with the approval of the attorney general, adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A, governing determinations of eligibility for payment of indigent defense expenditures~~;~~ ~~determinations of repayment schedules, financial and credit investigations;~~ and any other matters the commissioner deems necessary or advisable for the performance of duties under this chapter.

337 Directive; Department of Administrative Services. Upon the effective date of this act, the director of the department of administrative services shall immediately cease all active collection efforts related to any money owed under RSA 604-A:9. The director shall wind down all aspects of the program within a reasonable timeframe, and once the program is ended, the director shall have all records related to payment of money owed under RSA 604-A:9 destroyed.

338 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 604-A:2-a, relative to additional inquiry regarding appointed counsel for indigent criminal defendants.

II. RSA 604-A:2-d, relative to partial liability regarding appointed counsel for indigent criminal defendants.

III. RSA 604-A:9, relative to repayment regarding appointed counsel for indigent criminal defendants.

339 Cost of an Opportunity for an Adequate Education. Amend RSA 198:40-a, I-II to read as follows:

I. ~~[For the biennium]~~ Beginning July 1, ~~[2023]~~ **2026**, the annual cost of providing the opportunity for an adequate education as defined in RSA 193-E:2-a shall be as specified in paragraph II. The department shall adjust the rates specified in this paragraph in accordance with RSA 198:40-d.

II.(a) A cost of ~~[\$4,100]~~ **\$4,351** per pupil in the ADMR, plus differentiated aid as follows:

(b) An additional ~~[\$2,300]~~ **\$2,441** for each pupil in the ADMR who is eligible for a free or reduced price meal anytime during the determination year; plus

(c) An additional ~~[\$800]~~ **\$849** for each pupil in the ADMR who is an English language learner anytime during the determination year; plus

(d) An additional ~~[\$2,100]~~ **\$3,140** for each pupil in the ADMR who is receiving special education services anytime during the determination year.

340 Annual Adjustment. Amend RSA 198:40-d to read as follows:

198:40-d Annual Adjustment.

Beginning July 1, ~~[2024]~~ **2027**, and every year thereafter, the department of education shall adjust the following with an increase of 2 percent annually, **rounded up to the nearest whole dollar**:

I. Per pupil costs in RSA 198:40-a, II; **and**

II. ~~[Extraordinary need grant "grant floor," "grant ceiling," "factor," and "max grant" as defined in RSA 198:40-f, II, (a)-(d); and~~

~~HH:]~~ Chartered public school additional grants under RSA 194-B:11, I(b)(1)(A) and (B).

341 Extraordinary Need Grants. RSA 198:40-f is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:
198:40-f Extraordinary Need Grants.

I. In addition to aid for the cost of the opportunity for an adequate education provided under RSA 198:40-a, each year the commissioner shall calculate an extraordinary need grant for schools and provide that amount of aid to a municipality's school districts as follows:

(a) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-priced meal of \$1,700,000 or less shall receive \$11,730 per pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal in the municipality's ADMR.

(b) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal between \$1,700,001 and \$6,999,999 shall receive a grant equal to \$0.00221321 for each dollar of difference between its equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal and \$6,999,999, for each pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal in the municipality's ADMR.

(c) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal of \$7,000,000 or more shall not receive an extraordinary need grant.

II. In this section:

(a) "Grant floor" means \$1,700,000 in equalized valuation per free or reduced-price meal pupil.

(b) "Grant ceiling" means \$7,000,000 in equalized valuation per free or reduced-price meal pupil.

(c) "Factor" means \$0.00221321 for each dollar difference between equalized valuation per free or reduced-price meal pupil.

(d) "Maximum grant" means \$11,730 per free or reduced-price meal pupil.

III. The extraordinary needs grants shall be calculated using the formula described in paragraph I, however, beginning July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, the grant floor, grant ceiling, and maximum grant shall be increased by 2 percent. The factor shall be readjusted by taking the newly adjusted maximum grant and dividing by the difference between the grant floor and grant ceiling.

342 New Section; Fiscal Capacity Disparity Aid. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section 40-f the following new section:

198:40-g Fiscal Capacity Disparity Aid.

I. In addition to aid for the cost of the opportunity for an adequate education provided under RSA 198:40-a, each year the commissioner shall calculate a fiscal capacity disparity aid grant for schools and provide that amount of aid to a municipality's school districts as follows:

(a) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil of \$1,000,000 or less shall receive \$1,250 per pupil eligible in the municipality's ADMR.

(b) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil between \$1,000,001 and \$1,599,999 shall receive a grant equal to \$0.00208333 for each dollar of difference between its equalized valuation per pupil and \$1,599,999, for each pupil the municipality's ADMR.

(c) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil of \$1,600,000 or more shall not receive a fiscal capacity disparity aid grant.

II. In this section:

(a) "Grant floor" means \$1,000,000 in equalized valuation per pupil.

(b) "Grant ceiling" means \$1,600,000 in equalized valuation per pupil.

(c) "Factor" means \$0.00208333 for each dollar difference between equalized valuation per pupil.

(d) "Maximum grant" means \$1,250 per pupil.

III. The fiscal capacity disparity aid grants shall be calculated using the formula described in paragraph I, however, beginning July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, the grant floor, grant ceiling, and maximum grant shall be increased by 2 percent. The factor shall be readjusted by taking the newly adjusted maximum grant and dividing by the difference between the grant floor and grant ceiling.

343 Determination of Education Grants. Amend RSA 198:41, I(b)-(c) to read as follows:

(b) Subtract the amount of the education tax warrant to be issued by the commissioner of revenue administration for such municipality reported pursuant to RSA 76:8 for the next tax year; ~~and~~

(c) Add the municipality's extraordinary need grant pursuant to RSA 198:40-f; ~~and~~

(d) Add the municipality's fiscal capacity disparity aid grant pursuant to RSA 198:40-g; and
(e) For municipalities with a total ADMR of 5,000 or more, subtract the amount necessary to limit the total additional targeted aid to \$3,750 per pupil in the municipality's ADMR. For the purpose of this paragraph, additional targeted aid shall be the sum of a municipality's extraordinary needs grant and fiscal capacity disparity aid grant.

344 Effective Date. Sections 339 through 343 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

345 Instruction in National and State History, Government, and Civics. Amend RSA 189:11, II to read as follows:

II.(a) As a component of instruction under this section, a locally developed competency assessment of United States government and civics that includes, but is not limited to, the nature, purpose, structure, func-

tion, and history of the United States government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and noteworthy government and civic leaders, shall be administered to students as part of the required high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire.

(b) To be eligible for a graduation certificate, a student in a public, chartered public, non-public school, or a privately incorporated school that serves as a public school in the state, shall attain a locally sanctioned passing grade on the competency assessment, and ~~[a grade of]~~ **shall score** 70 percent or better on the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services. **Public and chartered public schools shall use the assessment provided by the department of education.**

(c) ~~[Schools are required to]~~ **The department of education shall** provide accommodations and may modify the naturalization examination for a child with a disability in accordance with the child's individualized education program.

(d) **Annually, the department shall publish a report of the state and district results of the civics assessment.**

(e) ~~[By June 30 of each year, each school district, chartered public or]~~ Non-public **schools** ~~[school, or a privately incorporated school that serves as a public school in the state;]~~ shall submit the results of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test to the department of education.

346 Appropriations; Department of Education; Computer Science Professional Development. Amend 2023, 79:81, I-III to read as follows:

I. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the purpose of encouraging New Hampshire certified educators to pursue eligible industry recognized credentials in the field of computer science. This appropriation shall not lapse **until June 30, 2025**. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

II. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$2,741,871 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the purpose of encouraging individuals holding an eligible industry recognized credentials to teach computer science or related courses of study in New Hampshire approved education programs. This appropriation shall not lapse **until June 30, 2025**. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

III. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$455,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the purpose of implementing the experiential robotics platform in all New Hampshire classrooms for grades 6-12 including, but not limited to the purchase of robotics kits from First New Hampshire Robotics, Experiential Robotics Platform, career and technical education of community college fabrication sites, and professional development delivery and support. The sum appropriated shall not lapse **until June 30, 2025**. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

347 Effective Date. Section 346 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

348 Motor Vehicles; Administration of Motor Vehicle Laws; Copies of Certificates and Motor Vehicle Records. Amend RSA 260:15, II to read as follows:

II. The department may issue a copy of any motor vehicle record upon the request of an insurance company or any other authorized agent, and notwithstanding RSA 91-A shall require payment by the insurance company or authorized agent of a fee of ~~[\$17]~~ **\$20**, which shall be deposited in the fire standards and training and emergency medical services fund established in RSA 21-P:12-d.

349 Motor Vehicles; Administration of Motor Vehicle Laws; Identification Cards. Amend RSA 260:21, V(a) to read as follows:

V.(a) The fee for such card shall be ~~[\$10]~~ **\$20** and is not refundable, except that no fee shall be charged to any person who, for reason of health or age, turns in his or her driver's license before the expiration date of such license. For purposes of this section, reasons of age shall be deemed to apply only to those persons over age 65. A person who requires a photo identification card only for voter identification purposes may obtain a voucher in the form provided for in subparagraph (b) from his or her town or city clerk or the secretary of state exempting the voter from the identification card fee. Upon presentation of the voucher to the division, the actual costs of issuing the card shall be paid by the secretary of state from the election fund established under RSA 5:6-d. An identification card paid for by the secretary of state shall be valid for voter identification purposes only, and the card, which shall be known as a voter identification card, shall be marked "for voter identification only."

350 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees. Amend RSA 261:20, I(a)-(i) to read as follows:

- (a) For filing an application for a first certificate of title, with or without a lienholder named, ~~[\$25]~~ **\$35**;
- (b) For a certificate of title after a transfer, with or without a lienholder named, ~~[\$25]~~ **\$35**;
- (c) For a duplicate certificate of title, ~~[\$25]~~ **\$35**;

- (d) For an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a distinctive certificate, [~~\$20~~] **\$40**;
- (e) For filing a notice of security interest, \$20;
- (f) For a certificate of search of the records of the division, for each name or identification number searched against, \$20;
- (g) For filing an assignment of security interest, \$2;
- (h) For issuing a distinctive New Hampshire number in place of a vehicle identification number, [~~\$30~~] **\$40**;
- (i) For issuing a salvage vehicle decal pursuant to RSA 261:22, IV, [~~\$50~~] **\$60**.

351 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Twenty-Day Registration. Amend RSA 261:57, I to read as follows:

I. Any resident of this state who intends to purchase a vehicle in another state or from another person or who is unable to register a vehicle because of limited hours of operation of the town clerk in the town where the person resides may apply to the division or its substation or authorized agent nearest his or her residence for a registration to drive said vehicle on the ways of the state in an unregistered condition. Said resident shall appear in person at the division or substation to obtain such registration and shall sign under penalty of perjury a statement that the vehicle meets all New Hampshire inspection requirements, and in the case of a person seeking an extension of his or her registration, that he or she was unable to register the vehicle because of the limited hours of the town clerk, before said registration may be issued. Said registration shall be valid for 20 days from the time it is issued. Application blanks and permits in the form prescribed by the director shall be designed, printed, and supplied to the substations by the division. The fee for the issuance of a registration shall be [~~\$10~~] **\$20**. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle on the ways of the state under a registration issued pursuant to this section unless said person has in his or her possession a valid bill of sale for the vehicle he or she is driving, or in the case of a person whose registration is extended, a copy of the form indicating he or she was unable to register because of the limited hours of the town clerk. No person shall make application for a 20-day registration on the same vehicle more than once within a 12-month period. Only 3 20-day registrations shall be issued on the same vehicle within a 12-month period.

352 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected. Amend RSA 261:141, III to read as follows:

III. Prorated fees:

- (a) For agricultural vehicles-~~[\$3.60]~~ **\$12**.
- (b) For each agricultural tractor-~~[\$1.80]~~ **\$12**.
- (c) For air compressors-~~[\$6]~~ **\$11**.
- (d) For cement mixers-~~[\$6]~~ **\$11**.
- (e) For saw rigs or log splitters-~~[\$6]~~ **\$11**.

(If the equipment cited in RSA 261:141, III(c)-(e), is towed exclusively within the limits of a single city or town, the state registration fee shall not be collected.)

- (f) For antique motorcycles-~~[\$2.40]~~ **\$12**.
- (g) For all motor vehicles other than those in RSA 261:141, I:
 0-3000 lbs. [~~\$31.20 (\$2.60 per month)~~] **\$42 (\$3.50 per month)**
 3001-5000 lbs. [~~\$43.20 (\$3.60 per month)~~] **\$48 (\$4 per month)**
 5001-8000 lbs. [~~\$55.20 (\$4.60 per month)~~] **\$66 (\$5.50 per month)**
 8001-73,280 lbs. [~~\$.96~~] **\$1.44** per hundred lbs. gross weight.

(h) Truck-tractors to be used in conjunction with a semi-trailer, gross weight shall include the weight of such tractors, the weight of the heaviest semi-trailer to be used therewith, and the weight of the maximum load to be carried thereby: up to 73,280 pounds [~~\$.96~~] **\$1.44** per 100 pounds gross weight, over 73,280 pounds-~~[\$1.44]~~ **\$2.40** shall be charged for each 100 pounds gross weight or portion thereof in excess of 73,280 pounds.

- (i) Each additional semi-trailer used in conjunction with such truck-tractor-~~[\$24.00]~~ **\$60**.

(j) For semi-trailers or automobile utility trailers (the weight of the trailer shall include the maximum load to be carried thereby):

- 0-1000 lbs. [~~\$ 3.00~~] **\$14**
- 1001-1500 lbs. [~~6.00~~] **\$16**
- 1501-3000 lbs. [~~12.00~~] **\$19**
- 3001-5000 lbs. [~~24.00~~] **\$36**
- 5001-8000 lbs. [~~36.00~~] **\$52**
- 8001-up [~~60~~] **\$0.95** per hundred lbs. gross weight.

(k) For each semi-trailer not registered in connection with a truck-tractor, the gross weight shall include the weight of such trailer and the weight of the maximum load to be carried thereby. The registration fee shall be [~~\$.60~~] **\$0.95** per hundred lbs. gross weight and such trailer shall not be registered for less than 10,000 lbs.

(l) For equipment mounted on trucks of which the equipment is an integral part of the unit and the truck is not capable of carrying freight or merchandise, the registration fee shall be 1/3 of the regular fee charged as determined by the corresponding weight chart specified in subparagraph (i).

(m) For each farm truck or combination of motor type tractor and semi-trailer used only for transportation of agricultural products produced on and meant to be used in connection with the operation of a farm or farms owned, operated, or occupied by the registrant, for the first 16,000 pounds-~~[\$24]~~ **\$36**, for any additional weight above 16,000 pounds-~~[\$74]~~ **\$1.44** per hundred weight.

(n) For each additional or extra semi-trailer used in connection with a motor type tractor registered for farm purposes-~~[\$24]~~ **\$36**. (In the event that a farm truck registered under the ~~[\$24]~~ **\$36** fee as provided in this subparagraph and thereafter registered for general use during the same registration year, such fee shall be applied toward the fee for such general registration.)

(o) For each motorcycle-~~[\$15]~~ **\$30**.

(p) For each moped-~~[\$3]~~ **\$14**.

(q) For each motor vehicle used exclusively as a school bus or owned by a religious organization or a non-profit organization used exclusively as a bus for the transportation of its members in connection with functions of the organization for which no fee is charged-~~\$24~~. (These provisions shall not apply to municipally owned vehicles nor to vehicles of public utilities or common carriers.)

(r) For antique motor vehicles other than antique motorcycles-~~[\$6]~~ **\$16**.

(s) For each road oiler or bituminous distributor-~~\$72~~.

(t) For plates issued to motor vehicle repairer-~~\$24~~ for the first set of plates, ~~[\$9]~~ **\$18** for each additional set of plates.

(u)(1) For each vehicle, owned by or under control of a manufacturer, wholesaler, or dealer-~~[\$200]~~ **\$400** for the first plate.

(2) For every additional plate-~~[\$12]~~ **\$24**.

(v) For motor vehicles owned by or under control of automotive recycling dealer licensee-~~[\$30]~~ **\$60** up to first 7,000 lbs., over 7,000 lbs.-~~[\$74]~~ **\$1.44** per 100 lbs. gross weight.

(w)(1) For motorcycles owned or under the control of a manufacturer or dealer in motorcycles-~~[\$12]~~ **\$24** for the first plate.

(2) For every additional plate-~~[\$3]~~ **\$6**.

(x)(1) For mopeds owned or under the control of a manufacturer or dealer in mopeds-~~[\$12]~~ **\$24** for the first plate.

(2) For every additional plate-~~[\$3]~~ **\$6**.

(y) For each transporter-~~[\$36]~~ **\$72**. Additional sets of number plates at ~~[\$18]~~ **\$36** per set.

(z) For each utility dealer registration-~~[\$36]~~ **\$72**. Additional number plates at ~~[\$9]~~ **\$18** per plate.

(aa) For ski area vehicles-~~\$6~~.

(bb) For construction equipment as defined by RSA 259:42-the exclusive fee charged by the state shall be ~~[\$25]~~ **\$40**.

(cc) For each vanity number plate set-~~[\$40]~~ **\$60**.

(dd) For agricultural/industrial utility vehicles the registration fee shall be 1/3 of the registration fee determined by the corresponding weight chart specified in subparagraph (g).

353 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected. Amend RSA 261:141, VII(f) to read as follows:

(f) For the replacement of lost or illegible validation sticker-~~[\$1]~~ **\$5**.

354 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected. Amend RSA 261:141, IX to read as follows:

IX. For every certified copy of and duplicate of a certificate of registration-~~[\$15]~~ **\$20**.

355 Motor Vehicles; Drivers' Licenses; Driver's License Fees. Amend RSA 263:42, II-IV-a to read as follows:

II. For every certified copy of a registration, license, or driving record, ~~[\$15]~~ **\$20**, except that the commissioner shall waive the fee for local, state, and federal law enforcement and criminal justice agencies requesting such information for investigative purposes and may, for good cause, waive the fee in cases involving other government agencies or the public defender if the commissioner determines that such a waiver is in the public interest.

III. No fee shall be charged for a driver's license issued to a disabled veteran who because of being an amputee or a paraplegic has received a motor vehicle from the United States government. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to a veteran who, because of a disability incurred in, or aggravated by such service, and upon satisfactory proof that the veteran is evaluated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled from such service-connected disability.

IV. A duplicate copy of a photographic license or a new license with a different classification because of a commercial driver license disqualification may be issued for a fee of ~~[\$10]~~ **\$20**. For the purpose of this chapter, the term "duplicate copy" shall mean an additional license containing an indicator that the license is a duplicate. A new photograph need not be taken.

IV-a. For a new driver's license because of a change of address, ~~[\$3]~~ **\$10**.

356 Vanity Number Plates; Fees. Amend RSA 261:89 to read as follows:

261:89 Vanity Number Plates. The director is hereby authorized to design and to issue, under such rules as the director deems appropriate, vanity number plates to be used on motor vehicles in lieu of other number

plates. Such number plates shall be of such design and shall bear such letters or letters and numbers as the director shall prescribe, but there shall be no duplication of identification. Such number plates or a changeable designation of the effective period thereof, as the director shall determine, shall be issued only upon application therefor and upon payment of a special vanity plate service fee of [~~\$40~~] **\$60**, said special fee to be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee and any other number plate manufacturing fee otherwise required by law for the particular vehicle. Plates shall be renewed on an annual basis for [~~\$40~~] **\$60** per set. All special fees collected under this section shall be paid to the state treasurer and distributed as provided by RSA 263:52. Upon rejection of an application for vanity number plates, the director shall refund or credit the collected special vanity plate service fee. The director shall recall any vanity number plates that have been issued which do not conform to applicable law and rules, regardless of when the plates were issued. Any person whose application for vanity number plates has been rejected or whose vanity number plates have been recalled shall be issued a number plate of the same classification as the plate that had been requested or recalled. The prorated by month portion of the special vanity plate service fee shall be refunded or credited to the person whose vanity number plates have been recalled.

357 Vanity Plates; Fee Collection. Amend RSA 261:141, VII(d) to read as follows:

(d) For vanity plate service fee-~~[\$40]~~ **\$60**.

358 Driver Training Fund; Application of Vanity Plate Fee. Amend RSA 263:52, II to read as follows:

II. The [~~\$40~~] **\$60** vanity plate service fee and the fee for renewal of vanity number plates shall automatically be credited to the driver training fund until all fees in such fund equal the amount of money estimated by the general court as available for expenditure for course materials, licensing of schools, and certification services in connection with driver training from that fund for that fiscal year. Once the driver training course materials, licensing of schools, and certification services have been funded in accordance with the legislative estimates for the current fiscal year, the next 1.5 million dollars shall be transferred to the department of safety as restricted revenue, thereafter the balance of all such fees shall be transferred to the general fund and shall be available as unrestricted revenue.

359 Effective Date. Sections 348 through 358 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

360 Nonresident Who Establishes a Residency in the State. Amend RSA 263:35 to read as follows:

263:35 Nonresident Who Establishes a Residency in the State.

I.(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 261:44 or any other law to the contrary, any nonresident driver of a motor vehicle who holds a valid driver's license in another jurisdiction, upon the establishment of a bona fide residency in this state, shall have a maximum of 60 days from the date his or her residency was established to obtain a driver's license issued by the state of New Hampshire; provided that H-2A temporary agricultural workers satisfying the requirements under RSA 263:35-a shall have a maximum of 300 days.

(b) *An individual subject to subparagraph (a), who ceases to be a resident of this state within 60 days of establishing a bona fide residency and has not yet obtained a driver's license issued by the state of New Hampshire, shall notify the director of their departure from the state.*

(c) *A resident subject to subparagraph (a), whose out-of-state driver's license expires or is relinquished after becoming a resident of this state shall notify the director.*

II. *The director shall notify any individual in violation of paragraph I who is more than 30 days past a deadline provided in this section. The notification shall be sent to the in-state address and out-of-state address, if available. The director shall begin sending such notifications within one year of the effective date of this section.*

III. *The director, for good cause shown, may grant an extension of a deadline in this section to any individual.*

361 New Subparagraph; Centralized Voter Registration Database; Information Sharing. Amend RSA 654:45, IV(b) to read as follows:

(b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of the department of safety and the federal Social Security Administration as are required by law, and with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this purpose, the voter registration record database may be linked to the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency or division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the accuracy of the information contained in the voter database. The link authorized by this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles; ***provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall authorize the release of information from the voter database necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II.*** The commissioner of safety may authorize the release of information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent that the information is

necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records and to the extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies. The commissioner of safety and the secretary of state are authorized to enter into an agreement that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those services. The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to pay the cost for the services. The system shall facilitate the identification and correction of voter registration records whenever a registered voter has died or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the same individual to the department of safety.

362 Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Abatement Fund; Definitions. Amend RSA 125-S:2 to read as follows:

125-S:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Department" means the department of environmental services.

II. ~~["Motor vehicle inspection fee" means the fee collected by the department of safety pursuant to RSA 266:2-~~

~~HH-]~~ "Mobile source" means, for the purposes of this chapter, any motor vehicle registered for on-road use by the department of safety, division of motor vehicles.

363 Inspection; Power Unit and Trailer. Amend RSA 266:18-d, III to read as follows:

III. Vehicles so certified include the power unit and trailer. The vehicle shall be certified upon submission to the department of documentation satisfactory to the department from the manufacturer attesting that the vehicle is capable of safely carrying the additional weight. Such attestation shall be required upon the first application for certification and a new attestation shall be required at any time when the configuration of the vehicle relative to power unit, axles, springs, or other safety items that could affect the vehicle's ability to qualify for an excess weight certification is altered. Such attestation shall designate the maximum safe gross weight for the vehicles as determined by the components and the summation of the manufacturer's axle design limits for each axle of the vehicle ~~[The power unit and trailer shall be required at all times to have a current inspection sticker or decal from an official inspection station].~~

364 Inspection; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 266:18-d, VI to read as follows:

VI. The commissioner or his designee may revoke or suspend any additional registration granted pursuant to paragraph V of any vehicle or vehicles which are being driven in violation of the limits established by RSA 266:18-b or any other provision of law as evidenced by a record of such violations. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A pertaining to the procedures for such revocation or suspension and the application~~;~~ and certification~~;~~ and inspection~~]~~ process for additional truck weights, as well as procedures to become certified as a vehicle inspector for additional weights.

365 Inspection; Motorcycle Noise. Amend RSA 266:59-a to read as follows:

266:59-a Motorcycle Noise Levels.

I. No person shall operate in this state any motorcycle which produces a sound level in excess of the following decibels, when measured in accordance with the provisions of the SAE International Recommended Practice SAE J2825, "Measurement of Exhaust Sound Pressure Levels of Stationary On-Highway Motorcycles":

(a) For all motorcycles, 92 decibels while the engine is operating at idle speed; or

(b) For motorcycles with less than 3 or more than 4 cylinders, 96 decibels while the engine is operating at 2,000 revolutions per minute or 75 percent of maximum engine speed, whichever is less; or

(c) For 3 and 4 cylinder motorcycles, 100 decibels while the engine is operating at 5,000 revolutions per minute or 75 percent of maximum engine speed, whichever is less.

~~[H. No person shall pass for the purposes of the inspection required by RSA 266:1 any motorcycle which produces a sound level in excess of the following decibels, when measured in accordance with the provisions of the SAE International Recommended Practice SAE J2825, "Measurement of Exhaust Sound Pressure Levels of Stationary On-Highway Motorcycles":~~

~~(a) For all motorcycles, 92 decibels while the engine is operating at idle speed; or~~

~~(b) For motorcycles with less than 3 or more than 4 cylinders, 96 decibels while the engine is operating at 2,000 revolutions per minute or 75 percent of maximum engine speed, whichever is less; or~~

~~(c) For 3 and 4 cylinder motorcycles, 100 decibels while the engine is operating at 5,000 revolutions per minute or 75 percent of maximum engine speed, whichever is less.~~

~~HH-]~~ II. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$300.

366 Inspection; Odometers. Amend RSA 266:60 to read as follows:

266:60 Standards for Odometers. No passenger motor vehicle designated as a 1972 or later model which is manufactured after January 1, 1972, shall be registered in this state unless it is equipped with a tamper-resistant odometer designed with the intent to reduce the likelihood of unlawful tampering with the mileage reading thereon. The director may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 260:5 establishing standards for such devices, which standards shall be consistent with provisions of federal law, if any, relating thereto. The director shall

not require, as a condition precedent to the initial sale of a vehicle, ~~[the inspection]~~ certification or other approval of such odometer if such device or equipment has been certified by the manufacturer as complying with federal or state law or rule.

367 Street Rod Equipment; Inspection. Amend RSA 266:13, I to read as follows:

I. A vehicle registered as a street rod shall be equipped as prescribed by RSA 266 ~~[and state of New Hampshire official inspection station rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A]~~ as ~~[they]~~ *it* may be applicable to vehicles whose model year is prior to the year 1949.

368 Custom Vehicles; Inspection. Amend RSA 266:115, I to read as follows:

I. A vehicle registered as a custom vehicle shall be equipped as prescribed by RSA 266 ~~[and state of New Hampshire official inspection station rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A]~~, as ~~[they]~~ *it* may be applicable to such vehicles.

369 Sale of Unsafe Used Motor Vehicles; Inspection. Amend RSA 358-F:2 to read as follows:

358-F:2 Inspection. Before selling to any customer any used motor vehicle which is ***believed by the customer to be*** unsafe for operation upon the highways pursuant to ~~[RSA 266:8]~~ ***RSA 266***, the dealer shall, upon the request of the customer, conduct or have conducted a safety inspection of such vehicle. If the vehicle is found to be unsafe for operation, the dealer may sell the vehicle to the customer without correcting the defects, but only if the dealer presents to the customer at the time of sale a notice which states: This motor vehicle ~~[will not pass a New Hampshire inspection and]~~ is unsafe for operation ***upon the highways pursuant to RSA 266***. The following defects must be corrected ~~[before an inspection sticker will be issued]~~. The dealer shall list all ~~[inspection]~~ defects under this statement and specify the date on which the inspection was conducted and the person who performed the inspection. The dealer may make a reasonable charge for conducting the inspection.

370 Sale of Unsafe Used Motor Vehicles; Remedy. Amend RSA 358-F:4 to read as follows:

358-F:4 Remedy. A failure of any dealer to comply with the provisions of this section, or a concealment by any dealer of any defect which was discovered, or should have been discovered, during the inspection ~~[required by]~~ ***requested under*** RSA 358-F:2 is an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning of RSA 358-A:2. Any right or remedy set forth in RSA 358-A may be used to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

371 Repeal. The following are repealed:

- I. RSA 125-S:4, relative to the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.
- II. RSA 260:6-a, relative to administrative review of sanctions against inspection stations.
- III. RSA 260:6-b, relative to point system for automobile dealer and inspection station violations.
- IV. RSA 266:1, relative to inspection authorized.
- V. RSA 266:1-a, relative to state police duties relative to vehicle inspection.
- VI. RSA 266:1-b, relative to inspection of trailers.
- VII. RSA 266:2, relative to fees.
- VIII. RSA 266:3, relative to inspection of spare tires.
- IX. RSA 266:3-a, relative to rust.
- X. RSA 266:4, relative to repair of defective equipment.
- XI. RSA 266:5, relative to penalties for failing to obey inspection requirements.
- XII. RSA 266:6, relative to driving of uninspected vehicles.
- XIII. RSA 266:8, relative to sales of unsafe vehicles.
- XIV. RSA 266:59-b, relative to emission control equipment.
- XV. RSA 266:78-o, relative to emergency and warning lights; duties of official inspection stations.

372 Effective Date. Sections 362 through 371 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

373 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Program; State and Federal Funding. Amend RSA 228:114 to read as follows:

228:114 State and Federal Funding.

I. Any public-private partnership projects utilizing federal or state funding shall be approved as part of the state 10-year transportation improvement program in accordance with RSA 240.

II. ***All proceeds or revenues to the state derived from public-private partnerships and intended for payment to the department of transportation shall be credited to the department of transportation, restricted in accordance with the approved public-private partnership agreement, continuously appropriated, and non-lapsing.***

374 Fish and Game; Gifts, Donations, and Raffles. Amend RSA 206:33-a to read as follows:

206:33-a Gifts, ~~[and]~~ Donations, ***and Raffles***; Account Established.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, individual gifts and donations not exceeding \$2,500 in value in a year may be received by the fish and game department with the consent of the commission and without the approval of the governor or the governor and council. Individual gifts and donations exceeding \$2,500 in value in a year may be received by the fish and game department with the consent of the commission and with the approval of the governor and council.

I-a. The fish and game department is authorized to conduct raffles for fundraising purposes. Revenue received shall be credited to the gifts, donations, and raffles account established in RSA 206:33-a, II.

II. There is established an account within the fish and game fund to be known as the gifts, ~~and~~ donations, **and raffles** account. Moneys in the gifts and donations account are nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the fish and game department. All gifts and donations shall be deposited in this account, except gifts and donations made to the department in support of a specific program that has an established dedicated account in title XVIII which shall be deposited into the appropriate dedicated account and expended in accordance with the purpose of the dedicated account.

III. This section shall not apply to gifts, grants, bequests, or donations received pursuant to RSA 206:33-c or RSA 212-B:6.

375 Fish and Game; Gifts, Donations, and Raffles. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b)(231) to read as follows:

(231) Moneys deposited in the fish and game department gifts, ~~and~~ donations, **and raffles** account under RSA 206:33-a.

376 Pheasant License Revenues. Amend RSA 206:35-a to read as follows:

206:35-a Pheasant License Revenues. The state treasurer shall establish a separate account to which shall be credited all moneys collected by the fish and game department from issuance of pheasant licenses under RSA 214:9, X. The moneys in said account shall be used only for purchase or propagation of pheasants, **as well as for program management and implementation**, and is hereby appropriated for said purposes. Said funds shall be expended for the purposes hereof as determined by the executive director with the approval of the commission. The moneys in said account shall be nonlapsing.

377 Fisheries Habitat Fee. Amend RSA 214:1-g to read as follows:

I. A ~~one dollar~~ **\$5** fisheries habitat fee shall be required to be paid by all persons 16 years of age or older, in addition to each applicable fishing or combination license required by Title XVIII, in order to take fish in the fresh waters of this state. **The \$5 fee shall be credited as \$4 of unrestricted revenue to the fish and game fund and \$1 to the fisheries habitat account under RSA 214:1-g, II.** This paragraph shall not apply to any person who takes fish under a complimentary license, excluding any administrative fee, issued pursuant to RSA 214:3, RSA 214:7-a, RSA 214:13, RSA 214:13-b, or RSA 214:13-c, or a lifetime license issued pursuant to RSA 214:9-c that was purchased in a prior calendar year.

II. The state treasurer shall establish a separate nonlapsing account within the fish and game fund, to be known as the fisheries habitat account, to which ~~shall be credited all~~ **a portion of the** fees collected under RSA 214:1-g, I **shall be allocated**. The state treasurer may accept public and private grants and donations for deposit into the account. **Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each year thereafter, any amount in this account in excess of \$750,000 at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the fish and game fund.**

378 Game Management Account Established; Report. Amend RSA 206:34-b, I to read as follows:

I. The state treasurer shall establish a separate nonlapsing account within the fish and game fund, to be known as the game management account. Each month the department shall determine the number of licenses, applications, or permits sold for moose, bear, turkey, and waterfowl and, for each, transfer \$10 to the game management account. The moneys in this account shall be used exclusively for the implementation of a comprehensive population and habitat management program, including research and management, protection, education, and outreach for game as defined in RSA 207:1, IX, fur-bearing animals as defined in RSA 207:1, VIII, and migratory game birds as defined in RSA 209:5 to include waterfowl, snipe, and woodcock. Funds in the game management account are hereby continually appropriated for said purposes. Said funds shall be expended for the purposes of this section as determined by the executive director with approval of the commission. **Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each year thereafter, any amount in this account in excess of \$750,000 at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the fish and game fund.**

379 Wildlife Habitat License. Amend RSA 214:1-f, V to read as follows:

V. The state treasurer shall establish a separate nonlapsing account within the fish and game fund, to be known as the wildlife habitat account, to which shall be credited all fees collected under RSA 214:9, XV from the sale of wildlife habitat licenses. The state treasurer may accept public and private grants and donations into the account. **Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each year thereafter, any amount in this account in excess of \$750,000 at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the fish and game fund.**

380 Application; Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses. Amend RSA 214:9 to read as follows:

XV. If the applicant wishes to take wild animals, excluding fish and marine species, or wild birds, a fee set by the executive director pursuant to RSA 206:10, I, and the agent shall thereupon issue a wildlife habitat license as provided in RSA 214:1-f. For any year in which a license is issued, the agent shall be entitled to retain a portion of the fee as set by the executive director pursuant to RSA 206:10, I for each wildlife habitat

license sold and all licenses sold at the department headquarters or any subagency thereof shall retain the same portion of the fee which, notwithstanding RSA 214:1-f, V, shall be credited to the general fish and game fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be no agent fee for a wildlife habitat license issued pursuant to RSA 214:1-f. ***The wildlife habitat fee shall be set no less than \$5, with \$2.50 credited to the wildlife habitat account established under RSA 214:1-f and the remainder credited to the fish and game fund.***

381 Transfers to Fish and Game Fund.

I. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any amounts in excess of \$750,000 in the fisheries habitat account established under RSA 214:1-g, II, shall be transferred to the fish and game fund on June 30, 2025.

II. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any amounts in excess of \$750,000 in game management account established under RSA 206:34-b, I, shall be transferred to the fish and game fund on June 30, 2025.

III. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any amount remaining in the fish food sales revenue account established under RSA 206:35-c, shall be transferred to the fish and game fund on June 30, 2025.

382 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 206:35-c, relative to the fish food sales revenue account.

II. RSA 6:12, I(b)(182), relative to the fish food sales revenue account.

383 Effective Date.

I. Sections 381 and 382 shall take effect June 30, 2025.

II. Sections 377 and 380 shall take effect January 1, 2026.

384 New Hampshire Retirement System; Membership; Division of Fire Safety. Amend RSA 100-A:3, III-c to read as follows:

III-c. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 100-A:1, VIII, any permanent fireman who has been a group II member and who has 10 years' fire service experience, or any person included in the definition of "fire service personnel" as defined in RSA 21-P:25, II(c) who has 10 years' fire service experience, who is or becomes the director of the division of fire safety, the director of the division of homeland security and emergency management, the director of the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services, any fire instructor, supervisor, instructor, or other technical specialist who has hazardous materials, firefighting, or rescue training functions and who has as a job requirement satisfied the fire standards and training commission's entrance and certification requirements for physical condition, education, and training shall be construed to be a permanent fireman for the purposes of membership in group II and shall remain in the system for the duration of service in that capacity with the fire standards and training commission ***or the division of fire safety.***

385 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 284:45, VI(a)(10), relative to allowing a licensed lottery retailer to allow the sale of keno games in a city or town that has voted to allow for the operation of keno games.

II. RSA 284:45, VI(b), relative to the requirement that cities and towns document the keno games they allow to operate.

III. RSA 284:51, relative to the local option allowing cities and towns to vote to allow the operation of keno games in their communities.

386 New Paragraphs; Commissioner's Warrant. Amend RSA 76:8 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraphs:

IV. Until June 30, 2027, school district appropriation amounts, less facilities acquisition and construction, authorized in paragraph III and reported pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, shall not be more than the previous year's appropriation, less facilities acquisition and construction, times the previous 5 years average Consumer Price Index pursuant to paragraph VI.

(a) After June 30, 2027, the school district appropriation amount, less facilities acquisition and construction, authorized in paragraph III shall not be more than the greater of the following:

(1) The 5-year average percent change in ADMR used for the purposes of calculating adequate education grants pursuant to RSA 198:40-a applied to the previous year's appropriation, less facilities acquisition and construction, or

(2) The 5-year average appropriation, less facilities acquisition and construction.

(b) School districts seeking appropriations, less facilities acquisition and construction, to assess local property taxes in excess of paragraph IV, as applicable, shall do so by a 2/3 majority vote of their legislative body on each vote or warrant article in excess of the appropriation determined in paragraph V. The vote to exceed the excess shall not be a voice vote.

(c) Districts seeking emergency appropriations shall follow the provisions of RSA 197:3.

V. Within 45 days after the reported appropriation amounts are submitted pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall notify the school board of any excess appropriations not made in accordance with RSA 76:8, IV and delete those appropriations when computing district taxation pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, IV.

VI. Previous 5 years average Consumer Price Index shall be calculated by using the All Urban Consumers, Northeast Region, using the “services less medical care services” special aggregate index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. The average annual change shall be calculated using the 5 calendar years ending 18 months before the start of the fiscal year.

387 Public School Infrastructure Fund. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 198:15-y, III to read as follows:

III. The public school infrastructure commission may authorize the department of education to fund expenditures ~~[with approval of the fiscal committee of the general court]~~ for the following purposes:

388 Education; Special Education; Program Approval, Monitoring, and Corrective Action. Amend RSA 186-C:5, IX to read as follows:

IX. The department, with input from the advisory committee on the education of children/students with disabilities, shall select and contract with an independent, nationally recognized organization in program evaluation and quality assurance to evaluate in 2010, 2015, and decennially thereafter, the effectiveness of the program approval and monitoring system, including whether it is carrying out activities in RSA 186-C:5 in an efficient manner. Such organization shall submit recommendations for any improvements to the commissioner, the state board of education, the governor, and the general court within 90 days of completing the program evaluation. On or before September 1, 2013, the department shall submit a written response to the report submitted by the organization that conducted the 2012 independent evaluation. The written response shall include a detailed plan for how the department will address the areas identified as needing improvement and the recommendations made in the initial evaluation required under this section. The written response shall include specific steps the department plans to take, along with a timeline for each step. The written response shall also provide an explanation for any actions the department will not implement or complete during the plan’s timeframe. On or before December 30, 2013 and June 30, 2014, the department shall submit a report of its progress toward completing its plan. The plan and reports shall be submitted to the governor, to the chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction over education policy, to the state advisory committee for the education of children with disabilities established in RSA 186-C:3-b, and to the state board of education. For the 2015 evaluation, the department shall invite the same organization that conducted the 2012 evaluation to respond to a request for proposals. The 2015 evaluation shall include feedback on the steps the department has taken in response to the recommendations in the 2012 report. The department shall provide unimpeded access to all documents requested by the organization, except as otherwise required by law. ***For the 2025 evaluation, the department may utilize the Special Education Dispute Resolution performance audit and the Special Education performance audit from the audit division of the office of legislative budget assistant of the New Hampshire general court to meet this requirement.***

389 Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18, III(a)-(b) to read as follows:

III.(a) The ~~[state board of education through the commissioner,]~~ department of education~~;~~ shall distribute aid available under this paragraph as entitlement to such school districts as have a special education pupil for whose costs they are responsible, for whom the costs of special education in the fiscal year exceed 3 ***and*** 1/2 times the ~~[estimated]~~ ***most current*** state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution. ~~[If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special education aid in accordance with this section is insufficient therefor, the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally based on entitlement among the districts entitled to a grant.]~~ ***If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special education aid in accordance with this section is insufficient therefor, the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally based on entitlement among the districts entitled to a grant, provided that the department of education shall distribute to the school district not less than 80 percent of the district’s entitlement in the fiscal year.*** ~~[If there are unexpended funds appropriated under this paragraph at the end of any fiscal year, such funds shall be distributed for court-ordered placements and episodes of treatment under RSA 186-C:19-b.]~~ The state may designate up to \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated as required by this paragraph, for each fiscal year, to assist those school districts which, under guidelines established by rules of the state board of education, may qualify for emergency assistance to mitigate the impact of special education costs. The state may designate up to an additional \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated under this paragraph for each fiscal year for any community of 1,000 or fewer residents to mitigate the impact of special education costs when emergency assistance is necessary to prevent significant financial harm to such district or community. Upon application to the commissioner of education, and approval by the commissioner, such funds may be accepted and expended by school districts in accordance with this chapter; provided, however, that if a school district has received emergency assistance funds for certain children with disabilities, it shall not receive special education aid for those same children with disabilities. If any of the funds designated for emergency assistance under this paragraph are not used for such emergency assistance purposes, the funds shall be used to assist school districts in meeting special education cost increases in their special education programs as provided by this paragraph.

(b) The school district shall be liable for 3 **and** 1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution, plus 20 percent of the additional cost, up to 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution.

390 Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18, IV to read as follows:

IV. ~~[The state shall appropriate an amount for each fiscal year to assist special education programs that are statewide in their scope, and that meet the standards for such programs established by the state board of education. Funds under this paragraph shall be administered and distributed by the state board of education through the commissioner.]~~ ***The amount necessary to fund special education aid under this section is hereby appropriated to the department. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant to satisfy the state's obligation under this section.***

391 New Hampshire Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Established. Amend RSA 6:38, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established in the office of the treasurer the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund which shall be kept distinct and separate from all other funds. Annual assessments, less any annual administrative costs received from the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan established under RSA 195-H, ***and less \$15,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$15,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, which shall be allocated as state support to the university system of New Hampshire,*** shall be credited to the trust fund to provide scholarships for the benefit of residents of the state pursuing programs of study at eligible educational institutions within the state.

392 Agency Directive; Department of Health and Human Services. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department of health and human services shall not enroll any new participants into the state loan repayment program (SLRP). The department may continue to fund existing agreements with existing participants who enrolled in the SLRP prior to the effective date of this section.

393 Department of Health and Human Services; Contracts. All department of health and human services contracts or contract amendments shall include a provision requiring the contractor to comply with the patients' bill of rights as applicable pursuant to RSA 151:21.

394 Applicability. Section 393 of this act shall apply to contracts or contract amendments entered into on or after the effective date of that section.

395 Repeal. Section 393 of this act, relative to department of health and human services contracts, is repealed.

396 Effective Date.

I. Section 395 of this act shall take effect November 30, 2026.

II. Sections 393 and 394 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

397 New Subparagraphs; County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitation on Payments. Amend RSA 167:18-a, III(b) by inserting after subparagraph (4) the following new subparagraphs:

(5) For fiscal year 2026, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021.

(6) For fiscal year 2027, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021.

(7) For fiscal year 2028, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021.

(8) For fiscal year 2029, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021.

398 New Section; Circumcision under the State Medicaid Plan; Restrictions. Amend RSA 167 by inserting after section 3-m the following new section:

167:3-n State Medicaid Plan; Circumcision.

I. In this section:

(a) "Health care provider" means a hospital, health care facility, physician, resident physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse, practicing in the state of New Hampshire.

(b) "Newborn child" means a person under 1 year of age.

(c) "Child" or "minor" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

II. Medical assistance provided under the state Medicaid plan shall not include the circumcision of children unless the procedure is medically necessary pursuant to paragraphs III or IV.

III. Medically necessary circumcision for a newborn child shall be valid for the following diagnoses:

(a) Congenital obstructive urinary tract anomalies.

(b) Neurogenic bladder.

- (c) Spina bifida.
- (d) Recurrent urinary tract infections.

IV. Medically necessary circumcision for a minor shall be valid for the following diagnoses:

- (a) A documented prior history of recurrent urinary tract infections.
- (b) Documented vesicoureteral reflux of at least a Grade III.
- (c) Paraphimosis unresponsive to medical therapy.
- (d) Recurrent balanoposthitis.
- (e) Recurrent balanitis or balanitis xerotica obliterans.
- (f) Congenital chordee.
- (g) Phimosis after puberty which has been unresponsive to medical therapy.
- (h) Secondary or acquired phimosis causing urinary obstruction, hematuria or preputial pain unresponsive to medical therapy.
- (i) Condyloma acuminatum.
- (j) Malignant neoplasm of the prepuce.
- (k) Or any diagnosed condition for which a circumcision is deemed medically necessary by a physician or other health care provider licensed in New Hampshire.

399 Effective Date. Section 398 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

400 Senior Volunteer Grant Program; Establishment of Program. Amend RSA 161-F:40 to read as follows: 161-F:40 Establishment of Program.

I. There is hereby established a senior volunteer grant program in the department. The program shall, within the limits of funds appropriated, reimburse the senior companion [~~and foster grandparents programs~~] **program** for the volunteers' stipends, benefits, travel, and administrative expenses incurred in providing volunteer services.

II. The funds so appropriated shall be disbursed by the department in quarterly payments. The funds shall be allocated to **the** senior companion [~~and foster grandparents programs~~] **program**.

401 Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Training Fund; Appropriations and Disbursements. Amend RSA 176-A:1, III to read as follows:

III. Moneys [~~received from all other sources other than the liquor commission pursuant to RSA 176:16, III, including any community benefit contribution made by New Hampshire's hospitals,~~] shall be disbursed from the fund upon the authorization of the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery established pursuant to RSA 12-J:1 and shall not be diverted for any other purposes. Funds disbursed shall be used for alcohol and other drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services, and other purposes related to the duties of the commission under RSA 12-J:3.

402 Repeal. RSA 176:16, III, relative to the disbursement of funds from the liquor commission to the alcohol abuse prevention and training fund, is repealed.

403 Home Dialysis; State Program Implementation. The department of health and human services shall, as part of the state Medicaid program, accelerate the implementation of the at home dialysis program. The department may, as part of its contracts with managed care organizations, provide incentives for such acceleration if the commissioner deems it necessary.

404 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Program. Amend RSA 194-F:2, VII to read as follows:

VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to-quarter and from year-to-year until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program or until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless the EFA is closed because of a substantial misuse of funds. Any unused funds shall revert to the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39 [~~and be allocated to fund other EFAs~~].

405 Applicability; Re-retiring. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 100-A, any retiree who returns to active service shall only retain eligibility for the benefits applicable to their initial retirement and the calculation of average final compensation, or the calculation of other benefits resulting from the return to active service under RSA 100-A shall not apply.

406 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; License or Registration Required. Amend RSA 151:4-a, II(a) to read as follows:

II.(a) Any person or entity proposing to establish [~~an ambulatory surgical center, emergency medical care center,~~] **a** hospital[, birthing center, drop-in or walk-in care center, dialysis center, or special health care service] within a radius of 15 miles of the primary physical location of a New Hampshire hospital certified as a critical access hospital pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 485.610(b) and (c), shall give written notice of the intent to establish a health care facility within a 15 mile radius with a description of the facility [~~or special health care service~~] to the chief executive officer of the hospital by certified mail.

407 Effective Date. Section 406 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

408 Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. Amend RSA 12-J:1 through RSA 12-J:4 to read as follows:

12-J:1 Commission Established; Membership; Terms.

There is hereby established a commission which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the general court regarding *the importance of prevention as well as* the delivery of effective and coordinated alcohol and *other* drug [abuse] *misuse programs of* prevention, treatment *using a public health informed approach to address addiction*, and recovery services throughout the state. The commission shall consist of the following members:

I. Seven public members, 2 of whom shall be professionals knowledgeable about alcohol and *other* drug [abuse] *misuse* prevention, one of whom shall be appointed by the governor and one of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 2 of whom shall be professionals knowledgeable about alcohol and *other* drug [abuse] *misuse* treatment *including reduction of societal and individual harm*, one of whom shall be appointed by the governor and one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 2 of whom shall be public members who are not professionals within the alcohol and drug [addiction] *misuse* prevention and treatment system, one of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and one member in long-term recovery, appointed by the governor.

II. Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and 2 members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate. The term of the legislative members of the commission shall be for the biennium and shall be coterminous with membership in the general court. Legislative members shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III.(a)(1) The attorney general, or designee.

(2) The adjutant general, or designee.

(3) The administrative judge of the circuit court, or designee.

(4) The chairperson of the liquor commission, or designee.

(5) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

(6) The director of juvenile justice services, department of health and human services, or designee.

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

(8) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.

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

(10) The director of the office of alcohol and drug policy, department of health and human services, or designee.

(11) The commissioner of the department of insurance, or designee.

(b) The members under this paragraph shall serve terms coterminous with their terms in office.

IV.(a)(1) A representative of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, appointed by the association.

(2) A representative of the New Hampshire Medical Society, appointed by the society.

(3) The chancellor of the community college system of New Hampshire, or designee.

(4) The chairman of the New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Council.

(5) A representative of the New Hampshire Nurses' Association, appointed by the association.

(6) A representative of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, appointed by the foundation.

(7) A representative of the New Hampshire Hospital Association, appointed by the association.

(8) The president of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, or designee.

(b) A representative of the state's faith-based community, who shall be a nonvoting member, appointed by the governor.

(c) The members under this paragraph shall serve 3-year terms.

12-J:2 Organization of Commission; Task Forces; Staffing.

I. The commission shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson. The executive director of the commission shall be the director of the appropriate division responsible for alcohol and drug [abuse] *misuse* prevention and recovery, who shall serve without additional compensation. Twelve members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

II.(a) To assist the commission in the performance of its duties, the chairperson shall create task forces. The chairperson shall initially create task forces to address the following issues:

(1) Prevention.

(2) Treatment *and reduction of societal and individual harm*.

(3) Recovery.

(4) Program monitoring and evaluation.

(b) To assist the commission in the performance of its duties, the chairperson may create additional task forces.

(c) The commission chairperson shall appoint at least one commission member to serve on each task force as chairperson.

(d) Based upon recommendations from each task force, the commission chairperson may appoint non-commission members to serve as adjunct members of each task force for a term of one year. In appointing adjunct members, the chairperson shall ensure that youth have the opportunity to participate directly in the work of appropriate task forces.

(e) Each task force shall:

(1) Develop a mission statement, including its goals and objectives.

(2) Report to the commission on a regular basis concerning available programs, funding, and unmet needs.

(3) Identify program areas where improved coordination is needed.

II-a. The chairperson shall create a budget task force comprised of the individuals listed in RSA 12-J:1, III(a) to report biannually on financial expenditures for substance [abuse] **misuse** related work throughout state government as detailed in RSA 12-J:4, III and recommend budget policy priorities to the commission regarding the allocation of funding alcohol and **other** drug prevention, treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery services across state agencies and throughout the state.

III. All executive branch departments shall provide administrative support to the commission. The executive director of the commission shall direct and coordinate the administrative support to the commission.

IV. All executive branch departments shall respond promptly to written requests from the commission for information concerning the alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and services provided by them and the costs and funding sources for such programs and services.

12-J:2-a Definition of Harm Reduction.

I. For the purposes of this chapter, RSA 126-A, RSA 318-B:93, RSA 328-D:3, and RSA 329:16-g, “harm reduction” is an approach that emphasizes engaging directly with people who use alcohol and other drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social function of those served, and offer low-threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other health care services. Harm reduction shall be balanced by the imperative to protect society from the ravages of alcohol or drug misuse.

II. This approach shall be limited to the following:

(a) Connecting individuals to overdose education, counseling, and referral to treatment for infectious diseases and substance use disorders.

(b) Distributing opioid overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone to individuals at risk of overdose, or to those who might respond to an overdose, and provide training in overdose reversal and prevention.

(c) Making available substance test kits, including fentanyl test strips.

(d) Lessening harms associated with drug use and related behaviors that increase the risk of infectious diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, and bacterial and fungal infections; via referrals, syringe service programs, sharps disposal and medication disposal kits, wound care supplies medication lock boxes, education, testing, and prophylactic measures.

(e) Reducing infectious disease transmission among people who use drugs, including those who inject drugs by equipping them with accurate information and facilitating referral to resources.

(f) Reducing overdose deaths, promoting linkages to care, and facilitating appropriate co-location of services as part of a comprehensive, integrated approach.

(g) Providing education and public awareness programs to reduce stigma associated with substance use and co-occurring disorders.

(h) Promoting a philosophy of hope and healing by utilizing those with lived experience of recovery in the management of harm reduction services, and connecting those who have expressed interest to treatment, peer support workers and other recovery support services.

(i) Promoting a healthy society by mitigating the harmful effects of individual misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

12-J:3 Duties.

The duties of the commission shall be to:

I. Develop and revise, as necessary, a statewide plan for the effective prevention of alcohol and **other drug [abuse] **misuse**, particularly among youth, and a comprehensive system of treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm** and recovery services for individuals and families affected by alcohol and **other** drug [abuse] **misuse**. **Nothing in RSA 12-J should be construed to limit care of chronic pain and hospice and palliative care patients, including use of the term “misuse” which shall be utilized, as intended, to broaden the scope of work across the substance use continuum of care.** The statewide plan shall:**

(a) Identify the causes, the nature and scope, and the impact of alcohol and **other drug [abuse] **misuse** in New Hampshire.**

(b) Identify and prioritize unmet needs for prevention **as a leading state initiative, treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery services.**

(c) Recommend initiatives and policy considerations to the general court to reduce the incidence of alcohol and **other drug [abuse] **misuse** in New Hampshire.**

(d) Identify and quantify public and private resources available to support alcohol and drug [abuse] **misuse prevention, treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery.**

(e) Specify additional resources necessary to address unmet needs for prevention, treatment ***including reduction of societal and individual harm***, and recovery.

(f) Specify evaluation and monitoring methodology.

II. Advise the governor and general court on and promote the development of effective community-based alcohol and ***other*** drug [abuse] ***misuse*** prevention strategies.

III. Advise the governor and the general court on and promote the development of treatment services, ***including reduction of societal and individual harm***, to meet the needs of ***society and*** citizens addicted to alcohol or other drugs.

III-a. Advise the governor and the general court on and promote the development of recovery services to meet the needs of citizens in recovery from alcohol and other drug misuse.

IV. Identify unmet needs and the resources required to reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug [abuse] ***misuse*** in New Hampshire and to make recommendations to the governor and general court regarding legislation and funding to address such needs.

V. Authorize the disbursement of moneys from the alcohol abuse prevention and treatment fund, pursuant to RSA 176-A:1, III.

VI. Make presentations at least once each legislative session to the house and senate finance committees, the senate health and human services committee, the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

VII. Develop a handout which shall describe the risks of opioid use and how to mitigate them for the purposes of RSA 318-B:16-a.

12-J:4 Meetings and Reports.

I. The commission shall meet at least 4 times each year and may convene public hearings as necessary to promote the goals of the commission.

II. The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate, chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees, chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, the chairperson of the senate health and human services committee, and the chairperson of the fiscal committee of the general court by October 1 of each year regarding the activities of the commission. The annual report shall:

(a) Identify alcohol and ***other*** drug [abuse] ***misuse*** prevention ***as a leading state initiative***, treatment ***including reduction of societal and individual harm***, and recovery services and programs provided by state departments and agencies or funded in whole or in part by state or federal funds;

(b) Indicate the progress made during the prior year toward the implementation of the statewide plan developed by the commission pursuant to RSA 12-J:3, I;

(c) Recommend any revisions to the statewide plan developed pursuant to RSA 12-J:3, I;

(d) Identify and prioritize unmet needs for prevention, treatment ***including reduction of societal and individual harm***, and recovery;

(e) Indicate the progress, or lack thereof, in addressing the unmet needs;

(f) Recommend initiatives and/or policy considerations to the governor and the general court to address the unmet needs;

(g) Specify the resources and any legislation necessary to support existing programs for prevention, treatment ***including reduction of societal and individual harm***, and recovery and to develop, implement, support, and evaluate the initiatives recommended by the commission;

(h) In even-numbered years the report may include specific recommendations for funds to be included in the next state biennial budget to support alcohol and ***other*** drug [abuse] ***misuse*** prevention, treatment ***including reduction of societal and individual harm***, and recovery services and programs; and

(i) Incorporate the findings and recommendations of the report required under paragraph II-a and make specific findings and recommendations regarding public awareness, education, and legislation to address the dangers of synthetic drugs.

II-a. The commission shall prepare a report, including recommendations for policies to be implemented for coordinating public awareness of and education in the ***importance of prevention and health promotion, as well as the*** dangers of synthetic drugs and other emerging or designer synthetic drug substances. The report shall include substantive input from the commission's member agencies, including the department of health and human services, bureau of drug and alcohol services, the attorney general, the department of safety, and the department of education. The commission shall submit its initial report, including recommendations, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor no later than 3 months after the effective date of this paragraph. The commission shall submit subsequent reports, including recommendations, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor annually thereafter.

III.(a) To assist the commission in the timely completion of its annual report, each commission member representing an executive branch department or entity shall provide the information specified in paragraph II for its department or entity to the commission on or before August 1 of each year.

(b) The commission shall submit a mid-year report to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate, chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees, chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, chairperson of the senate health and human services committee, and chairperson of the fiscal committee of the general court by March 1 of each year regarding the current state of drug [abuse] **misuse**, prevention, treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery. The commission shall include a dashboard of the following, both in the interim and the annual report as required in RSA 12-J:4, II, that includes but is not limited to:

(1) **A summary of known prevention programs to include the general type and approaches being followed.**

(1-a) The number of known drug overdoses, broken out by drug involved.

(2) The number of deaths attributable to overdoses, as reported by the chief medical examiner, broken out by drug involved.

(3) The number of people known to be in treatment or recovery programs supported by commission funding.

(4) The accessibility and availability of treatment programs, including waitlists.

(5) The number of individuals in drug court programs, as reported by the judicial branch.

(6) The number of individuals in diversion programs, as reported by the judicial branch.

(7) The number of convictions for drug related offenses, as reported by the judicial branch.

(8) The number of persons incarcerated for drug related offenses as reported by the department of corrections.

(9) Funds expended and balances remaining, programs and strategies created or sustained by the funds, and an estimate of the number of individuals served by these funds.

(10) Barriers to data access and availability, with proposed strategies to develop or enhance data capacity.

(11) Performance outcomes pursuant to National Outcomes Measurement Standards (NOMS) as required with federal funding sources.

(12) Any other information requested by the governor or general court.

(c) All data required in subparagraph (b) shall be presented in the aggregate to protect the privacy of the individual. The commission shall delete any data required in those paragraphs that enables the personal identification of an individual.

IV. In the reports submitted by the commission to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate, chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees, chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, chairperson of the senate health and human services committee, and chairperson of the fiscal committee of the general court, the report shall include outcome data and/or research citations about the efficacy of funded programs based upon evidence of program results.

409 Report on Cost-Effectiveness and Outcomes of Programs Required. Amend RSA 12-J:5, I(a)(2) to read as follows:

(2) Prevention programs, **including reduction of societal and individual harm**.

410 New Section; Substance Use Disorder Access Points. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting after section 98 the following new section:

126-A:99 Substance Use Disorder Access Points Established.

I. With the availability of sufficient federal funding, the department of health and human services shall establish and administer statewide access points for delivery of substance use services and supports. The access points shall provide information and referrals for screening and evaluation; treatment, including medications for substance use disorders; prevention, and treatment including naloxone; supports and services to assist in long-term recovery; and peer recovery support services.

II. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall include the administration and operation of the access points in the department's report to the governor's commission on alcohol and other drug misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery under RSA 12-J:4, III.

III. The program shall be funded through the state opioid response grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In addition, the department may accept funds from any source, including state appropriations, federal funds, and private gifts, grants, or donations to operate and sustain the access points.

411 Syringe Service Programs; Activities. Amend RSA 318-B:43, II(b) to read as follows:

(b) Coordinate and collaborate with other local agencies, **including law enforcement agencies**, organizations, and providers involved in comprehensive prevention programs for people who inject drugs to minimize duplication of effort.

412 New Subparagraph; Syringe Service Programs; Activities. Amend RSA 318-B:43, II by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new subparagraph:

(b-1) Consult and inform municipal law enforcement agencies concerning syringe service program and harm reduction activities.

413 New Section; Controlled Drug Act; Syringe Service Programs. Amend RSA 318-B by inserting after section 43 the following new section:

318:43-a Syringe Service Programs; Authorized Activities and Funding Sources.

I. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any person authorized under RSA 318-B:43 to operate a syringe service program may engage in eligible activities, as defined in paragraph IV.

II. State funds including, but not limited to, funds received by the state in the New Hampshire opioid litigation settlement may be used to support the activities of syringe service programs as permitted under this section and RSA 318-B:43.

III. No person shall be prohibited from using federal funds for eligible activities and syringe service programs as authorized in RSA 318-B:43, so long as the use of the federal funds is consistent with federal law and any rules governing use of the funds.

IV. In this section:

(a) "Drug checking" means the process of identifying, analyzing, or detecting the composition of a drug or the presence or composition of an unexpected substance within the drug.

(b) "Drug checking equipment" means equipment, products, or materials used, designed for use, or intended for use to perform drug checking, including materials and items used by the person operating the equipment or products to store, measure, or process samples for analysis. Drug checking equipment includes fentanyl test strips, other immunoassay drug testing strips, colorimetric reagents, spectrometers such as Fourier Transform Infrared and Raman spectrometers, and equipment that uses high-performance liquid chromatography, gas chromatography, mass spectrometry, and nuclear magnetic resonance techniques. Drug checking equipment does not include the substances being analyzed, drug packaging, or drug supplies.

(c) "Drug supplies" means hypodermic needles, syringes, preparation containers, cotton, filters, alcohol wipes, water, saline, tourniquets, disposal containers, wound care items, pipes, bubbles, snorting straws, pipe covers, and other items used in the consumption of drugs;

(d) "Eligible activities" means:

(1) Purchasing, obtaining, providing, transporting, distributing, using, or evaluating the use of drug checking equipment;

(2) Training, both initial and ongoing, about drug checking equipment, the process of drug checking, and the purpose of drug checking;

(3) Technical assistance concerning drug checking equipment, the process of drug checking, and the purpose of drug checking; and

(4) Providing drug supplies.

414 New Paragraph; Controlled Drug Act; Definition of Drug Misuse Added. Amend RSA 318-B:1 by inserting after paragraph X-b the following new paragraph:

X-c. "Drug misuse" means the use of a substance for a purpose that is not consistent with legal or medical guidelines.

415 Effective Date. Sections 408 through 414 shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

416 Public Health; Department of Health and Human Services; Commissioner of Health and Human Services. Amend RSA 126-A:5, XIX-a(a)(1) to read as follows:

(1) The commissioner shall pursue contracting options to administer the state's Medicaid dental program with the goals of improving access to dental care for Medicaid populations, improving health outcomes for Medicaid enrollees, expanding the provider network, increasing provider capacity, fostering individual behaviors that promote good oral health, and retaining innovative programs that improve access and care through a value-based care model. ***The commissioner shall prepare and submit a report that contains a clinical and financial research study to determine cost-avoidance associated with adult dental benefits under this paragraph. The study shall consider the impact on emergency room visits, patient infections, and any other factors the commissioner determines should be included in the study. The commissioner shall submit their report to the chairs of the senate finance and house finance committees on or before January 1, 2027.***

417 Pharmacists and Pharmacies; Pharmacies; Substituting Biological Products. Amend RSA 318:47-dd to read as follows:

318:47-dd Pharmacies; Substituting Biological Products.

I. In this section:

(a) "Biological product" means a virus, therapeutic serum, toxin, antitoxin, vaccine, blood, blood component or derivative, allergenic product, protein (except any chemically synthesized polypeptide), or analogous product, or arsphenamine or derivative of arsphenamine (or any other trivalent organic arsenic compound), applicable to the prevention, treatment, or cure of a disease or condition of human beings.

(b) "Proper name" means the nonproprietary name for a biological product designated by the federal Food and Drug Administration license for use upon each package of the product.

(c) "Interchangeable biological product" means a biological product that the federal Food and Drug Administration:

(1) Has licensed and determined meets the standards for interchangeability pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 262(k)(4); or

(2) Has determined ***does not require an interchangeable study to be*** [is] therapeutically equivalent as set forth in the latest edition of or supplement to the federal Food and Drug Administration's Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations.

II. The board shall maintain a link on its website to the federal Food and Drug Administration's Lists of Licensed Biological Products with Reference Product Exclusivity and Biosimilarity or Interchangeability Evaluations.

III. A pharmacist may substitute a biological product [~~pursuant to this section only if it has been licensed by the federal Food and Drug Administration as an interchangeable biological product~~] for the prescribed biological product ***when it meets the definition of interchangeable biological product***.

IV. When a pharmacist dispenses an interchangeable biological product for the prescribed biological product, the pharmacist or his or her designee shall inform the patient.

V. A pharmacist shall not substitute an interchangeable biological product pursuant to this section if:

(a) The prescriber indicates that substitution is not authorized by specifying on the prescription "medically necessary" on a paper prescription, or uses electronic indications when transmitted electronically, or gives instructions when transmitted orally that the biological product prescribed is medically necessary; ***or***

(b) ***The patient informs the pharmacist that he or she does not wish to receive an interchangeable biological product.***

VI.(a) Within 3 business days following the dispensing of a biological product, the dispensing pharmacist or the pharmacist's designee shall make an entry of the specific product provided to the patient, including the name of the product and the manufacturer. The communication shall be conveyed by making an entry that is electronically accessible to the prescriber through:

- (1) An interoperable electronic medical records system;
- (2) An electronic prescribing technology; or
- (3) A pharmacy benefit management system; or
- (4) A pharmacy record.

(b) Entry into an electronic records system as described in this paragraph is presumed to provide notice to the prescriber. Otherwise, the pharmacist shall communicate the biological product dispensed to the prescriber using facsimile, telephone, electronic transmission, or other prevailing means, provided that the communication shall not be required where:

(1) There is no federal Food and Drug Administration-approved interchangeable biological product for the biological product prescribed; or

(2) A refill prescription is not changed from product dispensed on the prior filling of the prescription.

VII. The label of all biological products dispensed by a pharmacist shall include the proper name and the name of the manufacturer of the product.

418 Effective Date. Section 417 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

419 Appropriation; Opioid Abatement Trust Fund. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the sum of \$10,700,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of \$10,700,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, are hereby appropriated from the opioid abatement trust fund, established under RSA 126-A:83, to the alcohol abuse prevention and training fund, established under RSA 176-A.

420 New Subparagraph; The State and Its Government; Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery; Meetings and Reports. Amend RSA 12-J:4, II by inserting after subparagraph (i) the following new subparagraph:

(j) Specify and itemize funds spent on prevention, treatment and reduction of societal and individual harm, recovery, and program monitoring and evaluation services and programs.

421 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program; Funding. Amend RSA 126-AA:2, I(a) to read as follows:

126-AA:2 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program Established.

I.(a) The commissioner shall apply for any necessary waivers and state plan amendments to implement a 5-year demonstration program beginning on January 1, 2019 to create the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program[~~which shall be funded exclusively from non-general fund sources, including federal funds~~]. The commissioner shall include in an application for the necessary waivers submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a waiver of the requirement to provide 90-day retroactive coverage and a state plan amendment allowing state and county correctional facilities to conduct presumptive eligibility determinations for incarcerated inmates to the extent provided under federal law. To receive coverage under the program, those individuals in the new adult group who are eligible for benefits shall choose coverage offered by one of the managed care organizations (MCOs) awarded contracts as vendors under Medicaid managed care, pursuant to RSA 126-A:5, XIX(a). The program shall make coverage available in a cost-effective manner and shall provide cost transparency measures, and ensure that patients are utilizing the most appropriate level of care. Cost effectiveness shall be achieved by offering cash incentives and other

forms of incentives to the insured by choosing preferred lower cost medical providers. Loss of incentives shall also be employed. MCOs shall employ reference-based pricing, cost transparency, and the use of incentives and loss of incentives to the Medicaid and newly eligible population. For the purposes of this subparagraph, “reference-based pricing” means setting a maximum amount payable for certain medical procedures.

422 The New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust Fund. Amend RSA 126-AA:3, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund which shall be accounted for distinctly and separately from all other funds and shall be non-interest bearing. The fund shall be administered by the commissioner and shall be used solely to provide coverage for the newly eligible Medicaid population as provided for under RSA 126-AA:2, to pay for the administrative costs for the program, and reimburse the federal government for any over payments of federal funds. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes of the fund. The fund shall be authorized to pay and/or reimburse the cost of medical services and cost-effective related services, including without limitation, capitation payments to MCOs. ~~[No state general funds shall be deposited into the fund.]~~ Deposits into the fund shall be limited exclusively to the following:

(a) ~~[Repealed.]~~

(b) Federal Medicaid reimbursement for program costs and administrative costs attributable to the program;

(c) Surplus funds generated as a result of MCOs managing the cost of their services below the medical loss ratio established by the commissioner for the managed care program beginning on July 1, 2019;

(d) Taxes attributable to premiums written for medical and other medical related services for the newly eligible Medicaid population as provided for under this chapter, consistent with RSA 400-A:32, III(b);

(e) Funds received from the assessment under RSA 404-G;

(f) Revenue from the Medicaid enhancement tax to meet the requirements provided in RSA 167:64; ~~[and]~~

(g) Funds recovered or returnable to the fund that were originally spent on the cost of coverage of the granite advantage health care program~~[-];~~

(h) Revenue that is attributable to premiums received from granite advantage health care program enrollees; and

(i) State general funds that have been appropriated by the general court for the specific purpose of funding the granite advantage health care program or approved by the fiscal committee and governor and council for the specific purpose of addressing a funding shortfall identified by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.

423 The New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust Fund. Amend the introductory paragraph to RSA 126-AA:3, VI to read as follows:

VI. The commissioner, in accordance with the most current available information, shall be responsible for determining, quarterly commencing no later than December 31, 2018, whether there is sufficient funding in the fund to cover projected program costs for the nonfederal share for the next 6-month period. If at any time the commissioner determines that a projected shortfall exists, ~~[then the sum necessary to cover such shortfall shall be transferred to the fund from the liquor commission fund established in RSA 176:16. In the event the commissioner determines that there are not sufficient funds in the liquor commission fund to cover the shortfall,]~~ ***and the fiscal committee and governor and council do not authorize additional funding,*** then he or she shall terminate the program in accordance with the federally approved terms and conditions issued by CMS. Upon making a determination that a projected shortfall exists and ~~[that there are insufficient funds in the liquor commission fund to cover the shortfall]~~ ***if the fiscal committee and governor and council do not authorize additional funding,*** the commissioner shall:

424 Appropriation; Granite Advantage. The sum of \$12,600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$1,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund established under RSA 126-AA:3. In the event the program costs are greater than the amounts available from all sources, the commissioner may request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. Upon fiscal committee and governor and council approval, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

425 Repeal. RSA 176:16, III-a, relative to deposits from the liquor commission into the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund, is repealed.

426 Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Health Access; Name Change; Hiring Freeze. The department of health and human services, office of health equity shall be renamed the office of health access. The office shall remain in compliance with the terms of Executive Order 2025-02, regarding executive branch hiring for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, even if the executive order is lifted. Furthermore, the office of health access shall serve every person with equal dignity and respect. The office shall not contract with or pay vendors who fail to serve every person with equal dignity and respect. The office and all vendors shall comply with RSA 354-B, also known as the “civil rights act.”

427 New Paragraph; Medicaid to Schools Program; Termination. Amend RSA 186-C:25 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. The program shall terminate statewide if the federal government or state adopts any policy contrary to a policy requiring parental control of all medical services provided to children. If a local school district adopts such a contrary policy, the program shall terminate for that school only.

428 Lapse Extension; Department of Health and Human Services; Granite United Way. Amend 2023, 79:559 to read as follows:

79:559 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, the sum of \$2,054,360 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, which shall not lapse until June 30, [2025] **2027**, for the purpose of Granite United Way administering the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative, which promotes individual wellness for Granite Staters by empowering workplaces to provide support for people recovering from substance use disorder. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

428-A Effective Date. Section 428 of this act shall take effect June 20, 2025.

429 Department of Health and Human Services; Availability of Funds Directive. The department of health and human services shall seek all available Title IV-E, Administration for Children and Families funds to maximize federal participation in expenses associated with eligibility screening, training, accounting, technology upgrades, and implementation of a child-centered approach to utilizing and conserving federal benefits to which children in its care might be eligible. The department shall twice annually provide a detailed report of its efforts to seek such funds and results of those efforts to the oversight committee on health and human services established in RSA 126-A:13, the senate finance and children and family law committees, the house children and family law and finance committees, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

430 Directive; Department of Health and Human Services. The department of health and human services shall serve every person with equal dignity and respect. The department shall not contract with or pay vendors who fail to serve every person with equal dignity and respect. The department and all vendors shall comply with RSA 354-B, also known as the "civil rights act." In the event that the department determines that a contract violates the provisions of this section, it shall terminate said contract in accordance with applicable law and contract provisions, and the state shall be entitled to recover any funds unspent by the contractor at the time of termination.

431 Prescription Drug Affordability Board; Definition of Public Payor. Amend RSA 126-BB:1, VI is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

VI. "Public payor" means any health plan which includes coverage for prescription drugs and is paid for in whole or in part by state general funds or any division of state, county, or municipal government that administers a health plan for its employees or an association of state, county, or municipal employers that administers a health plan for its employees. "Public payor" also includes health care paid for by the department of corrections.

432 New Subparagraph; Prescription Drug Affordability Board; Alternate Member Added. Amend RSA 126-BB:2, I by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

(d) One alternate appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services selected from the advisory council established in RSA 126-BB:4. Notwithstanding paragraph II, the alternate board member's term shall be coterminous with their membership on the advisory council. The alternate board member may participate in deliberations of the board in the event any member elects to be recused as provided in RSA 126-BB:3 or is absent.

433 Prescription Board Affordability Board; Chairperson. Amend RSA 126-BB:2, IV to read as follows:

IV. The chair of the board shall be elected by an affirmative vote of at least 4 of the 5 members of the board **and shall serve a 2-year term. The chair of the board shall be elected in odd numbered years within 3 months of submission of the annual report specified in RSA 126-BB:5, IV.**

434 Prescription Drug Affordability Board; Employee Authorization. Amend RSA 126-BB:2, VI to read as follows:

VI. The board shall be administratively attached to the department of health and human services. ~~[For a limited time,]~~ The board may employ an executive director, who shall be an unclassified employee. The executive director shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the board. ~~[Said position shall be effective for no more than 2 years following the date of hire of the individual first selected to fill the position. The board may also employ one contracted employee or more,]~~ **The board also may employ classified or contract employees or contract for similar services,** dependent on the availability of funds.

435 Prescription Drug Affordability Board; Competitive Bid Required. Amend RSA 126-BB:11 to read as follows:

126-BB:11 Competitive Bid Required. The contracts entered into by the board, including those for consulting services or personal contract services, shall be subject to the competitive bid process. Such contracts shall ~~[also] be approved by [the fiscal committee of the general court,] the governor[;]~~ and the executive council.

436 Lapse Extension; Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Of funds appropriated to account 05-95-95-952010-6273, prescription drug affordability board, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, up to \$20,000 shall be nonlapsing until June 30, 2027.

437 Effective Date. Section 436 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

438 Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 193:1, I to read as follows:

I. A parent of any child at least 6 years of age and under 18 years of age shall cause such child to attend [the] **a** public school [to which the child is assigned in the child's resident district]. Such child shall attend full time when such school is in session unless:

439 School Attendance; Legal Residence Required. Amend RSA 193:12, III to read as follows:

III. For the purposes of this title, "legal resident" of a school district means a natural person who is domiciled in the [school district] **state** and who, if temporarily absent, demonstrates an intent to maintain a principal dwelling place in the school district indefinitely and to return there, coupled with an act or acts consistent with that intent. A married person may have a domicile independent of the domicile of his or her spouse. [If a person removes to another town with the intention of remaining there indefinitely, that person shall be considered to have lost residence in the town in which the person originally resided even though the person intends to return at some future time.] A person may have only one legal residence at a given time.

440 School Attendance; Legal Residence Required. Amend RSA 193:12, VI(a) to read as follows:

(a) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee, shall decide residency issues for all pupils, excluding homeless children and youths, in accordance with this section. [If more than one school district is involved in a residency dispute, or the parents who live apart cannot agree on the residence of a minor child, the respective superintendents shall jointly make such decision. In those instances when an agreement cannot be reached, the commissioner of the department of education, or designee, shall make a determination within 30 days of notice of the residency dispute and such determination shall be final. If the unresolved residency dispute has resulted in an interruption of educational or related services, or such an interruption is likely to occur if the determination cannot be made before the expiration of 30 days, the determination shall be made within 14 days. With the agreement of the school districts involved and of the minor child's parent or legal representative, the time for determination of the residency dispute may be extended. Residency disputes may be submitted to the commissioner for determination by a school district involved in a dispute. In cases where the failure to resolve a residency dispute has resulted in or is likely to result in the interruption of educational or related services, a minor child's parent or legal representative may submit a residency dispute for determination to the commissioner. In all cases, all parties with an interest in the dispute shall be notified of the pendency of the proceedings, shall have an opportunity to review all information provided to the commissioner, and shall have an opportunity to present facts and legal arguments to the commissioner.] **When addressing residency issues, the only question the commissioner shall consider is whether the child is a resident of the state.** The commissioner's decision, including a written explanation for that decision, shall be provided to the parties of record and a copy of such explanation shall be kept on file by the department of education. No school district shall deny a pupil attendance or implementation of an existing individualized education program.

441 Open Enrollment Schools; Definitions; Open Enrollment Public School. Amend RSA 194-D:1, I to read as follows:

I. "Open enrollment public school" or "open enrollment school" means any public school [which, in addition to providing educational services to pupils] **that is currently enrolling pupils both** residing within its attendance area or district, [chooses to accept] **and** pupils from other attendance areas within its district and from outside its district.

442 Open Enrollment Schools; Definitions; Teacher. Amend RSA 194-D:1, IX to read as follows:

IX. "Teacher" means any individual providing or capable of providing direct instructional services to pupils, and who meets requirements prescribed in the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act] **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015** and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

443 Open Enrollment Schools; Establishment; Parental Choice; Admission. Amend RSA 194-D:2 to read as follows:

194-D:2 Establishment; Parental Choice; Admission.

I. [Any school district legislative body may vote to designate one or more of its schools as an open enrollment school.] **Each district legislative body shall establish an open enrollment policy to allow pupils to transfer among schools within the district, from another district in the state, or in any state that has an interstate compact with New Hampshire that does not require nonresident pupils to pay an application fee or tuition.**

II. [Open enrollment schools shall operate under the same laws, rules, and policies as any other public school, except as provided in this chapter.] **Each school district shall determine for each school in the district the capacity of each school and each grade level. A school district shall post the total ca-**

capacity of each individual school in the district, the capacity of each grade level, and the number of vacancies in each individual school in the district on the district website by the first of each month. Each school district in the state shall report annually to the state commissioner of education the number of transfer applications, acceptances, denials and the reason for each denial. The department of education shall publish the data annually on its web site and provide reports to the senate and house education committees, and the state board of education.

III. [No public school, except a chartered public school, shall be required to be an open enrollment school.] *A parent may apply to any school or district within the state on behalf of a pupil.*

[IV. A school district may predetermine the number of pupils residing outside an open enrollment school's district or attendance area it deems appropriate to accept.]

[V.] IV. Applications may be made on behalf of eligible pupils to more than one [open enrollment] school within the state.

[VI.] V. Every [open enrollment] school shall make available information about its curriculum and policies to all persons, and parents and pupils considering enrollment in that school.

[VII.] VI. There shall be no application fee for pupil admission to any [open enrollment] school.

[VIII. A pupil who meets the admission requirements of an open enrollment school, and who is a resident of the district where the school is located or is a dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders, shall be given absolute admission preference over a nonresident pupil. Once admitted and unless expelled, open enrollment school pupils need not reapply for admission for subsequent years.]

VII. A pupil who is a dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders, shall be given admission preference over a nonresident pupil. Once admitted and unless expelled, military connected students as defined in RSA 110-E:1 need not reapply for admission for subsequent years.

VIII. A school district may deny a transfer application only for the following reasons:

(a) The student was expelled by the student's previous district;

(b) The student has a documented history of significant disciplinary issues;

(c) The student has a documented history of chronic absenteeism; or

(d) The receiving district does not have available capacity pursuant to this section, provided that military connected students as defined in RSA 110-E:1 shall be exempt from capacity limits.

IX. No receiving school or district shall accept or reject an applicant based upon grade or age levels, pupil needs, areas of academic focus, aptitude, academic or athletic achievement.

*X. Attendance at [an open enrollment] a public school for the purposes of transportation shall not constitute assignment under the provisions of RSA 189:6 and RSA 189:8. Pupils who reside in the school district in which the [open enrollment] school is located shall be provided transportation to that school by the district on the same terms and conditions as provided for in RSA 189:6 and RSA 189:8 and that transportation is provided to pupils attending other public schools within that district. However, any added costs for such transportation services shall be borne by the [open enrollment] school. For the purposes of open enrollment, neither the sending nor the receiving school district shall be obligated to provide transportation services for pupils attending [an open enrollment] a school outside the pupil's resident district. **The parent may provide transportation to a specific bus stop on an existing route of the receiving school or district. The district shall provide the parents with information regarding transportation options.***

[X.] XI. Upon approval by each of the district's legislative bodies and after a public hearing, 2 or more school districts may consolidate otherwise eligible resident pupils into one applicant pool for the purposes of an admissions lottery for designated open enrollment schools

[XI. Military-connected students as defined in RSA 110-E:1 who are the dependent children of a member of the active uniformed military services of the United States on full-time active duty status and students who are the dependent children of a member of the military reserve on active duty orders shall be eligible for admission to the school district of their choice. Students shall be eligible if:

(a) At least one parent of the student has a Department of Defense-issued identification card; and

(b) At least one parent can provide evidence that he or she will be on active duty status or active duty orders, meaning the parent will be temporarily transferred in compliance with official orders to another location in support of combat, contingency operation or a natural disaster requiring the use of orders for more than 30 consecutive days.

XII. A school district of residence shall not prohibit the transfer of a pupil who is a child of an active military duty parent to a school in any school district, if the school district to which the parent of the pupil applies approves the application for transfer.]

444 Open Enrollment Schools; Funding. Amend RSA 194-D:5 to read as follows:

194-D:5 Funding.

I. There shall be no tuition charge for any pupil attending [an open enrollment] **a public** school [located in that pupil's resident district]. For [an open enrollment school authorized by the school district] **transferring**

students, the pupil's resident district shall pay to ~~[such school]~~ **the receiving district** an amount equal to not less than 80 percent of that district's average cost per pupil as determined by the department of education using the most recent available data as reported by the district to the department.

II. In accordance with current department of education standards, the funding and ~~[educational decision-making process]~~ **provision of services** for children with disabilities ~~[attending]~~ **transferring to** a ~~[chartered public or open enrollment]~~ school shall be the responsibility of the **resident** school district and shall retain all current options available to the parent and to the school district.

III. ~~[Any federal or other funding available in any year to a sending district shall, to the extent and in a manner acceptable to the funding source, be directed to an open enrollment school in a receiving district on an eligible per pupil basis.]~~

IV. The commissioner of the department of education shall apply for all federal funding available to open enrollment schools under ~~[the No Child Left Behind Act, Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or other]~~ **any** federal source of funds. The commissioner shall expend any such funds received in a manner acceptable to the funding source.

V. A sending district may provide funds, services, equipment, materials, or personnel to ~~[an open enrollment]~~ **a** school, in addition to the amounts specified in this section in accordance with the policies of the sending school district.

VI. ~~[An open enrollment]~~ **A** school may accept pupils at tuition rates at less than the amounts established by this chapter.

VII. ~~[An open enrollment]~~ **A** school may receive financial aid, private gifts, grants, or revenue as if it were a school district.

445 Open Enrollment Schools; State Board; Duties. Amend RSA 194-D:7 to read as follows:

194-D:7 State Board; Duties.

I. The state board shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, consistent with the provisions of this chapter relative to the administration of open enrollment **in public schools across the state**.

II. The state board ~~[shall]~~ **may** convene one or more working committees to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation and effectiveness of open enrollment ~~[schools]~~ **policies**. The recommendations shall be provided to the legislative oversight committee in RSA ~~[194-B:21]~~ **193-C:8-a**.

446 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 194-D:3, relative to limitations on procedure for adoption and rescission.

II. RSA 194-D:4, relative to pupil selection and enrollment.

447 Effective Date. Sections 438 through 446 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

448 Department of Health and Human Services; Termination of Contracts Using Opioid Abatement Funds. The department of health and human services shall terminate all contracts, grants, or other agreements funded with opioid abatement funds with effective dates on or after May 1, 2025, for the purposes of funding provisions contained in this act.

449 Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Services. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall be responsible for determining, on an ongoing basis through June 30, 2027, whether there is sufficient funding for employment-related child care services to avoid a waitlist and support greater utilization of employment related child care. If at any time the commissioner determines that funding is insufficient, the commissioner shall, to the extent allowed by applicable federal regulations, utilize available federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) reserve funds to cover the amount of the shortfall. The department shall report quarterly to the fiscal committee of the general court on any funds expended on employment-related child care services, including federal TANF funds authorized by this section.

450 New Paragraph; Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid; Outpatient Procedure Incentive Program. Amend RSA 126-A:3 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. The department shall seek to implement in the Medicaid care management program and the contractual agreements with each managed care organization an outpatient procedure incentive program for Medicaid beneficiaries to choose, when clinically appropriate, to receive outpatient procedures, including ambulatory surgical care, in a lower cost setting. The outpatient procedure incentive program shall be included by the department in the managed care organization withhold and incentive program and part of each managed care organization's member incentive program, subject to federal limitations. The outpatient procedure incentive program shall be included in the next contract amendment between the department and the managed care organizations after the effective date of this paragraph. Within 30 days of the effective date of this paragraph, the department shall submit the plan for implementation of the outpatient procedure incentive program to the fiscal committee of the general court.

451 Tirrell House; Sale of Property. Notwithstanding RSA 10 and RSA 4:40, the commissioner of the department of administrative services shall offer for sale at fair market value the Tirrell House property located at 15 Brook Street, Manchester, New Hampshire. The property shall be offered first to the city of Manchester and then to Hillsborough County. If neither the city nor county accept the offer by January 1, 2026, the com-

missioner of the department of administrative services shall issue a request for proposals for the sale of the Manchester property at no less than the fair market value, such sale to be completed no later than June 30, 2027. The commissioner of the department of administrative services shall submit quarterly reports on the progress of the sale to the fiscal committee of the general court. All proceeds from the sale shall be deposited into the general fund.

452 Anna Philbrook Center for Children; Sale of Property. Notwithstanding RSA 10 and RSA 4:40, the commissioner of the department of administrative services shall offer for sale at fair market value the Philbrook Center for Children property located at 105 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire. The property shall be offered first to the city of Concord and then to Merrimack County. If neither the city nor county accept the offer by January 1, 2026, the commissioner of the department of administrative services shall issue a request for proposals for the sale of the Concord property at no less than the fair market value, such sale to be completed no later than June 30, 2027. The commissioner of the department of administrative services shall submit quarterly reports on the progress of the sale to the fiscal committee of the general court. All proceeds from the sale shall be deposited into the general fund.

453 Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility; Sale of Property. Notwithstanding RSA 10 and RSA 4:40, the commissioner of the department of administrative services shall subdivide and offer for sale at fair market value the state-owned portions of the Hampstead Hospital property that are neither part of the Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility nor necessary for use as the replacement facility for the Sununu Youth Services Center or other state operations, located at 218 East Road, Hampstead, New Hampshire. The property shall be offered first to the city of Hampstead and then to Rockingham County. If neither the city nor county accept the offer by January 1, 2026, the commissioner of the department of administrative services shall issue a request for proposals for the sale of the Hampstead property at no less than the fair market value, such sale to be completed no later than June 30, 2028. The commissioner of the department of administrative services shall submit quarterly reports on the progress of the sale to the fiscal committee of the general court. All proceeds from the sale shall be deposited into the general fund.

454 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Provider Rate Reduction. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner of the department of health and human services shall reduce all Medicaid provider rates by 3 percent effective January 1, 2026. As a result of the savings achieved by implementing this section, the department shall reduce general fund appropriations by \$17,500,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and by \$35,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. The department shall work with the department of administrative services to reduce appropriated federal funds as needed to implement this section.

455 Department of Health and Human Services; Delay of Capitation Payments. The department of health and human services shall delay the June 2027 capitation payments to Medicaid managed care organizations until the start of the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2028. As a result of implementing this section, the department shall reduce general fund appropriations by \$25,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. The department shall work with the department of administrative services to reduce appropriated federal funds as needed to implement this section.

456 Administrative Charge on Dedicated Funds for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

I. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 6:12 and any other provision of law to the contrary, for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department of administrative services shall assess an administrative charge of 5 percent per fiscal year on revenue deposited into a dedicated fund listed in RSA 6:12, I(b), except those funds exempted pursuant to paragraph II. Revenue collected by said charge shall be deposited into the general fund as unrestricted revenue.

II. The following dedicated funds listed in RSA 6:12, I(b) shall be exempt from any assessment made pursuant to paragraph I:

(a) RSA 6:12, I(b)(4), fees collected by the department of safety under RSA 107-B, which shall be credited to the New Hampshire nuclear planning and response fund.

(b) RSA 6:12, I(b)(9), revenues from fees, rentals, and the sale of products from lands under the jurisdiction of the department of natural and cultural resources, which shall be credited as provided under RSA 227-G.

(c) RSA 6:12, I(b)(17), money received under RSA 481:32, which shall be credited to the dam maintenance fund established under RSA 482:55.

(d) RSA 6:12, I(b)(21), money received under RSA 230:52, II, which shall be credited to the division of travel and tourism development, department of business and economic affairs.

(e) RSA 6:12, I(b)(36), moneys received by the commissioner of the department of health and human services, for the purchase of vaccines, which shall be credited to the vaccine purchase fund established in RSA 141-C:17-a.

(f) RSA 6:12, I(b)(64), moneys deposited in the harbor dredging and pier maintenance fund established in RSA 12-G:46.

(g) RSA 6:12, I(b)(71), funds received pursuant to RSA 6:12-b, which shall be maintained pursuant to the provisions of RSA 6:12-b.

(h) RSA 6:12, I(b)(72), moneys deposited in the alcohol abuse prevention and treatment fund established in RSA 176-A:1, as administered by the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery in accordance with RSA 12-J:1.

(i) RSA 6:12, I(b)(75), moneys received for deposit in the travel and tourism development fund established by RSA 12-O:16.

(j) RSA 6:12, I(b)(78), moneys deposited in the land conservation investment program trust fund under RSA 162-C:10.

(k) RSA 6:12, I(b)(89), moneys deposited in the audit set aside fund under RSA 124:18.

(l) RSA 6:12, I(b)(90), moneys deposited in the salary adjustment fund under RSA 99:4.

(m) RSA 6:12, I(b)(92), moneys deposited in the 2 surplus funds under RSA 21-I:11, I(a)(6)(B): the surplus distribution section administrative assessments fund and the federal surplus food fund.

(n) RSA 6:12, I(b)(99), moneys deposited in the unemployment compensation and employment service administration fund under RSA 282-A:138.

(o) RSA 6:12, I(b)(100), moneys deposited in the unemployment compensation fund under RSA 282-A:103.

(p) RSA 6:12, I(b)(115), moneys deposited in the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund under RSA 6:38.

(q) RSA 6:12, I(b)(121), moneys deposited in the resident personal funds fund under RSA 621:30, II.

(r) RSA 6:12, I(b)(122), moneys deposited in the special projects fund under RSA 621:30, III.

(s) RSA 6:12, I(b)(127), moneys deposited in the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund under RSA 146-D:3.

(t) RSA 6:12, I(b)(130), moneys deposited in the water pollution control and drinking water revolving loan fund under RSA 486:14.

(u) RSA 6:12, I(b)(155), moneys deposited in the highway and bridge betterment account under RSA 235:23-a.

(v) RSA 6:12, I(b)(158), moneys deposited in the turnpike system revenue and reserve accounts under the November 9, 1987 bond resolution.

(w) RSA 6:12, I(b)(163), moneys deposited in the prepaid fish and game license fund under RSA 214:9-c, IV and RSA 214:9-cc, IV.

(x) RSA 6:12, I(b)(167), funds received pursuant to RSA 6:12-c, which shall be maintained under the terms of the referenced trust or agency fund.

(y) RSA 6:12, I(b)(168), funds received pursuant to RSA 6:12-d, which shall be maintained under the terms of the referenced custodial or escrow account.

(z) RSA 6:12, I(b)(174), moneys deposited in the dependent children support enforcement administrative expense account under RSA 161-C:25.

(aa) RSA 6:12, I(b)(190), moneys deposited in the supply depot inventory account under RSA 219:21, II.

(bb) RSA 6:12, I(b)(192), moneys deposited in the land and community heritage investment program administrative fund under RSA 227-M:7-a.

(cc) RSA 6:12, I(b)(200), moneys deposited in the tri-state lotto prize account under RSA 287-F:9.

(dd) RSA 6:12, I(b)(207), moneys deposited in the employee benefit adjustment account under RSA 9:17-c.

(ee) RSA 6:12, I(b)(226), moneys deposited in the election fund under RSA 5:6-d.

(ff) RSA 6:12, I(b)(253), moneys deposited in the renewable energy fund established under RSA 362-F:10.

(gg) RSA 6:12, I(b)(257), all funds deposited in the employee and retiree benefit risk management fund established pursuant to RSA 21-I:30-e.

(hh) RSA 6:12, I(b)(275), moneys deposited in the Pease development authority ports and harbors fund established in RSA 12-G:37.

(ii) RSA 6:12, I(b)(307), moneys deposited in the department of labor restricted fund established in RSA 273:1-b.

(jj) RSA 6:12, I(b)(336), moneys deposited into the governor's scholarship fund established in RSA 195-H:12.

(kk) RSA 6:12, I(b)(338), moneys deposited in the uncompensated care and Medicaid fund established in RSA 167:64, I.

(ll) RSA 6:12, I(b)(343), moneys deposited in the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund under RSA 126-AA:3.

(mm) RSA 6:12, I(b)(352), moneys deposited in the developmental services fund established under RSA 171-A:8-b, I.

(nn) RSA 6:12, I(b)(353), money deposited in the acquired brain disorder services fund established under RSA 171-A:8-b, II.

(oo) RSA 6:12, I(b)(354), money deposited in the in-home support waiver fund established under RSA 171-A:8-b, III.

(pp) RSA 6:12, I(b)(360), moneys deposited in the opioid abatement trust fund, established in RSA 126-A:83.

(qq) RSA 6:12, I(b)(363), moneys deposited in the New Hampshire health professionals' program administration fund established in RSA 310-A:1-e, I-a.

(rr) RSA 6:12, I(b)(369), moneys deposited in the meals and rooms municipal revenue fund established in RSA 78-A:26, IV.

(ss) RSA 6:12, I(b)(377), moneys deposited in the forest protection personnel training fund under RSA 227-G:5, III.

457 Department of Health and Human Services; Individuals with Developmental Disabilities; Funding for Recreational Services. Amend 2024, 376:4, V to read as follows:

V. Payment for recreational **and socialization** services shall be limited to [~~\$600~~] **\$595** per individual.

458 Appropriation; Lapse Date. Amend 2024, 376:4, II, to read as follows:

II. In order to ensure that costs to access recreational **and socialization** services are covered, and that individuals with developmental disabilities are able to participate in recreational **and socialization** activities within their communities, the sum of \$500,000 is appropriated to the department of health and human services for the biennium ending June 30, 2025. This appropriation is in addition to any other funds appropriated to the department of health and human services. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Any unexpended funds shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, [2025] **2027**.

459 New Section; Recreational Services Special Fund. Amend RSA 171-A by inserting after section 33 the following new section:

174-A:34 Purpose; Establishment of the Recreational Services Special Fund.

I. There is hereby established a fund designated as the recreational and socialization services fund to provide financial support for recreational and socialization services for individuals with developmental disabilities. The fund shall accept donations, grants, and contributions. Notwithstanding RSA 287-D:1, IV and RSA 287-E:1, V, the administrator of the fund shall be recognized as a charitable organization for the purpose of qualifying for a charitable organization license for games of chance, bingo, lucky-7, and historic horse racing.

II. The fund shall be administered by the department of health and human services and used exclusively for providing or supporting recreational and socialization services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

III. Donations to the fund shall be deposited into a nonlapsing account, continuously appropriated to the department of health and human services, and unspent funds shall not lapse but shall remain available for their designated purpose in subsequent fiscal years.

IV. The recreational and socialization services fund is hereby authorized to participate as a charity eligible to receive contributions from gaming facilities licensed under RSA 287-D and RSA 287-E.

460 New Subparagraphs; Application of Receipts; Recreational and Socialization Services Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraphs:

(400) Moneys deposited in the recreational and socialization services fund established in RSA 174-A:34.

461 Effective Date. Section 458 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

462 New Subdivision; Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Amend RSA 21-I by inserting after section 111 the following new subdivision:

Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

21-I:112 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. "Agency" means any department, office, commission, board, subdivision, or other unit, however designated, of the executive branch of state government.

II. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion" or "DEI" shall mean any program, policy, training, or initiative that classifies individuals based on race, sex, ethnicity, or other group characteristics for the purpose of achieving demographic outcomes, rather than treating individuals equally under the law.

III. "Political subdivision" means any village district, school district, town, city, county, or unincorporated place in the state.

21-I:113 Prohibition on DEI Initiatives. No public entity shall implement, promote, or otherwise engage in any DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies. No state funds shall be expended for DEI-related activities, including but not limited to implicit bias training, DEI assessments, critical race theory, or race-based hiring, promotion, or contracting preferences.

21-I:114 Prohibition on DEI-Related Contract Provisions. No agencies or political subdivisions shall enter into or renew any contract that includes DEI-related provisions, including requirements for contractors to implement DEI programs, conduct DEI training, or comply with DEI-related reporting obligations.

21-I:115 Review of Agency Contracts for DEI-Related Contract Provisions. Each state agency shall, no later than October 1, 2025, submit to the department of administrative services a report identifying all contracts

under its control that include DEI-related provisions. The report shall include descriptions of each contract, the specific DEI-related provisions contained therein, and the total financial obligation associated with each contract. The department shall combine and submit a consolidated report to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of the senate.

21-I:116 Review of Political Subdivision DEI-Related Contract Provisions. The department of justice shall establish a process by which all political subdivisions review their existing contracts for the presence of DEI-related provisions.

463 New Subdivision; Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Public Schools. Amend RSA 186 by inserting after section 70 the following new subdivision:

Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Public Schools

186:71 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion" or "DEI" shall mean any program, policy, training, or initiative that classifies individuals based on race, sex, ethnicity, or other group characteristics for the purpose of achieving demographic outcomes, rather than treating individuals equally under the law.

II. "Public school" means any school, academic institution, or institution of higher education in this state supported by public funds.

186:72 Prohibition on DEI Initiatives. No public school shall implement, promote, or otherwise engage in any DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies. No state funds shall be expended to public schools for DEI-related activities, including but not limited to implicit bias training, DEI assessments, critical race theory, or race-based hiring, promotion, or contracting preferences. This prohibition shall extend to any public school as defined in RSA 186:71, II.

186:73 Prohibition on DEI-Related Contract Provisions. No public school shall enter into, renew, or amend any contract that includes DEI-related provisions, including requirements for contractors to implement DEI programs, conduct DEI training, or comply with DEI-related reporting obligations.

186:74 Review of Public School Contracts for DEI-Related Contract Provisions. No later than October 1, 2025, the commissioner of the department of education shall submit a single report to the senate education, senate education finance, house education funding, and house education policy and administration committees of the general court identifying all existing contracts containing DEI-related provisions in public schools. The report shall include contract descriptions, the specific DEI-related provisions, and the total financial obligation associated with each contract.

186:75 Review of Public School DEI-Related Contract Provisions.

I. The commissioner of the department of education shall establish a process by which all public schools shall conduct a review of existing contracts for the presence of DEI-related provisions.

II. No later than September 30, 2025, each public school shall submit a signed and certified report to the commissioner of the department of education identifying any contract containing DEI-related provisions. The report shall include contract descriptions, the specific DEI-related provisions, and the total financial obligation associated with each contract.

186:76 Final Compliance Report. The commissioner of the department of education shall submit a final compliance report to the governor, executive council, and the senate education, senate education finance, house education funding, and house education policy and administration committees of the general court by April 1, 2026, detailing the progress of public schools in eliminating DEI-related provisions from contracts.

187:77 Interpretation and Compliance.

I. Should a public school fail to abide by any section of this subdivision, either knowingly or unknowingly, the commissioner of the department of education shall immediately halt all sources of public funding to that public school, until such time as the school comes into compliance with all sections of this subdivision.

II. The commissioner of the department of education shall notify the state treasurer if a public school is not in compliance with this subdivision, at which time the treasurer shall halt all forms of public funding to the school until the commissioner has certified the school come into compliance with this subdivision.

464 Effective Date. Unless otherwise specified, the remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-1488h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

1. Adds new definitions to the endangered species conservation act.
2. Requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules and review procedures such that actions of state agencies do not jeopardize the existence or habitats of species protected under the endangered species conservation act.
3. Establishes an environmental scientist position within the department of environmental services to ensure that state agencies do not jeopardize the existence or habitats of species protected under the endangered species conservation act.

4. Requires that rules established by the executive director of the fish and game department establish an administrative fee that the executive director may collect from payments made to the threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund.

5. Requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules regarding when mitigation payments to the threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund are required.

6. Modifies the definition of “environmental review” as it relates to native plant protection.

7. Requires the department of environmental services to build and maintain a database for providing environmental reviews and cataloging protected species for the purpose of assisting state agencies and departments that require environmental reviews.

8. Requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules to establish a process for requesting a screening and environmental review process.

9. Prevents the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources from charging a fee for screening department records for instances of protected species or environmental reviews.

10. Prevents the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources from using money collected under the natural heritage bureau fund to conduct environmental reviews.

11. Defines “boathouse” and “structural height” in the context of fill and dredge in wetlands statutes.

12. Prevents the New Hampshire Rivers Council from filing written notice with the department of environmental services for the purpose of investigating excavation or dredging permits.

13. Prevents the department of environmental services from issuing 40-day extension periods on excavation or dredging permit applications.

14. Raising the fees associated with shoreline terrain alteration applications and raising fees annually to coincide with inflation.

15. Establishes fees for applications for terrain alteration and requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules to establish a permit by notification for certain projects with plans encompassing an area less than 150,000 square feet.

16. Establishes structural requirements for existing and new boathouses located over public waters and penalties for violation thereof.

17. Requires school districts to adopt policies governing student cell phone use in schools.

18. Establishes the solid waste facility site evaluation committee, requires major solid waste disposal facilities to be certified by the solid waste facility site evaluation committee, and temporarily suspends the issuance of solid waste permits by the department of environmental services.

19. Defines “eligible student” for the purposes of enrollment in the education freedom account program.

20. Makes significant changes to the NH retirement system, including modifying the maximum retirement benefits for certain public employees, adjusting the dates and percentages related to the calculation of retirement benefit, and adjusting the definition of “earnable compensation.”

21. Allows municipalities to authorize gaming facilities to operate continuously for 24 hours per day; and prevents a maximum wager limit for certain games of chance.

22. Establishes a video lottery tax at a rate of 30 percent on video lottery terminals.

23. Provides that the general court may appropriate funds from the opioid abatement trust fund to the department of safety for law enforcement activities related to substance abuse prevention, including overtime costs, for officers in the northern part of the state.

24. Revises certain staffing and office requirements for the board of tax and land appeals.

25. Establishes the division of planning and community development in the department of business and economic affairs.

26. Updates references to the state workforce innovation fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and the statute authorizing state workforce innovation grants for job training through the department of economic security.

27. Repeals the commission on aging.

28. Provides budget transfer authority to the department of corrections.

29. Extends the prospective repeal certain eligibility criteria for mental health services.

30. Suspends graduate medical eligibility payments for the biennium.

31. Directs the department of health and human services to submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to suspend catastrophic aid payments to hospitals for the biennium.

32. Authorizes the department of health and human services to accept additional federal funds, with fiscal committee approval, for the Medicaid to schools’ program if necessary.

33. Suspends the WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program for the biennium pending sufficient funding.

34. Permits the department of health and human services to accept gifts for the benefit of the department.

35. Establishes certain unclassified positions within the department of health and human services.

36. Suspends congregate housing services for the biennium.

37. Revises criteria for pharmacists filling name brand and generic drug prescriptions under the Medicaid program.

38. Extends a prior appropriation for the pilot program for young adults with developmental disabilities.
39. Extends the effective date for expanded access to court-appointed counsel for children in dependency proceedings, establishes 3 staff attorney positions in the department of health and human services, and identifies funds appropriated to the department for this purpose.
40. Directs the department of health and human services to file an amendment to the state Medicaid plan regarding prescription drug copayments.
41. Directs the department of health and human services to file no more than one Medicaid rate filing with the CMS in each fiscal year of the biennium.
42. Directs the department of health and human services to file a Medicaid waiver and state plan amendment to institute premiums based on income for individuals participating in the granite advantage health care program.
43. Directs the department of health and human services to file a Medicaid waiver and state plan amendment to institute premiums based on income for households with children participating in the Medicaid program.
44. Directs the department of health and human services to restore income verification for Medicaid re-determination to pre-public health emergency income verification standards.
45. Authorizes an additional appropriation to department of health and human services if such funds are required to prevent a waitlist for child care scholarships.
46. Amends the title of certain positions in the department of information technology.
47. Revises the organizational structure of the bureaus within the department of justice, division of legal counsel.
48. Transfers any excess balances related to administration and enforcement expenses of racing and charitable gaming to an accounting unit in the department of education for distributing state adequacy grants to public school districts and repeals certain purposes for which money in the education trust fund may be used.
49. Clarifies the means of calculating average daily membership in attendance for the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School.
50. Authorizes the state board of education to modify determinations of education adequacy grant amounts.
51. Changes the process through which counsel for indigent defendants may apply for reimbursement for services necessary to an adequate defense.
52. Makes changes to the wage claim settlement account fund.
53. Updates the composition and confidentiality of records of the workers compensation appeals board.
54. Changes the process for awarding of elevator inspection certificates.
55. Expands the authority of the labor commissioner to impose civil penalties.
56. Authorizes appeals of certain decisions by the labor commissioner.
57. Establishes the wage claim settlement fund.
58. Changes the number of members on the workers' compensation appeals board and makes changes in the proceedings.
59. Implements a fee for unit owners to obtain a certificate of successful inspection of an elevator or accessibility lift.
60. Provides that a civil penalty of greater than \$2,500 for violations of certain unfair labor practices may be levied only if specifically authorized by law and allows the imposition of civil penalties for violations of workers compensation laws and youth labor laws.
61. Allows for a hearing where the commissioner of labor denies reimbursement for payment for second injuries under the workers compensation law.
62. Allows an employer or employer's insurance carrier to petition for a hearing after denial of reimbursement for payment of additional compensation under the workers compensation law.
63. Provides that the funds in accounting unit 1051 shall not lapse until June 30, 2027.
64. Allows the director of the division of motor vehicles to authorize certain actions regarding a fictitious, facsimile or simulated license to drive a motor vehicle.
65. Allows the department of safety to disseminate driver history records to federal entities or their authorized agents in certain circumstances.
66. Designates the hazardous materials incident response coordinator as group II retirement-eligible during full-time service.
67. Clarifies the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services policy regarding the use of properly equipped vehicles to transport sick or injured individuals; removes a reference to licensing of wheelchair vans and emergency medical dispatchers by the division; and repeals a requirement that the division establish an emergency communications network as such responsibility is handled by other state entities.
68. Lapses funds for continued operation of the Cannon Mountain tramway.
69. Repeals the Benjamin Thompson trust fund.

70. Prevents the lapse of two revolving fund class lines in the operating budget.
71. Repeals revenue sharing with cities and towns under RSA 31-A.
72. Repeals certain wastewater state aid grants.
73. Further specifies information required for well monitoring reports.
74. Eliminates certain fees for the construction of sewerage systems.
75. Repeals the aquatic invasive species decal.
76. Allows the department of environmental services to accept an easement from the abutting property owners of all rights necessary for access, and to store equipment during repair, reconstruction, maintaining, and operation of Pequawket Dam, Horn Pond Dam, and Souhegan Site #35 for the consideration of \$1.
77. Expands the type of educational degree a person may have to serve as a division director for the department of environmental services.
78. Varies the types of experience in public health members of the air resources council may have.
79. Reconfigures some criteria to serve on the waste management council.
80. Reconfigures some criteria to serve on the wetlands council.
81. Increases dam registration fees and sewage disposal fees.
82. Allows all such moneys in excess of \$100,000 made available, after designation by the governor and council, to be expended by the proper persons or agencies in the state government only with the prior approval of the joint legislative fiscal committee.
83. In certain circumstances, allows every department as defined in RSA 9:1 to transfer funds within and among all accounting units within said department, with the approval of the commissioner of the department of administrative service.
84. Allows the governor to accept public funds, gifts, grants, donations or any other source of funds, for the care, maintenance, repair of, and additions to, the bridges house.
85. Provides for the continual and non-lapsing surplus distribution section administrative assessments fund.
86. Allows state agencies to use funds in appropriate budget classes to pay any penalties, fines, interest or other costs imposed on the state of New Hampshire by the NH retirement system or by the IRS after exhausting any relevant appeal process.
87. Increases the maximum ticket price for lottery drawings.
88. Delineates the criteria for distribution and transfers of certain tax revenues and other fund proceeds.
89. Transfers authority for the appointment of certain inspectors from the office of professional licensure and certification to the department of safety.
90. Makes various changes regarding the regulation of barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, and related shops and schools.
91. Increases fees for assorted pesticide product applications, registrations, licenses, and permits.
92. Increases fees for assorted agricultural-services product applications, registrations, licenses, and permits.
93. Increasing fees relative to certain agricultural product permits, goods, and licenses.
94. Changes the weights and measures device license fees and requires certain registered service agencies to pay a \$250 registration fee.
95. Creates the "Love NH Lakes" number plate and directs that the residual amount of the special fee for the plate and royalties and proceeds from the commercial use of its design be deposited in the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.
96. Increases the import fee for automotive oil.
97. Raises fees for the hazardous waste generator self-certification program.
98. Increases fees for certain hazardous waste generators.
99. Creates a solid waste disposal surcharge at landfills, incinerators, and waste-to-energy facilities and creates civil penalties for violations of solid waste management fund statutes.
100. Increases the fee for the application for initial or renewal of a hazardous waste coordinators certification.
101. Requires the department to modify rules to avoid significant harms to human health and the environment, and changes the enabling statute of the department of environmental services solid waste division to require the department to consider health and the environment when making future rules.
102. Increases the boat decal fee.
103. Raises the per diem rate for the public employee labor relations board.
104. Eliminates mandatory surcharges for civil case filings and allows the supreme court to establish rules regarding equitable fee schedules for imposed fines and service charges on credit card payments.
105. Makes changes to the minimum electric renewable portfolio standards.
106. Revises the state energy policy to promote affordable, reliable, diverse, and secure energy resources for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.
107. Adds a requirement that until the Sununu Youth Services Center is relinquished, the department of administrative services shall request an appropriation, subject to the approval from the fiscal committee and the governor and executive council, funds necessary to maintain the property.

108. Allows general funds to be used to support activities and infrastructure at a facility that replaces the Sununu Youth Services Center.

109. Requires that any attorney's fee approved for a claim that is to be paid according to a periodic payment schedule also be paid according to that periodic payment schedule.

110. Makes appropriations to the youth development center settlement fund. Sets aside \$10 million pursuant to the state's settlement agreement with plaintiff Michael Gilpatrick in Michael Gilpatrick v. N.H. D.H.H.S, et al.

111. Repeals the division of the arts in the department of natural and cultural resources.

112. Establishes limitations on the percentages of grant-in-aid funds administered by the department of natural and cultural resources, division of parks and recreation, bureau of trails, and the rivers council for the development and maintenance of OHRV (off-highway recreational vehicle) trails on private, municipal, state, or federal lands.

113. Includes operations and initiatives of the Hampton Beach commission as permissible expenses to be paid from the Hampton Beach master plan fund.

114. Suspends the portion of meals and rooms tax revenue credited to the department of business and economic affairs, division of travel and tourism for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

115. Requires the department of transportation to sell or lease certain rest areas and welcome centers to private entities by July 1, 2026.

116. Authorizes the state treasurer to appoint assistant state treasurers.

117. Suspends deposits into the meals and rooms municipal revenue fund for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

118. Transfers any uncommitted moneys from the governor's scholarship fund to the general fund.

119. Eliminates the office of the child advocate.

120. Establishes a group III, defined contribution state retirement plan for new state employee members of the retirement system, who begin service on or after January 1, 2026. All new employees of state employers on and after January 1, 2026 will be required to join the group III defined contribution plan as administered by the retirement system, and any other group I employees may join.

121. Eliminates the enforcement division of the liquor commission.

122. Repeals the repeal of certain provisions related to the right-to-know ombudsman and administratively attaches the ombudsman to the office of state and public sector labor relations.

123. Allows any magistrate appointed before January 31, 2025, to continue to exercise the duties of a magistrate until the end of their term of employment, but no later than January 1, 2030, provided that such magistrate shall not conduct bail hearings or make bail determinations.

124. Consolidates the business and commercial dispute docket and the land use review docket of the superior court into one commercial court docket.

125. Abolishes the human rights commission and reassigns cases formerly under their jurisdiction to the superior court.

126. Abolishes the board of land and tax appeals and assigns cases formerly under their jurisdiction to the commercial court docket.

127. Abolishes the housing appeals board.

128. Repeals the requirement that the state engage in certain outreach and marketing activities to increase awareness of the Granite State paid family leave plan.

129. Creates the office of state and public sector labor relations.

130. This bill adds the expiration of the term of the lease or tenancy if over 6 months as grounds for an eviction.

131. Allows alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit.

132. Creates the "partners in housing" program, an initiative under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building modestly priced housing on municipally or county-owned land that is suitable for development.

133. Abolishes the repayment requirement and recoupment procedures for indigent criminal defendants who are appointed counsel.

134. Changes the calculation of costs of an opportunity for an adequate education, extraordinary need grants, and determination of education grants.

135. Establishes fiscal capacity disparity aid grants.

136. Requires schools to use the state's assessment portal when implementing the competency assessment of United States government and civics.

137. Lapses funding appropriated to computer science professional development.

138. Amends various motor vehicle fees.

139. Increases the vanity plate service and renewal fees to \$60.

140. Require nonresident drivers who establish residency in New Hampshire to notify the department of safety if they then cease to become residents within 60 days, or if their out of state driver's license expires or is relinquished.

141. Specifies when the division of motor vehicles shall send violation notices.

142. Removes the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminates funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.

143. Requiring public-private transportation partnership agreements utilizing state or federal funds to be approved in the 10-year transportation plan and directing that state revenue and proceeds obtained from any partnership be credited to the department of transportation.

144. Allows the fish and game department to conduct raffles, increases the fisheries habitat fee, and directs certain moneys into the fish and game fund.

145. Clarifies group II membership for certain positions with the division of fire safety.

146. Repeals the local option allowing cities and towns to vote to allow the operation of keno games in their communities.

147. Establishes a tax cap for local school districts.

148. Removes the requirement to get approval from the fiscal committee of the general court for public school infrastructure grants.

149. Allows the state board of education to use office of legislative budget assistant audits to satisfy statutory audit and reporting requirements.

150. Removes the requirement that catastrophic special education funds be prorated among the school districts entitled to such aid and requires that disbursements for special education to a school district shall be at least 80 percent of the district's entitlement in the fiscal year.

151. Amends the appropriation regarding special education aid.

152. Makes changes to the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund.

153. Directs the department of health and human services not to enroll any new participants into the state loan repayment program or the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

154. Requires the department of health and human services to include references to the patients' bill of rights in contracts and contract addenda.

155. Increases the cap on county reimbursement for nursing home services for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and makes additional payments to counties as reimbursement for overpayment of certain nursing home costs in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

156. Excludes coverage for circumcision under the state Medicaid plan unless the child has a specific diagnosis for which the procedure is determined to be medically necessary.

157. This bill repeals reimbursement of funds for the foster grandparent program.

158. Repeals the disbursement from the liquor commission to the alcohol abuse prevention and training fund.

159. Requires the department of health and human services to accelerate the implementation of home dialysis.

160. Removes the reallocation of unused funds education freedom account funds to help fund other education freedom accounts.

161. Provides a terms for how previously retired public employees may reenter state service.

162. Exempts ambulatory surgical centers, emergency medical care centers, birthing centers, drop-in or walk-in care centers, dialysis centers, and special health care services from the notice and consent requirements for establishment within 15 miles of a critical access hospital.

163. Defines harm reduction and drug misuse for purposes of alcohol and drug misuse treatment and prevention and establishes a substance use disorder access point program.

164. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to submit a report to the general court that contains a clinical and financial research study concerning adult dental benefits.

165. Modifies the definition of "interchangeable biological product" and allows for interchangeable biological products to be provided by pharmacists subject to certain restrictions.

166. Transfers funds from the opioid abatement trust fund to the alcohol abuse prevention and training fund.

167. Requires the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery to specify and itemize funds spent on prevention, treatment and reduction of societal and individual harm, recovery, and program monitoring and evaluation services and programs.

168. Repeals the prohibition on the use of general funds for the granite advantage program and removes the provision requiring the liquor commission to make up for any short fall in the program.

169. Directs the department of health and human services to rename the office of health equity as the office of health access and directs the office to comply with the hiring freeze in Executive Order 2025-02 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

170. Provides for the termination of the Medicaid to schools program under certain circumstances.

171. Extends a prior appropriation to the department of health and human services for administration of a substance use disorder recovery initiative by Granite United Way.

172. Mandates that the department of health and human services seek all available Title IV-E, Administration for Children and Families funds to maximize benefits for children in its care.

173. Directs the department of health and human services to serve every person with equal dignity and respect and to not contract with or pay vendors who fail to serve every person with equal dignity and respect.

174. Redefines public payor for purposes of the prescription drug affordability board, adds an alternate member to the board from the board's advisory council; revises competitive bidding procedures, authorizes staffing subject to available funding, and extends a prior appropriation of up to \$20,000 to the board.

175. Allows parents to send their children to public schools outside of their resident district.

176. Directs the department of health and human services to terminate all contracts, grants, or other agreements funded with opioid abatement funds with effective dates on or after May 1, 2025, for the purposes of funding provisions contained in this act.

177. Allows the department of health and human services' chief medical officer to place standing orders for certain Medicaid covered over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical supplies, and laboratory tests.

178. Directs the department of health and human services to use TANF funds to cover any shortfall in funding for employment-related child care services in order to prevent a waitlist.

179. Directs the department of health and human services to seek to implement an outpatient procedure incentive program under Medicaid managed care, to encourage Medicaid beneficiaries to choose to receive outpatient procedures, including ambulatory surgical care, from the lower cost provider when clinically appropriate.

180. Requires the sale of the Tirrell House property in Manchester, New Hampshire.

181. Requires the sale of the Anna Philbrook Center in Concord, NH.

182. Requires the subdivision and sale of portions of the Hampstead Hospital property in Hampstead, New Hampshire, excluding those portions used as the replacement facility for the Sununu Youth Services Center and Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility, and those used for any state operations.

183. Directs the department of health and human services to reduce Medicaid provider rates and to use the resulting savings to reduce department appropriations by a specified amount in each year of the biennium.

184. Delays the June 2027 capitation payments to Medicaid managed care organizations until fiscal year 2028 and directs the department of health and human services to use the resulting savings to reduce department appropriations by a specified amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

185. Directs the department of administrative services to assess, with certain exceptions, an administrative charge on dedicated funds and accounts for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

186. Establishes a recreational and socialization services special fund to support recreational services for individuals with developmental disabilities, sets the payment limit for such services at \$595 per individual, and extends the lapse of a prior appropriation to the department of health and human services for this purpose.

187. Makes the administrator of the recreational and socialization services fund and persons or entities with historic horse racing operations licenses charitable organizations.

188. Prohibits all public entities from implementing, promoting, or otherwise engaging in any diversity, equity, and inclusion DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies; requires each agency to report such contracts to the department of administrative services, which shall compile a consolidated report for submission to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and senate president; and provides for the amendment (i.e., removing DEI-related provisions) of non-compliant contracts.

189. Prohibits all public schools from implementing, promoting, or otherwise engaging in any DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies and provides processes for the review and termination or amendment of noncompliant contracts and provides for funding halts in the event of a violation.

Amendment to HB 25-A (2025-1455h)

Proposed by the Committee on Public Works and Highways-r

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

1 Capital Appropriations. The sums hereinafter detailed are hereby appropriated for the projects specified to the departments, agencies, and branches named:

I. Department of Administrative Services

1. Statewide Emergency Fund	1,500,000
2. State House Annex Renovation - Phase 2	12,250,000
3. Sprinkler Replacement	550,000
4. Main Building Elevator Replacement	1,100,000
Total state appropriation paragraph I	\$15,400,000

II. Community College System of New Hampshire

1. Great Bay Community College: Workforce Capacity Building in Welding	700,000
2. IT Infrastructure	150,487
3. Critical Maintenance	1,300,000

4. Energy Management Systems	500,000
Total state appropriation paragraph II	\$2,650,487
III. Department of Corrections	
1. NHSP/M - Electronic Controls and Camera Installations	2,000,000
2. NHSP/M - Replace HVAC Units Using R-22 Refrigerant	7,700,000
3. NHSP/M - Boiler, Surge and Deaerator Tank Replacements	2,300,000
Total state appropriation paragraph III	\$12,000,000
IV. Department of Education	
1. Milford Applied Technology Center	1
Total state appropriation paragraph IV	\$1
V. Department of Environmental Services	
1. Dam Repairs and Reconstruction	10,810,000
2. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund State Match	8,846,360
3. Superfund State Match	829,217
4. Clean Water State Revolving Fund State Match	9,467,496
5. Winnepesaukee River Basin Program Infrastructure Upgrades	19,700,000
Less Other Funds (Revolving Loan Fund)*	<u>(19,700,000)</u>
Net State	0
Total state appropriation paragraph V	\$29,953,073

*To provide funds for the appropriations made in paragraph V, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$19,700,000 and for said purpose may issue bonds and notes in the name of and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with RSA 6-A. Payments of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be made from the Winnepesaukee river basin control account established in RSA 485-A:50.

VI. Fish and Game Department	
1. Hatchery Predator Control	2,200,000
Less Other Funds (Fish and Game Fund)*	<u>(2,200,000)</u>
Net State	0
2. Replace 50-Foot 25-Ton Trailer	65,000
Less Other Funds (Fish and Game Fund)*	<u>(65,000)</u>
Net State	0
3. Inland Fisheries Equipment	114,000
Less Other Funds (Fish and Game Fund)*	<u>(114,000)</u>
Net State	0
4. Replace 410 John Deere Backhoe	350,000
Total state appropriation paragraph VI	\$350,000

*To provide funds for the appropriations made in paragraph VI, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$2,379,000 and for said purpose may issue bonds and notes in the name of and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with RSA 6-A. Payments of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be made from the fish and game fund established in RSA 206:33.

VII. Department of Health and Human Services	
1. Medicaid Enterprise Modular Strategy	33,750,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(30,375,000)</u>
Net State	3,375,000
2. Modernize Eligibility Services	1,875,878
Less Federal Funds	<u>(1,219,321)</u>
Net State	656,557
3. Glencliff Home Warehouse Elevator Repair	450,000
Total state appropriation paragraph VII	\$4,481,557
VIII. Department of Information Technology	
1. Cybersecurity Enhancements	2,380,000
Total state appropriation paragraph VIII	\$2,380,000
IX. Department of Justice	
1. Replacement of Case Management System	2,231,696
Total state appropriation paragraph IX	\$2,231,696
X. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services	
1. Milford Readiness Center Addition and Renovation	4,000,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
Net State	1,000,000

2. Manchester Land Replacement	5,000,000
3. Statewide Readiness Center Roof Replacement	5,100,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(2,550,000)</u>
Net State	2,550,000
4. Plymouth Readiness Center Design and Construction	4,000,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
Net State	1,000,000
5. Pembroke Readiness Center Addition	8,000,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(8,000,000)</u>
Net State	0
6. Aviation Hangar Addition/Alteration	9,000,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(9,000,000)</u>
Net State	0
Total state appropriation paragraph X	\$9,550,000
XI. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	
1. Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway	26,000,000
2. Umbagog Lake State Park Marina and Facilities	950,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(475,000)</u>
Net State	475,000
3. Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Road Repairs	1,400,000
Total state appropriation paragraph XI	\$27,875,000
XII. Pease Development Authority	
1. Market Street Terminal Main Wharf Dredging	1,417,000
2. Rye Harbor and Hampton Harbor RipRap Repair	765,000
3. Market Street Marine Terminal Warehouse Removal/Office Replacement	1,973,300
Total state appropriation paragraph XII	\$4,155,300
XIII. Police Standards and Training Council	
1. Main Entrance Security Improvements	480,000
Total state appropriation paragraph XIII	\$480,000
XIV. Department of Safety	
1. Software - Automated Fuel Tax System	2,862,000
2. Gun Range Training Facility	2,300,000
3. Modernization of Plate Production Equipment	1,302,950
Less Other Funds (Plate Fund)*	<u>(1,302,950)</u>
Net State	0
Total state appropriation paragraph XIV	\$5,162,000
*To provide funds for the appropriations made in subparagraph XIV, 3, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$1,302,950 and for said purpose may issue bonds and notes in the name of and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with RSA 6-A. Payments of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be made from the reflectorized plate fund established in RSA 228:25.	
XV. University System of New Hampshire	
1. Hyde Hall Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center renovation (PSU) and Redfern, Morrisson, and Keddy (KSC)*	8,000,000
Total state appropriation paragraph XV	\$8,000,000
*The university system board of trustees will determine the timing of the projects and the specific dollar allocation to each from the above sum available, while ensuring the respective campus priorities are addressed. The board of trustees shall report on the progress of the projects to the capital project overview committee in October and April.	
XVI. Veterans Home	
1. Replace Three (3) Air Handlers	1,300,000
2. Diesel Tank Replacement	60,000
3. Replace Seven (7) Tubs and One (1) Bariatric Stretcher Shower Trolley	140,000
4. Replace Fifty (50) Veteran Resident Beds	155,000
5. Twenty (20) Medical Lifts and Installation	180,000
6. Tarr South/Tarr North ASA and IPC Compliance	1,500,000
Total state appropriation paragraph XVI	\$3,335,000
XVII. Department of Transportation	
1. Matching Funds for Transit Vehicles	390,000
2. Federal State Match for FAA Projects	68,589,812

Less Federal Funds	(64,962,906)
Net State	3,626,831
3. Carroll and Strafford Freight Rail Improvement*	450,000
Total state appropriation paragraph XVII	\$4,466,831

*The sum appropriated in subparagraph XVII, 3 shall be matched to private funds of an equal amount for each project. The department of transportation shall report on the use of the appropriation and matching private funds for each project to the capital project overview committee in October and April for each year of the biennium.

Total state appropriation section 1 \$132,470,945

2 Appropriation; Highway Funds; Department of Transportation. The sums hereinafter detailed are appropriated for the projects specified:

I. Department of Transportation

1. Statewide - Salt and Sand Shed Replacements	3,000,000
2. Statewide - Underground Storage Tank Replacement	2,000,000
3. Mechanical Services - Twin Mountain Garage Roof Replacement	1,206,668
4. Lempster 215 - Patrol Facility Replacement	3,580,380
5. Pinkham 109 - Patrol Facility Replacement	212,952
Total state appropriation paragraph I	10,000,000
Total state appropriation section 2	10,000,000

3 Expenditures; General. The appropriations made for the purposes mentioned in sections 1 and 2 of this act, with the exception of appropriations in paragraphs II and XV of section 1, and the sums available for those projects shall be expended by the trustees, commissions, commissioner, or department head of the institutions and departments referred to herein; provided that all contracts and projects and plans and specifications therefor shall be awarded in accordance with the provisions of RSA 21-I and RSA 228.

4 Expenditures; Community College System of New Hampshire.

I. The appropriations made for the community college system in paragraph II of section 1 and the sums available for this project shall be expended by the trustees of the community college system of New Hampshire.

II. The appropriations made to the community college system in paragraph II of section 1 are available for all costs incidental to the completion of the project enumerated including but not limited to the costs of the services for architects, engineers, and other consultants of such kind and capacity as the community college system board of trustees may, in its discretion, wish to employ on such terms and conditions as the board determines. These monies shall be spent under the direction of the community college system board of trustees and pursuant to the policies adopted by the board of trustees.

III. Any authorization contained in this act which is at variance with the requirements of applicable federal law and regulations shall be controlled by the terms of federal law and regulations.

5 Expenditures; University System of New Hampshire.

I. The appropriations made for the university system in paragraph XV of section 1 and the sums available for these projects shall be expended by the trustees of the university system of New Hampshire.

II. The appropriations made to the university system in paragraph XV of section 1 are available for all costs incidental to the completion of the projects enumerated including but not limited to the costs of the services for architects, engineers, and other consultants of such kind and capacity as the university system board of trustees may, in its discretion, wish to employ on such terms and conditions as the board determines. These monies shall be spent under the direction of the university system board of trustees and pursuant to the policies adopted by the board of trustees.

III. Any authorization contained in this act which is at variance with the requirements of applicable federal law and regulations shall be controlled by the terms of federal law and regulations.

6 Land Acquisition. Any land acquired under the appropriations made in sections 1 and 2 of this act, if any, as may be acquired under the appropriation shall be purchased by the commissioner of the department of administrative services or the department of transportation with the approval of governor and council.

7 Bonds Authorized.

I. To provide funds for the total of the appropriations of state funds made in sections 1 and 2 of this act, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$165,852,895 and for said purposes may issue bonds and notes in the names and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with the provisions of RSA 6-A. The source of funds are as follows: General Fund \$132,470,945, Highway Funds \$10,000,000, and Other Funds \$23,381,950.

8 Payments.

I. The payment of principal and interest on bonds and notes issued for the projects in section 1 shall be made when due from the general fund of the state.

II. The payment of principal and interest on bonds issued for the projects in:

(a) The highway fund portion of the appropriations made in section 2 shall be made from the highway fund and the general fund portion from the general fund.

(b) The fish and game fund portion of the appropriations made in paragraph V of section 1 shall be made from the fish and game fund.

9 Powers of Governor and Council. The governor and council are hereby authorized and empowered:

I. To cooperate with and enter into such agreements with the federal government, or any agency thereof, as they may deem advisable, to secure federal funds for the purposes hereof.

II. To accept any federal funds which are, or become available for any project under sections 1 and 2 beyond the estimated amounts. The net appropriation of state funds for any project for which such additional federal funds are accepted shall be reduced by the amount of such additional funds, and the amount of bonding authorized by section 7 shall be reduced by the same amount.

10 Transfers. The individual project appropriations provided in sections 1 and 2 of this act shall not be transferred or expended for any other purposes; provided that if there is a balance remaining after an individual project, which is fully funded by state funds, is completed, accepted, and final payment made, said balance or any part thereof may be transferred by governor and council, to any other individual project or projects, which are also fully funded by state funds, within the same section and from the same funding source, provided that prior approval of the capital project overview committee is obtained.

11 Reduction of Appropriation and Bonding Authority. If the net appropriation of state funds for any project provided for by sections 1 and 2 is determined on the basis of an estimate of anticipated federal, local, or other funds, and if the amount of such funds actually received or available is less than said estimate, then the total authorized cost for such projects and the net appropriation of state funds thereof shall be reduced by the same proportion as the proportion by which federal, local, or other funds are reduced. The amount of bonding authorized by section 7 shall be reduced by the amount that the appropriation of state funds is reduced pursuant to this section.

12 Division of Public Works Design and Construction Inspection Services; Davis-Bacon Act Compliance. The appropriations for those projects which are managed by the division of public works design and construction, Department of Administrative Services, may be expended to fund temporary personnel for the purpose of providing construction inspection services and Davis-Bacon Act Compliance services for projects utilizing federal funds, for those projects included in this act.

13 Lapse of Prior Capital Balance; Capital Appropriations for the Community College System of New Hampshire.

I. The amount of \$649,513 is hereby lapsed from the unencumbered balances from the following state capital projects:

(a) The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2017, 228:1, II, B,3, extended by 2019, 146:20, 15, extended by 2021, 107:16, 25, extended by 2023, 113:24, 44 for Spaulding - Roof Replacement.

(b) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 57 for NNHCF Roof Replacement.

(c) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 58 for Construction of Training Center for Bldg. Trades NHCF/W.

(d) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 60 for Door Controller Upgrade.

(e) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 9, extended by 2023, 113:24, 64 for Replace Steam Lines and Traps.

(f) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2019, 146:1, IV, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 44, extended by 2023, 113:24, 68 for Perimeter Security and Fence Detection Systems.

(g) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2019, 146:1, IV, C, extended by 2021, 107:16, 46, extended by 2023, 113:24, 70 for Replace Electrical Services.

(h) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2017, 228:1, IV, A, extended by 2019, 146:20, 43, extended by 2021, 107:16, 50, extended by 2023, 113:24, 71 for Transitional Work Center - Complete Bathroom Replace.

(i) The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2017, 228:1, IV, G, extended by 2019, 146:20, 49, extended by 2021, 107:16, 54, extended by 2023, 113:24, 72 for Body Alarm/Man Down System (NHSP-Men).

(j) The appropriation made to the Department of Education in 2021, 107:1, IV, 2, extended by 2023:24, 74 for Pre-Engineering Technology.

(k) The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2015, 220:1, VI, F, extended by 2017, 228:22, 53, extended by 2019, 146:20, 69, extended by 2021, 107:16, 71, extended by 2023, 113:24, 93 for permitting, environmental monitoring and flood forecasting.

(l) The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 8, extended by 2023, 113:24, 103 for BEAS Systems Modernization.

(m) The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2019, 146:1, IX, C, extended by 2021, 107:16,99, extended by 2023, 113:24, 120 for Cybersecurity - Program Enhancements.

(n) The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2017, 228:1, XVIII, D, extended by 2019, 146:20, 127, extended by 2021, 107:16, 136, extended by 2023, 113:24, 157 for Restorations at Historic Sites.

(o) The appropriation made to the Judicial Branch in 2021, 107:1, VIII, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 122 for Courts Digitization Project.

II. The sum of \$649,513 is hereby appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 to the Community College System of New Hampshire for IT Infrastructure.

III. To provide funds for the appropriations made in paragraph II, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$649,513 and for said purpose may issue bonds and notes in the name of and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with RSA 6-A. Payments of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be made from the general fund of the state.

IV. All contracts and projects and plans and specifications therefor for the projects authorized in this section shall be awarded in accordance with the provisions of RSA 21-I.

14 Lapse of Prior Capital Balance; Capital Appropriations for Department of Transportation.

I. The amount of \$825,895.97 is hereby lapsed from the unencumbered balances from the following state capital projects:

(a) The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2005, 259:1, XIII, F amended by 2007, 264:20, extended by 2007, 264:29 extended by 2009, 145:19, 81 extended by 2011, 253:28, 104 extended by 2013, 195:47, 110, extended by 2015, 220:23, 120, extended by 2017, 228:22, 142, extended by 2019, 146:20, 157, extended by 2021, 107:16, 181, extended by 2023, 113:24, 204 for railroad acquisition right of first refusal rail match.

(b) The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 1999, 226:1, XIII, C, as extended by 2001, 202:28, XXXIII, and 2003, 240:34, LXXVI extended by 2005, 259:25, LVI extended by 2007, 264:29 LXXIV extended by 2009, 145:19, 64 extended by 2011, 253:28, 98 extended by 2013, 195:47, 111 extended by 2015, 220:23, 121, extended by 2017, 228:22, 143, extended by 2019, 146:20, 158, extended by 2021, 107:16, 182, extended by 2023, 113:24, 205 for acquisition for railroad and airport properties.

II. The sum of \$825,895.97 is hereby appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, to the Department of Transportation for replacement of rails and ties on state-owned active railroad lines.

III. To provide funds for the appropriation made in paragraph II, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$825,895.97 and for said purpose may issue bonds and notes in the name of and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with RSA 6-A. Payments of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be made from the general fund of the state.

IV. All contracts and projects and plans and specifications therefor for the projects authorized in this section shall be awarded in accordance with the provisions of RSA 21-I.

15 Project Purpose Amended; Judicial Branch. Amend 2021, 107:1, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. Judicial Branch

1. NH e-Court and Associated Critical Infrastructure	1,100,000
2. Courts Digitization Project*	50,000
Total state appropriation paragraph VIII	\$1,150,000

*The general court intends that funding to complete the Supreme Court digitization project will be included in the state capital budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2025.

16 Project Purpose Amended; Judicial Branch. Amend 2019, 146:1, X to read as follows:

X. Judicial Branch

A. New Hampshire e-Court NH e-Court and Associated Critical Infrastructure	1,710,000
Total state appropriation paragraph X	\$1,710,000

17 Project Purpose Amended; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. Amend 2021, 107:1, X to read as follows:

X. Military Affairs and Veterans Services

1. [Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection - Merrimack County] Pembroke Regional Training Institute Upgrades	1,660,000
Less Federal Funds	(1,660,000)
Net State	0
2. [Energy Resiliency And Efficiency Improvements Statewide] Pembroke Regional Training Institute Upgrades	3,500,000
Less Federal Funds	(3,500,000)
Net State	0
3. Grafton County Field Maintenance Shop	13,700,000
Less Federal Funds	(13,700,000)
Net State	0
4. Minor Military Construction - Coos County	9,000,000
Less Federal Funds	(9,000,000)
Net State	0

5. Minor Military Construction - Strafford County	7,000,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(7,000,000)</u>
Net State	0
6. [Warehouse Facility Upgrades - Merrimack County] Minor Military Construction- Strafford County	2,600,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(2,600,000)</u>
Net State	0
7. Readiness Center Renovation Statewide	1,200,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(600,000)</u>
Net State	600,000
8. Land	500,000
9. Energy Resiliency and Efficiency Improvements Statewide 50/50	800,000
Less Federal Funds	<u>(400,000)</u>
Net State	400,000
Total state appropriation paragraph X	\$1,500,000

18 Lapse Dates Extended to June 30, 2027. The following appropriations are hereby extended to June 30, 2027:

1. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, A, 1 for Court-house Generators.

2. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, A, 2 for Rochester Courthouse.

3. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, B, 1 for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Mechanical Replacements and Repairs.

4. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, B, 2 for Thayer Building Heating Zone Expansion.

5. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, B, 3 for Two Chillers for 29 Hazen Dr.

6. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, B, 4 for Parking Lot Repairs and Paving - Statewide.

7. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, B, 5 for Acquire Building at 25 Hall Street.

8. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2023, 113:1, I, C, 1 for State-wide Emergency Fund.

9. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, A, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 2 for Lebanon Circuit Courthouse - Remove and Replace Underground Fuel Storage Tank.

10. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, A, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 3 for Portsmouth and Dover Circuit Court Boilers.

11. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, A, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 4 for Statewide Courthouse Roof Replacements.

12. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, B, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 5 for Life Safety Upgrades.

13. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, B, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 6 for Main Building Rewiring Phase 1.

14. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, B, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 8 for Thayer Building - Replace Roof.

15. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, B, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 9 for Tunnel System: Repair and Abandonment Plan.

16. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, C, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 10 for NH First Migration To Information Cloud Environment.

17. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 11 for HHS Roof Replacement.

18. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 12 for HHS/DES Mechanical Replacements and Controls.

19. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 13 for Morton, Johnson, HHS Underground Tank Removal.

20. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 14 for Safety Mechanical Replacements and Repairs.

21. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 15 for Coos County New Parking Lot and Concrete Plaza Entrance.

22. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 6, extended by 2023, 113:24, 16 for Hillsborough County Courthouse North Cooling Tower.

23. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 7, extended by 2023, 113:24, 17 for Annex 1 - Bancroft ADA Connector.
24. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 8, extended by 2023, 113:24, 18 for Discovery Center Mechanical Replacement and Controls.
25. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 9, extended by 2023, 113:24, 19 for Hillsborough County South Walkway Repairs.
26. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 10, extended by 2023, 113:24, 20 for Dolloff Building Elevator Replacement.
27. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 11, extended by 2023, 113:24, 21 for Phase II - Statehouse Annex Renovation.
28. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 12, extended by 2023, 113:24, 22 for New Fire Panels-Installation at 11 Locations.
29. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 13, extended by 2023, 113:24, 23 for Main Building Stair Tower Roofs and Repointing.
30. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, D, 14, extended by 2023, 113:24, 24 for Rochester Circuit Court Replacement Engineering.
31. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, E, extended by 2023, 113:24, 25 for Statewide Emergency Fund.
32. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2021, 107:1, I, F, extended by 2023, 113:24, 26 for Statewide Energy Efficiency Improvements Projects.
33. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 27 for Statewide Projects, Statewide Emergency Funding.
34. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, B, 3, extended by 2021, 107:16, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 29 for Storrs Street Parking Garage Repairs.
35. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, B, 4, extended by 2021, 107:16, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 30 for State House Annex Renovations.
36. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, B, 5, extended by 2021, 107:16, 6, extended by 2023, 113:24, 31 for State House Annex Elevator Upgrades.
37. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, B, 6, extended by 2021, 107:16, 7, extended by 2023, 113:24, 32 for Roof Replacements and Exterior Repairs.
38. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, B, 8, extended by 2021, 107:16, 9, extended by 2023, 113:24, 33 for HHS and DES Mechanical Replacements.
39. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, C, 1, extended by 2021, 107:16, 10, extended by 2023, 113:24, 34 for Concord Steam - Raze Structurally Deficient Building.
40. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, C, 2, extended by 2021, 107:16, 11, extended by 2023, 113:24, 35 for Emergency Back-Up Generator Power To New Boilers.
41. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, C, 3, extended by 2021, 107:16, 12, extended by 2023, 113:24, 36 for Annex 1 - Life Safety/ADA Improvements.
42. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, C, 4, extended by 2021, 107:16, 13, extended by 2023, 113:24, 37 for Thayer Building - Relocate and Upgrade Electrical Service.
43. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, D, 1, extended by 2021, 107:16, 15, extended by 2023, 113:24, 38 for Rockingham County and Hillsborough County South Courthouses - New Chiller, Variable Frequency Drives and Controls.
44. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, D, 3, extended by 2021, 107:16, 17, extended by 2023, 113:24, 39 for Coos County Courthouse - New Boilers.
45. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, D, 5, extended by 2021, 107:16, 19, extended by 2023, 113:24, 40 for Generators - Conway, Coos, Jaffrey, Lebanon, Plymouth.
46. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, D, 6, extended by 2021, 107:16, 20, extended by 2023, 113:24, 41 for Hillsborough County South - Cellblock Renovation.
47. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2019, 146:1, II, E, extended by 2021, 107:16, 21, extended by 2023, 113:24, 42 for Financial Data Management, ERP Sustainability and Advancement.
48. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2017, 228:1, II, A, 1, extended by 2019, 146:20, 11, extended by 2021, 107:16, 23, extended by 2023, 113:24, 43 for Statewide Emergency Funding.
49. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2017, 228:1, II, B, 4, extended by 2019, 146:20, 16, extended by 2021, 107:16, 26, extended by 2023, 113:24, 45 for State Owned Buildings - Security Upgrades.
50. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2017, 228:1, II, C, 1, extended by 2019, 146:20, 22, extended by 2021, 107:16, 30, extended by 2023, 113:24, 46 for Main Bldg Lodge Roof Replacement/brick/trim repairs.

51. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2017, 228:1, II, C, 3, extended by 2019, 146:20, 24, extended by 2021, 107:16, 32, as amended by 2023, 113:15, extended by 2023, 113:24, 47 for Main Bldg, North Pavilion Wing Roof Replacement.

52. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2017, 228:1, II, D, 3, extended by 2019, 146:20, 26, extended by 2021, 107:16, 33, extended by 2023, 113:24, 48 for Milford Circuit Court - New Courthouse.

53. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2015, 220:1, II, B, 8, extended by 2017, 228:22, 21, extended by 2019, 146:20, 35, extended by 2021, 107:16, 38, extended by 2023, 113:24, 49 for state house and Upham Walker house repairs.

54. The appropriation made to the Department of Administrative Services in 2011, 253:1, II, C, 1 extended by 2013, 195:47, 13 extended by 2015, 220:23, 18, extended by 2017, 228:22, 29, extended by 2019, 146:20, 37, extended by 2021, 107:16, 39, extended by 2023, 113:24, 50 for critical IT infrastructure.

55. The appropriation made to the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food in 2021, 107:1, II, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 51 for Repairs to NH Building At Eastern States Exposition.

56. The appropriation made to the Community College System of New Hampshire in 2023, 113:1, XVI, 1 for Critical Maintenance.

57. The appropriation made to the Community College System of New Hampshire in 2023, 113:1, XVI, 3 for NCC Respiratory Therapy Program Teaching Equipment and Teaching Space Renovations.

58. The appropriation made to the Community College System of New Hampshire in 2021, 107:1, XIII, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 52 for Critical Maintenance.

59. The appropriation made to the Community College System of New Hampshire in 2019, 146:1, III, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 41, extended by 2023, 113:24, 53 for Critical Maintenance and Safety, Master Plans.

60. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2023, 113:1, II, 1 for Replace Sewer Lines and Grinder.

61. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2023, 113:1, II, 2 for Radio System Upgrade.

62. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 56 for NHSP/M Roof Replacement.

63. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 7, extended by 2023, 113:24, 62 for Perimeter Security and Fence Detection Systems.

64. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 8, extended by 2023, 113:24, 63 for Rebuild Sewer Line and Grinder.

65. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 10, extended by 2023, 113:24, 65 for Roof Replacement - Hancock and Industries Buildings.

66. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:1, III, 11, extended by 2023, 113:24, 66 for NH State Prison/M Door Replacement.

67. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2021, 107:14, III, extended by 2023, 113:24, 67 for NHSPM Door and Ceiling Replace/Repair - Close Custody Unit.

68. The appropriation made to the Department of Corrections in 2019, 146:1, IV, B, extended by 2021, 107:16, 45, extended by 2023, 113:24, 69 for Kitchen Renovation.

69. The appropriation made to the Department of Education in 2021, 107:1, IV, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 75 for Bathrooms-All Floors, Renovation and ADA Modifications.

70. The appropriation made to the Department of Energy in 2023, 113:1, IV, 1 for Fuel Assistance Program (FAP)/Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Database and Program Management.

71. The appropriation made to the Department of Energy in 2017, 228:1, VII, A, extended by 2019, 146:20, 59, extended by 2021, 107:16, 57, extended by 2023, 113:24, 76 for Fuel Assistance Program/Weatherization Assistance Program.

72. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2023, 113:1, V, 1 for Dam Repairs and Reconstruction.

73. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2023, 113:1, V, 2 for IT Infrastructure.

74. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2023, 113:1, V, 3 for Drinking Water SRF State Match.

75. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2023, 113:1, V, 4 for Clean Water SRF State Match.

76. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2023, 113:1, V, 5 for Ground Water Monitoring.

77. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2023, 113:1, V, 6 for Win-nipisaukee River Basin Upgrade.

78. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:1, V, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 77 for Clean Water State Revolving Fund State Match.

79. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:1, V, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 78 for Dam Repairs and Reconstruction.

80. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:1, V, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 79 for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund State Match.

81. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:1, V, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 80 for One-Stop/ IT Systems Upgrades.

82. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:1, V, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 81 for Coastal Flooding Modeling.

83. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:1, V, 6, extended by 2023, 113:24, 82 for Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP) Collection System Upgrade.

84. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2021, 107:14, IV, extended by 2023, 113:24, 83 for Coastal Flood Modeling.

85. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2019, 146:1, VI, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 58, extended by 2023, 113:24, 84 for Dam Repairs and Reconstruction.

86. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2019, 146:1, VI, B, extended by 2021, 107:16, 59, extended by 2023, 113:24, 85 for Construction and Operations Facility.

87. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2019, 146:1, VI, E, extended by 2021, 107:16, 62, extended by 2023, 113:24, 87 for IT Upgrades For E-Permitting and Automation.

88. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2017, 228:1, VIII, F, extended by 2019, 146:20, 63, extended by 2021, 107:16, 65, extended by 2023, 113:24, 88 for Hazardous Waste Superfund Match.

89. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2017, 228:1, VIII, H, extended by 2019, 146:20, 65, extended by 2021, 107:16, 67, extended by 2023, 113:24, 90 for Ossipee Lake Dam Reconstruction.

90. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2015, 220:1, VI, B, extended by 2017, 228:22, 50, extended by 2019, 146:20, 66, extended by 2021, 107:16, 68, extended by 2023, 113:24, 91 for hazardous waste superfund state match.

91. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2015, 220:1, VI, C, extended by 2017, 228:22, 51, extended by 2019, 146:20, 67, extended by 2021, 107:16, 69, extended by 2023, 113:24, 92 for Suncook river infrastructure protection project.

92. The appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Services in 2011, 253:1, VI, E extended by 2013 195:47, 47 extended by 2015, 220:23, 48, extended by 2017, 228:22, 59, extended by 2019, 146:20, 71, extended by 2021, 107:16, 72, extended by 2023, 113:24, 94 for WRBP infrastructure capital improvements.

93. The appropriation made to the Fish and Game Commission in 2023, 113:1, VI, 1 for Roof Replacement.

94. The appropriation made to the Fish and Game Commission in 2021, 107:1, VI, 1, amended by 2023, 113:22, as extended by 2023, 113:24, 95 for Fish Hatchery Statewide Construction/Renovation.

95. The appropriation made to the Fish and Game Department in 2019, 146:1, VII, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 73, extended by 2023, 113:24, 96 for Building Security and Fire Safety Improvements.

96. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2023, 113:1, VII, 1 for Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) Bridges Replacement.

97. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2023, 113:1, VII, 2 for Electronic Health Records.

98. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2023, 113:23, II for the Glencliff Wastewater Treatment Improvements.

99. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 97 for Beneficiary Service Improvement.

100. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 98 for DCYF Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS).

101. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 99 for Developmental Services Information Technology Remediation.

102. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 209 for Electronic Visit Verification System.

103. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 100 for Federal Reporting Integrity and Compliance.

104. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2021, 107:1, VII, 7, extended by 2023, 113:24, 102 for Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) Lifecycle Management and Re-procurement.

105. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2019, 146:1, VIII, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 75, extended by 2023, 113:24, 106 for DCYF Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System.

106. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2019, 146:14, IV, extended by 2021, 107:16, 77, extended by 2023, 113:24, 108 for Glencliff Home Electrical System Enhancement.

107. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2015, 220:1, VII, B, extended by 2017, 228:22, 64, extended by 2019, 146:20, 86, extended by 2021, 107:16, 86, extended by 2023, 113:24, 111 for campus security Glencliff.

108. The appropriation made to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2015, 220:1, VII, F, extended by 2017, 228:22, 68, extended by 2019, 146:20, 89, extended by 2021, 107:16, 89, extended by 2023, 113:24, 112 for chillers and associated components replacement.

109. The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2023, 113:1, VIII, 1 for Cybersecurity Program Enhancements.

110. The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2023, 113:1, VIII, 2 for Financial Systems Modernization.

111. The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2023, 113:1, VIII, 3 for IT Services Management System.

112. The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2019, 146:1, IX, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 97, extended by 2023, 113:24, 116 for Digital Government Transformation (Enterprise).

113. The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2019, 146:1, IX, B, extended by 2021, 107:16, 98, extended by 2023, 113:24, 117 for Continuity of Operation and Disaster Planning.

114. The appropriation made to the Department of Information Technology in 2017, 228:1, XII, B, extended by 2019, 146:20, 105, extended by 2021, 107:16, 100, extended by 2023, 113:24, 118 for Enterprise Workflow/Document Mgmt (All - Enterprise).

115. The appropriation made to the Judicial Branch in 2021, 107:1, VIII, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 121 for NH e-Court and Associated Critical Infrastructure.

116. The appropriation made to the Judicial Branch in 2019, 146:1, X, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 103, extended by 2023, 113:24, 123 for NH e-Court and Associated Critical Infrastructure.

117. The appropriation made to the Liquor Commission in 2023, 113:1, IX, 1 for Hampton North and South New Stores.

118. The appropriation made to the Liquor Commission in 2023, 113:1, IX, 2 for HQ Life Safety Improvements, Parking Lot, Renovation, and Roof.

119. The appropriation made to the Liquor Commission in 2023, 113:1, IX, 3 for Roof Replacement.

120. The appropriation made to the Liquor Commission in 2017, 228:1, XV, D, extended by 2019, 146:20, 117, extended by 2021, 107:16, 111, extended by 2023, 113:24, 128 for Hampton North and South New Liquor Stores.

121. The appropriation made to the Liquor Commission in 2017, 228:14, III, extended by 2019, 146:20, 118, extended by 2021, 107:16, 109, extended by 2023, 113:24, 126 for the Concord headquarters roof replacement and parking lot.

122. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2023, 113:1, X, 1 for Nashua Readiness Center Minor Military Construction.

123. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2023, 113:1, X, 2 for Plymouth Readiness Center Minor Military Construction.

124. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2023, 113:1, X, 3 for Statewide Building Improvements.

125. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2023, 113:1, X, 4 for Nashua Hazardous Material Remediation.

126. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2023, 113:1, X, 5 for Land Purchase - Pembroke.

127. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 129 for Pembroke Regional Training Institute Upgrades.

128. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 130 for Pembroke Regional Training Institute Upgrades.

129. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 131 for Grafton County Field Maintenance Shop.

130. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 4, extended by 2023, 113:24, 132 for Minor Military Construction - Coos County.

131. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 133 for Minor Military Construction - Strafford County.

132. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 6, extended by 2023, 113:24, 134 for Minor Military Construction - Strafford County.

133. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 7, extended by 2023, 113:24, 135 for Readiness Center Renovation Statewide.

134. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X,

8, extended by 2023, 113:24, 136 for Land.

135. The appropriation made to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2021, 107:1, X, 9, extended by 2023, 113:24, 137 for Energy Resiliency and Efficiency Improvements Statewide 50/50.

136. The appropriation made to the Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2019, 146:1, I, B, extended by 2021, 107:16, 113, extended by 2023, 113:24, 139 for Federal Statewide Repairs and Upgrades.

137. The appropriation made to the Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2019, 146:1, I, C, extended by 2021, 107:16, 114, extended by 2023, 113:24, 140 for Minor Military Construction Statewide.

138. The appropriation made to the Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2019, 146:1, I, D, extended by 2021, 107:16, 115, as amended by 2023, 113:16, extended by 2023, 113:24, 141 for Manchester Readiness Center and Concord Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Renovations.

139. The appropriation made to the Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2019, 146:1, I, E, extended by 2021, 107:16, 116, extended by 2023, 113:24, 142 for Grafton County Readiness Center Design.

140. The appropriation made to the Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2019, 146:14, II, extended by 2021, 107:16, 118, extended by 2023, 113:24, 143 for Environmental Hazard Remediation and Land Acquisition.

141. The appropriation made to the Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2015, 220:1, I, D extended by 2017, 228:22, 4, extended by 2019, 146:20, 7, extended by 2021, 107:16, 122, extended by 2023, 113:24, 144 for land for military construction.

142. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2023, 113:1, XI, 1 for Roofing and Repair.

143. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2023, 113:1, XI, 2 for Forest and Lands Facilities.

144. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2023, 113:1, XI, 4 for Mount Washington Summit Infrastructure and Ecology Study.

145. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2023, 113:1, XI, 5 for Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Road Repairs and Paving.

146. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2023, 113:23, III, for the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Road Repairs and Paving.

147. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2021, 107:1, XI, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 145 for Communication System Replacement.

148. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2021, 107:1, XI, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 146 for Toilet Building Upgrades.

149. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 125, extended by 2023, 113:24, 147 for Roofing and Repair.

150. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, B, extended by 2021, 107:16, 126, extended by 2023, 113:24, 148 for Mount Washington Sewage Treatment Expansion.

151. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, D, extended by 2021, 107:16, 128, extended by 2023, 113:24, 150 for Campground Toilet Buildings.

152. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, E, extended by 2021, 107:16, 129, extended by 2023, 113:24, 151 for Day-Use Toilet Buildings.

153. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, F, extended by 2021, 107:16, 130, extended by 2023, 113:24, 152 for Mount Sunapee State Park Beach Boat Ramp.

154. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, H, extended by 2021, 107:16, 132, extended by 2023, 113:24, 153 for Climate Controlled Storage Area - State Library.

155. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2019, 146:1, XII, I, extended by 2021, 107:16, 133, extended by 2023, 113:24, 154 for Design and Engineering Services; Archaeology Lab; Office, Lab, and Storage Space Needs.

156. The appropriation made to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2017, 228:1, XVIII, C, extended by 2019, 146:20, 126, extended by 2021, 107:16, 135, extended by 2023, 113:24, 156 for Dams and Retaining Walls.

157. The appropriation made to the Pease Development Authority in 2021, 107:14, II, extended by 2023, 113:24, 159 for Piscataqua River Turning Basin.

158. The appropriation made to the Pease Development Authority in 2017, 228:1, XVI, A, extended by 2019, 146:20, 122, extended by 2021, 107:16, 138, extended by 2023, 113:24, 160 for Piscataqua River Turning Basin.

159. The appropriation made to the Pease development authority in 2015, 220:1, XII, extended by 2017, 228:22, 102, extended by 2019, 146:20, 123, extended by 2021, 107:16, 139, extended by 2023, 113:24, 161 for the Piscataqua River Turning Basin.

160. The appropriation made to the Department of Revenue Administration in 2017, 228:1, XIX, A, extended by 2019, 146:20, 130, extended by 2021, 107:16, 140, extended by 2023, 113:24, 162 for Revenue Information Management System (RIMS).

161. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2023, 113:1, XIV, 1 for New Hampshire State Police (NHSP) Message Switch Replacement.

162. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2023, 113:1, XIV, 2 for New Hampshire State Police (NHSP) Helicopter Improvement.

163. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2023, 113:2, I, 1 for New Hampshire State Police (NHSP) Message Switch Replacement.

164. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2023, 113:2, I, 2 for New Hampshire State Police (NHSP) Helicopter Improvement.

165. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2021, 107:12, II and 13, II, as amended by 2023, 113:18, extended by 2023, 113:24, 164 for State Police Hangar Construction/Renovation.

166. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2019, 146:1, XV, E, as amended by 2022, 47:2, as amended by 2023, 113:20, extended by 2023, 113:24, 163 for Aviation Hangar Bay Construction/Renovation.

167. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2019, 146:2, I, B, extended by 2021, 107:16, 147, extended by 2023, 113:24, 167 for DMV Online Customer Portal.

168. The appropriation made to the Department of Safety in 2017, 228:1, XX, C, extended by 2019, 146:20, 132, extended by 2021, 107:16, 148, extended by 2023, 113:24, 168 for State Police Records Management System.

169. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:1, XV, 1 for Federal State Match for FAA Projects.

170. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:1, XV, 2 for Matching Funds for Transit Buses and Passenger Amenities.

171. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:1, XV, 4 for Coos County Freight Rail Improvements.

172. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:2, II, 1 for Statewide – Construct Salt and Sand Shed.

173. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:2, II, 2 for Statewide – Underground Fuel Tank Replacement.

174. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:2, II, 3 for Statewide – Crew Quarters.

175. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:23, V, for repairs to railroad bridges on state-owned active railroad lines.

176. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:23, VI, for repairs to culverts on active state-owned railroad lines.

177. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:23, VII, for railroad ties and installation on active state-owned railroad lines.

178. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:1, XIV, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 169 for 5% Match For Federal Aviation Administration Projects.

179. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:1, XIV, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 171 for Public Transit Bus and Facility Matching Funds.

180. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:1, XIV, 6, as amended by 2023, 113:21, extended by 2023, 113:24, 174 for Market Street Marine Terminal Project State Match/ Discretionary Grants.

181. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:2, I, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 175 for Fuel Management System Replacement.

182. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:2, I, 2, extended by 2023, 113:24, 176 for Lancaster 701 - Storage Building Replacement.

183. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:2, I, 3, extended by 2023, 113:24, 177 for Londonderry 512 - Patrol and Salt Shed Replacements.

184. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:2, I, 5, extended by 2023, 113:24, 179 for Statewide - Construct Salt and Sand Sheds.

185. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2021, 107:2, I, 6, extended by 2023, 113:24, 180 for Delayed Projects - Patrol Sheds, District Office.

186. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation, General Funds in 2019, 146:1, XVI, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 151, extended by 2023, 113:24, 181 for Aeronautics, Rail, and Transit, 5% match for Federal Aviation Administration Projects.

187. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation, General Funds in 2019, 146:1, XVI, C, extended by 2021, 107:16, 152, extended by 2023, 113:24, 182 for Repairs to State-Owned Active Railroad Bridges.

188. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation, General Funds in 2019, 146:1, XVI, F, extended by 2021, 107:16, 155, extended by 2023, 113:24, 184 for Public Transit Bus and Facility Matching Funds.

189. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2019, 146:2, II, D, extended by 2021, 107:16, 159, extended by 2023, 113:24, 186 for Statewide - Life Safety Code Improvements.

190. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2019, 146:2, II, H, extended by 2021, 107:16, 163, extended by 2023, 113:24, 190 for NHDOT Document Management Software.

191. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2015, 220:1, XVI, A, 1, extended by 2017, 228:22, 116, extended by 2019, 146:20, 148, extended by 2021, 107:16, 174, extended by 2023, 113:24, 199 for 5% match for federal aviation administration project.

192. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2013, 195:XVI, A, 1 extended by 2015, 220:23, 106, extended by 2017, 228:22, 134, extended by 2019, 146:20, 155, extended by 2021, 107:16, 180, extended by 2023, 113:24, 203 for 5% match for FAA projects.

193. The appropriation made to the Police Standards and Training Council in 2023, 113:1, XII, 1 for Move VirTra Simulator to Reclaim Classroom Spaces.

194. The appropriation made to the Police Standards and Training Council in 2023, 113:1, XII, 2 for Convert Existing Breakroom to Classroom.

195. The appropriation made to the Police Standards and Training Council in 2019, 146:1, XIV, A, extended by 2021, 107:16, 141, extended by 2023, 113:24, 206, as amended by 2024, 101:2, XIV, A for Police Standards and Training Council facility improvements (boilers, controllers, a/c replacements, range ventilation and filtration and tactical center floor replacement).

196. The appropriation made to the Veterans Home in 2023, 113:1, XIII, 1 for Sitewide Drainage and Water Life Safety Improvements.

197. The appropriation made to the Veterans Home in 2023, 113:1, XIII, 2 for Entry Life Safety Improvements.

198. The appropriation made to the Veterans Home in 2021, 107:1, XII, 1, extended by 2023, 113:24, 207 for Parking Lot Repairs and Improvements.

199. The appropriation made to the Veterans Home in 2015, 220:1, XVII, A, extended by 2017, 228:22, 144, extended by 2019, 146:20, 161, extended by 2021, 107:16, 185, extended by 2023, 113:24, 208 for third floor addition to the LEDU building - vets home.

200. The appropriation made to the Department of Transportation in 2023, 113:1, XV, 3 for Carroll and Strafford Freight Rail Improvements.

19 Effective Date.

I. Section 18 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Amendment to HB 66

(2025-1005h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Appeals and Enforcement; Filing Fee or Surcharge. Amend RSA 91-A:7-c, I to read as follows:

I. Any party may appeal the ombudsman's final ruling to the superior court by filing a notice of appeal in superior court no more than 30 calendar days after the ombudsman's ruling is issued. The ombudsman's ruling shall be attached to the document initiating the appeal, admitted as a full exhibit by the superior court, considered by the judge during deliberations, and specifically addressed in the court's written order. ~~[Citizen-initiated appeals shall have no filing fee or surcharge.]~~ The public body or public agency shall pay the sheriff's service costs if the public body or public agency, or its attorney, declines to accept service. Nothing in this section shall prevent a superior court from staying an ombudsman's decision pending appeal to the superior court.

Amendment to HB 67-FN-A

(2025-0781h)

Proposed by the Committee on Finance-c

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

2 Change to Effective Date. Amend 2024, 123:5, I to read as follows:

I. Section 4 of this act shall take effect ~~[June 30]~~ **December 31**, 2025.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect June 29, 2025.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect December 31, 2025.

Amendment to HB 71-FN

(2025-0555h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r

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

AN ACT prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States and relative to department of health and human services contracts.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Contracts. All department of health and human services contracts or contract amendments shall include a provision requiring the contractor to comply with the patients' bill of rights as applicable pursuant to RSA 151:21.

3 Applicability. Section 2 of this act shall apply to contracts or contract amendments entered into on or after the effective date of that section.

4 Repeal. Section 2 of this act, relative to department of health and human services contracts, is repealed.

5 Effective Date.

I. Section 4 of this act shall take effect November 30, 2026.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2025-0555h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the use of public schools or institutions of higher learning from providing shelter for specified aliens who have not been admitted to the United States, absent a specified disaster.

This bill also requires the department of health and human services to include references to the patients' bill of rights in contracts and contract addenda.

Floor Amendment to HB 493 (2025-1486h)

Proposed by Rep. Jaci Grote

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Child Abuse and Neglect; Training for Licensure of Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants. Amend RSA 169-C by inserting after section 169-C:39-l the following new section:

169-C:39-m Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants.

As a condition for new or continued licensure in New Hampshire, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who treat patients under 18 years of age shall be required to complete one hour of education on child abuse and neglect. This education shall be accredited for category 1 medical or nursing hours and shall be recognized by the New Hampshire chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics as covering the topics of recognition, reporting, and working with the child protection system.

Amendment to HB 494-FN (2025-0973h)

Proposed by the Committee on Finance-r

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

AN ACT relative to the math learning communities program.

Amend the bill by deleting section 2 and renumbering the original section 3 to read as 2.

2025-0973h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes changes to the math learning communities program in public secondary schools.

Amendment to HB 511-FN (2025-0785h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 3:

2 New Paragraph; County Department of Corrections. Amend RSA 30-B:1 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. A county may hold Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees, after the resolution of state charges, for a maximum of 48 hours excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays in order to permit the assumption of custody by federal authorities, provided that the county has executed an intergovernmental agency agreement to cover both the cost at a daily rate and medical expenses for holding such individuals. If a county does not have an interagency governmental agreement, the county shall be under no obligation to hold Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the county from executing an agreement in accordance with RSA 30-B:16.

**Amendment to HB 677-FN
(2025-0589h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Finance-c

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

AN ACT requiring schools to maintain a supply of EpiPen injectors and epinephrine nasal spray for use in event of an emergency.

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

1 Supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors. RSA 200:44-b, I-II is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I. A school district shall adopt a policy to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors and/or epinephrine nasal spray for use in an allergic emergency when a nurse is employed or contracted by the district. The nurse shall determine the quantity and type of medication the school shall maintain.

II. To obtain life-saving allergy medication for a school district, a health care practitioner may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors and/or epinephrine nasal spray in the name of a school district for use in life-saving allergy emergency situations. If an epinephrine auto-injector and/or epinephrine nasal spray is used pursuant to this subdivision, the school nurse shall order a replacement within 5 business days.

2 Supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors/Epinephrine Nasal Spray; Reporting. RSA 200:44-b, V is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V. Schools shall submit an annual report to the department of education summarizing the supply and use of epinephrine auto-injectors and/or epinephrine nasal spray pursuant to this subdivision.

3 New Subparagraph; Anaphylaxis Training Required. Amend RSA 200:44-a, I by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new subparagraph:

(c) Designated assistive personnel shall be identified by the school nurse, in consultation with the principal, to ensure as many hours as possible of the school day are covered by at least one assistive person.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-0589h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires public schools to maintain supplies of epinephrine auto-injectors and/or epinephrine nasal spray 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 are covered, and provides an appropriation to the department of education for reimbursement of such supplies.

**Amendment to HB 713-FN
(2025-1271h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r

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

1 Installation and Maintenance of Mile Markers.

I. The department of transportation shall install mile markers along the length of Route 112, also known as the Kancamagus Highway, from the town of Lincoln to the town of Conway and may install mile markers along Route 112 from the town of Bath to the town of Woodstock.

II. Generally, mile markers shall be installed at regular intervals of not greater than one mile and shall be clearly visible and legible to motorists and emergency personnel. The department of transportation may omit mile markers along densely developed segments of highway.

III. The department of transportation shall maintain the mile markers installed pursuant this section in accordance with, and subject to, the applicable provisions of the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

IV. Prior to installation the department of transportation shall meet with public officials from the town of Lincoln and the town of Albany to provide information on mile marker design, proposed locations and traffic impacts.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 18 months after its passage.

2025-1271h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the New Hampshire department of transportation to install and maintain mile markers along a portion of Route 112, also known as the Kancamagus Highway, and permits the department to install and maintain mile markers on an additional portion.