



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

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

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Friday, May 2, 2025

No. 23

Contains: Amendments; Bills Laid on the Table; Committee Reports; House Bills Amended by the Senate; House Deadlines; Interpretive Ruling 2025-4 and Interpretive Ruling 2025-5; Meetings and Notices; Revised Fiscal Notes.

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The House will meet on Thursday, May 8th at 10:00 a.m. We currently anticipate that on the 8th, we will be able to act on all remaining Senate Bills going to a second committee, prior to the deadline of May 15th for those early bills. Therefore, it is unlikely we will need to meet on Thursday, May 15th.

For those of you travelling through the Hooksett Tolls, please remember that the open road tolling closure has been causing traffic delays. Please factor that into your commute to and from Concord.

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 continue 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.

State offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th, in observance of Memorial Day.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

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

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Thursday, May 8th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

Rep. Jason Osborne, Majority Leader

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, May 8th 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, May 7, 2025

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

AVAILABLE ON:

Friday, May 9, 2025

Friday, May 16, 2025

Friday, May 23, 2025

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2025 HOUSE DEADLINES

First Year Session Deadlines

Thursday, May 8, 2025	Last day to report Senate Bills going to a second committee
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Last day to act on SBs going to a second committee
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Last day to report all remaining SBs
	Last day to report list of retained SBs
Thursday, June 5, 2025	Last day to act on SBs
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Last day to form Committees of Conference
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Last day to sign Committee of Conference reports (4 p.m.)
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Last day to act on Committee of Conference reports
Monday, September 15, 2025	First Day to file LSRs for 2026 Session
Friday, September 19, 2025	Last Day to file LSRs for 2026 Session (4 p.m.)
Friday, November 21, 2025	Last Day to sign off LSRs for 2026 Session (4 p.m.)
	Last Day to report all retained bills
Thursday, January 8, 2026	Last day to introduce House Bills

NOTICE

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee, at its meeting on April 7, 2025, voted to formally issue the following interpretive rulings, which are printed below in their entirety.

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-4

Defining Substantial (April 7, 2025)

The Legislative Ethics Committee has received several inquiries regarding the application of HB 1388 which was enacted in 2024. This legislation requires recusal from participation in legislative activities under certain circumstances. Those circumstances are set forth in RSA 14-C:4-a. In response to the inquiries, the Committee has issued and published Advisory Opinions and Interpretive Rulings in order to assist legislators in their compliance with the new provisions.

The statute has two parts, Part I and Part II. Part II addresses conflicts arising from the employment of the legislator, or a member of the legislator's household. Part I involves a legislator, or a member of the legislator's household, who has a personal conflict of interest and "could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and **substantial** financial benefit or detriment as a result." (emphasis added) The word "substantial" was not defined by the legislation and seems to be subject to different interpretations. What may appear substantial to one person may seem insignificant to another. There clearly needs to be some standard for this provision to be enforceable.

In order to address this dilemma, the Committee has looked to the prior actions of the legislature for direction. The legislature previously enacted 14-C:2, IV, (a) (3) which places a limit on gifts which may be received by a legislator to \$250 in a calendar year. This appears to be what the legislature believed was the break point at which a legislator's judgment might be compromised.

While the Committee has no authority to legislate, it does have the responsibility to interpret and apply the new recusal provisions. To do so, the Committee will adopt the prior standard set by the legislature in applying the term "substantial". Any yearly amount under \$250 shall be presumed non-substantial. Anything over \$250 shall be presumed to be substantial as applied to the recusal statute. ***The Committee emphasizes that this is a presumptive standard and is subject to the facts and circumstances of any specific case.*** If the General Court finds it warranted, it may further define "substantial."

Please note that this interpretive ruling applies for the purpose of recusal. It does not change current requirements regarding disclosure of conflicts.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-5

Ethics Scenarios (April 7, 2025)

The Committee believes that the following hypothetical scenarios may be helpful in understanding the conflict of interest disclosure procedure and recusal requirements and knowing when disclosing financial interests on the Financial Disclosure Form, filing a Declaration of Intent Form, making a verbal disclosure, or recusing are required. ***The Committee is issuing these scenarios to provide general guidance. Individual circumstances may dictate specific responses that differ from those presented below. The Committee is available to provide advice with respect to specific situations as they arise.***

(1) A legislator is a retired state employee belonging to Group 1 of the New Hampshire Retirement System (“NHRS”). A bill would provide a cost of living adjustment (“COLA”) to all NHRS retirees for amounts up to \$50,000 but not affecting contribution levels or future expected benefits of members who have not yet retired.

Financial Disclosure Form’s “Checklist”? - Yes. The Committee has previously held that legislators, or legislators who have a household member, who are retired NHRS members collecting benefits or active members making contributions, have a financial interest which must be disclosed on the Financial Disclosure Form filed at the beginning of the legislative biennium. The membership should be reported under “(g) The New Hampshire Retirement System.”

Verbal disclosure? – No. The legislator will recuse and will not be participating in verbal advocacy.

Declaration of Intent? – Yes. The legislator is required to report recusal.

Recusal? – Yes. As the retired legislator would qualify to receive the proposed COLA, 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 would be required to refrain from participating in any legislative activities involving the bill.

(2) A legislator is the parent of a child who is currently enrolled in the New Hampshire public school system. Under current law, the legislator’s income exceeds the threshold that allows participation in the Education Freedom Account (“EFA”) program. A bill would remove that income cap and allow the legislator’s child to become eligible to participate in the EFA program.

Financial Disclosure Form’s “Checklist”? – No.

Verbal disclosure? – No.

Declaration of Intent? – No.

Recusal? No. Parents who have children attending NH public schools constitute a sufficiently broad cross-section of society. The legislator’s financial interest would not be considered *distinct from* nor *greater than* the public at large.

(3) A legislator serves on the governing board of nonprofit entity. The legislator receives no compensation for serving on the board. The nonprofit receives revenue from charitable gaming. There is a bill that caps charitable gaming grants to such entities at \$50,000 per year.

Financial Disclosure Form’s “Checklist”? – No. Only “financial interests” are required to be reported on the Financial Disclosure Form. In this example, the legislator is not compensated for serving on the board and therefore has no financial interest. However, the legislator presumably has a **fiduciary** responsibility for the welfare of the nonprofit entity. This creates a **non-financial personal interest** in the outcome of the legislation. The legislator would be required to either disclose this non-financial personal interest on the **General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form** or file a **Declaration of Intent Form** prior to participating in official activities related to the bill.

Verbal disclosure? – Yes. When a legislator becomes aware of a non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure prior to engaging in verbal advocacy at any meeting of the general court or county delegation.

Declaration of Intent? -Yes, if the legislator had not previously reported the non-financial personal interest on the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form.

Recusal? – No. Recusal is not required for non-financial personal interests.

(4) A legislator serves in an uncompensated capacity on the board of a for-profit nursing home. A bill increases Medicaid rates for long term care.

Financial Disclosure Form’s “Checklist”? – No, because the legislator is not compensated for serving on the board. The legislator does not have a financial interest but may have a non-financial personal interest that could be reported on the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form.

Verbal disclosure? – Yes. When a legislator becomes aware of a non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure prior to engaging in verbal advocacy at any meeting of the general court or county delegation.

Declaration of Intent? Yes, if the legislator had not previously reported the non-financial personal interest on the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form.

Recusal? - No. Recusal is not required for non-financial personal interests.

(5) A legislator owns rental properties in NH. A bill would require landlords to give at-will tenants a 60-day notice of intent to evict.

Financial Disclosure Form's "Checklist"? – Yes. The ownership should be reported under "(d) Real estate, including brokers, agents, developers, and landlords."

Verbal disclosure? – Yes. When a legislator becomes aware of a financial interest in the outcome of a matter the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure prior to engaging in verbal advocacy at any meeting of the general court or county delegation.

Declaration of Intent? – No. A declaration of intent form is not required if no benefit or detriment could reasonably be expected to accrue to the legislator, or the legislator's household member, as a member of a business, profession, occupation, or other group, to any greater extent than to any other member of such business, profession, occupation, or other group, provided that disclosure of the legislator's or household member's membership is made in the Financial Disclosure Form.

Recusal? – No. In this scenario, although the legislator-landlord might incur a financial detriment if prevented from executing immediate eviction of a tenant, the potential financial detriment cannot be "reasonably expected" as is required for making recusal mandatory pursuant to RSA 14-C: 4-a, I.

(6) A legislator owns several rental properties in NH. A bill would limit annual rent increases to the rate of inflation, as calculated by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Financial Disclosure Form's "Checklist"? – Yes. The ownership should be reported under "(d) Real estate, including brokers, agents, developers, and landlords."

Verbal disclosure? – No. The legislator will recuse and will not be participating in verbal advocacy.

Declaration of Intent? – Yes, to report recusal.

Recusal? – Holding several units of rental units in the state would likely result in a direct and substantial benefit or detriment and recusal would be required.

(7) A legislator holds title to property subject to current use taxation. There is a bill that would change the formula for taxation, decreasing the amount of taxes to be paid.

Financial Disclosure Form's "Checklist"? – Yes. The ownership should be reported under "(h) The current use land assessment program."

Verbal disclosure? – No. The legislator will recuse and will not be participating in verbal advocacy.

Declaration of Intent? – Yes, to report recusal.

Recusal? – Yes. The Committee has previously held that the current use tax system constitutes a financial interest, and therefore a potential conflict of interest, with respect to any official activity pertaining to the tax. The bill can be expected to have a "direct and substantial" financial impact on the legislator, making recusal mandatory. However, 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.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

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 Amendment.

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 Amendment.

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.

SB 67-FN, relative to workers' compensation and resolution of payment disputes. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

SB 169, requiring employers to provide certain information regarding cost sharing to employees receiving workers' compensation benefits. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

SB 171, relative to required pay for remote work. Pending question: Majority Amendment.

2025 HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

HB 64, relative to extending hiring preferences for military members and their spouses to the state and private businesses, and establishing purchase preferences for disabled veterans and military spouses regarding state supply purchases. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 87-FN, prohibiting the posting of land not owned by the poster. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 92, (New Title) requiring recusal of members of zoning boards of adjustment and planning boards in certain circumstances. (SJ 4/17/2025)

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 134, relative to the state building code. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 144-FN, relative to the practice of dental hygiene. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 179-FN, relative to hazardous waste accident fees. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 213, relative to wage garnishment for child support. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 265, (New Title) requiring that a public body's meeting minutes include start and end times of the meeting and the printed name of the recording secretary. (SJ 4/17/2025)

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)

HB 655-FN, (New Title) relative to fish and game violations, permits, and licenses. (SJ 4/17/2025)

HB 778-FN, (New Title) authorizing the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services and relative to disability retirement benefits. (SJ 4/17/2025)

THURSDAY, MAY 8 CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 19, relative to hotel and motel operations. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill as introduced repeals the requirement that hotel keepers post a notice of rental rates in hotel rooms and also repeals the requirement that motel operators place signs displaying rates for rental units. The amendment allows hotels and motels to deny or refuse rental agreements with guests under the age of 21. **Vote 11-0.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 140-FN, establishing a domestic violence fatality review committee. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill will codify best practices into law by establishing a domestic violence fatality review committee by continuing to bring experts across the state to meet biennially for the purpose of conducting a review of homicides related to domestic violence and publish a report of their findings every two years. The comprehensive reviews that the committee conduct are an important part of the state's understanding of domestic violence homicides and allow the committee to better understand and identify barriers to a victim's safety and make recommendations to prevent future fatalities. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 145-FN, (New Title) establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Richard Lascelles for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill establishes a pilot program for utilizing common carriers for transporting evidence to the state laboratory rather than depending on state employees, who in many cases have other higher priority duties to perform. This bill establishes appropriate procedures to protect chain of custody while making the process more efficient and cost effective. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 258-FN, (New Title) establishing crimes related to the fraudulent use of gift cards. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill as amended will ensure that a recipient of an illegally obtained store gift card is not held accountable for receiving the property if they had no reasonable means of knowing or believing it was obtained by deception or forgery. This bill with the amendment will amend RSA 637 which establishes a criminal offense and ensures a person shall be guilty of theft that acquires or retains possession of retail gift cards, open loop gift cards, or card redemption information fraudulently; with the intent to defraud and without consent of the card holder, card issuer, or gift card reseller. This legislation will also put a value of \$250 on any gift card that does not have a listed value and gives definitions to gift card, open loop gift card, and closed loop gift card. This legislation is supported by law enforcement, the retailers association, and the NH attorney general's office. It is not supported by the thieves that are obtaining them with the intent to commit fraud against hard working individuals. **Vote 16-0.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 95, (New Title) relative to youth recreation camp cabins and the state building and fire codes. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill exempts camp cabins from some elements of the state building code and fire code, particularly sprinklers. Small, seasonal cabins would be arduous and expensive to sprinkler, and camp residents have shown that they can evacuate in less than one minute, before sprinklers could even go off. This bill is supported by the state fire marshal and the fire safety inspectors. The committee amendment simply pre-approves any changes to the state building code and fire code necessary to implement the intent of the bill. **Vote 12-0.**

SB 172, banning certain contract provisions from being enforced against advanced practice registered nurses. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Erica de Vries for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would improve access to health care across New Hampshire by banning non-compete agreements that may act to prevent Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) from practicing in the communities that need them most, especially rural areas. New Hampshire already prohibited non-compete agreements for Registered Nurses because such agreements restrict workforce mobility and limit health care access. This bill extends that prohibition to APRNs. **Vote 13-0.**

SB 179-FN, (New Title) relative to the state council on housing stability. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is a request from the state council of housing stability and attaches the council to the department of health and human services (DHHS), adds a second landlord to the membership, and repeals the biennial housing plan. The council is active and holds a large diverse membership; it is thought that DHHS could add administrative support to its important work. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 184, recognizing the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. Although the committee is sympathetic with the relationship of children's health and the environment, the committee maintains that there are more effective means to address this than recognition of a special day. Last year governor Sununu signed such a proclamation and we heard in testimony that DES has such a program. The committee feels that these means of communication are most effective and therefore this bill was not needed. **Vote 12-0.**

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

SB 31-FN, establishing an apprentice guide license. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill establishes an apprentice guide license. Anyone wishing to become a hunting or fishing guide but who has not yet completed the board requirements is eligible to a one time purchase of an apprentice license, and may then participate in guide activities only when accompanied by a properly licensed guide. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 32, relative to the fish and game commission. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This is a housekeeping bill requested by the Fish and Game Department to clarify wording in RSA 206, RSA 207, RSA 211, and RSA 214. It also allows Fish and Game to post public hearing notices digitally. **Vote 12-0.**

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. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill as amended allows funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the Fish and Game department on threatened and endangered species of New Hampshire. The amendment allows the Executive Director of the Fish and Game Department to partner with retailers and approve collection points for donations around the state. **Vote 14-0.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SB 92-FN, relative to the collection of birth worksheet information. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill updates the language on New Hampshire's birth worksheet to recognize civil unions and record the Apgar score at 10 minutes after birth in addition to the existing requirement to record the scores at 1 and 5 minutes after birth. More importantly, it prohibits the division of vital records from releasing to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information that could be used to individually identify the child or its parents. While the committee agreed that the submission of anonymous data to the CDC would be beneficial in the legitimate analysis of birth trends, this bill, by withholding identifying data, maintains an appropriate balance and respects the right to privacy of New Hampshire's residents as laid out in the constitutional amendment of 2018. **Vote 17-1.**

SB 118-FN, (New Title) 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. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Yury Polozov for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee supports this bill, which adjusts the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents annually, based on the consumer price index, instead of every five years. It also appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility staff and establishes the Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility Capital Investment Fund. The committee's amendment includes a carryforward clause, depositing previously approved related revenue, such as from leasing Hampstead Hospital, into the fund. Additionally, the amendment incorporates the House position on HB 53, allowing qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use, balancing patient savings with the underlying bill's increased taxation. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 138, (New Title) relative to record requests by health care providers and establishing a committee to study access to medical records in the state of New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee amended version of this bill removes the committee to study access to medical records created in the original bill, and retains only that section of the bill mandating that when a person's healthcare provider requests their medical records, the transfer of records must be made within 14 days at no cost. Because current law already recognizes that a person's medical records belong to them, the committee felt that the 14-day requirement was a reasonable timeframe to help ensure the prompt delivery of medical care. **Vote 16-1.**

SB 248, establishing a committee to study palliative and hospice care in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would establish a legislative committee to study palliative and hospice care in New Hampshire. The primary scope of the committee would be to evaluate availability and barriers to access for people with disabilities, recipients of long-term care, people with dementia, and veterans. Many people, such as survivors of traumatic brain injury, have poor access to on-going palliative care even though it has been demonstrated to have a significant impact on quality of life. These barriers need to be understood and addressed where possible. Additionally, as controversial discussions around medical aid in dying continue, the committee felt that it was important to fully explore the powerful alternative that hospice care offers people by providing comfort and dignity during the final journey at the end of life. **Vote 16-2.**

SB 250, relative to pharmacist administration of long-acting injectable drugs. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Yury Polozov for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee believes that this bill harmonizes regulation of pharmacists to clarify that they can administer long-acting substances because the previously used term “dispense” was not clear enough for drugs that are professionally administered and not just handed to the patient to administer at a later time. Pharmacists are still not allowed to prescribe and make clinical evaluations, but administration by pharmacists improves availability and provides for lower treatment cost. Among treatments that this bill improves access to are substance abuse treatments with buprenorphine. The committee received testimony that buprenorphine was shown to decrease overdose rates by 80%, which is a significant life-saving effect. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 252, relative to criteria for providing certain medical care through telemedicine. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Linda McGrath for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill expands the use of telemedicine to prescribe non-opioids and opioids. It deletes the need for an “in person” initial evaluation (this requirement was more restrictive than under federal rules) making it more accessible, especially for the incarcerated population who, when they get out, may wait months before being able to find an in-person provider and this would make sure their treatments are not interrupted. It will also help those who live in rural areas of the state. The bill also authorizes physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe these medications via telemedicine. **Vote 18-0.**

HOUSING

SB 173, relative to residential property subject to housing covenants under the low income housing tax credit program. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Paige for Housing. The low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) program incentivizes private investment in affordable rental housing. Under current statute, municipalities may assess properties subject to a housing covenant under LIHTC using either an amount equal to 10% of actual income or, as an alternative, they may use a complex formula. Use of the latter method, however, has led to significant administrative burden, errors, and varying and subjective interpretations of the law. This bill would eliminate use of this alternative formula, leading to increased predictability in budgeting for property owners, reduced ambiguity, and less friction for those who are helping our neighbors and our communities through their commitment to provide housing below market rate. The Assessing Standards Board testified that they fully support this bill. **Vote 15-0.**

JUDICIARY

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. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. The majority of the judiciary committee believes this bill has a lot of merit. The bill as amended would add language to the bill as sent to the House saying that the owner or operator of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot would have to have direct knowledge indicating the AI chatbot is engaging in “facilitation, encouragement, offer, solicitation, or recommendation of certain acts or actions through a responsive generative communication to a child.” The amendment would eliminate the private right of action and allow the Attorney General’s (AG) office sole enforcement powers. However, before bringing an action, the AG would have to give the offending business an opportunity to “cure” the violation, and could sue only if the business does not satisfactorily cure. The committee felt that with the advancement of AI happening so frequently it would place an undue burden on NH businesses and industries not to have such a provision. The Judiciary Committee believes we should be encouraging industry to harness the power of AI while putting in guardrails to protect our youth. This bill, as amended, does both of those things. **Vote 17-1.**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 42, relative to notice of death affidavits. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill will simplify the inheritance process for New Hampshire residents when they inherit real property by allowing them to present a notice of death affidavit to the Registry of Deeds in the county in which the property is located. It simplifies what is now an onerous process, especially so at a difficult time of loss for families and individuals. In some cases it may help to avoid probate and spare residents the expense of retaining an attorney. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 78, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Dylan Germana for Municipal and County Government. This bill provides clarity to both contractors/land developers and residents for how long an individual has to appeal to the board of adjustment. The amendment allows an additional 15 days to make such an appeal. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 217, relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Walker for Municipal and County Government. This bill, although well intended in principal, is too cumbersome to implement. Fitting many charts, graphs and summary of proposed projects on to the front page of the website is problematic and may lead to confusion on part of the taxpayer. The committee determined that the tax rate was insufficient information to enable the taxpayer to make an informed decision. The committee could not agree on the specific information to present that would remedy the bill. Therefore, the committee saw no need to advance this version of that legislation. **Vote 17-1.**

SB 225-FN-LOCAL, requiring public notice before re-assessment of property values for local tax purposes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Walker for Municipal and County Government. Although the spirit of the bill is applauded, its application is not practical to implement across the state. This legislation applies to municipalities with a population of at least 10,000 and requires a notification of assessment change 45 day minimum prior to issuance of the final tax bill. This can be problematic due to delays that could potentially push the notification within the tax billing deadline. Additionally, no penalty or directive for deadline violations make the bill unenforceable. This legislation is in response to a court ordered revaluation on short notice to the City of Nashua. The city issued notices of a revaluation with only a seven day period to "challenge" the findings. The committee believes a court ordered revaluation is the exception, not the rule and that the cause of the short notification should be determined. Additionally, the entire problem and the cost to remedy should be understood prior to drafting the solution. Therefore, the committee saw no need to advance this version of that legislation. **Vote 18-0.**

TRANSPORTATION

SB 151-FN, relative to accessible parking permit verification and fraud prevention. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. The intent is to increase the penalty for drivers who park in a restricted space without a properly issued disability placard. This bill increases the violation fines for parking in a restricted space and introduces a split disbursement with 50% of the assessed fine payable to the town or city where it occurred to encourage prudent enforcement. The amendment introduces penalties for fraudulent placards, purchased and stolen placards, and criminalizes repeat offenders. The end goal is to ensure that our pre-designated restricted spaces are reserved to our handicapped population and are not abused by those with no mobility restrictions. **Vote 15-0.**

SB 266-FN, relative to safety and accountability of drivers under 18 years of age. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for Transportation. Whereas driving is a privilege in New Hampshire the committee feels that drivers still under the graduated license need to learn the value of that privilege. By making the penalties larger for violations, the impression this makes on the violator will make more of an impact, thus causing the driver to be more mindful of their driving habits. **Vote 15-0.**

THURSDAY, MAY 8 REGULAR CALENDAR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CACR 8, relating to sheriffs. Providing that no person shall hold the office of county sheriff after he or she has attained the age of seventy-five years. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Richard Lascelles for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill changes the mandatory retirement age for sheriffs from 70 to 75. The current age restriction was established in 1792 when the world was very different. The state is losing the talent and experience of very good public servants due to this outdated requirement. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Article 78 of the New Hampshire State Constitution states that “No person shall hold the office of Judge of any Court, or Judge of Probate, or Sheriff of any county, after he has attained the age of seventy years.” This bill would retain the age 70 maximum for judges, but would establish an age 75 maximum for county sheriffs. While the minority was sympathetic to the argument that the role of a sheriff is primarily administrative and is analogous to that of a CEO in a private business, there are a number of concerns with extending the age limit. Physical and mental vigor, which both decline with age, are critical for such a high-stress role. On occasion, sheriffs are also required to act in a law enforcement capacity rather than simply a purely CEO-like administrative capacity. By comparison, the mandatory retirement age for our state police is set at age 60. Many corporations also set mandatory retirement ages for CEOs and board members. While age should never be a barrier to serving your community, mandatory retirement ages provide opportunities for qualified younger people to step up. Moreover, they don’t preclude those impacted by them from serving their community in other ways, as the service of some of the members of our own legislature proves.

SB 58-FN, (New Title) relative to venue in criminal prosecutions of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill was brought at the request of the county attorneys who consulted with the attorney general’s office. They were adamant that the language in the proposed bill would cause no constitutional problems. An attempt to equate the prosecution of the death of a person from fentanyl to identity theft is wholly inappropriate. Simply because language passed muster in one section of law, does not mean that is the only language that can ever be used across all laws. This argument was presented to the county attorneys for their consideration prior to the committee vote and they rejected it, indicating that they felt that at best it would complicate an already well researched law, and at worse was intended to weaken the proposed law. **Vote 10-6.** Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill creates needless constitutional uncertainty under Part I, Article 17 of the NH Constitution regarding the proposed venue expansion by using language that has not been used previously in statutes with venue language, like identity fraud. The offered amendment by the minority of the committee, 2025-1721h, imports the identity fraud language. That language has never been successfully challenged and so avoids any potential constitutional challenge with ease.

SB 62, relative to law enforcement participation in a federal immigration program. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority after hearing testimony from the county officials agreed that this bill ought to pass. This bill simply prohibits local officials from barring law enforcement and county correctional facilities from entering into agreements with the federal government that could actually generate revenue for temporarily housing federal inmates, including immigration detainees. Localities barring this cooperation would also limit local law enforcement from participating in task forces with their federal counterparts, thus limiting New Hampshire law enforcement from receiving important intelligence related to criminal trends and activities, and their knowledge of federal law enforcement activity in within the state. While we do not wish our local law enforcement to take on the responsibility that rightly belongs to the federal government, we also do not wish them to be locked out of information and assistance we may require in keeping our citizens safe from international gangs and state sponsors of crime and terror. The majority wishes to allow our law enforcement experts to do the jobs we hire them to do within the limits of the laws we create. We have created no laws, and nor do we wish to, that would force our law enforcement to refuse federal assistance and information. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill removes from county and local municipalities the control over how to manage the intrusive role of the federal government in immigration affairs. The House has already passed legislation, HB 511, that struck a better balance between local and federal decision-making.

SB 262-FN, relative to the penalty for trafficking in persons under 18 years of age. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority after hearing testimony and considering evidence related to the topic, concluded that the bill ought to pass. The current penalty for the trafficking of children is seven years in prison. As in all things, context is important, and that is why in this particular case we must consider the context. Trafficking in persons under 18 is a very legalistic, even clinical way to say, taking someone's child and selling them to someone else to be used for that person's sexual gratification. The exact element of the crime reads as follows: "...person maintains or makes available an individual under 18 years of age for the purpose of engaging the individual in a commercial sex act or sexually-explicit performance for the benefit of another." Currently in New Hampshire your child could be sold into sexual slavery where he or she would be repeatedly raped by hundreds of men and the person responsible, if found guilty, would get 7 years in prison. By way of comparison, a person found guilty of being a career criminal, for example, three prior convictions in their whole life for any violation of the drug laws, in possession of a hunting rifle, faces a 10 year minimum sentence. If you got arrested and pleaded guilty three times to possessing marijuana in the 1970s, and were caught last fall hunting with your grandson, you would get a minimum of 10 years in prison. If you got caught pimping your granddaughter to strangers on the internet, you'd get seven. Prior to 2014, the penalties for these two scenarios at least matched. In 2014 the legislature, saw fit to lower the penalty for trafficking our children from 10 to seven years with SB 317. Since that time the incidents of child trafficking have increased to crisis levels. So much for minimum mandatory sentences that do not work. The majority felt that not only is it right and just to increase the mandatory sentence for taking part in sexual slavery of someone under 18, it is supremely appropriate to make the number of years of incarceration match the age of the victims for whom the crime applies. Sell a New Hampshire child under 18 for sex, spend at least your next 18 years in jail. The minority relied on judicial discretion and cost of incarceration as objections. The majority believes that judicial discretion is an important aspect of our criminal justice system, but is not the entirety of it. Judges are not elected. They are not open to the wishes of the people of the time in which they serve. They are bound by the law and precedent. If a particular crime becomes more of a problem for society, the people cannot petition the judiciary to punish offenders more harshly. Their recourse is to us, their representatives, to change the laws to effect their wishes. The people feel that some crimes are so heinous that they do not wish judicial discretion to be used. For some crimes, the people want a clear message to be sent. The message in this case, is that we do not care who you are, what your race, sex, or gender are, or how difficult your childhood was. If you sell one of our children into slavery, you are going to jail for a long, long time. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While the minority agrees with the majority that perpetrators convicted of trafficking in children under the age of 18 deserve harsh punishment, it is critical to realize that under our existing statute, harsh punishment is already being delivered. Under current law, those convicted of this crime must serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 7 years and a maximum of 30 years. So if a judge feels the severity of the crime warrants it, he or she can already extend the sentence far beyond the statutory minimum. During the public hearing on the bill, no data or testimony was presented indicating that New Hampshire judges are actually under sentencing any of these offenders. Meanwhile, it is also important to recognize that extending the minimum from 7 to 18 years will have a significant cost. Recently, the Department of Corrections estimated the average annual cost of incarcerating a person to be \$78,000 per year. Increasing the minimum sentence by 11 years, unadjusted for inflation, would add \$858,000 to the state's cost for every person convicted under this bill. The minority believes that instead of making an already harsh statute even harsher, with questionable impact on deterrence, our tax dollars would be better spent funding additional trauma informed care for victims and finding and funding other ways to reduce trafficking in our state.

EDUCATION FUNDING

SB 292-FN-A, authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. This bill, as amended, requires that disbursements for special education aid to a school district to be at least 80% of the district's entitlement for special aid costs in the fiscal year. Claims for special education aid of about \$50 million submitted to the Department of Education (NHDOE) by districts for the past year exceed the appropriated amount of \$34 million by nearly 50%, which has triggered the existing proration requirement. This has meant that districts will receive substantially less in reimbursements than anticipated and bear a correspondingly greater share of the costs of special education that exceed the statutory threshold of 3 and 1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the preceding year. A subcommittee of the Education Funding Committee is currently working with NHDOE, the Department of Health and Human Services, and special education directors to better ascertain how to fix the statewide special education aid costing formula. In the event a shortfall should occur in which the appropriation is less than 80% of eligible claims, the Governor would first draw from the education trust

funds, and if that source is exhausted, could then draw from general funds, to make up the difference. The committee anticipates that appropriations will be set at a level intended to cover fully 100% of eligible claims in future years, and intends that shortfalls should be avoided, but has determined that it is prudent to allow some degree of proration in the event that unanticipated higher claims exceed appropriations, provided that the 80% floor would mitigate the impact on districts. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 295-FN, (New Title) relative to education freedom accounts. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for the **Majority** of Education Funding. As amended, this bill increases the number of students eligible for Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) by removing household income thresholds. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each year thereafter, total enrollment for the EFA program shall be capped at 10,000. In any fiscal year when student applications for the EFA program are equal to or greater than 90% for the fiscal year, the total enrollment cap shall be increased by 25% (10,000 to 12,500). If enrollment caps surpass 90% of the capped amount, enrollment priority shall be determined in the following order: 1. Student currently enrolled in the program, 2. Sibling of an enrolled student, 3. Student with disabilities, and 4. Student with family income less than 350% of the federal poverty guidelines. The scholarship organization shall establish two application deadlines by which applications must be submitted and applications shall be approved on a rolling basis for the fall and spring semesters. As of September 2024, 5,321 students were in the EFA program with an annualized cost estimate of \$27.7M, with a per pupil grant averaging \$5,204. It is estimated that the average grant for the new eligible population will be approximately \$4,419, assuming 7% of enrolled students are eligible for special education differentiated aid. The average adequacy education grant for a K-12 public education student was \$7,108 based upon FY26 preliminary estimates as of November 15, 2024. Comparatively addressed, the EFA program is a savings to the NH taxpayer (\$7,108 – \$5,204 = \$1,904). Although much of this report has centered on cost, the primary outcome of this bill is to provide the best educational fit for students who have struggled to succeed or who are not being academically challenged in the “one size fits all” state system. The EFA program is the learning experience that provides all children, regardless of family income, an education that better serves their learning styles, values, and aspirations. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. David Luneau for the **Minority** of Education Funding. The school voucher program was introduced four years ago. Over that time, very few students have exited their local public schools to take a voucher. State law requires a performance audit of the program in order to assure the program is being operated in accordance with state law and rules, to make sure the expenditures are on approved educational materials and opportunities, and that student performance is being monitored. However, the state auditors have not been allowed to access information and the audit results will be limited. This bill and amendment now seek to further expand the voucher program to include families of four earning more than \$110,000 per year. Given state budget constraints that have reduced state investments in the university system, community college system, public health, arts, tourism, and other critical needs areas, and no demonstrated savings for taxpayers, now is not the time to expand a program with no accountability standards or performance results to show.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 190, relative to the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council and the commission on the interdisciplinary primary care workforce. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill adjusts the quorums for the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council which has 39 members, and the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council, which has 23 members, to 1/7 of the members being in one room while others join virtually. Although it is preferred that members are together in person for meetings, it is important to note that the majority of these councils have a broad membership with state wide focus that includes rural areas. Many members of these councils are doctors and asking medical professionals to drive to Concord for a one hour meeting is unrealistic when considering the limited medical access in those parts of the state that are hours away. A minority of the committee felt that this quorum requirement would detract from information exchanges but the majority felt that these professionals have experience with this communication format and the quorum target could be met while making progress with the council goals and mission. **Vote 11-4.** Rep. Erica Layon for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The minority of the committee believes in the value of in-person meetings over remote meetings and believe that for a body to function effectively the social interactions facilitated by regularly sharing a physical presence should be valued. The view that in person is best was nearly universal, however the minority took the position that reducing the in-person quorum to 1/7 of the body was not conducive to good public service. The amendment supported by the minority of the committee retains the language to allow the full quorum for the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council to float with the number of appointed members, but deletes the exemption to RSA 91-A to permit an in-person quorum of

1/7 of the members in sections two and three of the bill. These committees with longstanding memberships present a unique situation for new members as they will be at a disadvantage when other members have established relationships and they will not be afforded the same opportunity by decreasing in-person attendance.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

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. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Matt Drew for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill is yet another unnecessary study commission. Notably, in this case, it is a study commission on a subject for which the state already has substantial infrastructure dedicated to this exact purpose: the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery in the Department of Health and Human Services. **Vote 11-6.** Rep. Gary Woods for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would provide the venue for a thorough review of the public health services capabilities or lack thereof in each of the 13 regional networks. The need for continued review was made evident in the recent COVID crisis. This commission would be able to review and make recommendations to better meet a future pandemic. In addition, other issues such as sudden loss of a regional hospital or a widespread natural disaster would require significant cooperation within the regional networks to minimize the impact. The role of the regional New Hampshire members in a multi-state disaster in our neighboring states is another area that can be clarified. The minority recognizes planning now is essential for preparedness when these services are called upon.

JUDICIARY

SB 141-FN, extending the time to petition for a new trial in certain cases. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill seeks to amend the statute allowing for motions for new trial, so as to eliminate the three year time limit following conviction that currently applies to such motions when the motion is made in criminal cases. As it comes to us from the other body, the bill is essentially the same as SB 507 (2024), which was vetoed by the Governor and not overridden by the legislature. The Governor's veto message stated: "In sum, while I understand and agree with the notion of not time-barring scientific evidence of exoneration, the open-ended language of this bill could have the unintended consequence of encouraging baseless assertions unnecessarily bogging down proceedings. The legislature should revisit the intent of this bill with a model based on broadening the application(s) of RSA 651-D to avoid such outcomes." The majority amendment accomplishes what the Governor suggested. First, it amends RSA 526, which has been in existence since the 1800s, so that it applies only in civil cases, while creating a new RSA 534-A that will henceforth govern new trial requests in criminal cases. The new chapter allows motions for a new trial to be filed on any proper grounds if made within three years after the date of conviction. In addition, it also changes existing law by allowing new trial motions to be filed without time limit if the motion is based upon a request for new scientific testing of physical evidence, a new scientific understanding of evidence, or newly discovered evidence. However, unlike the open-ended language of the original bill, which does not limit the motions to these grounds and which also contains no guardrails to prevent the filing of baseless or frivolous claims, the amendment adopts procedures similar to those that have been in effect since 2004 with respect to claims seeking new DNA testing of criminal evidence. These procedures, which have worked well, require the defendant to provide a threshold level of information about the evidence to be tested, the new type of testing to be done, and an explanation of how the new testing will exonerate the defendant. The defendant also must assert that he is innocent of the crime of which he was convicted - a requirement that is crucial to ensure that courts are not burdened with motions that are based on collateral matters (such as search and seizure issues) that have nothing to do with the merits of the case. If the defendant meets these criteria, the court must then hold a hearing and will order new testing when it is established that exculpatory test results will constitute new, non-cumulative evidence that the defendant did not commit the crime of which he was convicted. And where the test results are in fact favorable to the defendant, the court must order a new trial or other appropriate relief if such results demonstrate a reasonable probability that, had this evidence been available at trial, the defendant would not have been convicted. The amendment creates an analogous process for claims based on new scientific understanding of evidence or newly discovered evidence that was not available or admissible at trial. While everyone agrees that an innocent person should not be barred from seeking relief by the current three year limitations period, there is a legitimate need to protect the finality of judgments and the integrity of the court system and judicial and prosecutorial resources from baseless claims, which, unfortunately, are too often asserted by bored prisoners who have unlimited time to do so. The bill, as amended, satisfies these dual objectives, which is why the majority of the Committee recommends the bill Ought to Pass with Amendment. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Paul Berch for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This

liberty minded bill will allow a new trial where there is evidence of innocence which arises more than three years after conviction. Under current NH law, such a petition must be filed within three years, even if newly discovered evidence, new forensic testing, or new scientific understanding arises after that date. This bill will allow wrongly convicted persons an opportunity to file a petition asking for an opportunity to be heard. Misapplied forensic science is the second most frequent contributing factor to wrongful convictions. This is a narrowly drawn bill that simply extends the ability to file a request to the court. It is not an attempted re-write of a whole area of law. The courts will still review the petitions and have the power to reject them if they are either frivolous or do not meet the legal standard which has existed in RSA 526:1 since 1878: "A new trial may be granted in any case when through accident, mistake or misfortune justice has not been done and a further hearing would be equitable." The majority amendment would limit this provision for the first time since 1878 to only civil cases. The majority has also suggested that this extension of time would result in a flood of petitions, yet no evidence from either NH or other states (such as California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and West Virginia – all with no time limits) was provided to support that claim and witnesses with experience with these cases in court testified otherwise. Additionally, the majority suggested that the courts are simply too busy with other things to spend the time determining if someone is lawfully imprisoned based upon newly discovered evidence. The minority asserts that in the Granite State, being too busy doing other things should not be the standard. Both the majority and minority agree that the courts already possess sufficient power to rapidly dismiss meritless claims. The minority believes that a potentially innocent citizen should not have the courthouse doors closed due to an unworkable time limit or having so many barriers imposed by the government, that seeking relief becomes impossible. Wrongfully convicted individuals must not continue to languish in prison and have no legal pathway to prove their innocence. The minority recommends that the majority amendment be rejected and that this bill Ought to Pass.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 105, enabling towns to adopt budget caps. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill is enabling legislation that allows the voters of a town to adopt an optional town budget cap which establishes an annual cap on spending proposed by the selectboard and an official budget committee, similar to spending caps currently available to cities and school districts. The town budget cap is based on a current per resident expenditure multiplied by the town population, as calculated and reported annually by the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. The current per resident expenditure is adjusted annually based on one of the following factors: a fixed percentage, a selected inflation index from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, or the Municipal Cost Index (MCI) published by American City and County. Significantly, the town budget cap is adopted or rescinded by a 3/5 supermajority vote; and each year the town budget cap can be overridden by a 3/5 supermajority vote of the legislative body. Notably, this legislation is similar to RSA 32:5-e, School District Budget Cap. The amendment makes several important clarifications to the bill language, including several important statutory references, and also adds language to include the provisions for an existing town budget cap to be modified by a 3/5 supermajority vote of the legislative body without the need to first rescind the existing budget cap and adopt a modified version with a new formula. Importantly, this bill provides Granite State taxpayers the ability to adopt a budget cap in their town to more effectively manage town budgets in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Eleana Colby for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. Even in its amended form, this bill falls short by allowing the legislative body to adopt a budget cap while overlooking crucial language necessary for municipalities to implement it fairly and effectively. The bill shockingly grants the governing body the sole authority to select an inflation index, stripping the legislative body of the ability to amend the question. This disregards the voters' fundamental right to determine the best index for their community and their personal wallets. The minority of the committee strongly opposes the infringement on the public's right to amend a warrant article during their own town meeting, especially for an issue as vital to community viability, safety, and financial stability. Moreover, the bill imposes an unrealistic requirement of a 3/5 supermajority to change the local budget cap method once adopted. If a community discovers flaws in the chosen inflation index or wants to adopt a different budget capping method, they could find themselves trapped with a subpar option, leading to severe financial repercussions year after year. To date, the variation between indices is an astonishing two percentage points, equating to hundreds of thousands of dollars in over- or underfunding. These onerous restrictions not only undermine the democratic process but also erode local municipal sovereignty and trample on individual liberty.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

SB 153-FN, (New Title) relative to expedited driveway permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Richard Brown for Public Works and Highways. This bill authorizes an optional public/private partnership between the Department of Transportation and residential developers, allowing reduced times for driveway permits. The new process would require approval or denial of any driveway permit for residential use of 20 units or greater to be completed within 60 days of receiving a completed application. The new process would allow for collection of fees and use of third-party consultants to expedite the process with the Department of Transportation oversight and final approval. **Vote 14-2.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, MAY 2

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 5

JOINT LEGISLATIVE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (RSA 17-I:1), Room 100, SH

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **SB 72-FN**, establishing a parents' bill of rights in education; **SB 269**, removing references to matrimonial age and time waivers in the vital records act.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 25**, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member; **SB 26**, relative to the definition of deposits as they pertain to land sales and escrow of deposits; **SB 52**, relative to default provisions in New Hampshire trusts; **SB 85**, relative to chartered bank lending limits; **SB 164-FN**, relative to homeowners and prohibiting certain types of service agreements.

1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 162-FN**, relative to restrictions on acquisition of ownership, controlling, and occupancy interests in real property by certain foreign principals on or around certain military installations, and criminal penalties and civil forfeiture procedures for illegal acquisition; **SB 280-FN**, requiring a food delivery service to enter into an agreement with a food service establishment or food retail store before offering delivery service from that restaurant.

EDUCATION FUNDING, Room 205-207, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **SB 99-FN**, relative to regional career and technical education agreements; **SB 209-FN**, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application; **SB 195**, relative to the composition and duties of the New Hampshire advisory council on career and technical 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

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **SB 84-FN**, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing; **SB 163**, prohibiting local moratoria and limitations on building permits; **SB 165**, relative to the audit requirements for consumer cooperative associations; **SB 166**, relative to notice required prior to sale of a manufactured housing unit located in a resident-owned community; **SB 170**, relative to development and related requirements in cities, towns, and municipalities; **SB 174**, prohibiting planning boards from considering the number of bedrooms a given unit or development has during the hearing and approval process; **SB 188-FN**, allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections; **SB 281**, prohibiting municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances; **SB 282**, relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings; **SB 283**, relative to the calculation of floor-area-ratios under local building ordinances.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Tour

10:00 a.m. ISO-New England, 1 Sullivan Road, Holyoke, Massachusetts

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

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

10:00 a.m. **SB 154-FN**, relative to authorized organizations issuing multi-use decal plates.

10:20 a.m. **SB 271**, relative to qualifications for issuing veteran license plates to include General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions.

10:40 a.m. **SB 273-FN**, relative to motorist duties when approaching highway emergencies involving a stopped or standing vehicle.

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

1:00 p.m. Executive session on **SB 12**, relative to adding eligibility for a disability placard for certain veterans; **SB 13-FN**, invalidating out-of-state driver's licenses issued to undocumented immigrants; **SB 40**, relative to safe boater education certificates; **SB 154-FN**, relative to authorized organizations issuing multi-use decal plates; **SB 156**, allowing the division of motor vehicles to contract with a third-party vendor to facilitate the secure transfer of title applications and information; **SB 157-FN**, relative to inspection and registration of certain fleet vehicles and necessary amendments and administrative rules regarding the state implementation plan; **SB 271**, relative to qualifications for issuing veteran license plates to include General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions; **SB 272-FN**, relative to electric-vehicle charging station funding; **SB 273-FN**, relative to motorist duties when approaching highway emergencies involving a stopped or standing vehicle.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **SB 291**, relative to the religious use of land property tax exemption; **SB 249-FN**, relative to the uncompensated care and Medicaid fund; **SB 83-FN**, establishing an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf property tax exemption reimbursement fund, authorizing video lottery terminals, renaming the lottery commission, and creating a voluntary statewide self-exclusion database.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 47**, requiring certain health insurance policies of a birth mother to provide coverage for a newly born child from the moment of birth; **SB 121-FN**, requiring notice to the insurance department of the discontinuance of certain types of insurance, including Medicare Advantage Plans; **SB 124-FN**, relative to continuing care retirement communities; **SB 247**, prohibiting network exclusion for pharmacies that refuse to dispense a prescription of the PBM reimbursement that is below the pharmacy's acquisition cost; **SB 297-FN**, relative to pooled risk management programs.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 205-207, LOB

9:30 a.m. Executive session on **SB 97-FN**, relative to intra-district public school transfers; **SB 102-FN**, making informational materials regarding type 1 diabetes available on the department of education website.

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

10:00 a.m. Continued executive session on **SB 148-FN**, prohibiting those convicted of murder from financially profiting from the death of the victim.

WAYS AND MEANS, 310 Daniel Webster Hwy, Suite 102, Nashua

11:00 a.m. Tour of the Nash Casino.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 203, LOB

12:00 p.m. Executive session on **SB 197**, relative to the medical supervision of the licensed registered nurse employed by the legislative facilities committee.

Executive Session to take place 10 minutes after suspension of the House Session for lunch.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF PERFLUORINATED CHEMICALS (RSA 126-A:79-a),

- 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting. This meeting will take place by remote conference. To listen in please follow the instructions below: Please register for the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals meeting on May 9, 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: 949-153-587
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. 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., Concord

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

- 10:00 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2025-1756h to SB 54-FN, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. Public Hearing on proposed non-germane amendment #2025-1756h to SB 54, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. The amendment requires the department of education to create or adopt standardized firearms safety training for mandatory instruction in public schools. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.
- 11:01 a.m. Continued executive session on **SB 14-FN**, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses; **SB 15-FN**, relative to establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting; **SB 54-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated; **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), Bretton Woods Ski Area Lodge, 99 Ski Area Rd, Bretton Woods

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

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

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

- 9:00 a.m. Subcommittee meeting.
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 24**, allowing students under age 21 to taste wine in educational settings; **SB 79-FN**, enabling the use of self-pour automated systems by liquor commission licensees; **SB 80-FN**, consolidating licensing, auditing, and enforcement responsibilities for wholesale and retail e-cigarettes sales under the liquor commission; **SB 87-FN**, relative to one day liquor license requirements and making salons and barber shops eligible for on-premise licenses; **SB 89**, enabling non-citizens who are legally authorized to work in the United States to deliver alcohol.
- 1:15 p.m. **SB 245-FN**, prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement.

FRIDAY, MAY 16**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

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.

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

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13), Room 206-208, LOB

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 19**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 TO STUDY THE USE OF OHRVS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 215-A:44-a), NH Automobile Dealers' Association, 507 South St., Bow

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (RSA 17-I:1), Room 103, SH

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22), Room 100, SH

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 20**STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 126-A:88), New Hampshire Hospital Association, Foundation for Healthy Communities, Room 1, 125 Airport Road, Concord**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 919 2440 4723 Password: 039529

<https://brandeis.zoom.us/j/91924404723?pwd=iGGLYA5u57zTlaudZ0RDbb1ZkoAQm6.1>

Dial-in number: 1-646-558-8656

FRIDAY, MAY 23**PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE (RSA 187-A:28-a), Room 100, SH**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, JUNE 2**NH LAND AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (RSA 227-M:4), Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, Granite Place South, Concord**

2:00 p.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 611, 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 26, SB 36, SB 49, SB 58, SB 60, SB 71, SB 73, SB 79, SB 80, SB 87, SB 112, SB 134, SB 147, SB 148, SB 151, SB 153, SB 157, SB 160, SB 170, SB 188, SB 201, SB 204, SB 206, SB 222, SB243, SB 280, SB 297.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

The **Merrimack** County Executive Committee will meet on **Monday, May 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Old Courthouse, 163 N. Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire.

Agenda: First Quarter Financial Review/Approval, McLeod Renovation Project and any Other Business

Rep. James MacKay, Chairman

Rockingham County Executive Committee Meeting, **Friday, May 23, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**, Hilton Auditorium, Rockingham County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is for Subcommittee Chairs to report FY-2026 budget recommendations and vote on budget to be presented at the Executive Committee Public Hearing on June 4, 2025. A quorum is required. Executive Committee Members must attend in person. Zoom Access is available:

<https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

To access the meeting by audio, please following the instructions below.

Dial 1-929-205-6099 or 1-312-626-6799 (click phone call option) Meeting ID: 571-325-5541 No Participant ID - Press # to continue Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

Rockingham County Executive Committee Public Hearing, **Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**, Hilton Auditorium, Rockingham County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Brentwood, NH. Executive Committee conducts Public Hearing on Proposed FY-2026 Budget and votes to consider any changes at conclusion of Public Hearing (RSA 24:13-c). A quorum is required. Executive Committee Members must attend in person. Zoom Access is available:

<https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

To access the meeting by audio, please following the instructions below. Dial 1-929-205-6099 or 1-312-626-6799 (click phone call option) Meeting ID: 571-325-5541 No Participant ID - Press # to continue Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting of the **Strafford** County Delegation Executive Committee is scheduled to be held **Friday, May 16, 2025, 9:00 a.m.** This meeting will require a physical quorum but will provide remote access for the public and will be held as noted above in the Café Conference Room, Lower Level of the William A. Grimes Justice and Administration Building, 259 County Farm Road, Dover, New Hampshire, to conduct the following business:· Approve Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of March 7, 2025;· Approve 2nd Round of Tax Anticipation Note Borrowing of up to \$17,980,000 for 2025;· Review and Approve First Quarter 2025 Budget Report;· Approve Distribution of Previously Approved Salary Schedules for the Union Contracts and Non-Union, Agreement to the Appropriate Budgetary Line-Item as Per Document Entitled “Strafford County 2025 Line-Item Transfers”; the “Discussion of the Formation of a Working Group to Advance New Nursing Home Project”, Any Other Business Which May Legally Come Before the Committee Information and directions may be obtained

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87802208583?pwd=AlDthdsnLq39EXCbi0IWmD6qMz0Kwy.1>

Meeting ID: 878 0220 8583 Passcode: 457083

Dial by your location: +1 646 931 3860 US

Rep. Cassandra Levesque, Clerk

MEMBERS' NOTICES

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

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

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan

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

The Plymouth State University's Student Senate is hosting a Legislative Luncheon on **Friday, May 2 from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.** All legislators are welcome. Please RSVP to psu-events@plmouth.edu or 603-535-3868.

Reps. Matt Wilhelm and Michael Moffett

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation cordially invites all legislators to join them for lunch on **Wednesday, May 7 at 12:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Centre Street, Concord. The Women's Foundation invests in equality and opportunity for women and girls and provides grants to nonprofit organizations in all regions of New Hampshire. This lunch is an opportunity to meet some of the Foundation's grantees and learn more about the work they do serving women and girls in your community. RSVP is not required, but your response to Devan Quinn at Devan@nhwomensfoundation.org is appreciated.

Rep. Alexis Simpson

Legislators are invited to Navigating Aging in NH to be held in the State House Cafeteria on **Thursday, May 8 from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.** Learn how healthy aging policy is impacted by the newly released 2025 NH Healthy Aging Data Report prepared by UMass Boston. This session provides a unique opportunity for you to understand the demographics and specific needs of older adults in your district and explore effective policy solutions to better support them. A complimentary lunch will be provided by The Works Café.

Reps. Mary Jane Wallner and Wayne MacDonald

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

Please join us for the 15th Annual Campaign for Legal Services Kickoff Breakfast, celebrating a legacy of bipartisan public and private support for access to justice in New Hampshire. Governor Ayotte will be the keynote speaker and Nina Gardner will be recognized. **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, at the Grappone Center (70 Constitution Ave., in Concord). Registration and coffee will begin at 7:00 a.m. The program starts at **8:00 a.m. sharp** and we'll have you on your way by 9:00 a.m.! RSVP to dmckinney@nhla.org by May 6th.

Rep. Bob Lynn

The New Hampshire Beverage Association will be holding a legislative luncheon on **Thursday, May 15, 2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in the State House cafeteria. New Hampshire Beverage Association members are companies licensed to manufacture and distribute soft drinks, juices, teas, and bottled water. They provide almost 1,000 jobs and create a direct economic impact of \$841 million in New Hampshire. Please stop by to learn more about their efforts to increase sustainability and sample various new products.

Reps. Jason Osborne and Alexis Simpson

The New Hampshire Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Association cordially invites you to attend the 33rd Annual New Hampshire Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony. This Ceremony is being held to honor the Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of New Hampshire who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty while protecting the citizens of the State. The Ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 16, 2025, beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Memorial Site in front of the Legislative Office Building. The Ceremony will proceed rain or shine. Please do not hesitate to contact Colonel Kevin Jordan at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 603-271-3128, should you have any questions.

Speaker Sherman Packard

The NH Oral Health Coalition invites you to our 2025 Legislative Luncheon “#Oral Health Matters: It’s All Connected” hosted on **May 29 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 Bucio

The NH Retail Lumber Association invites legislators and staff to lunch on the plaza **Thursday, June 5**. Please join your local building materials suppliers at your noontime break for food truck fare and the opportunity to learn about the independent building material industry in New Hampshire.

Reps. Jason Osborne and Alexis Simpson

AMENDMENTS

(LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

Amendment to SB 19 (2025-1689h)

Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs–c

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original sections 2 and 3 to read as 3 and 4, respectively:

2 New Section; Trade and Commerce; Public Accommodations; Rental Agreement Policies With Guests Under 21. Amend RSA 354-A by inserting after section 17 the following new section:

354-A:17-a Rental Agreement Policies With Guests Under 21. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit a hotel, motel, or other lodging establishment held out to transient guests for public accommodations from having policies denying or refusing rental agreements with guests under 21 years of age.

2025-1689h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Allows hotels and motels to deny or refuse rental agreements with guests under the age of 21.
- II. Repeals the requirement that hotel keepers post a notice of rental rates in hotel rooms.
- III. Repeals the requirement that motel operators place signs displaying rates for rental units.

Amendment to SB 32
(2025-1720h)

Proposed by the Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources—c

Amend RSA 207:7, V as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. The provisions of this section shall not apply shooting of injured or crippled waterfowl from a motorized watercraft while in the sea duck hunting area.

2025-1720h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Allows public hearing notices to be posted digitally on newspaper websites.
 - II. Allows the shooting of injured or crippled waterfowl from a motorized watercraft in a specified area.
 - III. Removes the word “brook” from the reference to trout in the method and manner of taking fish.
 - IV. Enables the executive director of fish and game to set the fisheries habitat fee in rules.
 - V. Repeals the Connecticut River Atlantic salmon commission.
- This bill is a request of the fish and game department.

Amendment to SB 58-FN
(2025-1722h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety –r

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

Amendment to SB 58-FN
(2025-1721h)

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety—r

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

AN ACT relative to criminal prosecutions of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Distribution of a Controlled Drug with Death Resulting; Venue. Amend RSA 318-B:26 by inserting after paragraph IX-a the following new paragraph:

IX-b. If any act performed in furtherance of the offenses prohibited by RSA 318-B:26, IX occurs in this state or if any victim of the offenses prohibited by RSA 318-B:26, IX resides in this state, the offense shall be deemed to have occurred in this state.

2025-1721h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adds to the controlled drug act that if any act is performed in furtherance of the offenses prohibited by RSA 318-B:26, IX in this state or if any victim of the offenses prohibited by RSA 318-B:26, IX resides in this state, the offense shall be deemed to have occurred in this state.

Amendment to SB 78
(2025-1713h)

Proposed by the Committee on Municipal and County Government—c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Appeals to Board of Adjustment. Amend RSA 676:5, I to read as follows:

I. Appeals to the board of adjustment concerning any matter within the board's powers as set forth in RSA 674:33 may be taken by the applicant, an abutter as defined by RSA 672:3, or by any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality affected by any decision of the administrative officer. Such appeal shall be taken within ~~[a reasonable time, as provided by the rules of the board,]~~ **45 days** by filing with the officer from whom the appeal is taken and with the board a notice of appeal specifying the grounds thereof. The officer from whom the appeal is taken shall forthwith transmit to the board all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken.

2025-1713h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes the zoning board of adjustment's discretion for determining when to take an appeal and replaces it with a non-discretionary 45-day period.

**Amendment to SB 95
(2025-1740h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration—c

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following and renumbering the original section 3 to read as 4:

3 Enabling Code Amendments. The state building code review board and the state board of fire control shall amend their codes as necessary to implement and comply with RSA 153:5, VII, and RSA 155-A:14.

**Amendment to SB 105
(2025-1626h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Municipal and County Governemnt—r

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

1 New Sections; Towns, Cities, Villages Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law. Amend RSA 32 by inserting after section 5-f the following new sections:

32:5-g Town Budget Cap. Upon adoption under RSA 32:5-h, the following shall apply:

I. In a town that has adopted this section, the total amount raised and appropriated for the fiscal year, including the operating budget and all other warrant articles with a tax impact, as shown on the budget certified by the select board or the budget committee and posted with the warrant for the annual meeting pursuant to RSA 32:5, shall not exceed the current per resident expenditure, as defined in subparagraph (a), times the current town population, as defined in subparagraph (b), times (1+ IF), where IF is an amount for an annual increase for inflation.

(a) The first year after the budget cap is adopted, the current per resident expenditure shall be the per resident expenditure adopted in the warrant article under RSA 32:5-h, IV. In subsequent years, the current per resident expenditure shall be the previous year's current per resident expenditure times (1+IFP), where IFP is the previous year's IF.

(b) The current town population shall be the most recent figure calculated by the department of business and economic affairs, office of planning and development, pursuant to RSA 78-A:25, I.

II. The annual increase for inflation (IF) shall be either a fixed percentage, annual percentage change of an inflation index published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as of October 1, preceding the date of the budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5, I, or annual percentage change of the Municipal Cost Index (MCI) published by American City and County as of October 1, preceding the date of the budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5, I.

III. The legislative body may override the budget cap by the usual procedures applicable to annual town meetings of the legislative body, provided that when a proposed appropriation will cause the total amount raised and appropriated to exceed the budget cap or the total amount already raised and appropriated has exceeded the budget cap, voting on the appropriation question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed on the official ballot used to elect officers, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. If a 3/5 majority, or the supermajority as determined under a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D, of those voting on the question vote "yes," the appropriation is approved. Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority or the supermajority as determined under a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D.

IV. When using the official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13, if the warrant article for the operating budget results in appropriations exceeding the budget cap and receives less than 3/5 majority "yes" vote, the adopted operating budget shall be reduced by appropriations already raised to remain compliant with the budget cap.

32:5-h Adoption of Town Budget Cap.

I. The provisions of RSA 32:5-g may be adopted by any town in the state whose legislative body raises and appropriates funds through an annual meeting. A 3/5 majority of those voting on the question shall be required to adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-g. Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority.

II. The question shall be placed on the warrant of the annual or special meeting by the select board or by petition under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3.

III. A public hearing shall be held by the select board on the question at least 15 days, but not more than 30 days, before the question is to be voted on. Notice of the hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places in the town, and published in a local newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days prior to the date of the hearing.

IV. If, under RSA 32:5-g, II, a fixed percentage is used for the annual increase for inflation, the wording of the question shall be:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-g, and implement a budget cap whereby the select board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than _____ dollars per resident expenditure times the current town population plus a _____ percent annual increase for inflation. Requires a 3/5ths majority of the town.”

Alternatively, if an annual inflation index is used, the wording of the question shall be:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-g, and implement a budget cap whereby the select board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than _____ dollars per resident expenditure times the current town population plus an annual increase for inflation using (the index) published by (the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics or American City and County) as of October 1. Requires a 3/5ths majority of the town.”

V. The question shall not be subject to amendment by the legislative body. Voting on the question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed on the official ballot used to elect officers, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. Polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by the moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the question. If a 3/5 majority of those voting on the question vote “yes,” RSA 32:5-g shall apply within the town beginning with the following fiscal year and for all subsequent years until it is changed as provided in paragraph VI or rescinded as provided in paragraph VII.

VI. Any town which has adopted RSA 32:5-g may consider adoption of a new town budget cap, using any method described in RSA 32:5-g, II, in the manner described in paragraphs I through V. If the adoption of a new proposed town budget cap fails, the existing town budget cap shall continue to apply.

VII. Any town which has adopted RSA 32:5-g may consider rescinding its action in the manner described in paragraphs I through V. The wording of the question shall be:

“Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 32:5-g, known as the town budget cap, as adopted by the (town) on (date of adoption), so that there will no longer be a town budget cap limit on the amount raised and appropriated?”

A 3/5 majority of those voting on the question shall be required to rescind the provisions of this section, except in the case of repeal by charter enactment under RSA 49-D. Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority.

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

**Amendment to SB 118-FN
(2025-1871h)**

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

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

AN ACT 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; establishing the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund; and permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 2 with the following:

3 New Paragraph; Department of Health and Human Services; Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility; Establishing Fund. Amend RSA 126-A:5, by inserting after paragraph XXXVI the following new paragraph:

XXXVII. There is hereby established the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund. The department shall deposit revenue received through leasing Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility or any other administrative activities into the fund. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department shall deposit all revenue into the fund. In the event that such revenue exceeds \$3,000,000, for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department shall provide a report to the fiscal committee of the general court identifying the total amount. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of supporting required capital investments and ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the campus at Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility and may not be transferred or used for any other purpose.

4 Department of Health and Human Services; Carryforward. For the biennium ending June 30, 2025, all revenue collected by the department of health and human service derived from the operations transfer and asset purchase agreement, lease agreement, and transition services agreement, approved by the governor and executive council on December 18, 2024, shall be deposited into the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment fund.

5 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility Capital Investment Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

(400) Moneys deposited in the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund as established in RSA 126-A:5, XXXVII.

6 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Definitions. Amend RSA 126-X:1, IV to read as follows:

IV. "Cultivation location" means a locked and enclosed site, under the control of an alternative treatment center where cannabis is cultivated, secured with one or more locks or other security devices in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, ***or under the control of a qualifying patient or designated caregiver where cannabis is cultivated and which meets the requirements of this chapter.***

7 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Definitions. Amend RSA 126-X:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Designated caregiver" means an individual who:

(a) Is at least 21 years of age;

(b) ***(1)*** Has agreed to assist with one or more (not to exceed 5) qualifying [patient's] ***patients in the*** therapeutic use of cannabis, except if the qualifying patient and designated caregiver each live greater than 50 miles from the nearest alternative treatment center, ~~[in which case]~~ the designated caregiver may assist with the therapeutic use of cannabis for up to 9 qualifying patients; ***or***

(2) Has agreed to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use pursuant to this chapter for no more than one qualifying patient;

(c) Has never been convicted of a felony or any felony drug-related offense; and

(d) Possesses a valid registry identification card issued pursuant to RSA 126-X:4.

8 New Paragraphs; Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Definitions. Amend RSA 126-X:1 by inserting after paragraph VI-a the following new paragraphs:

VI-b. "Immature cannabis plant" means a cannabis plant that has not flowered and which does not have buds that may be observed by visual examination and which is at least 12 inches tall.

VI-c. "Mature cannabis plant" means a cannabis plant that has flowered and that has buds that may be observed by visual examination.

9 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Definitions. Amend RSA 126-X:1, XIII(c) to read as follows:

(c) Cultivation by a designated caregiver or qualifying patient, ***except as provided under RSA 126-X:2, II-a and II-b.***

10 New Paragraphs; Use of Therapeutic Cannabis Purposes; Protections. Amend RSA 126-X:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

II-a. Except as provided in RSA 126-X:3, VII(b), a qualifying patient or designated caregiver who has reported to the department a cultivation location that meets the requirements of this chapter, shall not be subject to arrest by state or local law enforcement, prosecution or penalty under state or municipal law, or denied any right or privilege for the therapeutic use of cannabis in accordance with this chapter, if, at the cultivation location, while transporting cannabis and cannabis plants and seedlings to a new cultivation location that has been reported to the department within the prior 21 days, or while transporting cannabis seedlings from an alternative treatment center to the cultivation location, the qualifying patient or designated caregiver possesses or cultivates an amount of cannabis that does not exceed the following:

(a) Eight ounces of usable cannabis;

(b) Any amount of unusable cannabis; and

(c) Three mature cannabis plants, 3 immature cannabis plants, and 12 seedlings.

II-b. A cultivation location under the control of a qualifying patient or designated caregiver shall meet the following requirements:

(a) It shall be at the qualifying patient's or designated caregiver's residence.

(b) It shall be reported to the department, except that either the qualifying patient or their designated caregiver, but not both, shall report a cultivation location to the department.

(c) It shall be locked and enclosed.

(d) The cannabis plants shall not be subject to public view, including from another private property, without the use of optical aids.

(e) It shall have a canopy of no more than 50 square feet, except that if more than one qualifying patient, designated caregiver, or both, share a cultivation location, the total canopy of all cannabis plants shall not exceed 100 square feet.

11 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Purposes; Protections. Amend RSA 126-X:2, III to read as follows:

III. A designated caregiver may receive compensation for costs, ***not to exceed \$500 per calendar year***, not including labor, associated with assisting a qualifying patient who has designated the [designated] caregiver to assist him or her with the therapeutic use of cannabis. Such compensation shall not constitute the sale of ~~[controlled substances]~~ ***a controlled drug pursuant to RSA 318-B.***

12 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Protections. Amend RSA 126-X:2, XV to read as follows:

XV. A laboratory, **and the employees thereof**, which conducts testing of cannabis [~~required under rules for~~] **delivered to it by** alternative treatment centers, [~~adopted under this chapter, and the employees thereof~~] **qualifying patients, or designated caregivers**, shall not be subject to arrest by state or local law enforcement, prosecution or penalty under state or municipal law, or search, for acting pursuant to this chapter and department rules to possess cannabis on the premises of the laboratory for the purposes of testing, and, in the case of a laboratory employee, denied any right or privilege for working for such a laboratory.

13 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Prohibitions and Limits. Amend RSA 126-X:3, I to read as follows:

I. A qualifying patient may use **and a qualifying patient or designated caregiver may cultivate** cannabis on privately-owned real property only with written permission of the property owner or, in the case of leased property, with the permission of the tenant in possession of the property, except that a tenant shall not allow a qualifying patient to smoke cannabis on rented property if smoking on the property violates the lease or the lessor's rental policies that apply to all tenants at the property. **A tenant or guest of a tenant shall not cultivate cannabis on rented property if the lessor has prohibited therapeutic cannabis cultivation.** However, a tenant may permit a qualifying patient to use cannabis on leased property by ingestion or inhalation through vaporization even if smoking is prohibited by the lease or rental policies. For purposes of this chapter, vaporization shall mean the inhalation of cannabis without the combustion of the cannabis.

14 New Subparagraph; Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Registry Identification Cards. Amend RSA 126-X:4, I by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) The qualifying patient's cultivation location, if any.

15 New Subparagraph; Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Registry Identification Cards. Amend RSA 126-X:4, II by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) The designated caregiver's cultivation location, where he or she may cultivate cannabis on behalf of a single qualifying patient who has not reported a cultivation location.

16 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Registry Identification Cards. Amend RSA 126-X:4, IX(a) to read as follows:

IX.(a) A qualifying patient shall notify the department before changing his or her designated caregiver **or cultivation location. A designated caregiver shall notify the department before changing his or her cultivation location.**

17 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Registry Identification Cards. Amend RSA 126-X:4, XI to read as follows:

XI.(a) The department shall create and maintain a confidential registry of each individual who has applied for and received a registry identification card as a qualifying patient or a designated caregiver in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Each entry in the registry shall contain the qualifying patient's or designated caregiver's name, mailing address, date of birth, date of registry identification card issuance, effective date of **the** registry identification **card**, date of registry identification card expiration, [~~and~~] random 10-digit identification number, **and cultivation location, if any.** The confidential registry and the information contained in it shall be exempt from disclosure under RSA 91-A.

(b)(1) Except as specifically provided in this chapter, no person shall have access to any information about qualifying patients or designated caregivers in the department's confidential registry, or any information otherwise maintained by the department about providers and alternative treatment centers, except for authorized employees of the department in the course of their official duties and local and state law enforcement personnel who have detained or arrested an individual who claims to be engaged in the therapeutic use of cannabis.

(2) If a local or state law enforcement officer submits a sworn affidavit to the department affirming that he or she has probable cause to believe cannabis is possessed **or cultivated** at a specific address, an authorized employee for the department may disclose whether the location is associated with a qualifying patient, designated caregiver, or cultivation location [~~of an alternative treatment center~~].

(3) If a local or state law enforcement officer submits a sworn affidavit to the department affirming that he or she has probable cause to believe a specific individual possesses **or cultivates** cannabis, an authorized employee for the department may disclose whether the person is a qualifying patient or a designated caregiver, provided that the law enforcement officer provides the person's name and address or name and date of birth.

(4) Requests by law enforcement officials under this section to the department pursuant to a sworn affidavit, search warrant, or court order, regardless of whether or not the name or address was found in the registry, shall be confidential under this chapter and exempt from disclosure under RSA 91-A. Aggregate data relative to such requests may be made public if it does not contain any identifying information regarding the specific law enforcement request.

(5) Counsel for the department may notify law enforcement officials about falsified or fraudulent information submitted to the department where counsel has reason to believe the information is false or falsified.

18 New Paragraph; Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Registry Identification Cards. Amend RSA 126-X:4 by inserting after paragraph XII the following new paragraph:

XIII.(a) No later than December 1, 2025, the department shall allow existing and new qualifying patients and designated caregivers to report a cultivation location provided that:

(1) A qualifying patient may report a cultivation location only if he or she does not have a designated caregiver who has reported a cultivation location.

(2) A designated caregiver may report a cultivation location only if he or she does not have a qualifying patient who has reported a cultivation location.

(b) No individual shall report a cultivation location if such individual's permission to cultivate has been revoked pursuant to RSA 126-X:3, VIII(b).

19 Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Affirmative Defense. Amend RSA 126-X:5, I to read as follows:

I. It shall be an affirmative defense for any person charged with manufacturing, possessing, having under his or her control, selling, purchasing, prescribing, administering, transporting, or possessing with intent to sell, dispense, or compound cannabis, cannabis analog, or any preparation containing cannabis, if:

(a) The actor is a qualifying patient who has been issued a valid registry identification card, was in possession of cannabis in a quantity and location permitted pursuant to this chapter, and was engaged in the therapeutic use of cannabis;

(b) The actor is a designated caregiver who has been issued a valid registry identification card, was in possession of cannabis in a quantity and location permitted pursuant to this chapter, and was engaged in the therapeutic use of cannabis on behalf of a qualifying patient; or

(c) The actor is an employee of a laboratory conducting testing required for alternative treatment centers pursuant to rules adopted under this chapter **or that tests cannabis provided to it by qualifying patients and designated caregivers.**

20 New Subparagraph; Use of Therapeutic Cannabis; Alternative Treatment Centers. Amend RSA 126-X:8, XIII by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

(d) A qualifying patient or designated caregiver shall not obtain from an alternative treatment center more than 12 seedlings during a 3-month period.

21 Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Prohibitions and Limits. Amend RSA 126-X:3, VII to read as follows:

VII.(a) The department may revoke the registry identification card of a qualifying patient or designated caregiver for violation of rules adopted by the department or for violation of any other provision of this chapter, including for obtaining more than 2 ounces of cannabis in any 10-day period in violation of RSA 126-X:8, XIII(b), and the qualifying patient or designated caregiver shall be subject to any other penalties established in law for the violation.

(b) The department may revoke a qualifying patient's or designated caregiver's permission to cultivate cannabis for a violation of the rules adopted by the department or for a violation of any provision of this chapter.

22 Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Alternative Treatment Centers. Amend RSA 126-X:8, XV(a) to read as follows:

XV.(a)(1) An alternative treatment center shall not possess or cultivate cannabis in excess of the following quantities:

~~[(1)]~~ (A) Eighty **mature** cannabis plants, 160 ~~[seedlings]~~ **immature cannabis plants**, and 80 ounces of usable cannabis~~[-or 6 ounces of usable cannabis per qualifying patient]; and~~

~~[(2)]~~ (B) Three mature cannabis plants, 12 ~~[seedlings]~~ **immature cannabis plants**, and 6 ounces **of usable cannabis** for each qualifying patient registered ~~[as a qualifying patient]~~ under this chapter.

(2) An alternative treatment center shall not be limited in the number of seedlings it can possess or cultivate.

23 Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Departmental Rules. Amend RSA 126-X:6, III(a)(15) to read as follows:

(15) Procedures for determining and enforcing the daily maximum amount of therapeutic cannabis which an alternative treatment center may cultivate or possess pursuant to RSA 126-X:8, XV(a)(1).

24 Effective Date.

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

II. Sections 3, 4, and 5 shall take effect June 30, 2025.

III. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-1871h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Adjusts the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to reflect social security increases on an annual basis rather than the current 5-year adjustment.

II. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund certain leave accrual and retention payments for temporary classified staff positions at the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility.

III. Establishes the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund and provides that all revenue collected by the department of health and human services from the operations transfer and asset purchase agreements approved by the governor and council on December 18, 2024 be deposited in the fund.

IV. Permits qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.

**Amendment to SB 138
(2025-1764h)**

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

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

AN ACT relative to record requests by health care providers.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

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

2025-1764h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that when a health care provider requests a patient's medical records, the records should be provided within 14 days of the request.

**Amendment to SB 141-FN
(2025-1654h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Judiciary–r

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

AN ACT relative to the time to petition for a new trial.

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

1 New Trials in Civil Cases. Amend the chapter heading of RSA 526 to read as follows:

NEW TRIALS IN CIVIL CASES

2 New Trials; When Granted in Civil Cases. Amend RSA 526:1 to read as follows:

526:1 When Granted *In Civil Cases*. ***The provisions of this chapter shall apply to requests for a new trial in civil cases only.*** A new trial may be granted in any case when through accident, mistake or misfortune justice has not been done and a further hearing would be equitable.

3 New Chapter; New Trials in Criminal Cases. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 534 the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 534-A
NEW TRIALS IN CRIMINAL CASES

534-A:1 Petition to Set Aside Conviction; New Trial; Time Limit. A petition to set aside a conviction or for a new trial on any grounds that constitute a proper legal basis for granting such relief may be made no later than 3 years after the date the conviction was entered; provided, however, that if the petition is based on a claim that physical evidence should be subjected to new or additional forensic testing or is subject to new scientific understanding, or a claim of newly discovered or newly admissible evidence, the petition must satisfy the requirements of RSA 534-A:2, II and RSA 534-A:2, III, and the provisions of RSA 534-A:5 through RSA 534-A:11 shall apply to such petition.

534-A:2 Exception to Time Limit. The time limit specified in RSA 534-A:1 shall not apply to petitions to set aside a conviction or for a new trial that satisfy all of the following conditions:

I. The petitioner seeks a new trial in a criminal case that resulted in a conviction of a felony;

II. The petitioner is either incarcerated, subject to other terms of a sentence, or subject to collateral consequences of the sentence that impair the petitioner's ability to exercise a constitutional, statutory, or common law right or privilege available to other United States citizens; and

III. The petition meets the requirements of either RSA 534-A:3 or RSA 534-A:4.

534-A:3 Additional Forensic Testing or New Scientific Understanding. To satisfy this section the petitioner shall, under penalty of perjury:

I. Assert that the petitioner is innocent of the crime of which the petitioner was convicted.

II. Explain how physical evidence that was introduced against the petitioner at trial or that would have been presented at trial had the petitioner not pleaded guilty can be subjected to new or additional forensic testing that was not reasonably available, despite due diligence, at the time the conviction was entered, or is subject to new scientific understanding that did not exist at the time the conviction was entered.

III. Explain the grounds for a reasonable belief that the new forensic testing or the new scientific understanding of the evidence, as described in paragraph II, in light of all the circumstances, will demonstrate that the petitioner did not commit the crime for which he or she was convicted.

534-A:4 Newly Discovered Evidence. To satisfy this section the petitioner shall, under penalty of perjury:

I. Assert that the petitioner is innocent of the crime of which the petitioner was convicted.

II. Specify relevant and material evidence that either was not reasonably known to or available to the petitioner, despite due diligence, at the time the conviction was entered, or was not admissible in evidence at the time the conviction was entered, but is now both available and admissible in evidence.

III. Explain the grounds for a reasonable belief that the evidence described in paragraph II, in light of all the circumstances, will demonstrate that the petitioner did not commit the crime for which he or she was convicted.

534-A:5 Notice to Prosecuting Authority; Discovery. The court shall notify the office of the attorney general, or the county attorney who prosecuted the case, of a petition made under this chapter, and shall afford an opportunity to respond. Upon receiving notice of a petition made pursuant to RSA 534-A:2, the attorney general, or county attorney who prosecuted the case, shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that any evidence described in the petition or obtained in connection with the case or investigation is preserved pending the completion of proceedings under this chapter and shall inform the petitioner regarding the location and condition of evidence in their possession that was obtained in relation to the underlying case, regardless of whether it was introduced at trial. Items discoverable at trial under the New Hampshire rules of criminal procedure shall be made available to the petitioner.

534-A:6 Request for Additional Testing. With respect to a petition that seeks new or additional forensic testing of physical evidence, the court, after a hearing, shall order such testing upon finding that the petitioner has established each of the following factors by a preponderance of the evidence:

I. The evidence to be tested was secured in relation to the investigation or prosecution that resulted in the petitioner's conviction or sentence, and is available and in a condition that would permit the testing that is requested in the petition.

II. The evidence to be tested has been subject to a chain of custody sufficient to establish that it has not been substituted, tampered with, replaced, or altered in any material aspect.

III. The evidence sought to be tested is relevant and material to the issue of the petitioner's guilt or innocence of the crime of which he or she was convicted.

IV. If the requested testing produces exculpatory results, the testing will constitute new, noncumulative material evidence that the petitioner did not commit the crime for which he or she was convicted.

V. The evidence sought to be tested was not previously tested using similar testing methods or the type of testing sought is capable of producing new or more informative results.

VI. If other forensic testing previously was done in connection with the case, the requested testing would provide results that are new or more informative and probative on a material issue and would have a reasonable probability of contradicting prior test results.

VII. The testing requested employs a method generally accepted within the relevant scientific community.

534-A:7 Procedure for Additional Testing. If the court grants the petition for testing, the court's order shall:

I. Identify the specific evidence to be tested and the testing methods to be used.

II. If the court ordered different testing than requested by the petitioner, the court shall explain why the different test was ordered.

III. Designate the New Hampshire state police forensic laboratory to conduct the test. However, the court, upon a showing of good cause, may order testing by another qualified laboratory or agency that conforms to quality assurance standards required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or another nationally or internationally recognized accrediting organization. The laboratory shall give equal access to its personnel, opinions, conclusions, reports, and other documentation to the prosecuting attorney and the petitioner. Consumptive testing shall not occur except upon written permission by both the prosecutor and petitioner or by a specific order of the court.

534-A:8 Costs of Additional Testing. The cost of testing ordered under this chapter shall be paid by the petitioner unless the court has appointed counsel to represent a petitioner who is indigent and the court determines that, in the interests of justice, such costs should be paid by the state from funds appropriated for indigent defense pursuant to RSA 604-A.

534-A:9 Procedure Upon Results of Testing.

I. If the results of testing conducted under this chapter are unfavorable to the petitioner, the court shall dismiss the petition.

II. In addition to any other substantive or procedural remedies provided by law, if the results of testing conducted under this chapter are favorable to the petitioner, the court shall order a hearing and thereafter, if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that, based upon the new test results, there is a reasonable probability the petitioner would not have been convicted, shall enter any order that serves the interests of justice, including an order vacating and setting aside the judgment, discharging the petitioner if the petitioner is in custody, resentencing the petitioner, or granting a new trial.

534-A:10 Procedure Upon Petition Asserting New Scientific Understanding. In the case of a petition that does not seek testing of physical evidence, but asserts that such evidence is subject to a new scientific understanding, the court, after hearing, shall enter an order granting a new trial if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence:

I. That the new scientific understanding proffered represents a bona fide scientific theory that is accepted as valid in the relevant scientific community, as established through the testimony of one or more experts qualified to testify pursuant to New Hampshire rules of evidence 702 and 703; II. That the new scientific understanding constitutes relevant, material, and non-cumulative evidence that would be admissible at a new trial;

III. That the scientific understanding was not known or reasonably available to the petitioner at the time the conviction was entered; and

IV. That evidence of the new scientific understanding is of such character that, had it been presented in the proceedings prior to the entry of the conviction, there is a reasonable probability the petitioner would not have been convicted.

534-A:11 Procedure Upon Petition Asserting Newly Discovered Evidence. In the case of a petition that does not seek testing of physical evidence or claim the existence of a new scientific understanding of such evidence, but asserts that there exists evidence that was not available or not admissible at the time the conviction was entered, the court, after hearing, shall enter an order for a new trial if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence:

I. That the petitioner was not at fault for failing to discover the evidence prior to the entry of the conviction;

II. That the evidence is admissible, material to the merits, and non-cumulative; and

III. That the evidence is of such a character that, had it been presented in the proceedings prior to the entry of the conviction, there is a reasonable probability the petitioner would not have been convicted.

534-A:12 Construction. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the court from dismissing without hearing a petition that fails to satisfy the requirements for obtaining relief under this chapter or that raises claims which are repetitive of ones that have previously be adjudicated.

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

2025-1654h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill creates a new chapter governing a petition to set aside a criminal verdict or for a new criminal trial.

Amendment to SB 151-FN (2025-1799h)

Proposed by the Committee on Transportation—c

Amend RSA 265:69, I(j) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(j) In any parking place, whether on public or private property, specially designated for a person with a walking disability by means of a sign as required by RSA 265:73-a stating that the space is reserved for a person with a walking disability or displaying the international accessibility symbol, unless that person has a special plate or placard issued or recognized pursuant to RSA 261:86 or RSA 261:88, and the person who qualifies for the plate or placard is being transported to or from the parking place. Notwithstanding the provisions of title LXII or any other provision of law, a person who violates the provisions of this subparagraph, ***except if subject to RSA 265:74, II***, shall be fined a minimum of [~~\$250~~] ***\$500 plus penalty assessment*** of which [~~20~~] ***50*** percent is payable to the town or city where the violation occurred;

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Walking Disability; Parking Privileges; Fines. Amend RSA 265:74 to read as follows:

265:74 Parking Privileges for Persons With Walking Disability.

I. Any motor vehicle carrying the special plates or hanging windshield placard issued to a person with a walking disability under RSA 261:88, or a similar license plate displaying the international accessibility symbol shall be allowed free parking in any city or town, including any state or municipal parking facility where a fee is charged. Each city or town shall have the discretion to set the time periods using guidelines which shall be provided by the governor's commission on disability. The free parking shall only be allowed if the person who qualifies for the special plates or hanging placard is being transported in the vehicle to or from the parking place. Parking places designated for persons with walking disabilities shall be utilized only if a person with a walking disability is being transported in the vehicle to or from the parking place. Notwithstanding the provisions of any local ordinance which has been adopted to regulate parking in places designated for persons with walking disabilities, any person who is convicted under this section shall be guilty of a violation and fined [~~\$250~~] ***\$500*** plus penalty assessment of which [~~20~~] ***50*** percent is payable to the town or city where the violation occurred.

II. Any person who parks a vehicle in any parking place, whether on public or private property, specially designated for a person with a walking disability by means of a sign as required by RSA 265:73-a stating that the space is reserved for a person with a walking disability or displaying the international accessibility symbol, while displaying a counterfeit, forged, stolen, or purchased handicap placard that has not been issued by an agency with authority to do so, shall be guilty of a violation with a fine of not less than \$1,000 for a first offense, and a misdemeanor with a fine of not less than \$1,500 for a second or subsequent offense.

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

2025-1799h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that walking disability placards contain certain driver's license information, creates a penalty for a disabled driver who parks in a restricted parking space without displaying their placard, and increases fines for parking in restricted spaces without a placard. This bill also makes the display of a counterfeit, fraudulent, or other unofficial walking disability placard while parked in a properly designated parking space reserved for individuals with walking disabilities a violation or misdemeanor.

**Floor Amendment to SB 153-FN
(2025-1876h)**

Proposed by Rep. Milz

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

AN ACT relative to expedited driveway permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater and the time frame for approval or denial of permit applications.

Amend the bill by inserting a new section 1 and renumbering the original sections 1-3 to read as 2-4, respectively:

1 Issuance or Denial of Permit for Access to Public Way; Time Frame. Amend RSA 236:13, IV-a to read as follows:

IV-a. For any existing or proposed residential use of land, including multifamily development that is not classified as a major driveway under the department's policy relating to driveways and access to the state highway system, the department shall issue *or deny* the permit described in paragraph II within 60 days of receiving a completed application.

2025-1876h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the commissioner of transportation to approve or deny permit applications for a driveway or public access to a way within 60 days of receipt of application and creates an expedited driveway permit for major entrances for parcels of land for residential use of 20 units or greater.

**Amendment to SB 190
(2025-1662h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration-r

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

AN ACT relative to the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council.

Amend the bill by deleting sections 2 and 3 and renumbering the original section 4 to read as 2.

2025-1662h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill sets quorum requirements for the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council.

**Amendment to SB 235
(2025-1603h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources-c

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

AN ACT enabling funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire and allowing the fish and game department to collect donations at sites approved by the executive director.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 4, respectively:

2 New Section; Funds Paid from Collected Donations. Amend RSA 206 by inserting after section 33-g the following new section:

206:33-h Funds Paid from Collected Donations. The executive director may approve donation collection points and may accept funds paid from such donation collection points within the state of New Hampshire. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the executive director may accept and receive such funds without the approval of the governor, the governor and council, or the commission. All moneys received under this section shall be deposited into the fish and game fund established under RSA 206:33 and used solely for the purposes set forth in RSA 206:34-a. The executive director may invest in technology necessary to enable the solicitation and collection of donations.

3 Fish and Game Fund. Amend RSA 206:34-a to read as follows:

206:34-a Use of Fish and Game Funds. All revenues accruing from sales of licenses and permits, *donations solicited and collected at donation collection points approved by the executive director*, and any

other revenue received by the department, and any money reimbursed or granted to the department by the state or federal government for fish, game, and wildlife conservation or related programs shall be used solely for conservation, restoration, management, educational benefit, recreational use, and scientific study of the fish, game, and wildlife resources of the state, including acquisition of property and general administration of RSA title XVIII. Such funds shall be used for no other purposes.

2025-1603h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire.

This bill also allows the executive director of the fish and game department to approve collection points for donations around the state.

**Amendment to SB 258-FN
(2025-1580h)**

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

Amend RSA 637:10-d, II(b) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) Uses, for the purpose of obtaining money, goods, services, or anything else of value, a gift card or gift card redemption information that the person knows or believes has probably been obtained by deception or forgery; or

**Amendment to SB 263
(2025-1717h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary—c

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

1 New Paragraph; Endangering Welfare of a Child; Responsive Generative Communication. Amend RSA 639:3 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

III-a.(a) For the purposes of prosecution under this section, an owner or operator of a computer online service, Internet service, or bulletin board service, including a provider of an artificial intelligence (AI) chat program, large language model artificial intelligence bot, chat bot, character AI, or other computer application, the sole purpose of which is to provide responsive open-ended generative communication through the use of artificial intelligence, commits the offense of endangering the welfare of a child if the owner or operator knows at the time that they direct the communication to the child that the communication is made with the intent to facilitate, encourage, offer, solicit, or recommend that the child imminently engage in:

- (1) Sexually explicit conduct.
- (2) The production or participation in the production of a visual depiction of such conduct.
- (3) The illegal use of drugs or alcohol.
- (4) Acts of self-harm or suicide.
- (5) Any crime of violence against another person.

(b) This paragraph shall not apply to:

(1) A cloud service provider, or a provider of a telecommunications service or an information service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. section 153, with respect to the provision of content created by or supplied on behalf of another person; or

(2) Any product, service, website, or application that provides an AI chat program or character that is integral or incidental to a video game, television, streaming, movie, or other similar interactive experience.

2 New Section; Enforcement; Responsive Generative Communication with Children. Amend RSA 507 by inserting after section 8-j the following new section:

507:8-k Enforcement Action for Solicitation of Children Through Responsive Generative Communication.

I. Any owner or operator of a computer online service, Internet service, or bulletin board service, including a provider of an artificial intelligence (AI) chat program, large language model artificial intelligence bot, chat bot, character AI, or other computer application, the sole purpose of which is to provide responsive open-ended generative communication through the use of artificial intelligence, shall be liable to a child, parent of such child, or next friend of such child if the owner or operator knows at the time that they direct the communication to the child that the communication is made with the intent to facilitate, encourage, offer, solicit, or recommend that the child imminently engage in:

- (1) Sexually explicit conduct.
- (2) The production or participation in the production of a visual depiction of such conduct.
- (3) The illegal use of drugs or alcohol.
- (4) Acts of self-harm or suicide.
- (5) Any crime of violence against another person.

II. The attorney general may bring an action against an owner or operator that violates this section for damages proximately caused to a child, as provided in paragraph III, or for appropriate injunctive relief.

Prior to initiating such action, the attorney general shall provide the owner or operator with written notice of each alleged violation and the factual basis thereof, and shall give the owner or operator 90 days to provide assurances satisfactory to the attorney general that the owner or operator has cured the violations and has taken adequate steps to prevent future violations. If such assurances satisfactory to the attorney general are provided, the attorney general shall not initiate an action against the owner or operator for such violations. The attorney general shall have the sole right of action for a violation of this section.

III. An owner or operator of such service shall be liable to a child, or the parent or next friend of the child, for damages proximately caused by a violation of paragraph I, but in no instance liable for an amount less than liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,000 per violation.

IV. This section shall not apply to:

(1) A cloud service provider, or a provider of a telecommunications service or an information service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. section 153, with respect to the provision of content created by or supplied on behalf of another person; or

(2) Any product, service, website, or application that provides an AI chat program or character that is integral or incidental to a video game, television, streaming, movie, or other similar interactive experience.

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

**Amendment to SB 292-FN-A
(2025-1802h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Education Funding-r

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

AN ACT relative to aid to school districts for the cost of special education.

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

1 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 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 for catastrophic aid costs 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.

2 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 from the education trust fund created under RSA 198:39. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this section. Such warrant for payment shall be issued regardless of the***

balance of funds available in the education trust fund. If the balance in the education trust fund, after the issuance of any such warrant, is less than zero, the state comptroller shall transfer sufficient funds from the general fund to eliminate such deficit. The commissioner of the department of administrative services shall inform the fiscal committee and the governor and council of such balance. This reporting shall not in any way prohibit or delay the distribution of payments.

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

2025-1802h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill 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 for catastrophic aid costs in the fiscal year.

**Amendment to SB 295-FN
(2025-1857h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Funding-r

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

1 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. 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 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 income threshold need be met in subsequent years, 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.

2 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraphs:

I-a. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, total enrollment for the education freedom account program shall be capped at 10,000. However, in any fiscal year when student applications for the education freedom account program are equal to or greater than 90 percent of the total enrollment cap applicable to that fiscal year, the total enrollment cap shall increase by 25 percent. The department shall publish on its website information identifying the total enrollment cap when it is increased pursuant to this paragraph.

I-b. In the event that applications for the education freedom account program exceed 90 percent of the annual enrollment cap in a given fiscal year, as established in paragraph I-a, priority for the program shall be determined in the following order:

- (a) A student currently enrolled in the EFA program;
- (b) A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the EFA program;
- (c) A child with disabilities as defined by RSA 186-C:2;

(d) A student whose family income is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902 (2).

I-c. In any fiscal year, for students applying after June 30 during the fall application window, only students who meet the priority categories as defined by RSA 194-F:3, I-b(b)-(d) are eligible for pro-rated accounts. The scholarship organization shall prioritize current EFA students for renewal in the spring by reserving space for them under that year's enrollment cap before awarding new EFA accounts for fall applicants.

3 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3, III(b) to read as follows:

(b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student ***and meets the priority guidelines when applications exceed the enrollment cap.***

4 New Paragraph; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. Amend RSA 194-F:4 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. The scholarship organization shall establish and publicize no less than 2 deadlines by which application forms must be submitted.

5 Education Freedom Accounts; Application Acceptance Directive. Amend RSA 194-F:3, I to read as follows:

I. A parent may apply to the scholarship organization to establish an EFA for an eligible student. The scholarship organization shall accept and approve applications ***on a rolling basis*** for the fall and spring semesters each year and shall establish procedures for approving applications in an expeditious manner.

6 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. RSA 194-F:3, III(b) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student.

7 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 194-F:3, I-a, I-b, and I-c, relative to education freedom account eligibility.

II. RSA 194-F:4, IV-a, relative to scholarship organization deadlines.

8 Contingency. Sections 5 through 7 of this act shall take effect on the date the department of education certifies to the secretary of state and the director of the office of legislative services that student applications for the education freedom account program have not exceeded 90 percent of the total enrollment cap for 2 consecutive fiscal years.

9 Effective Dates.

I. Sections 5 through 7 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 8 of this act.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.