



State of  
New Hampshire

# HOUSE RECORD

## Second Year of the 169<sup>th</sup> General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2026 Session

Web Site Address: [www.gc.nh.gov](http://www.gc.nh.gov)

Vol. 48

Concord, N.H.

Friday, May 8, 2026

No. 19

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

## HOUSE CALENDAR

### MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The House will meet Thursday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Representatives Hall, which is the deadline to act on all Senate Bills. The following session day will be Thursday, May 21, which is our deadline to form committees of conference. Lastly, for planning purposes, we will meet on Thursday, June 4, which is the deadline to adopt committee of conference reports.

In honor of Legislative Staff Week, I want to take a moment to recognize and sincerely thank our legislative staff for their hard work, dedication, and invaluable service to the House and to the people of New Hampshire. The work of this institution would not be possible without them.

Any House member with official business at the State House on a non-session day may use the legislative parking garage on Storrs Street. Those needing parking accommodations closer due to mobility or health challenges may contact the Speaker's Office at 603-271-3661.

Please remember that when filing amendments, you should not add a cosponsor without their prior approval. As a reminder, floor amendments are due to the Clerk by 4:30 the day prior to session.

As a reminder, lobbying/advocacy materials are not permitted on the anteroom tables. Food and beverages are not permitted within Representatives Hall, aside from water. Please leave other beverages and snacks in the anteroom, and keep our historic chamber clean.

House members with inquiries about statutory or study commissions/committee appointments may send an email to [houseappointments@gc.nh.gov](mailto:houseappointments@gc.nh.gov) or call the Speaker's Office at 603-271-3661.

When travelling out-of-state, and throughout your service in the House, please remember that your state-issued EZ-Pass devices will not work outside of New Hampshire.

Members are reminded to utilize our Visitor's Center staff if you wish to bring family and friends on a tour of our historic State House.

As always, please make every effort to be civil, kind and professional with your colleagues, staff, and constituents. Our principles of conduct (paragraph IV), appropriately require us to "...treat each other, legislative employees, and the public with dignity and respect." As elected officials we should hold ourselves to high standards even in the most contentious of times.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

### NOTICE

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Thursday, May 14th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.  
Rep. Jason Osborne, Majority Leader

### NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, May 14th 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 13, 2026  
 Wednesday, May 20, 2026  
 Wednesday, May 27, 2026

**AVAILABLE ON:**

Friday, May 15, 2026  
 Friday, May 22, 2026  
 Friday, May 29, 2026

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

**2026 HOUSE DEADLINES****Second Year Session Deadlines**

Thursday, May 14, 2026  
 Thursday, May 21, 2026  
 Thursday, May 28, 2026  
 Thursday, June 4, 2026  
 Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Friday, September 11, 2026

Friday, October 23, 2026  
 Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Tuesday, January 5, 2027  
 Friday, January 15, 2027

Last day to act on all Senate Bills  
 Last day to form committee of conference  
 Last day to sign committee of conference reports (4:00 p.m.)  
 Last day to act on committee of conference reports  
 First day for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information  
 Last day prior to the General Election for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information  
 Last day to file 2026 Interim Study reports  
 First day for all Representatives to file LSRs with complete information  
 Last day to file LSRs with complete information (4:00 p.m.)  
 Ten-day signoff begins  
 Last day to sign-off on all LSRs (4:00 p.m.)  
 Last day to introduce House Bills  
 Last day to amend House Rules by majority vote

**BILLS LAID ON TABLE**

**CACR 22**, relating to the compensation of the legislature. Providing that the present compensation per elected term for legislators is hereby abolished. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 414-FN**, prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 652-FN**, abolishing the family division, creating the office of family mediation, and reassigning the jurisdiction of the family division. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 748-FN**, establishing a local education freedom account program. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1002-FN**, repealing the solar energy systems tax exemption. Pending question: Ought to Pass

**HB 1046**, enabling a person to carry a firearm on a snowmobile being operated on private property. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1067-FN**, relative to the mental health courts. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1063-FN**, reducing the amount of meals and rooms taxes operators can retain. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1098-FN**, relative to municipalities denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1105-FN**, making the term of office for certain Belknap county elected officials 4 years. Pending question: Ought to Pass

**HB 1114**, relative to the documentation and preservation of public comment reports by standing legislative committees. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1176-FN**, relative to the display of license plates on vehicles. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1264**, increasing the requirements of the education freedom savings account oversight committee and modifying the purpose of the committee. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1317**, relative to patient privacy protections. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1322-FN**, reestablishing the judicial conduct commission. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1367**, establishing a criminal offense of doxing. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

**HB1387**, repealing limiting liability for certain design features of firearms. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1393**, relative to the definition of public servant and the offense of official oppression. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1396**, relative to vacancies in state offices. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1402**, relative to credentials for the position of superintendent of schools. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1403**, relative to credentials for the position of school business administrator. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1409-FN**, modifying the deposit of revenues collected from video lottery terminals. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1418**, setting a minimum affirmative vote for new or expanded spending for SB 2 towns. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1436-FN**, relative to the classification and protection of personal digital information and cloud-stored files. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1446**, providing that an individual's use of therapeutic cannabis shall not disqualify the individual from the purchase, ownership, or possession of a firearm. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1451**, relative to protecting workers from extreme temperature-related injuries and fatalities in the workplace. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1454-FN**, relative to the possession of firearms following a court order requiring surrender of firearms and ammunition. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1484**, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for incremental increases. Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1500**, establishing a commission to study and propose procedures in the event of a state government shutdown. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1572-FN**, relative to licensure as a master licensed alcohol and drug counselor. Pending question: committee amendment.

**HB 1578**, adds definitions and reporting requirements relative to education freedom accounts. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1607-FN**, relative to the use and storage of road salt. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1612 -FN**, relative to the use of price-fixing websites, algorithms, or other software by landlords. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1616-FN**, prohibiting state agencies and political subdivisions from advertising or expending funds to advertise vaccines in the state of New Hampshire. Pending question: committee amendment.

**HB 1640**, relative to consent for school billing purposes. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1641-FN**, relative to petitions for certain orders of protection where the subject of the order is either released on bail or on probation. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1653**, relative to emergency medical care provided at freestanding hospital emergency facilities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1655-FN**, establishing a funding source for maintaining state owned dams. Pending question: No pending question.

**HB 1675**, establishing a commission to investigate the New Hampshire Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and requiring funding only be provided for the direct services materially benefitting survivors of sexual and domestic assault. Pending question: committee amendment.

**HB 1701 -FN**, reestablishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership program and making an appropriation therefor. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1720-FN**, relative to notice to child day care providers of child care scholarships. Pending question: No pending question.

**HB 1721-FN**, relative to limiting new system enrollment and adjusting compliance payments under the renewable portfolio standard program. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1741-FN**, relative to the enrollment and use of distributed energy resource aggregations by electric utilities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1752-FN**, requiring the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

**HB 1777-FN**, relative to the enhanced 911 system fund. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1786-FN**, relative to creating a state assessment on non-homestead luxury second homes to fund state-wide housing development programs and address housing shortages and making appropriations therefor. No pending question.

**HB 1798-FN**, relative to the coverage of diapers under the state Medicaid plan. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1814-FN**, establishing a 10-year strategic housing and infrastructure plan. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1820-FN**, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1822-FN**, relative to reporting of civil immigration detentions by state, county, and local law enforcement and correctional facilities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1831-FN**, repealing the education trust fund targeted aid cap. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HB 1834-FN**, relative to the education freedom account enrollment cap. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**HCR 11**, declaring the directives of the judicial branch in the Claremont cases that the legislative and executive branches define an “adequate education,” adopt “standards of accountability,” and “guarantee adequate funding” of a public education are not binding on the legislative and executive branches. Pending question: Refer for Interim Study.

**HCR 13**, requesting Congress to call a constitutional convention relative to implementing term limits for elected members of both houses of Congress. Pending question: Ought to Pass

**HR 38**, authorizing and directing the house judiciary committee to investigate whether cause exists for the impeachment of any justice of the New Hampshire supreme court. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**SB 101-FN**, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state. No pending question.

**SB 501**, relative to authorization of seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency by a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

**SB 520**, relative to breast surgeries for minors. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

## 2026 HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

**HB 59-FN**, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 109-FN**, relative to false reports to law enforcement. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 126**, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 131**, (New Title) relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 158**, (New Title) requiring the secretary of state to review absentee ballot data biennially, forward certain requests to the election law unit for review, and make a report to the general court. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 191-FN**, (Second New Title) providing criminal penalties for the transporting of an unemancipated minor in order to obtain a surgical procedure or a termination of the minor’s pregnancy without parental permission. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 221**, (New Title) enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators. (SJ 1/7/2026)

**HB 222**, (New Title) repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services and updating the organizational structure of the department of corrections. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 244**, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 266**, (New Title) relative to structural changes to the department of energy and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights and relative to the effect of murder on a decedent’s estate. (House Concurs, 2/19/2026)

**HB 281**, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 292**, (New Title) establishing a revolving loan fund for school districts. (House Nonconcurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 317**, preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person’s identity without identification, even if they personally know that person. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 340-FN**, relative to electioneering by public employees. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 348**, relative to eligibility for local assistance. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 481**, (New Title) relative to the state primary date. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 510-FN**, (New Title) establishing a commission to study due process in higher education disciplinary proceedings. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 524-FN**, (Second New Title) relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 564**, relative to the adoption of school administrative unit budgets. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 610-FN**, (New Title) relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 639-FN**, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 649-FN**, (Second New Title) relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 751-FN**, (Second New Title) establishing a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state, and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights. (House Req CofC, 2/19/2026)



**HB 1013**, (New Title) relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1030**, relative to licensed practical nurse scope of practice. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1031**, enabling candidates for state office to use campaign funds to pay for security measures. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1040**, establishing a committee to study the laws and procedures governing the filing and registering of quitclaim deeds in the state. (SJ 4/9/2026)

**HB 1042**, (New Title) raising the unified contingent credit limit and relative to the cap on outstanding obligations for which the housing finance authority is allowed. (SJ 4/16/2026)

**HB 1044**, relative to the filling of vacancies in the office of a county commissioner. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1062**, authorizing the secretary of state to conduct random audits of the citizenship qualification of registered voters. (SJ 4/16/2026)

**HB 1088-FN-A**, transferring funding for the water well board from the general fund to a special nonlapsing fund. (SJ 4/9/2026)

**HB 1091**, (New Title) relative to unauthorized camping on private property. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1099**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study the cost and liability of providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1130-FN**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1153-FN-Local**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1159**, relative to updating the state building code. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1168**, relative to employer documentation requirements. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1190-FN**, (New Title) enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21 and relative to fleet vehicle registration requirements. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1199**, (New Title) enabling the fish and game department to create a permit and fee for the use of fish and game staff by other state agencies and departments. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1205**, (New Title) prohibiting state and county owned lands from participating in timber carbon sequestration projects. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1215**, (New Title) relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1228**, (New Title) relative to the enforcement of alimony orders and relative to waivers of alimony. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1253**, (New Title) exempting dogs guarding livestock or crops from nuisance dog statutes when engaged in such work. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1260-FN**, (New Title) relative to marriage registration forms and delayed certificates of marriage and relative to the confidentiality of divorce records. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1266**, allowing election moderators access to the area designated for counting votes during the performance of their duties. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1298**, relative to the disposal of electronic ballot counting device external memory devices. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1306**, relative to the counting of absentee ballots. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1308-FN**, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus. (House Concurs)

**HB 1310**, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers. (House Concurs, 4/9/2026)

**HB 1318**, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1348**, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes. (SJ 4/23/2026)

**HB 1363**, relative to employee candidate background checks. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1369**, (New Title) relative to the manner of posting the warrant for town meetings. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1381**, extending the time of the party filing period. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1442-FN**, (New Title) permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. (SJ 4/16/2026)

**HB 1449**, (New Title) limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools, with certain exceptions. (SJ 4/16/2026)

**HB 1460-FN**, (New Title) prohibiting the sale of a child's personal data. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1468**, (New Title) relative to a flood resilience section in municipal master plans. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1514**, (New Title) requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school monitoring and financial reports to relevant school and school board authorities. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1535**, relative to clarifying eligible renewable energy classes under the renewable portfolio standard. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1541-FN**, requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1603-FN**, requiring state agencies to provide current and verifiable evidence of a species presence before imposing any land use restriction related to that species' habitat. (SJ 4/9/2026)

**HB 1685**, (Second New Title) establishing a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire. (House Req CofC, 4/23/2026)

**HB 1689**, (New Title) relative to the term of office for county officers in Belknap and Merrimack counties. (House Non-Concurs 4/9/2026)

**HB 1726-FN**, (Second New Title) relative to the sale of surplus state-owned land and establishing a commission to study the sale of state-owned property. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1733**, (New Title) relative to the reconciliation of default electric service rates. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1742**, (New Title) relative to customer-generators inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1758**, relative to school bus drivers' certificates. (SJ 4/23/2026)

**HB 1763-FN**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1766-FN**, relative to cruelty to livestock. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1780**, (New Title) relative to seed laws. (House Concurs, 5/7/2026)

**HB 1807-FN**, (New Title) relative to mandatory reports to voters. (House Req CofC, 5/7/2026)

## THURSDAY, MAY 14 CONSENT CALENDAR

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**SB 256-FN**, (New Title) establishing safety and care requirements for clinician-administered drugs. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill requires health plans to utilize the lowest cost method of reimbursement for clinician-administered drugs, ensures coverage of such drugs when they cannot reasonably be self-administered, and prohibits certain "brown bagging" practices in which patients are required to transport medications to a clinical setting for administration. The Senate passed this legislation following a study period and extensive stakeholder engagement, reflecting a thoughtful effort to address evolving practices in the delivery and reimbursement of clinician-administered medications. Members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee recognize that this issue is complex and rapidly changing. Some members of the committee believe the bill raises important considerations regarding patient safety, particularly in ensuring proper handling, storage, and administration of critical infusion and specialty medications. These concerns underscore the need for clear standards that prioritize patient well-being. However, the committee believes that additional time is warranted to fully evaluate the impact of this legislation on patients, providers, insurers, and emerging pharmacy distribution models. Given ongoing changes in specialty pharmacy practices and reimbursement structures, further study will allow for a more comprehensive and balanced policy approach. The committee therefore recommends Refer for Interim Study to continue stakeholder engagement and develop a more refined solution. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 444-FN**, prohibiting the use of animal testing when other comparable methods are available. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Susan Porcelli for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee reviewed this bill seeking to prohibit the use of animal testing when other methods are available and found several issues related to scope of the problem, current practice, and definitions. The committee proposed an amendment to require testing facilities to submit annual reports to the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals to gather data related to the use and methods of animal testing. While the committee is generally in favor of limiting animal testing when other, more effective methods are available, several flaws remain related to definitions and scope. Given the concerns raised during the subcommittee work session, the committee recommends this bill be Referred for Interim Study. **Vote 13-2.**

**SB 480-FN**, limiting certain prior authorization requirements for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and similar rehabilitative services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dick Thackston for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill seeks to expand coverage under certain circumstances without prior approval by insurers. The committee determined that the proposed expansion of coverage was not sufficiently beneficial for the costs to be in the best interest of the public at this time. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 487**, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Chris McAleer for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. At the request of the Cooperative Credit Union Association (the Association) this bill would allow NH credit unions to pay their board of directors a stipend for their services on the board. This is entirely voluntary on the part of each credit union. The Association believes this would allow the credit union to attract and retain skilled board members in an increasingly complex and competitive financial services industry. Currently 16 other states allow this practice. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 496**, relative to supervision and registration requirements for associates of broker-dealers. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Chris McAleer for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would allow a broker-dealer or an investor advisory firm to delegate a private residence as a supervisory office without having to register it as a branch office. Currently 43 other states have adopted this rule pursuant to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) June 2024 ruling 3110-19. As a supervisory office this would allow a person or persons to oversee other agents or brokers from this location but not engage in other activities associated with a branch office such as trading and holding money or securities. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 524**, (New Title) enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill underwent substantial revision during the 2026 legislative session. The bill was initially introduced to expand the restaurant delivery license by allowing onpremises licensees to deliver liquor with meals. This concept was ultimately enacted through HB 529 and signed into law on March 27, 2026. Prior to reaching the House, SB 524 was amended in the Senate to establish a commission to develop a regulatory framework on alcoholbased tinctures. Upon reaching the House, all prior language was removed and replaced with a comprehensive package of tobacco-related regulatory changes, including adjustments to certain license types that sell tobacco products; product seizure authority for illegal tobacco products; new reporting requirements for tobacco retailers, manufacturers and wholesalers; and penalties for persons under 21 years of age who violate NH tobacco laws. In its final form, SB 524 also clarifies that nonbeverage alcoholic preparations, such as tinctures, are exempt from regulation under Title XIII. In short, this bill creates a fine for a person under 21 years of age who violates the laws relative to use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products, changes what types of products businesses with different types of liquor licenses are able to sell, requires holders of the retail tobacco licenses, tobacco products manufacturers, and tobacco products wholesalers to report inventory, loss, purchases and sales to the liquor commission, and subjects licensees found in possession of selling or delivering illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products to an administrative fine equal to the amount of state tobacco tax that would have been due had the tobacco products been lawfully purchased and taxed. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 525**, raising the maximum amount of state guarantees in force. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Chris McAleer for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The New Hampshire Business Finance Authority (BFA) has worked with the private sector to help form and expand businesses in New Hampshire by providing certain financial guarantees. This bill would expand the limit of those guarantees to an aggregate of \$500,000,000, which would be more in line with current market conditions to attract and grow businesses and employment in New Hampshire. To date more than 6000 enterprises have benefited from this project and the state has never had to make good on any of their guarantees. The BFA is a self-funding organization and does not require state monies. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 544-FN**, (New Title) relative to managed care laws. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill as amended modifies RSA 420-J:7-b to limit a health carrier's ability to modify drug coverage under a health benefit plan to the time of coverage renewal, and only if the modification applies uniformly to all identical or substantially identical plans. It also requires continued coverage of any prescription drug approved or covered under the plan until the covered person's renewal date, even if the drug is later removed from the formulary. Further, the bill limits the ability of health carriers to make midyear changes to prescription drug formularies. The Insurance Department indicated that the bill might put upward pressure on premiums. However, the added limitations to the formularies will benefit most patients. The committee amendment changes the effective date. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 550-FN**, relative to insurance coverage for services provided by naturopathy providers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**



Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill requires group insurance policies issued in the state to include coverage for naturopathy providers. A simple bill changing may to shall. Since most insurance companies have naturopaths in their network it only makes sense since there is a need for more primary care providers and naturopaths are less expensive than MDs and ODs. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 562**, relative to a home damage mitigation and resiliency program. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Susan Porcelli for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill establishes the Granite State home mitigation and resiliency program to provide financial grants to homeowners to mitigate residential real property against loss from severe weather events. This bill would help to improve insurability, reduce the severity and frequency of insurance claims, and ultimately lower insurance premiums for program participants. The bill was modeled after what has been tested and proven effective in other states. Funding for the program is sourced from federal government grants, loans, gifts or donations. The Insurance Department will oversee this program and no state funding is required. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 565-FN**, (New Title) requiring the commissioner of the insurance department to prepare and publish a report regarding fortified home and commercial standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Susan Porcelli for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would require the commissioner of the Insurance Department to prepare a report every five years detailing measures taken to reduce loss due to extreme weather events such as precipitation events, storm surge, and coastal flooding, high winds, hurricanes, or hail. This data provides purchasers of personal property and commercial property potential risks associated with increased insurance premiums. The Insurance Department has no issue producing the report and will publish it on the department website for consumers to review. The bill has no fiscal impact. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 573**, establishing certification standards for facility comfort dogs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As introduced, this bill establishes certification standards for facility comfort dogs, facility comfort dog handlers, and facility comfort dog handling teams. The intent was to create guidelines for use of dogs by police, fire or other government agencies for the purpose of being comfort dogs. The bill was extremely amended even to the extent that the title was changed to make sure that this legislation does not affect any comfort dog not being used by any city, town, county or state agency. "Certified public safety comfort dog" means a specifically trained dog that provides support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, disaster relief areas, emergency response/public safety agencies and other places where people may be experiencing stress, trauma, or crisis. Certified public safety comfort dogs are trained to interact gently and empathetically with people, offering unconditional support and non-judgmental companionship to help alleviate anxiety, reduce stress, improve mood and enhance overall well-being and resilience. Comfort facility dogs are not considered service dogs or emotional support animals. "Certified public safety comfort dog handler" means an emergency response or public safety worker who is responsible for the care, training, and supervision of a comfort facility dog during its interactions with individuals, groups, and communities in need of support or crisis response. A certified public safety comfort dog handler shall ensure that it behaves appropriately, follows commands and maintains a calm and comforting presence in various environments. A certified public safety comfort dog handler shall be trained to understand canine behavior, communication, and emotional support techniques, allowing them to effectively guide the certified public safety comfort dog's interactions with individuals, groups, or communities in distress or crisis situations. "Emergency response or public safety worker" means any law enforcement officer certified under RSA 106-L, certified county corrections officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff, state police officer, civilian law enforcement employee, civilian county corrections employee, any call, volunteer, or regular firefighter, civilian fire department employee, rescue or ambulance worker, including ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer personnel, telecommunicators, and local dispatchers, including any retired emergency response or public safety workers as defined in this section. **Vote 14-0.**

**SB 606-FN**, relative to insurance coverage for biomarker testing. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Biomarker testing is a laboratory method that analyzes tissue, blood or bodily fluids to identify specific genes, proteins or molecules indicating disease. The results are used to guide clinicians to the best treatments for their patients. For example, biomarker testing is highly useful in cancer care including clinical trial eligibility, developing strategies for cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, neurological disorders like Alzheimer's, autoimmune and inflammatory conditions like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, and genetic hereditary disorders like cystic fibrosis. This bill requires that the specific biomarker test must be developed by an independent, multidisciplinary panel of experts utilizing a transparent methodology. It must have nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines establishing standards of care informed by a systematic review of evidence, including review



of benefits and risks of alternative care. The bill would elevate standards for the use of biomarker testing in the New Hampshire Medicaid program. The committee heard testimony from organizations that advocate for individuals with complex conditions, emphasizing that broader application of biomarker testing can improve care, reduce costs, and lead to better health and financial outcomes for individuals and the state. The committee also heard from the Department of Health and Human Services, which noted that the Medicaid program already utilizes some biomarker testing and recognizes the value of future expansion. However, as biomarker testing and related targeted treatments continue to expand, interim study would be most appropriate to consider such growth within the context of the state budget and to allow the stakeholders more time to develop the guardrails to ensure appropriate standards and access are in place. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 607**, relative to short-term, limited duration health insurance policies **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill updates state law governing short-term, limited duration health insurance policies to align with federal standards and modern market conditions. Current state restrictions, which have not been updated in decades, limit the usefulness of these plans and reduce their ability to serve as a bridge for individuals between coverage options. Testimony highlighted the growing number of uninsured individuals and rising premium costs, creating a need for flexible, affordable coverage alternatives. Short-term plans can provide an important safety net by offering lower-cost options for individuals who might otherwise go without coverage, helping to mitigate financial risk from unexpected medical expenses. The bill improves continuity of care by allowing more reasonable durations and limited renewability, reducing disruptions caused by repeatedly starting new policies. It also enhances transparency by requiring clear disclosure of coverage limitations, ensuring consumers understand the trade-offs associated with these plans. Supporters emphasized modernizing these provisions will better reflect today's insurance landscape and provide individuals — particularly those in transitional periods — with practical options to maintain some level of coverage. At the same time, these plans remain subject to state-mandated benefits and regulatory oversight. The committee finds that this bill offers a balanced approach by expanding consumer choice, improving access to affordable coverage options, and promoting transparency. **Vote 14-0.**

**SB 614-FN**, (New Title) establishing multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangements for nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill creates a framework for pooled risk management programs, allowing child care centers and foster family homes to collectively obtain liability and property insurance coverage. This approach is intended to address the growing affordability challenges in the insurance market for these providers. Testimony highlighted the cost of liability insurance has reached a critical point, placing significant financial strain on child care providers, many of whom operate on thin margins. These rising costs have contributed to facility closures, reduced capacity, and barriers to expansion, exacerbating existing child care shortages across the state. The bill offers a market-based solution by enabling providers to pool risk, share costs, and achieve greater purchasing power, while maintaining strong financial safeguards. These pooled arrangements would be subject to regulatory oversight, including annual independent audits and actuarial reviews to ensure solvency and responsible management. Supporters emphasized improving access to affordable insurance will help stabilize and expand the child care sector, which is essential to workforce participation and economic growth. Employers across New Hampshire continue to face challenges in recruiting and retaining workers due to limited child care availability, making this issue both an economic and community priority. The committee finds that this bill provides a practical and innovative tool to address a well-documented market failure, while preserving appropriate oversight and accountability. By helping providers manage costs and remain viable, the bill supports families, strengthens the workforce, and promotes economic stability. **Vote 18-0.**

**SB 639**, establishing a committee to study the health and safety impacts of Red Dye 40 and other food additives in food and beverages sold in New Hampshire. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill establishes a committee to study the health and safety impacts of Red Dye 40 and other food additives in food and beverages sold in New Hampshire. The study committee would review scientific evidence regarding the health and safety impacts of Red Dye 40 and other commonly used food additives, including brominated vegetable oil, propylparaben, and titanium dioxide. The study committee would also examine policies adopted in other states, and assess potential implications for New Hampshire consumers, schools, and businesses. It would also consult with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, food safety experts, pediatricians, and industry stakeholders about the health and safety impacts of commonly used food additives. Finally, the study committee would consider whether restrictions, labeling requirements, or phase-outs of certain additives are appropriate in New Hampshire. The committee decided that a study committee on an issue regulated by the Food and Drug Administration was not going to be productive or worthwhile. **Vote 14-0.**

**SB 646-FN**, relative to mental health standards of care. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill seeks to address coverage gaps for certain behavioral health and functional support services. While the committee recognizes the importance of access to comprehensive mental health care, testimony indicated the issues raised in the bill are currently being actively addressed through ongoing stakeholder discussions between insurers, providers, and regulators. The committee heard recent collaboration has already identified a narrow set of procedure codes at the center of these concerns, and progress is being made to incorporate appropriate coverage through existing contracting and reimbursement processes. These efforts suggest targeted, technical solutions may be more effective than broad statutory changes. Testimony also highlighted many of the services at issue have historically not been considered clinical benefits within commercial insurance, and differences between Medicaid and commercial coverage structures are a significant factor. In some cases, perceived gaps in coverage may stem from coding and billing inconsistencies rather than outright denials of medically necessary services. The committee further considered concerns raised by the New Hampshire Insurance Department (the Department) regarding unintended consequences in the bill as drafted. The Department noted placing these provisions within the mental health statute could broadly apply new requirements across all mental health providers. Additionally, tying reimbursement rates to Medicaid could unintentionally lower payment rates, as Medicaid reimbursement is often below commercial levels, potentially creating conflicts with federal mental health parity requirements. The Department also cautioned that replacing Medicare benchmarks with Medicaid rates introduces variability and uncertainty, as Medicaid reimbursement differs across states, while Medicare provides a consistent and widely accepted standard. The Department emphasized the importance of continuing ongoing stakeholder discussions to resolve these issues thoughtfully. Finally, the committee was informed access to mental health services has been improving in recent years, with continued efforts to reduce barriers and expand utilization. Stakeholders expressed a willingness to remain engaged and address remaining issues without the need for new statutory mandates at this time. Given the progress already underway, the complexity of the policy, and the potential for unintended consequences, the committee believes that legislation at this time is premature and therefore recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 647**, authorizing the department of insurance to participate in a cooperative procurement group via an intergovernmental agreement for a prescription drug discount program. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill authorizes the Department of Insurance to participate in a cooperative procurement group via an intergovernmental agreement for a prescription drug discount program. The idea is to create a state administered “Good RX”-like discount program. Unlike any of the other states that have implemented this program, the bill would have the Department of Insurance fund and operate the program. The committee felt the Department of Insurance would be inappropriate since they are the regulator for complaints. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 648**, (New Title) requiring age verification by commercial entities to allow access to pornographic material. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. At the hearing, the committee learned that this bill has several issues, the first of which is that it is overly broad with respect to definitions. The application of penalties is broad as well: “civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per violation against any commercial entity in violation....” It is not clear if this includes the internet service provider (ISP) especially since the very specific scope of violation is not specified and the definition of “commercial entity” is one who controls (e.g.: interfering, restricting access) a website and distributes material. The method of age verification listed in the bill requires the user to scan in a government issued ID which the website will check to verify age. Of course, there is no reason to believe that a resourceful kid won’t find a way to get some type of government ID to use. But this would also mean that everyone who is an adult will also have to have a government ID available to access the website. Using a government ID over the internet presents serious consequences concerning access to one’s personal information. Despite the bill’s best intentions, sites are regularly hacked to get that information. There are biometric matching techniques where users take selfies that are compared to their ID photos using facial recognition algorithms. These types of systems can be spoofed using AI, age progression and fake IDs. There are numerous reports of minors using adult-age photos to bypass age-verification systems. There are much more sophisticated and expensive methods to verify age but as soon as they become available, the internet provides the information needed to spoof them. Many states have put age verification requirements on porn sites since 2023. In response to these laws, some major providers have chosen to block access entirely rather than implement the required ID verification systems. However, for those sites that do implement third party age verification software, government IDs must still be submitted leaving the question of security. Most consumers are unwilling to scan their face and upload an ID to access sensitive content like pornography. With global internet, they seek out the limitless supply of other sites available to reach the content they want without restrictions. IThe committee learned that the trade association for adult businesses in North

America, the Free Speech Coalition, has seen that in states with laws similar to this bill, traffic has simply shifted from legal, compliant sites to non-compliant sites outside the United States. Many of the state laws we do have in the US are facing ongoing court challenges from civil liberties groups and the adult industry, citing First Amendment and privacy concerns. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 661-FN**, relative to pooled risk management programs. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill: I. enables the secretary of state to require abatement of insufficient assets or to seek receivership, if necessary, of a pooled risk management program. II. requires assessment of each participating member of the pooled risk management program on a pro rata basis to satisfy the amount of the deficiency. III. requires the governing board of the pooled risk management program to use a standard of care, diligence, prudence, and skill in the management of the program. IV. provides for the assessment of a pooled risk management program's participating members, if required, after an actuarial calculation. V. provides for contingency reserve standards depending on the pooled risk management program's line of coverage and by requiring a contingency reserve replenishment if a program's contingency reserves fall below the minimum level; and VI. requires pooled risk management programs to make certain public disclosures to prospective and actual member political subdivisions. **Vote 18-0.**

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**SB 461**, relative to the definition of hemp. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill amends the statutory definition of hemp under RSA 439-A:2, V to clarify that the legal threshold for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content includes not only delta-9 THC, but also tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), and other forms of THC when calculating total THC concentration. The committee finds that this change brings New Hampshire law into alignment with federal standards established under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, which defines hemp based on total THC concentration rather than delta-9 THC alone. By explicitly including THCA in the calculation, the bill closes a gap in current law that has allowed products with intoxicating potential to be marketed as compliant hemp. The committee further finds that this clarification supports consistent enforcement and provides clearer guidance to regulators, producers, and retailers. Without a total THC standard, enforcement agencies face challenges in distinguishing lawful hemp from cannabis products that exceed statutory limits, particularly as THCA can convert to delta-9 THC when heated. In addition, the bill promotes consumer protection by ensuring that products sold as hemp do not produce unintended intoxicating effects. This is especially important in maintaining public confidence in the state's hemp market and preventing the circumvention of existing cannabis laws. For these reasons, the committee believes the bill represents a necessary and reasonable update to New Hampshire statute, improving clarity, enforceability, and alignment with federal law. **Vote 13-0.**

**SB 617**, (New Title) relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement, relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways, and prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after a public hearing related to the penalty portion of the bill, decided license suspension for failing to pay a tow bill was counterintuitive and too severe. Instead, a tow operator owed funds for a police ordered tow can petition the DMV to make an operator's license "non-renewable" until the debt is satisfied. Additionally, the operator is required to note on the invoice that a motorist can appeal the fee to the DMV if they think it is excessive and failure of an operator to make this notification subjects them to a \$100 fine. **Vote 12-1.**

## EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

**SB 432-FN**, (New Title) authorizing the application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription and establishing a skin cancer prevention education program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Stephen Woodcock for Education Policy and Administration. This bill authorizes the self-application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription and establishes an optional skin cancer prevention education program in public schools. Although well-intentioned, the committee agrees that this bill is not necessary, as school boards and the recreational camp industry already have local policies in place that provide appropriate protocols and procedures for applications of over the counter medications and products including sunscreen. Furthermore, as part of the minimum standards for health and wellness and physical education, school boards are already required to provide health and disease prevention instruction, under which sun protection—including sunblock and protective clothing—falls as a preventative measure against skin cancer. **Vote 17-0.**



**SB 433-FN**, establishing the seizure safe schools act. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Megan Murray for Education Policy and Administration. This bill is a well-intentioned legislative proposal that brings forward a very important topic: training on seizures during the school learning day. The committee recognizes financial limitations at this time as well as an implementation timeline that could face obstacles late in the school year, while still needing to proceed through the rule-making process and determine a full fiscal impact in a non-budget allocation year. While many believe that the Good Samaritan laws in place during situations like a seizure would limit risk, others felt there were more considerations to work through, but came to the same conclusion that we regretfully recommend the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate at this time. **Vote 15-2.**

**SB 507**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Melissa Litchfield for Education Policy and Administration. The committee believes this is a thoughtful and measured approach to examining a complex issue affecting schools across New Hampshire. The study will allow legislators to gather information on staff safety, student mental health concerns, existing legal requirements, and the challenges schools face when responding to violent incidents. The committee further believes it is important to better understand the impact these situations have on educators and staff while ensuring future policy discussions are informed by facts, collaboration, and careful consideration of both student and staff needs. **Vote 18-0.**

**SB 575**, establishing a study committee to study the issue of school bullying. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. Bullying is a pervasive issue that is exacerbated by advancing digital technologies. The number of reported instances has dramatically increased in recent years. Additionally, the State Board of Education has received several more manifest hardship requests than in previous years. For these reasons, we support further study. The study should consider root causes, disciplinary responses, and impacts on psychological well-being. Finally, we note HB 108 which related to inter-district bullying was signed into law on June 2, 2025. The committee amendment contains two technical changes. The first change is to allow school boards to assign superintendent services and the second is to change the word “teacher” to “educator” under RSA 91-A exemptions. **Vote 18-0.**

**SB 577-FN**, prohibiting the use of specific color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, proposes aligning with the federal health initiatives in a mix of voluntary and involuntary prohibitions on synthetic food dyes. Modern science has linked these dyes to poorer health outcomes, allergies, and other health-related problems in the population. By aligning with federal standards, we mitigate risk of additional costs on localities procuring healthier meals. The bill’s scope only applies to normal school meals, and not special events and other items. **Vote 15-2.**

## ELECTION LAW

**SB 438**, (New Title) relative to the sharing of data between the department of safety and the secretary of state for the purposes of verifying the accuracy of information in the centralized voter registration database. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. As amended, SB 438 repasses a previous House position (HB 1600) that codifies a long-sought agreement between the Secretary of State and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the sharing of information that will ease the voter registration process while robustly protecting election integrity. The Secretary of State and the DMV are currently operating under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that allows either party to withdraw with 60 days’ notice. This bill would remove the ability of either party to withdraw, ensuring that the information-sharing process remains in place and protected for the future. **Vote 17-0.**

**SB 660**, relative to photo identification cards issued solely for the purpose of voting. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O’Brien for Election Law. This bill addresses the process for obtaining a no-cost photo identification card for voting purposes. Under current law, a voter who needs a photo identification card solely for voting and does not already possess an acceptable form of identification may obtain a voucher exempting the voter from the \$20 identification card fee. The voucher may currently be obtained from either the voter’s city or town clerk or from the Secretary of State. This bill removes the Secretary of State as a voucher-issuing authority. As a result, voters seeking a no-cost voter identification card would obtain the voucher from their city or town clerk. The bill does not eliminate the voter identification card voucher or the fee exemption. **Vote 18-0.**



## ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

**SB 418**, prohibiting municipalities from requiring licenses for the production and sale of homestead food products. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kevin Scully for Environment and Agriculture. This bill, known as the “Pickle Bill,” was submitted by its sponsor in response to an over-zealous city health department sending a cease-and-desist order to a home pickle producer who joked on Facebook that he ought to sell the pickles that he was giving to friends. During the House committee hearing for this bill, it became apparent that this problem was not confined to Manchester and that the Nashua Health Department was forbidding non-hazardous baked-goods from being sold at farmers markets by people not subject to their city licensing and inspection ordinances. The NH legislature created a homestead food exemption for just these types of non-hazardous goods, exempting them from any licensing and inspection in order to encourage people to start their own cottage industry to help themselves and to bring joy to others. This bill, as amended, removes all ambiguity in law and makes clear that the State’s Homestead Food exemption program must be honored by all political subdivisions and health departments in NH. **Vote 15-0.**

**SB 475**, including a determination of the best interest of the animal in the definition of foster home. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. The amendment to this bill is a necessary and narrowly tailored clarification of existing law to properly define “pet vendor foster home” and “pet vendor foster facility” in statute, ensuring that these arrangements are clearly understood, consistently regulated, and aligned with the best interests of the animals involved. By explicitly defining these terms, the amendment closes gaps in current law that have led to ambiguity in how foster homes associated with licensed pet vendors are treated, while reinforcing that such placements must be tied to veterinary judgment and animal welfare standards. The committee further recognizes that this amendment strikes an appropriate balance between regulatory oversight and individual privacy. While it requires pet vendors to report associated foster homes to the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food for purposes of licensure compliance and animal inventory tracking, it also explicitly protects the confidentiality of foster home information from public disclosure. This is a critical component, as it ensures that private residences serving as foster homes are not exposed to unnecessary risk or intrusion. At the same time, the amendment provides the department with clear statutory authority to adopt and update rules under RSA 541-A, ensuring that the term “pet vendor” and its associated responsibilities are consistently and properly defined in both statute and administrative rule. The committee believes this approach improves transparency for regulators, protects pet vendor foster families, and strengthens the overall integrity of New Hampshire’s animal welfare framework. The amendment to the bill also includes language from HB 1766 which passed previously in the House. The Environment and Agriculture Committee worked tirelessly on this language for the past 2 years and we feel strongly for it to be passed. This legislation adds a new section to RSA 644:8 that specifically addresses cruelty to livestock. Under current law, all animals are treated the same; however, livestock animals are fundamentally different from household pets such as dogs and cats. The care, management, and medical treatment of large animals involve specialized knowledge and practices that many individuals outside the agricultural and veterinary communities may not fully understand. As a result, decisions affecting livestock welfare can sometimes be, and has been, made without appropriate expertise. This bill addresses that concern by ensuring that individuals with species-specific knowledge, such as the state veterinarian or a qualified designee, are involved in the decision-making process regarding reports of animal cruelty or neglect. Measures outlined in this amendment strengthen due process protections with regard to livestock cruelty/neglect complaints while ensuring that livestock welfare decisions are informed by appropriate expertise. Due process is the foundation of our legal system, and this bill upholds that principle. **Vote 15-0.**

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**SB 567-FN**, relative to the composition of the board of dental examiners and relative to temporary licenses for out-of-state professionals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would ensure that at least one member of the dental board is a general practice dentist. As amended, the bill provides a pathway for people to continue to receive dental care after refusing x-rays. Dentists do not permit this today, as allowing a patient to continue to receive care without following American Dental Association radiographic guidelines is a reason to revoke their license. **Vote 14-0.**

**SB 569**, relative to the qualifications for hearings officers within the department of labor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill was introduced to make the employment requirements for Department of Labor hearings officers more rigorous. As received by the House, the bill would require all hearings officers to have a law degree, be a member of the state bar association,

and have experience with administrative adjudicatory hearings. It also kept an existing requirement that the person have experience in workers' compensation. The committee was concerned with the challenge of recruiting attorneys with a narrowly defined set of qualifications at the salary rates offered by state government. The existing requirement that the person have experience in workers' compensation is perplexing given testimony that one of the best performing hearings officers entered the job with no experience in workers' compensation. For these reasons, the committee recommends the bill with an amendment to remove the workers' compensation experience, to require graduation from law school, and to give hiring preference to licensed attorneys who have workers' compensation experience, or who have administrative adjudication experience. The committee believes that this is an appropriate compromise between recruitment challenges for a narrow job description and the ideal candidate profile, and recognizes that two further appeals levels will remedy any potential shortcomings. **Vote 16-0.**

**SB 640-FN**, relative to the use of artificial intelligence to provide services requiring a professional license. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for Executive Departments and Administration. The committee recommends an inexpedient to legislate designation for this bill due to the extreme technical complexity of regulating artificial intelligence within professional scopes of practice and the significant risk of unintended consequences. While the committee appreciates the sponsors' desire to protect the integrity of licensed professions, the bill's broad definitions and rigid consent requirements may inadvertently prohibit the use of beneficial, low-risk diagnostic tools or administrative innovations already integrated into modern practice. Furthermore, the rapid evolution of this technology outpaces the static nature of the proposed statutory language, creating a high likelihood of regulatory obsolescence and legal ambiguity that would place an undue burden on the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. Rather than enacting restrictive and potentially disruptive legislation at this stage, the committee suggests that these emerging issues be further considered to ensure a more nuanced and sustainable regulatory framework. **Vote 11-1.**

## FINANCE

**SB 534-FN**, (New Title) relative to compliance with certain political expenditures and contribution statutes. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. This bill expands the prohibition on foreign funding of elections to the local level and to both expenditures and contributions. Since it can be accomplished within existing election integrity resources, there is no state or local cost impact. **Vote 24-0.**

**SB 541-FN-A**, (New Title) relative to capital appropriations for regional drinking water infrastructure. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Karen Ebel for Finance. This bill does two things: 1) it makes a \$65,000 appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services to assist the Pillsbury Lake Village District in Hillsborough in remedying loan costs associated with their water system upgrades; and 2) it reallocates \$5 million of an approved appropriation of \$50 million to the Department of Environmental Services for PFOA/PFOS remediation, and drinking water and wastewater residuals to the Phase 2B Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnect Project. Both funding sources provide the village district and regional project a continued path forward to providing clean and potable drinking water to those neighborhoods benefitting from these projects. The interconnect will provide a needed link to neighborhoods in Rockingham County impacted by cyanobacteria and PFOA/PFOS pollution. These items are not requests for new money appropriations, but rather reallocations and assignments of monies already appropriated. SB 541 passed in the House on a voice vote with the unanimous recommendation of the House Committee on Public Works and Highways. **Vote 24-0.**

**SB 625-FN**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study options for family members of intentional homicide victims where the department of justice does not file charges in a case. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Gerald Griffin for Finance. This bill would establish a committee to study options for the family of a murder victim where the department of justice does not file charges. Such cases are indeed very rare and when they do occur, it is usually the result in insufficient evidence to pursue a conviction. In addition, a civil suit remedy is always available. Study committees and commissions are costly in money, but more importantly, in human resources. We already have far too many study committees and the rarity of the situation this bill addresses, does not warrant another costly committee. **Vote 23-0.**

**SB 657-FN**, (Second New Title) relative to the use of information technology and artificial intelligence systems by state agencies. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Karen Ebel for Finance. The statutorily created Information Technology Council advises the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Commissioner on statewide technology strategy, procurement, standards, and budgeting. SB 657 adds artificial intelligence (AI) to the council's advisory charge, including compliance with RSA 5-D, opportunities to improve government efficiency, and workforce effects. RSA 5-D,

enacted in 2024, is the state's AI governance statute, prohibiting certain uses, requiring human review of high-stakes AI decisions, and tasking the Department of Information Technology with oversight and annual reporting. The amendment also adds AI to the subjects for technical committees under RSA 21-R:7 and creates a new RSA 21-R:9-b requiring a public inventory of state agency AI systems and a consolidated annual report that satisfies the existing RSA 5-D:5, III reporting requirement. Housing this work within the council leverages existing governance rather than duplicating it. SB 657 has no fiscal impact. It passed the House on a voice vote with the unanimous recommendation of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs. **Vote 23-0.**

## LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

**SB 570**, (New Title) relative to legislative ethics. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Gregory Hill for Legislative Administration. The committee heard the testimony describing the need for changes to our recently passed ethics legislation, specifically in response to the concern of constituent representation being squelched when a senator or representative voluntarily recuses due to conflict of interest. The committee reviewed the statistics on actual recusal usage for 2025 and 2026. In 2025, seven senators filed 17 separate Declaration of Intent forms declaring conflict. One senator, whose husband is a lobbyist, filed nine of the 17 total. In 2026, four senators filed nine separate Declaration of Intent forms declaring conflict. One senator, whose husband is a lobbyist, filed five of the nine total. In 2025, 27 Representatives filed 27 separate Declaration of Intent forms declaring conflict. In 2026, 16 Representatives filed 16 separate Declaration of Intent forms declaring conflict. This is minimal usage despite the record number of bills filed in these years. These figures would seem to contradict the puzzling claim of voluntary recusal stifling constituent representation and the committee also felt that it would be unwise to risk additional member confusion by just adding new incomplete definitions and language to an already overly verbose section of law. Interim Study was selected so a more comprehensive editing by both branches could take place over the summer where language and definitions could be clarified, consolidated, and perhaps removed altogether. One comprehensive bill, rather than several tweaking attempts, the committee feels, will be easier for the members to digest. **Vote 12-0.**

## MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**SB 435**, relative to the zoning board of adjustment variance criteria. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Tom Dolan for Municipal and County Government. No sponsor or cosponsor made themselves available to testify on or support this bill. The committee members did not have an opportunity to query the bill's originator to better understand the purpose or intent of the bill. **Vote 20-0.**

**SB 440**, relative to the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy districts by municipalities. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill makes changes to RSA 53-F:1, the statute that defines the C-PACER program. C-PACER is a statewide initiative that works with municipalities to identify districts with the potential for beneficial development utilizing clean energy technologies. The program then facilitates that development by identifying lenders and other agencies that will join forces with the state and the municipality to move the development forward. Municipalities with an interest in such development can adopt C-PACER through their governing bodies. The problem this bill addresses is that in its initial iteration, RSA 53-F:1 only allowed municipalities with charters to opt in in this manner. This bill corrects that by specifying that municipalities without charters can opt in using the same method. The Municipal and County Government committee supports the expansion of C-PACER to all New Hampshire communities and, for this reason, voted unanimously that the bill Ought to Pass. **Vote 20-0.**

**SB 495**, increasing the limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll County. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would increase the limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll County from \$1,000 to \$10,000, from one line item to another. At the time of the public hearing, the bill's primary sponsor requested that the bill to be Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 20-0.**

**SB 585-FN**, relative to audits for communications districts. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Stephanie Grund for Municipal and County Government. This bill was requested by one of the last communication districts in the state. Communication districts were established to address the issue of inaccessibility of broadband. These districts currently require a financial audit every year. However, the one remaining communication district has around \$10,000 in their account with no revenue and only expenses budgeted for over the past few years. Due to the cost of an audit, it did not seem prudent to require an audit every year with such a small amount of activity. The original bill requested an audit be required only if they exceeded \$50,000 in annual revenue or if they exceeded \$2 million in revenue in the previous fiscal year. Noting that

\$2 million seemed an excessive amount, the amendment changed the requirements of an audit to happen only if revenue or expenses exceeded \$50,000. Other governmental entities require audits to ensure that public monies are used appropriately. This bill and the amendment limits the need for the audit, but establishes thresholds to support the required work when needed. **Vote 20-0.**

## WAYS AND MEANS

**SB 492-FN**, authorizing the department of military affairs and veterans services to license and lease property in which the department holds a property interest. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Brian Cole for Ways and Means. The committee voted to pass this legislation because it takes a practical and forward-thinking step toward addressing the real and growing need for affordable housing, particularly for the dedicated men and women who serve in the New Hampshire National Guard. By authorizing the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services to lease or license underutilized property, this bill creates a pathway to responsibly develop or convert existing facilities—such as barracks—into much-needed housing, while still maintaining strong accountability and oversight. It ensures that when private entities are involved, they contribute fairly through local property taxes, protecting municipalities and taxpayers, and it establishes a dedicated fund so that any revenues generated are reinvested directly into maintaining and improving these critical assets. At its core, this legislation is about using the resources we already have in a smarter way to support those who serve, strengthen our communities, and expand housing opportunities without placing additional burdens on taxpayers. Just as importantly, it reflects our deep respect and gratitude for our men and women in uniform by working to ensure they and their families have access to safe, affordable housing and the support they deserve for their service to our state and nation. **Vote 20-0.**



**THURSDAY, MAY 14**  
**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**SB 455-FN**, relative to health plan coverage of GLP-1 medications. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill requires health plans to cover GLP-1 medications under Medicaid. Funding for this mandate was cut from this biennium's state budget. Passing this bill at this time is inappropriate given the current budget's shortfalls and can always be reinstated in the next biennium's budget. **Vote 13-2.**

**SB 498-FN**, relative to children's mental health services for persons 18 years of age and younger. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Hunt for the **Majority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would create a new quasi-governmental entity without meaningful legislative oversight to assess a new assessment (tax) on commercial insurance policies to fund a specific program within the Department of Health and Human Services, known as FAST Forward. FAST Forward was established within the Medicaid program, originally only available to children with Medicaid eligibility. It is only offered by two providers through contracts with DHHS, and is governed by RSA 135-F, a Medicaid statute. The contracted price is \$50,000 per child. This is called "capitation." In 2020, the Executive Council approved new contracts with the providers which allowed children with commercial health insurance to enter the FAST Forward program. Stakeholders were working towards a nonlegislative solution that would equitably address the cost of clinical services for commercially insured children enrolled in the FAST Forward program. The goal is that providers will bill the child's insurance policy for the clinical services rendered. We were close to a compromise, with ensuring the services provided by mental health counselors were being paid by insurance companies. We have no idea, and nor do insurance companies and Medicaid, if contracted medical providers are being paid anyway, even though the appointment was made by a Fast Forward care manager. The problem is that Medicaid uses capitation and insurance companies do not. The two care manager providers here in New Hampshire need to change their billing to a "fee for service." The question that needs to be resolved is how do you bill if the care manager is only texting the child/parent weekly? Finally, we insist that there is proper oversight of billing. Taxing every health "insurance plan" sold in New Hampshire to offset the cost of DHHS's decision not to use "fee for service" when providing the FAST Forward program for private insurance is the problem. This tax/assessment would have cost impacts. It is inappropriate, inequitable, unconstitutional, and would invite costly litigation against the state. The Interim Study motion will allow the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee and the New Hampshire Insurance Department more time to work with all stakeholders over the summer. In September we will have a non-legislative solution. There will be a thorough cost analysis of a potential future mandate to cover the non-clinical aspects of the FAST Forward program. **Vote 14-4.** Rep. Julie Miles for the **Minority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The minority believes this bill with the bipartisan amendment (2026-1757h) addresses a critical need within New Hampshire's children's behavioral health system by strengthening access to coordinated, community-based services for children with significant mental health and trauma-related challenges. Testimony before the committee demonstrated the FAST Forward program has been successful in stabilizing families, reducing unnecessary institutionalization, and helping children remain safely in their homes and communities. The minority further supports the committee amendment, which reflects substantial collaboration among providers, insurers, advocates, and state agencies to create a more balanced and sustainable funding structure. The amendment improves upon the original bill by better integrating commercial insurance participation and supporting appropriate reimbursement mechanisms for care management entities, and preserves the wrap-around model of care central to the program's effectiveness. Members of the minority were persuaded by testimony showing that early intervention and coordinated behavioral health services improve long-term outcomes while reducing reliance on costly inpatient and out-of-state placements. The minority also recognizes the current imbalance in which state general funds are frequently used to cover services for commercially insured children when adequate coverage is unavailable. The amended bill takes reasonable steps toward aligning financial responsibility more appropriately while maintaining continuity of care for vulnerable children and families. It also establishes a pathway toward improved cost transparency and long-term sustainability without disrupting existing services. For these reasons, the minority believes this bill, as amended, represents a thoughtful and practical approach to strengthening New Hampshire's behavioral health system and respectfully recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

**SB 665-FN**, (New Title) relative to pharmacy benefits managers, managed care laws, notice of drug pricing options and pharmacy benefit manager business practices. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Julie Miles for the **Majority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee recognizes the issues addressed in this bill are important and warrant thoughtful, deliberate policymaking. These matters carry

significant implications and require careful consideration, robust stakeholder engagement, and clear statutory language to ensure effective and sustainable outcomes. However, the legislative process for this bill did not allow for that level of consideration. The bill was a late filing and, as it moved forward, became increasingly complex and unwieldy through multiple amendments. Testimony and committee discussion reflected concerns that the bill, as ultimately presented, had been diluted to the point where it no longer effectively addressed its original intent. The committee further notes the bill received only a brief public hearing in the Senate, lasting approximately eight minutes, followed by multiple additional amendments, including two floor amendments adopted without further public hearing or substantive debate. This process resulted in a final version that lacked clarity, cohesion, and sufficient vetting. Members also recognized there are other superior legislative vehicles under consideration which address similar policy goals with clearer language, broader stakeholder input, and stronger support. These alternatives provide a more appropriate path forward for addressing the underlying issues in a comprehensive and effective manner. For these reasons, the Insurance subcommittee unanimously recommended Inexpedient to Legislate in a bipartisan fashion, and the majority of the committee finds that the bill, in its final form, is not ready for enactment and should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 13-2.** Rep. Carry Spier for the **Minority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The aim of this bill was originally presented to make sure that patients could receive their prescriptions at the lowest possible price and provide transparency through the process of establishing those prices and costs. The final version of the bill is the result of hastily adding the requirements of three other pharmacy benefits managers (PBM) related bills (SB 478 - Laid on the Table, SB 547 - Referred for Interim Study, and SB 247 - Referred for Interim Study). The resultant bill conflates PBMs with health carriers even though they are very different operational entities. The bill further puts requirements on PBMs that are not in their purview. The bill modifies 14 different policy areas currently in statute affecting both PBMs and health carriers, applies burdensome financial audits, excessive penalties for violations, and exposure of proprietary information. If the primary reason for the bill is to ensure lowest prices for drugs, New Hampshire already has two existing provisions in statute on this subject. RSA 415:26 Price of Filling Prescriptions specifies that a PBM or insurer shall require a contracted pharmacy to charge an enrollee or insured person the pharmacy's usual and customary price of filling the prescription or the contracted copayment, whichever is less. The term "usual and customary" as defined in RSA 126-A:3 "means the lowest charge, fee, or rate charged by a provider for any product or service at the time such product or service was provided." RSA 420-J:8 Provider Contract Standards specifies that "[n]o contract between an insurance carrier or [PBM] and a contracted pharmacy shall contain a provision prohibiting divulgence to a covered person...relative to monetary matters which would prove beneficial in lowering costs to such covered person." While it is fully acknowledged that there have been bad actors related to PBMs and health carriers, the existing laws need to be enforced when issues exist in our jurisdiction rather than piling on new and very cumbersome laws. Amendment 2026-1758h was crafted to reduce the bill to what is needed by the Insurance Department to gain transparency with respect to drug pricing and provide aggregated information to patients. Penalties and rules are referred to RSA 420-J. The amendment has provisions for less burdensome audits, prohibitions against retroactive denial of previously paid claims, and provisions for an appeal process. While the original bill should be rejected for cumbersome overreaching, the amendment should not be. It accomplishes what is needed by patients and the Insurance Department. If future legislation is needed, what we would have from amendment 2026-1758h provides a good foundation that should provide immediate and useful information to help determine where problems exist and the direction such new bills should take.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**SB 409-FN**, relative to the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill deals with the penalties for failure to stop for a police officer. The House turned aside the same bill in its House version. Significant reforms were made through committee amendment. There is no doubt that refusal to stop is becoming a problem in New Hampshire. The difference between New Hampshire and states not having these increases are our penalties for doing so. The Department of Safety testified that police pursuits by just the State Police have increased 123% since 2017. In 2017 the State Police had 38 pursuits. In 2025, there were 85. Of the 12 State Police pursuits between January 1 and March 17 of this year where the perpetrator's age was identified, the evidence shows that this is not a matter of "kids making bad decisions", an argument used to stop the previous House version of this bill. The ages reported are: 17, 18, 33, 33, 34, 40, 42, 43, 46, 55, 67, and 73. Again, this is just the State Police. The committee decided that not all police pursuits are the same and accordingly, they should not all carry the same penalty. With this amendment, only the most hazardous and egregious behavior merits felony charges. The amendment clearly states that the mere refusal itself does not rise to a felony. This compromise was agreeable to all members and law enforcement. **Vote 13-0.**

**SB 624-FN, restricting access to certain hemp-derived products. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The underlying bill and the amendment make important updates to the definition of Hemp and deals with the availability of products with high THC content that are otherwise unregulated and available to minors. The result is a bipartisan agreement that carefully addresses the issue. The amendment also deals with the growing practice of various chemicals being added to illicit drugs by dealers in order to increase their profits and increase the addiction to the substances they sell. This has resulted in more deaths and other physical harm to users. First responders are often unable to help victims of these adulterated substances as Narcan only works on opioids. While xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, is one of the most popular substances used in this manner, it is not the only one. The amendment, rather than focusing on one agent, targets the act of mixing chemicals not meant for human consumption with controlled substances for sale to users. By not specifying one agent, we allow law enforcement to be able to respond to the ever changing landscape of chemicals being both invented and distributed by China and introduced onto our streets. First, synthetic opioids in the form of fentanyl from China caused a nationwide epidemic of addiction and death, now xylazine is being added to that. Additionally, the DOJ and DEA specifically identified China-based companies sending or advertising synthetic opioids including protonitazene and metonitazene, which are extremely potent synthetic opioids sometimes mixed with fentanyl or other opioids. The US Treasury said a China-based network was responsible for manufacturing and distributing ton quantities of MDMA precursors, along with fentanyl and methamphetamine precursors. The DEA says Mexican cartels make methamphetamine using precursor chemicals sourced largely from China and India. DOJ also charged a China-based company with trafficking methylamine HCl, a methamphetamine precursor. The list goes on. As it takes the federal government a long time to react to each of the new chemical adulterants introduced in the supply, this bill fills the gap and allows our law enforcement to bring serious additional charges against people who are not only selling illegal drugs, but are secretly adding unknown and untested chemicals to them to increase their profits with little regard to the devastating impact on the lives of our citizens. There was a concern that the class A felony for distribution was essentially the same as the class B, this is untrue. The class B is for anyone caught actually mixing the substances for sale. The class A is for the person actually selling it to people for use. If anything, a stronger argument can be made for making them both class A felonies than for removing the enhanced felony for someone dealing what could be fatal poison. **Vote 8-6.** Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill creates two new crimes to pile on an individual who will already be charged with a crime for which he can get up to 30 years. While one of these new crimes may have some merit, the second, a class A felony, simply plays with words to charge what is essentially the same crime as the first one. A floor amendment would cure this problem by eliminating one of those crimes.

**SB 667-FN, relative to the assault of emergency room personnel. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority of the committee after hearing testimony, agreed that this bill was a necessary enhancement to our criminal law. More and more healthcare professionals are being physically assaulted on the job and nowhere more than in the emergency room. Our federal law mandates that our emergency rooms treat anyone who presents themselves for treatment, regardless of their having insurance, their citizenship status, or their behavior. The level of violence on our healthcare workers has increased exponentially in recent years with drug seeking patients angry at being denied opioids, methamphetamine induced rage, patients demanding care that is not indicated and otherwise intoxicated patients. It has become difficult to fill positions in our emergency rooms and all of our health will suffer as a result. Over 98 percent of emergency departments report nursing shortages, and these shortages have persisted for over a year. Burnout is a major reason, as emergency departments are high-stress environments, and many nurses are leaving or retiring. As a result, hospitals are facing longer wait times and potential impacts on patient care. About 91 percent of emergency physicians have experienced workplace violence, and around 60 percent of nurses have either left or considered leaving their jobs due to violence. This cycle of violence makes it harder for hospitals to maintain safe staffing levels. The minority claimed that this bill would disproportionately impact the mentally ill, but we heard testimony from law enforcement and medical professionals that this was a red herring argument. Healthcare professionals know the difference between a senior with dementia or Alzheimer's and a meth addict. They have no interest in the persecution of mentally ill patients and they are some of the strongest advocates for keeping the mentally ill out of the criminal justice system. Assuming that they and our law enforcement professionals do not have the ability to use discretion or the knowledge to know the difference is insulting to both professions. If our doctors and nurses cannot be trusted to know who is mentally ill and who is not, who can be? It is after all, the same people who make determinations about their care. **Vote 10-3.** Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill substantially increases the criminal liability for a person who causes injury or bodily injury to emergency room personnel in the form of class A or B felonies for what would otherwise



be misdemeanors or class B felonies. Doing so is an appropriate measure. But, we do not want to sweep up into that dramatic increase in punishment those suffering from dementia; from a diagnosed mental illness that has led to a mental health crisis or from an intellectual or developmental disability that inhibits their ability to communicate. That approach would be punishing the wrong people by having them sit in jail for 6 – 12 months without treatment before they got to a trial before a judge or jury. The minority amendment addresses this flaw while maintaining the positive intent of this bill by providing guidelines for police and prosecutors at the front end of the criminal justice process.

## EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

**SB 430**, (New Title) relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents and legal guardians. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Melissa Litchfield for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill as amended has been made cleaner and clearer. The amendment removed the term “material information” so the language simply refers to “information,” reducing ambiguity and creating a more straightforward standard for communication between schools and families. The amendment also clarifies that written parental inquiries must be answered completely and honestly, except where prohibited by state or federal law. This legislation affirms a simple and widely shared principle: parents have a right to know what is happening with their own child at school. It strengthens transparency and communication by requiring timely, honest, and complete responses to parents and legal guardians, while still preserving important protections for student safety. The bill maintains a narrow safeguard for situations involving imminent risk of abuse, neglect, or physical harm. In those rare circumstances, educators must comply with existing mandatory reporting laws and may withhold only the limited information that creates the risk. The majority believes parents and schools work best as partners, and that strong partnerships depend on clear, honest communication. This bill supports both families and public education by reinforcing trust, transparency, and accountability. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Loren Selig for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee believes this bill raises serious concerns about student privacy and the erosion of trust within the educational environment. By introducing measures that require increased disclosure of sensitive student information, the bill creates a climate where students feel surveilled rather than supported by educators. Schools function best when students can confide in educators and counselors without fear that their personal struggles will be exposed or reported in ways that may harm them. This legislation undermines essential trust, discouraging students from seeking help when they need it most. Additionally, questions remain about where reports will be filed and who will have access. There are also concerns about sharing information requested by a non-custodial parent.

**SB 431**, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. RSA 193:40, commonly referred to as the “Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination” law and the “Anti-Divisive Concepts” law was enacted in 2021. Each year since, the legislature has opposed attempts to repeal the law including HB 50 (2025), HB 1162 (2024), and HB 61 (2023). Despite strong legislative support, RSA 193:40 was held unconstitutional in federal district court for the District of New Hampshire. In 2024, the case was appealed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals and is awaiting a ruling. While the majority strongly urges the judicial system to stay out of the legislative lane, we welcome the bill’s good-faith attempt to diminish the court’s objections. By adding the *mens rea* (mental state) of “intentionally or knowingly,” the bill exempts educators from penalties for accidental violations. Consequently, the bill warms the alleged chilling effect of the statute. Above all else, the majority re-asserts that children should not be deemed inherently oppressed, oppressive, inferior, or superior on account of their race or their gender. Such intersectional instruction is harmful, particularly to developing young minds. Instead, the majority encourages students to dispel racial and gender barriers, thus fostering a more collaborative classroom. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill is an attempt to revive a law that has already been ruled unconstitutional without fixing its core defects. In 2024, a federal district court struck down the 2021 “banned concepts” law as unconstitutionally vague and a violation of free speech, noting it failed to give educators clear guidance and invited arbitrary enforcement. This bill makes only a narrow change related to intent, leaving the underlying vagueness untouched. As a result, it does nothing to cure the constitutional defects identified by the court. Moreover, New Hampshire has already appealed the district court’s decision, and the case is still pending before the First Circuit Court of Appeals. The minority feels that given the significant time and public resources already invested in this litigation, it is imprudent to move forward with piecemeal revisions. The more responsible course is either to repeal the law entirely or wait for the appellate court to issue a final ruling before considering any changes.

**SB 434**, relative to regulation of public school materials. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**



Rep. Kristin Noble for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill as amended strikes an appropriate balance between protecting children, upholding local control, and preserving academic freedom. It ensures New Hampshire public schools remain environments where parents can trust that educational materials align with community standards and the developmental needs of minors. The definition of “harmful to minors” draws from longstanding U.S. Supreme Court precedents (such as *Miller v. California* and *Ginsberg v. New York*) that recognize the state’s compelling interest in shielding children from material that would be protected speech for adults. By requiring school boards to adopt complaint policies that incorporate this definition, the bill promotes consistency, transparency, and accountability while preserving local control. Districts retain flexibility to design procedures suited to their communities. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Lee Ann Kluger for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee contends that this bill is broad-reaching in that it includes many materials such as books, plays, pamphlets, dances, drawings, pictures, figures, phonographic records, and statues. Additionally, it also extends into material that lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. The bill is vague when it states that material that is harmful to minors is inappropriate to the age of minors to whom it is being made available or presented. School districts already have policies and procedures for parents to file a complaint concerning material that they allege is harmful to students. Local control is infringed upon with the parameters of this bill. Students have the right to the freedom to read therefor the minority of the committee cannot support this bill.

**SB 574**, establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill establishes another School Administrative Unit (SAU) study commission. As written, it includes two members of the Senate, three from the House, the Commissioner of Education, a superintendent appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, a member of a local school board appointed by the New Hampshire School Boards Association, and a business office administrator appointed by the New Hampshire Association of School Business Officials. The amendment adds one member to the commission, appointed by the School District Governance Association of New Hampshire. The commission shall review demographics and enrollment shifts, identify ways to better allocate SAU resources to reduce property taxes, identify other states that have consolidated, examine impediments to consolidation and potential school closures, as well as solicit testimony from any person or organization with expertise. A report is due before November 1, 2026.

**Vote 10-8.** Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill proposes creating a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units (SAUs). While the minority is not opposed to forming a commission, this bill lacks clear guidelines to ensure a thorough and effective review. In 2025, SB 57 already established a committee to study reducing the number of SAUs statewide. That effort failed to reach consensus, resulting in sharply divided majority and minority reports. This bill largely duplicates the work of that prior committee, yet imposes a similarly unrealistic timeline for delivering a final report. Although the new commission would include additional stakeholders, such as a superintendent, a business administrator, and a local school board member, the majority amendment also adds a member appointed by the School District Governance Association (SDGA), a private organization with an explicit political orientation. This raises concerns about balance and neutrality. The minority believes stronger legislation is needed: a commission with more representative and impartial membership, a realistic timeline, and a clearer mandate focused not only on potential cost savings but also on improving student outcomes.

**SB 578**, (New Title) relative to play-based curriculum and physical education curriculum. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. As amended, this bill seeks to expand play-based kindergarten. Fostering positive and engaging learning environments creates an impactful and lasting educational experience. Additionally, this bill ensures that recess not be used in a punitive measure against any student. Recess may also be used toward curriculum in physical education. **Vote 10-8.**

Rep. Muriel Hall for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. Under current law, kindergarten in our public schools must be taught using a play-based curriculum. This proposed legislation extends this model to include all K-3 students. Although the minority agrees that the focus in kindergarten should be on exploration, movement, and play in lieu of rigorous structure and curriculum, we do not support the legislature mandating this model for all students in grades 1-3, especially given the standardized testing requirements and accountability for teaching core academic skills at these levels. Furthermore, this bill would extend the requirement for recess, currently K-6, to include grades 7 and 8. Implementing additional supervised recess can be challenging for schools already facing budget, staffing, or scheduling constraints. Additionally, we believe that it is up to local districts to design and implement curriculum as well as develop schedules to meet their specific needs.

## ELECTION LAW

**SB 223-FN**, (New Title) prohibiting student identification cards from being used as photo identification for purposes of obtaining a ballot. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Alvin See for the **Majority** of Election Law. As amended, this bill clarifies that RSA 659:13, II(a) contains the exclusive list of acceptable forms of photo identification for obtaining a ballot. The amendment is intended to conform related election statutes to the changes enacted through HB 323 and to avoid any ambiguity about whether other statutes may be read to preserve additional forms of identification not included in RSA 659:13, II(a). The bill also repeals an obsolete reporting requirement directing the Commissioner of Education to provide the Secretary of State with an annual list of educational institutions that may have students of voting age. That list previously had relevance when student identification cards were an accepted form of voter identification. HB 323 removed the Secretary of State's use of that list, but it did not repeal the separate statutory requirement that the Commissioner of Education continue creating and transmitting it. This bill corrects that oversight by removing a reporting obligation that no longer serves an operative purpose. The majority of the committee recognizes the concerns raised by the minority regarding access to voting, particularly for younger voters and individuals who may not possess a driver's license. However, the bill does not create a new voter identification requirement, nor does it independently remove student identification cards from the list of acceptable IDs. Those policy decisions were made in HB 323. This bill, as amended, is narrower: it ensures that the statutes are internally consistent after the enactment of HB 323 and eliminates an unnecessary administrative requirement. The majority of the committee further notes that maintaining outdated statutory language after a substantive change in law creates confusion for voters, election officials, educational institutions, and state agencies. Election laws should be clear, current, and administrable. By identifying RSA 659:13, II(a) as the controlling list of acceptable voter identification and repealing a now-unused Education Department reporting requirement, the bill promotes statutory clarity and reduces unnecessary administrative work without imposing any additional obligation beyond those already enacted in current law. For these reasons, the majority of the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

**Vote 10-8.** Rep. Russell Muirhead for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill as amended would insert a grammatical refinement to election laws addressing how voters obtain a ballot. The bill as amended functions to change the phrasing concerning the new restrictions created by HB 323 (which Governor Ayotte signed in April), which prohibits voters from using student identification cards as proof of identity when they vote. The minority believes the change this bill (as amended) would make is unnecessary. Beyond that, the minority opposes this bill for the same reasons it opposed HB 323 in the first place: namely, that this legislation will not enhance election security in any meaningful way because what it aims to guard against – voter impersonation – occurs at miniscule rates. But it will impose substantial costs on voters. The minority believes that this bill, along with HB 323, will function to make it difficult and in many cases impossible for people to exercise their right to vote. This bill and HB 323 will burden the right to vote for New Hampshire residents, and the burden will fall especially heavily on young people who grow up in households that lack automobiles or lack the substantial resources required to pay for a teenager's driver education course and automobile insurance. Young people who lack a NH driver's license often live very far from the nearest Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) location – making it practically impossible for them to acquire the DMV non-driver identification that they will need as of June 2026 to exercise their right to vote. The habits of the heart and mind that conduce to good citizenship require practice. This bill makes that practice more difficult to acquire. For these reasons, the minority opposes the Ought to Pass with Amendment motion.

**SB 405**, relative to amounts reported by political committees. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Clayton Wood for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill makes routine maintenance updates to New Hampshire's campaign finance reporting laws following the state's move from three separate campaign finance periods, pre-filing, primary, and general, to a single election period. The prior \$50 reporting threshold applied separately across three campaign finance periods, meaning an individual could contribute up to \$150 over the election cycle before personal identifying information was required. This bill adjusts that threshold to \$200 for the new single election period. That is a modest change, not a dramatic reduction in transparency, and it reasonably factors in inflation since the prior thresholds were established. The bill also protects the privacy of small donors by limiting when additional personal information must be publicly reported. Occupational information, including employer and principal place of business, would not be required unless aggregate contributions exceed \$1,000. Contributions above \$200 remain publicly reportable, so the bill does not allow significant donations to disappear from campaign finance reports. The majority believes this bill strikes the proper balance between transparency and participation. It reduces administrative work for campaigns, removes a potential chilling effect on small donors who may be uncomfortable disclosing personal information for modest contributions, and brings reporting thresholds into alignment with the state's current campaign

finance structure. The bill preserves transparency for meaningful political contributions while simplifying compliance for candidates, treasurers, and volunteer-run campaigns. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Connie Lane for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill increases the threshold amount for publicly reporting an individual's personal information in a campaign finance report to \$200 from \$50 per election cycle. The threshold for publicly reporting their private information, including their employer and principal place of business increases from \$200 to \$1,000. This bill increases the amount that an individual can provide without attribution to \$999, which is a significant donation for most House races. Additionally, under this bill there is no longer transparency for "pass the hat" donations under \$200, which are also common in campaigns. The primary reasons given for increasing the amounts are to reduce administrative work on the part of campaigns, to remove the "chill" of a small donor who is uncomfortable with providing personal information, and to bring the amounts into alignment with recent changes in our campaign finance laws and inflation. The minority disagrees with the assertion that publicly reporting personal information "chills" donations under \$1,000. Further, it is not an unfair impingement upon their First Amendment right – money has been deemed to be speech. Donors have been providing personal information for years without significant pushback – and no specific examples were provided to the committee of donors who refused because of public disclosure of their donation. These amounts will now be reported as unitemized receipts in the campaign's financial disclosures and are not subject to RSA 91-A inquiries. As for the inflation argument, the correct amount of the increase would be closer to \$250, not \$1,000. The minority believes that donations between \$200 and \$1,000 are significant, especially in House races, and that transparency is a critical component of campaign finance reporting. This bill reduces transparency at the same time it increases the amount of influence that a donor may provide unseen.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**SB 298-FN**, relative to sober living house certification and operational standards. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Paul Dargie for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill requires the development of a certification process for recovery residences that are sometimes referred to as sober homes. The certification of recovery homes is currently voluntary, and some residences operate without certification. This bill will ensure that recovery residences follow evidence-based practices that meet state and national standards to ensure the safety and health of residents. Many recovery residences are currently well-run, but there is no universal certification of that status so potential residents do not know for sure what they are getting into when they move into a facility. This bill will ensure that all recovery residences operating in New Hampshire meet the existing health and safety standards. The amendment provides several needed corrections to the bill that were identified during testimony, including a change of the effective date of the bill to July 2027 to allow time for residences that are currently not compliant with the regulations to implement the changes needed to gain compliance. Passing the bill at this time instead of going to interim study will provide certainty to residence operators and allow them a full year to gain certification. This bill was supported 79-1 on the house online testimony portal. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Jeremy Slottje for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The minority recommends that this bill be referred for interim study because transitioning New Hampshire's recovery housing from a voluntary registry to a mandatory, state-enforced certification system introduces severe complexities that risk causing more harm than good. By criminalizing uncertified operations through immediate cease-and-desist orders and attorney general referrals, this mandate threatens to shut down vital, peer-led sober homes operating on razor-thin margins, drastically reducing available bed capacity and exacerbating the state's homelessness and addiction crises. Furthermore, the bill relies on ambiguous "nationally recognized standards," creates a tangled web of local zoning and fire code inspection backlogs, and lacks a completed fiscal note to detail the immense administrative cost to the Department of Health and Human Services. As amended, the bill would not take effect until next summer which means that an interim study followed by successful legislation would not delay implementation. An interim study will allow stakeholders, municipal officials, and recovery advocates to collaborate on a balanced framework that ensures resident safety without dismantling New Hampshire's essential recovery infrastructure.

**SB 488**, enabling the governor to declare a state of emergency due to the failure of the legislature to pass a budget or continuing resolution to fund the New Hampshire state government by July 1 of the first year of a biennium. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Dargie for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill as presented attempted to provide a mechanism for continuation of funding for a portion of the state government in the event that a budget or continuing resolution to fund the government was not completed by the start of a new biennium. The committee was unanimous in opposition, but divided on the reason. A major problem with the bill for half the committee was that some portions of the state budget were excluded from continuation funding in the bill by not being explicitly included in the bill. One example was the department of education which needs to actively work over the summer to do the work to calculate the grants that are given in September. Without



these grants, school districts would have cash flow problems at the start of the school year. The other half of the committee believes that this type of legislation abdicates the responsibility of the legislature to set and approve budgets and spending. The committee believes that shortening the first year session to allow time to address a potential failure to pass or a veto of a budget or continuing resolution is a more proactive approach which is wholly within the legislature's purview. **Vote 16-0.**

**SB 504**, relative to the practice of pharmacy and the dispensing of certain medications by pharmacists. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill makes several technical corrections and changes to pharmacy statute. It also amends the definition of "practice of pharmacy" to utilize pharmacists to the fullest extent of their education, training, and experience. This will expand access to care for patients and assist in leveraging federal funding for rural healthcare access. The amendment makes additional technical changes. **Vote 15-0.**

## FINANCE

**SB 408-FN**, relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill extends New Hampshire's existing prosthetic coverage mandate, which currently applies only to children under 19, to adults on group health plans. The bill limits activity-specific prosthetic coverage to one device every five years for adults and allows insurers to apply standard utilization management and cost sharing. The Insurance Department estimates an annualized fiscal impact of \$4 to \$12 million across the commercial market, with a smaller impact on the state employee health plan. **Vote 21-3.** Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill mandates that commercial health insurance, including that carried by the state for its employees, covers certain adult prosthetics. Currently, such coverage is optional. At one time our state had a robust health insurance market, with many participating providers, strong competition and low costs. Mandates such as this have chased out most insurers and made health insurance much more expensive. While SB 408 is a small mandate — estimated by the minority to raise insurance costs only a quarter of a percent — it is a step in the wrong direction. If we ever want to bring back low cost health insurance we must peel back the onion, not grow more layers.

**SB 538-FN**, extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. This bill ensures that political subdivisions building power generation facilities that rely on net metering are able to receive the net metering rates and benefits for at least 15 years. This ensures that funding is available, since otherwise these benefits would abruptly end in 2040. It only applies to a limited number of projects in process, including the City of Concord and Merrimack County. **Vote 24-0.**

**SB 557-FN**, (Third New Title) making it illegal for liquor commission licensees to sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, possess, or allow the ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of certain kratom products. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the **Majority** of Finance. The majority amendment to SB 557 strengthens New Hampshire's response to the growing market of concentrated synthetic kratom products by creating a clear statutory definition and measurable enforcement standard for synthetic and semisynthetic kratom. The bill specifically targets chemically altered and highly concentrated forms of 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7OH). It also establishes a bright line and enforceable threshold by classifying any product containing more than 1,000 parts per million of 7OH on a dry weight basis as synthetic or semisynthetic kratom, providing regulators and law enforcement with a clear mechanism for testing and enforcement. These products are labeled with their 7OH levels. This approach mirrors actions recently taken in Florida and Kentucky, where similar concentration based standards rapidly eliminated the concentrated synthetic marketplace. The framework is also aligned with the July 29, 2025 recommendation from the US Food and Drug Administration and US Department of Health and Human Services urging the Drug Enforcement Administration to schedule concentrated synthetic alkaloid products, including synthetic 7OH products. **Vote 13-11.** Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill, as amended by the House Finance Committee, seeks to return this bill to the version passed by the Senate, which classifies as a schedule II drug the synthetic and concentrated forms of alkaloid or alkaloid derivatives of hydroxymitragynine, a chemical naturally found in the leaves of the kratom plant. These chemicals are commonly sold in vape stores, convenience stores and gas stations as recreational drugs, the use of which often results in addiction and serious health consequences. Despite the lack of a fiscal note for both this amendment and the version passed by the House, the Finance Committee thought it necessary to alter the policy from a bill which stops the sale of these products in NH outlets licensed by the NH Liquor Commission to a policy which classifies them as a drug, requiring the unfunded resources of local police departments and criminal courts. The amendment also arbitrarily bans the natural kratom leaf if it contains more than 1,000 ppm of 7-hydroxymitragynine (it can contain up to 2,000 ppm). This would threaten on-going medical research and the botanical sale of kratom leaves by businesses offering natural therapies for ailments including chronic



pain and depression. Additionally, in testimony to the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, neither the NH Department of Health and Human Services nor the NH Department of Safety asked for the scheduled drug classification; it is already being pursued by the US Drug Enforcement Agency which would make this amended version moot. The NH Liquor Commission supports the version passed by the House since it will immediately remove these products from the sources where the vast majority of these products (~75%) are purchased. Therefore, the minority supports an Ought to Pass on the version unanimously recommended by the House Criminal Justice Committee and passed by the full House on a voice vote.

## JUDICIARY

**SB 552**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill acknowledges New Hampshire's fundamental commitment to treating all individuals without discrimination and with equal respect and dignity. It also acknowledges the importance of recognizing biological sex in certain circumstances for the physical safety and privacy rights of individuals, particularly in situations involving minors, although not limited to. The preservation of sex-based classifications in athletics is aimed at upholding the integrity of female sports and ensuring safe and fair competition. The three very limited circumstances where the consideration of biological sex is necessary to protect privacy and physical safety are (1) multiple user bathrooms and locker rooms, (2) athletic/sporting events where an advantage to biological males is recognized, and (3) facilities where an individual is committed involuntarily. However, the bill does not mandate classification based on biological sex; it simply allows for it if deemed necessary by the institution in question. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Marjorie Smith for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This is the fifth bill on this subject heard by the Judiciary Committee in this session. In previous sessions, the incumbent governor and the previous governor have vetoed similar bills, commonly referred to as bathroom bills. The stated purpose of these bills is to protect women and girls from contact with transgender individuals. Reliable statistics report about 1% of the population being transgender. Research shows that women and girls are much more likely to experience unacceptable behavior on the part of heterosexual males rather than those who are transgender. The minority of the committee has chosen not to include in this report quotations from the testimony of the sponsors and supporters of this and similar bills out of respect for the institution. However, our sense of decency dictates that this bill is Inexpedient to Legislate.

## LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**SB 88-FN**, prohibiting state government entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Warden for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill relates to construction projects entered into by state government agencies and simply states that no contracts for such projects can require or prohibit provisions for labor organization agreements by contractors, often referred to as "PLA" conditions. This will ensure that state contracts for projects are neutral as to whether or not bidders are engaged in organized labor contracts with their employees. This bill only refers to state project bids and contracts, not to municipalities. The committee amendment stripped out a single paragraph that allowed for "the head of a governmental entity" to exempt the provisions in the bill based on "imminent threat to public health or safety," believing the wording to be overly vague and too easily abused. Even though there was a fiscal note on the original bill, the legislative budget assistant states this bill has no fiscal impact. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Brian Sullivan for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill addresses project labor agreements. It establishes that project labor agreements can neither be banned nor mandated for state construction projects. The minority believes that this bill is unneeded because project labor agreements currently are not banned or mandated. It is also true that project labor agreements have never been entered into by New Hampshire. The amendment eliminates a section that would allow an exemption to avert an imminent threat to public health or safety. The minority opposes this amendment as well.

**SB 416**, relative to the pooling and sharing of tips among tipped employees. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill seeks to align NH state laws with federal employment laws relative to tip pooling. Right now our existing state statutes relative to tip pooling do not allow an employer to have a tip pooling policy as required by federal statute and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standards. Over the past years we have amended our tip pooling statute four times to alleviate some of the regulatory burden our hospitality industry was facing. In order to be compliant with state policy and federal policy it is basically impossible to stay in compliance with both entities. This bill will allow our Department of Labor to enforce the federal standards as our own as well as adding

a small amount of restrictive language to protect the tipped employee wages from being used to offset other employees' wages. This brings the regulatory uncertainty and burden in line with existing federal statutes and IRS standards. **Vote 10-9.**

Rep. Brian Sullivan for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. As received from the Senate, this bill adopted the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to govern tip sharing and tip pooling. The House amendment still references the FLSA, but puts enforcement of tip sharing and pooling back in the hands of the NH Department of Labor. The amendment also bars tip sharing between the tipped workers in the restaurant front of the house with the cooks, prep workers and dish washers in the back of the house. It also emphasizes that tips may not be shared or pooled with owners, managers or supervisors. These changes are viewed as improvements by the minority. What the amendment fails to do is provide assurance that a tipped worker providing direct, individual service to a customer can keep the tip that the customer leaves for that worker. The minority of the committee finds this to be unacceptable. The minority also feels that the complexities of the business models of various restaurants and other establishments where tips are paid need to be considered more carefully. We would therefore support an interim study motion.

## MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**SB 439**, relative to municipal data center zoning. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. Current land use statutes do not directly address the regulation of data centers, an increasingly prevalent and emerging category of facility development. As introduced to the committee, the bill establishes a statutory framework governing the siting and regulation of data centers within municipalities. The bill defines "data center" and clarifies that such facilities may be treated as a permitted use within local zoning ordinances, subject to applicable local land use regulations. It further affirms the authority of municipalities to adopt reasonable regulations addressing impacts such as noise, setbacks, buffering, and infrastructure demands. The amendment refines and expands this framework, establishing a more comprehensive and clearly defined statutory structure for the siting and regulation of data centers. First, the amendment clarifies the definition of a data center as a facility primarily used for the storage, processing, management, and transmission of digital data, while expressly excluding small on-site computing operations and telecommunications network facilities. This distinction provides clear statutory criteria to differentiate large-scale data centers from other types of uses. The amendment further provides that data centers shall be permitted by right in commercial and industrial districts. As such, it prohibits municipalities from imposing restrictions on data centers that are more burdensome than those applied to other permitted uses within the same district, except through generally applicable ordinances. In practical terms, this ensures that data centers are treated the same as any other permitted use within those zones. Notably, all standard local land use controls remain fully applicable, including site plan review, environmental and resource protection regulations, noise ordinances, building codes, and impact fees. Importantly, municipalities retain the ability to regulate through these generally applicable tools but may not single out data centers for disparate treatment. Finally, the amendment authorizes planning boards to adopt regulations necessary to implement these provisions, creating a consistent and predictable statewide framework while preserving meaningful local oversight. In summary, the bill, as amended, modernizes land use law by clearly defining data centers and establishing a fair and consistent framework for their regulation. It balances local control with predictability, supports economic development, and ensures that local concerns are appropriately addressed as this important and growing industry continues to expand. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Jim Maggiore for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. While the minority of the committee opposes the Ought to Pass with Amendment motion for this bill, the minority recognizes the importance of data centers in our technology driven society and is eager to work with colleagues, subject-matter experts, stakeholders, agencies, and standing House and Senate committees to draft comprehensive legislation to manage the regulations of data centers throughout our great state. This bill defines data centers in RSA 674, Local Land Use Planning and Regulatory Powers, and requires municipalities to permit data centers by right in any zoning district that permits commercial or industrial uses, subject to other existing zoning ordinances. The bill, as introduced, sought to allow municipalities to regulate data centers through zoning and to establish minimum standards in state law for where data centers could operate if a municipality permitted the use. Under existing law, municipalities can already regulate data centers in their zoning. Data centers already exist throughout the state. The amended version of the bill has the exact effect of the original bill. The amended version permits data centers by right and suggests that data centers can be treated like any other business. The minority opposes that approach because data centers present unique and substantial risks to host municipalities and residents. They require continuous, largescale electrical power to operate servers and cooling systems, often drawing tens or hundreds of megawatts. The minority has seen no evidence that the energy demands of proposed projects have been studied or balanced against regional grid capacity and community needs. Similarly, many data centers rely on evaporative or otherwise waterintensive cooling systems; no evidence has been provided

that water allocations for these facilities have been weighed against residential, agricultural, municipal, or ecological requirements. Economic arguments for data centers are also overstated. These facilities typically generate far fewer permanent local jobs than other industrial or commercial developments and, in some cases, operate with minimal onsite staff. Municipalities may reasonably question whether zoning changes and public incentives are justified when longterm employment and community benefits are limited. A municipality may question whether zoning changes are justified when the longterm employment and revenue benefits are minimal. At the very least, municipalities and their residents should determine for themselves whether they are willing to take these risks, and data centers should not be permitted by right. This bill is very confusing when considered in the broader context of statute. The bill places the definition of “data center” in RSA 674, Local Land Use Planning and Regulatory Powers. It would seem more fitting to place the definition of “data center” in a chapter of law that typically defines similar uses, such as a chapter addressing commerce within the state. Data centers are defined by size based on power capacity (megawatts/MW), physical square footage, server rack count, and density. They range from micro/edge facilities (<150kW, <5,000 sq. ft.) to enterprise (1 - 5 MW, 5k - 20k sq. ft.), and massive hyperscale sites (>100 MW). Key metrics include server rack density (up to 16kW+ per rack) and total energy consumption. When all of these factors are considered together, one must consider the impacts to a municipality and the region as a whole before siting of a data center. This bill also misapplies the planning board’s operations and its regulation of local land use. The bill would require the planning board to obtain rulemaking authority from the municipality’s legislative body to regulate data centers. Local land use boards do not make rules like a department or agency of the state. Planning boards are empowered by state law to “... adopt rules of procedure concerning the method of conducting its business...,” like any other local land use board (RSA 676:1). Additionally, when the planning board seeks to amend a zoning ordinance, the question is placed on the official ballot for a vote of the legislative body. These processes are significantly different from the state’s rulemaking administrative procedures established under RSA 541. For these reasons, the minority oppose the Ought to Pass with Amendment motion.

**SB 508**, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. Current land use statutes do not fully address procedural consistency in the zoning board of adjustment appeal process and the submission and review of revised plans during local land use proceedings. The bill amends RSA 676:5 to require that all grounds for appeal to a zoning board of adjustment be stated in the initial notice of appeal. It also establishes a new section, RSA 676:5-a, creating a structured framework for the submission, stamping, and acceptance of revised plans during the local land use review process. The committee heard testimony that, under current practice, applicants may be subject to multiple rounds of revisions or the introduction of new requirements late in the review process, resulting in delays, increased costs, and uncertainty for both applicants and municipalities. The bill requires that all grounds for appeal be clearly identified at the outset, promoting transparency and ensuring that all parties have notice of the issues under consideration. It further requires municipalities to stamp and accept revised plans within 10 business days, provided the revisions address the specific comments made in accordance with prior board direction and are procedurally complete for consideration and vote by the appropriate board, while preserving the board’s full authority to approve, condition, or deny the application. The bill also limits additional rounds of revisions unless the applicant has failed to address those original comments, thereby establishing clearer procedural boundaries in the review process. The majority finds that this bill establishes a more structured and consistent framework for local land use review and appeals, improving transparency, predictability, and administrative efficiency while preserving municipal authority over substantive zoning decisions. In summary, this bill strengthens procedural clarity in the zoning board of adjustment appeal process, supports more timely and predictable land use decisions, and helps facilitate the efficient review of development projects, including housing and other uses essential to addressing the state’s ongoing growth and housing needs, while preserving appropriate municipal oversight. **Vote 11-9.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill has two sections. In the first section, it adds language to RSA 674:33 that will serve to expedite and simplify the process in a positive way. The minority of the Municipal and County Government committee supports these changes as they will help expedite the planning process. Section 2 of the bill, however, is confusing, in the wrong chapter of statute, and for numerous reasons would be unenforceable by municipalities and detrimental to residents. The section applies to the Planning Board process but the bill presents it as part of the Zoning Board appeals process. It requires a ten-day turnaround from date of submission, by which time all revised plans are to be “stamped and accepted” but the bill does not define “stamping” or “accepting,” nor does it specify what municipal official should perform these activities. Review boards currently have 30 days to respond to applicants, a timeframe that ensures adequate public notice as required under RSA 91-A. Section 2 also prohibits Planning Boards from requiring additional rounds of revisions beyond any requested in its initial review. Such a prohibition would only ensure that scattered and incomplete



plans would go forward despite their deficiencies. Those deficiencies could range from the purely aesthetic (inadequate setbacks and frontage) to life-threatening (violations of building and fire codes). For these reasons, the minority recommends the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate.

**SB 643-FN**, (New Title) requiring municipalities to hold a public hearing and conduct a roll call vote when seeking to override a tax or spending cap. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill advances the state's interest in transparency, accountability, compliance, and public participation for municipalities operating under locally adopted tax, budget, or spending caps. For towns with a town council form of government as well as cities that have adopted such a cap, any proposed override must be preceded by a duly noticed public hearing, warned at least 30 days in advance, with a minimum of one hour dedicated to public input. Any vote to override the cap must be taken by roll call, with the results publicly disclosed on the next property tax bill. The committee amendment clarifies the scope and application of the bill by incorporating precise statutory references to the forms of municipal government subject to its provisions, as well as those that are not. In addition, the amendment incorporates the provisions of HB 1505, requiring municipalities, school districts, and village districts with locally adopted caps to submit standardized documentation to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) to verify compliance and to provide the information necessary to establish a lawful tax rate. The amendment further clarifies how appropriations must be reduced when a proposed or default budget exceeds an adopted cap and fails to receive the required supermajority approval. It standardizes key definitions, including "appropriations already raised," and ensures consistent treatment of estimated revenues and anticipated state or federal funds. The amendment also aligns inflation adjustment provisions across all forms of local caps and establishes a clear enforcement mechanism directing the commissioner of revenue administration to reduce or remove appropriations that exceed a cap unless properly approved through the override process. Finally, the amendment harmonizes statutory language, corrects technical references, and reaffirms the use of average daily membership in residence for school-related calculations, ensuring consistency across applicable statutes. In sum, this bill, as amended, strengthens transparency and accountability for political subdivisions operating under local spending caps, establishes uniform compliance standards, and reinforces adherence to voter-approved limitations on local taxation and spending. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Jim Maggiore for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. The minority opposes the underlying legislation in this bill as well as the bill with amendment 2026-1812h (which is HB 1505). The underlying bill proposes that municipalities must hold a public hearing whenever they seek to override a tax or spending cap with said hearing to include at least 60 minutes of public comment, a roll call on the governing body's vote, and a recording of the roll call vote on the next tax bill. Local governments can and do hold public hearings for consideration of operating budgets; they can and do permit public comment; and state statute requires recording of all motions made and votes taken in public meetings to be included in publicly available minutes. The underlying bill treats all municipalities as if they lack accountability, which is wholly inaccurate. For these reasons, the minority believe the underlying bill is unnecessary. As amended, this bill retains the intent of the bill as introduced and adds the language of HB 1505, requiring municipalities to submit documentation to the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) providing they are in compliance with local budget and tax caps. The Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs committee voted unanimously to refer HB 1505 to Interim Study. The Senate hearing report includes the following concerns with HB 1505: "[T]hose who do not follow the law should be voted out or the Attorney General should be involved," and "[W]hether the problem observed in one or two municipalities is sufficient to increase the challenges all municipalities will face," and "[T]he confusion surrounding how warrant articles are published and the order in which they are addressed once the tax cap is reached." These concerns are shared by the minority of the House Municipal and County Government committee. The minority also have concerns that the \$75,000 cost for DRA to implement the changes to their tax rate system portal will increase the tax burden on all NH residents. For these reasons, the minority oppose Ought to Pass with Amendment motion on this bill.

**SB 653**, enabling counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill allows a majority vote of the county commissioners to place on the ballot a question asking the voters if they want to change to a biennial budget cycle on the off year of the state elections for the adoption of the county budget. The bill explains posting requirements, dates of required actions and the acceptable wording for the ballot question. In addition, the amendment provides the requirements for the adopting, rescinding and electing both a municipal and school budget committee. The majority voted to recommend this bill as Ought to Pass with Amendment. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Stephanie Grund for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. The minority of the committee supports the original bill which enables counties to adopt a biennial budget instead of an annual one and align it to be on the off year of the November state elections. The voters of the county would be required to vote on this change if it is affirmed by a majority of the county commissioners. However, there was



an amendment to this bill that added the language from a prior bill that modifies the procedure for adopting, rescinding, and electing a municipal budget committee and modifies the time frame for the appointment of initial members of a cooperative school district budget committee. Most of this language was passed by the House in a prior bill but was referred to Interim Study by the Senate. The questions still exist as to what towns are claiming they are having a problem with adopting, rescinding, or electing members to municipal budget committees. There was no evidence presented during hearings as to towns that had concerns. The minority of the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on the amended bill.

## WAYS AND MEANS

**CACR 12**, relating to voting on broad-based taxes. Providing that a supermajority vote of the general court shall be required to enact any broad-bases taxes. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for the Majority of Ways and Means. The majority of the committee found that the voters of New Hampshire have the absolute right and obligation to vote on what taxes they pay. Some spoke about needing more and more revenue to fund more and more government operations. That is not the issue of this CACR as amended. Local taxes are still local options and people in a locality could still decide to take more of their neighbor's money for such projects. Whether or not an income tax is appropriate for New Hampshire is of such importance that the voters, and only the voters, have the ability to decide their own taxation methodology. An elite, albeit elected, minority of 20 or even 424 is not the body to decide such an important and far reaching bedrock law issue. This proposal is not for or against an income tax as such; everything else is just political posturing. This proposal is only about placing the proposal before our bosses - the voters, and we should let the voters decide. **Vote 11-9.**

Rep. Susan Almy for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. No proposal to enact an income tax in New Hampshire has received serious consideration in the last 25 years, despite both parties controlling state government for portions of that time. The last time an income tax bill was considered by the House, in 2017, it was killed unanimously on the consent calendar. This CACR, as amended, goes far beyond banning an income tax as normally conceived. The majority amendment says that no individual can be taxed by the state for anything related to any form of income, but corporations, other businesses, and unidentified non-individual entities can be. This would not make our state an attractive place for business. In the last decade, business taxes have been cut multiple times, and the hundred-year-old interest and dividends tax has been repealed, decreasing our revenues by over a billion dollars. These taxes were almost totally on the wealthy, those who could afford to pay. But the consequences have landed most heavily on the dwindling middle class, the working poor, and those who are elderly and disabled. Our budgets are diminished in real terms – after inflation – and the promises the legislature made and broke to continue programs vital to their lives are leaving many desperate. We have concentrated our revenue system in one major tax, the property tax, which the legislature refuses to acknowledge as our state's affair. While the majority likes to highlight the growth of revenue over time, they do not consider inflation. Most of our constituents earn more today than they did a decade ago, but they struggle to afford essentials because their wages have not kept pace. The state is no different. As an example, when the Education Trust Fund (ETF) was created, we managed to put \$800 million into it, but if you look at the chart of the ETF adjusted for consumer price index inflation over the years, its real value to the schools has fallen all but one year since. There are efficiencies in state-level participation in the design, maintenance, and funding of education, health, roads and bridges, and public safety services. The state-level cuts to local services leave the towns, cities, and counties a choice between doing without, or increasing their property taxes to create the services at local level at greater cost than can be done by the state. Amending the constitution to ban a tax that doesn't exist would do nothing to reduce the burden of property taxes and the rising cost of essentials like food, housing, and childcare that people feel today. This CACR, arriving after all the cuts to existing taxes during the past decade, could increase our borrowing costs and harm our bond rating, creating an impossible revenue situation for our state, our towns, and much of our population. The minority believes it should not pass.

**SB 627-FN**, (New Title) relative to toll rate adjustments and periodic inflation-based toll reviews for the New Hampshire turnpike system to support the 2027-2036 ten-year transportation plan. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. No one on the committee objected to the need for this bill. Taxing out-of-state drivers a higher toll than in-state drivers is something that many states already do. The majority of the committee agreed that a change was needed and that the bill had merit. That being said, the bill is not yet well known by our constituents. The Transportation Commissioner reported that the fee increase could be immediately implemented after the right toll numbers were determined. The commissioner also stated that the need was due, in part, to the massive inflation of costs resulting from the COVID-era inflation. Because some essential facts were missing from the work session, the majority of the committee wanted to make sure that the numbers are correct so as not to discourage tourism or unduly increase trucking costs. Recommendations will be made in the fall for legislation to be considered in 2027. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Thomas

Schamberg for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. The minority opposes the Interim Study of this bill because it will not materially alter the core policy choice before the legislature. Proponents of Interim Study argue that more time is needed to evaluate the fiscal cost and economic impact of this bill, but these matters have been addressed through prior legislative hearings, a strong fiscal note, and testimony to our committee. This bill was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee 4-0 and by unanimous Senate voice vote. The House Public Works and Highways Committee voted 15-0 to support the bill and it was approved by a House voice vote on April 23. The Interim Study fails to account for the real and measurable costs of inaction. Inflation in labor and materials, loss of the window for action on critical projects during Fall 2026 through the next GACIT in 2028 and pushing back eligibility windows for federal funding opportunities, creates uncertainty for municipal planning and private-sector partners and weakens New Hampshire's ability to proactively manage transportation infrastructure needs. The minority finds that the revenue of \$400 to \$600 million dollars is greater and more certain than the speculative risks cited to justify delay. Both New Hampshire's people and tourists are suffering from congestion and bad roads, and the trucks that deliver goods to our state suffer equally. The federal tax credits that would come with this increase would start to reverse years of under-funding. The 10-Year Highway Plan is not a static document. Interim Studies are appropriate when facts are unavailable or when a concept is not yet fully formed. This bill meets neither condition. Delaying action under the premise of needing more study risks creating a perpetual cycle of analysis without decision, contrary to sound legislative governance.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FRIDAY, MAY 8**

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

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Please register for the meeting on May 8, 2026 2:00 PM EST at:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8637317398493433177>  
 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: 190-004-962 Webinar ID: 388-954-979  
 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 USE OF OHRVS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 215-A:44-a), DNRC, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Microsoft Teams:  
 Meeting ID: 218 299 554 481 60 Passcode: em2nw222  
 By phone: +1 603-931-4944,840445040#

## **MONDAY, MAY 11**

### **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**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

### **OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 21-V:10), Room 103, SH**

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee meeting.

## **TUESDAY, MAY 12**

### **COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION (RSA 193-E:2-f), 21 S. Fruit Street, Room 100, Concord**

4:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

### **COMMISSION TO STUDY STABLE TOKENS, TOKENIZED REAL-WORLD ASSETS, AND BLOCK-CHAIN-BASED TRUSTS FRAMEWORKS (RSA 383:26), NH Banking Department, 53 Regional Drive, Suite 200, Concord**

3:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID RESPONSE EFFICACY, Room 230, GP**

10:00 a.m. Organizational meeting.

**FRIDAY, MAY 15****ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Room 100, SH**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Room 230, GP**

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**LONG-TERM SEACOAST COMMISSION ON DRINKING WATER (RSA 485-F:6), New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), Portsmouth Regional Office in Room A, Pease International Tradeport, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth**

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

**MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3), White Mountain National Forest Headquarters, Weeks Conference Room, 71 White Mountain Drive, Campton**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 21-V:10), Room 103, SH**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**MONDAY, MAY 18****COMMISSION TO STUDY COSTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (RSA 186-C:1-a), Room 232, GP**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a), New Hampshire Veterans Home, Tarr South Conference Room, 139 Winter Street, Tilton**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115>

Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115

**TUESDAY, MAY 19****COMMISSION TO STUDY REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO THE ROAD TOLL, ROAD TOLL REGISTRATION CHARGES, AND REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, INCLUDING ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STATE'S HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES AND THEIR RESULTING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT (RSA 21-J:49), Room 228, GP**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20****SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID RESPONSE EFFICACY, Room 230, GP**

10:00 a.m. Open to members of the public to provide any insights or observations they may have or their experience with COVID since the fall of 2024 when the prior COVID committee ended.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22****JOINT LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 17-N:1), Room 234, GP**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27****ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Training Room, Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.



**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID RESPONSE EFFICACY, Room 230, GP**

1:00 p.m. Open to members of the public to provide their insights, observations, or experiences with COVID since the fall of 2024 when the prior COVID committee ended.

**FRIDAY, MAY 29****HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13), Room 158, GP**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP (RSA 149-M:61), NHDES, Room 208C, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting. Remote attendance option:  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3435858814888164108>

**MONDAY, JUNE 1****CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2), Room 228, GP**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE (RSA 17-M:1), Room 228, GP**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2****STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2), Edward Cross Training Complex, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke**

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3****ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Training Room, Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5****CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROGRAMS STUDY COMMISSION (RSA 79:32), Room 154, GP**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**MONDAY, JUNE 8****EDUCATION FREEDOM SAVINGS ACCOUNT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 194-F:12), Room 232, GP**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**NH COLLEGE TUITION SAVINGS PLAN ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 195-H:2), Granite Ed-  
vance, 3 Barrell Court, Concord**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10****ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Training Room, Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12****THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1),  
NH State House, 107 N Main St., Concord, NH Executive Council Chambers – Room 208**

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**MONDAY, JUNE 15****NH LAND AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (RSA 227-M:4),  
Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury**

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115>

Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115

**REVISED FISCAL NOTES**

The following bills have a revised fiscal note: HB 112, HB 215, HB 219, HB 224, HB 241, HB 518, HB 524, HB 547, HB 563, HB 570, HB 572, HB 595, HB 607, HB 609, HB 611, HB 619, HB 621, HB 624, HB 629, HB 630, HB 635, HB 648, HB 649, HB 651, HB 652, HB 665, HB 671, HB 675, HB 686, HB 716, HB 721, HB 725, HB 727, HB 729, HB 734, HB 751, HB 767, HB 772, HB 773, HB 1013, HB 1029, HB 1088, HB 1130, HB 1170, HB 1176, HB 1197, HB 1199, HB 1301, HB 1420, HB 1426, HB 1433, HB 1442, HB 1457, HB 1466, HB 1469, HB 1471, HB 1477, HB 1483, HB 1492, HB 1499, HB 1542, HB 1555, HB 1566, HB 1576, HB 1594, HB 1600, HB 1602, HB 1603, HB 1622, HB 1655, HB 1705, HB 1708, HB 1718, HB 1727, HB 1739, HB 1740, HB 1747, HB 1748, HB 1751, HB 1752, HB 1753, HB 1754, HB 1760, HB 1761, HB 1763, HB 1764, HB 1765, HB 1767, HB 1768, HB 1769, HB 1770, HB 1771, HB 1772, HB 1773, HB 1775, HB 1776, HB 1777, HB 1778, HB 1781, HB 1782, HB 1783, HB 1784, HB 1786, HB 1787, HB 1788, HB 1789, HB 1790, HB 1793, HB 1794, HB 1796, HB 1797, HB 1798, HB 1799, HB 1802, HB 1803, HB 1807, HB 1808, HB 1810, HB 1812, HB 1815, HB 1818, HB 1819, HB 1820, HB 1822, HB 1823, HB 1824, HB 1825, HB 1826, HB 1827, HB 1830, HB 1831, HB 1832, HB 1833, HB 1834, HB 1837. SB 36, SB 49, SB 71, SB 101, SB 103, SB 112, SB 134, SB 223, SB 247, SB 256, SB 408, SB 425, SB 448, SB 449, SB 450, SB 454, SB 457, SB 465, SB 470, SB 480, SB 482, SB 491, SB 492, SB 502, SB 505, SB 510, SB 511, SB 512, SB 515, SB 519, SB 534, SB 540, SB 543, SB 545, SB 548, SB 549, SB 557, SB 559, SB 567, SB 580, SB 589, SB 591, SB 592, SB 593, SB 600, SB 606, SB 608, SB 619, SB 620, SB 624, SB 625, SB 627, SB 632, SB 640, SB 642, SB 643, SB 652, SB 656, SB 657, SB 663, SB 665, SB 669, SB 670.

**OFFICIAL NOTICES**

The Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation will meet in convention on Thursday May 14, 2026, during a break (lunch or otherwise) in the Legislative Session at the NH State House, Legislative Chambers, located at 107 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301 for the following purpose: pursuant to RSA 23:7, to establish the salaries, benefits and other compensation paid to elected county officers including the county attorney, sheriff, register of deeds, treasurer and county commissioners for the 2027-2028 term; pursuant to RSA 24:13-c-VIII, to establish a tax-neutral supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$3,187,754.05 for the purpose of recognizing Governor's Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR-CNHIP) grant revenue and expenditure associated with the Nursing Home HVAC project; and any other business to come before the Delegation.

Rep. Linda Harriott-Gathright, Clerk

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The Executive Committee of the **Merrimack** County Delegation will meet on **Monday, May 18, 2026** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Old Courthouse, 163 N. Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is as follows: 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Review. 2. Hear a report from the Salary Study Committee Chairman. 3. Any other Business.

Rep. James MacKay, Chair

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Pursuant to RSA 23:7, the **Merrimack** County Delegation will meet immediately following the Executive Committee Meeting on **Monday, May 18, 2026** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Old Courthouse, 163 N. Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is: 1. Act on the Elected Officials Salaries. 2. To consider any other business that may appropriately come before them.

Rep. Dave Luneau, Chair

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**Rockingham** County Executive Committee Meeting, **Friday, May 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the FY-2026 Third Quarter Budget review. A quorum is required.

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd= TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue,

Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

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**Rockingham County Convention Meeting, Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.,** in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is to Vote Elected Officials Salaries and Benefits for the term commencing January 2027 (RSA 23:7, 655:14). A quorum is required.

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue, Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

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**Rockingham County Executive Committee Meeting, Friday, May 22, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.,** in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is for Subcommittee Chairs to present their subcommittee recommendations. The Executive Committee votes on the budget to be presented at the Executive Committee Public Hearing on June 3, 2026.

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue, Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

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**Rockingham County Executive Committee Public Hearing on Proposed FY-2027 Budget, Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.,** in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. Executive Committee votes to consider any changes (RSA 24:13-c). A quorum is required. By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue, Meeting Password: 312900

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

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**Rockingham County Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.,** in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize any unfinished business prior to Convention Meeting at 6:00 p.m. A quorum is required. By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue, Meeting Password: 312900

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

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**Rockingham County Convention Meeting, Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.,** in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is to Adopt the FY-2027 County Budget (RSA 24:13-c). A quorum is required. There will be an additional County Convention Meeting on **Friday, June 19, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., if necessary.** You will be notified.

By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue, Meeting Password: 312900 Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd=TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

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Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting of the **Strafford County Delegation Executive Committee** is scheduled to be held **Friday, May 8, 2026, 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 February 20, 2026, Approve 2nd Round of Tax Anticipation Note Borrowing of up to \$16,000,000 for 2026, Review and Approve First Quarter 2026 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 2026 Line-Item Transfers", Any Other Business Which May Legally Come Before the Committee. Zoom Access is available:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89027331395?pwd=JB3q2etbqapK06qk1KsWJprOCDwb0x.1>

Meeting ID: 890 2733 1395 Passcode: 747288 By Phone: +13052241968,,89027331395#,\*747288#

Information and directions may be obtained in advance of the meeting by contacting the Strafford County Commissioners office at 603-742-1458.

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.

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All Representatives are invited to a Bible Study and prayer during the Lunch Break on Session Day. 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

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All Representatives and Staff are cordially invited to attend a free "MEET THE LAMBS" event hosted by Five Sisters Farm at 986 Route 12A, Plainfield, NH on **Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** (rain date Saturday, May 10, 2026) This family owned farm raises pure-bred Shetlands- small short-tailed sheep that originated in the remote Shetland Islands off Scotland's coast where they were brought by the Vikings. The 5 Sisters flock boasts 50-60 sheep and this year 20 lambs were born in late March and early April! The 5 Sisters name is based on the 5 daughters of the Falcone family who have all been actively involved in the NH 4H Program and help manage the flock! 5 Sisters Farm Supports NH4H and often hosts 4H events. This small farm helps promote Agriculture in NH as well as small business. The free annual event also includes educational exhibits , shearing and spinning demonstrations, raffle baskets and sheep- themed gifts for sale. A lamb snuggle area is guaranteed to make "ewe" smile! A great Family oriented event!

Reps. Rich Nalevanko and Margaret Drye

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Please join us for the 16th Annual Campaign for Legal Services Kickoff Breakfast, celebrating a legacy of bipartisan public and private support for access to justice in New Hampshire. Chief Justice MacDonald will be speaking and Justice Hicks will be recognized. **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, at Southern New Hampshire University (75 South Commercial Street in Manchester). Registration and networking will begin at 7:15 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](mailto:dmckinney@nhla.org) by May 5th.

Reps. Bob Lynn and Paul Berch

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On **Thursday, May 14**, you're invited to join the Karaoke Caucus after session for drinks and fun at Beijing and Tokyo, with karaoke starting at **8:00 p.m.** Don't worry, we'll be back at Tandy's next time session falls on a Wednesday! I'm sure you know the drill by now, but if not, a friendly reminder that this is an informal group and everyone is welcome in the Karaoke Caucus (including friends and family outside the legislature). Singing is never required, but is definitely recommended, especially if "Sweet Caroline" is your cup of tea. No talent needed to join us, but good vibes are always a must. Hope to see you there!

Rep. Jessica Grill

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Legislators & staff are cordially invited to the annual Walmart lunch and health screening in the State House cafeteria on **Thursday, May 14th starting at 11:30 a.m.**

Rep. Jason Osborne

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The NH Oral Health Coalition invites you to our Legislative Reception “Speaking Tooth to Power” on **May 14<sup>th</sup>** at St. Paul’s Church’s Ordway Room from **12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Light lunch and desserts will be served. This is your opportunity to meet the oral health and dental providers bringing lower cost, accessible care into communities. RSVP to Christina Wellbeloved at [cwellbeloved@NHOralHealth.org](mailto:cwellbeloved@NHOralHealth.org) or 603-415-5550. See you there! All and Representatives are welcome.

Rep. Tom Buco

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NH/VT Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is part of a national construction industry trade association representing more than 23,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC helps New Hampshire contractors develop people, win work, and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Please join local contractors on the State House Plaza on **Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** for hands on demonstrations of the trades, craft training, safety equipment and technology used every day to literally build New Hampshire. Lunch will be served!

Rep. Jason Osborne

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The New Hampshire Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Association cordially invites you to attend the 34th 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 22, 2026**, 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 Packard

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The New Hampshire Snowmobile Association invites all House Members to join them on **Thursday, June 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** in front of the State House for donuts, coffee, and conversation about the wonderful snowmobile season experienced by our local snowmobile clubs and what the future holds for the sport. Please stop by to meet the people, and the machines, that support the sport of snowmobiling and 7,000 miles of trails which are enjoyed by residents and tourists alike.

Rep. Brian Labrie and Alexis Simpson

## AMENDMENTS (LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

### Amendment to CACR 12 (2026-1134h)

#### Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Ways and Means–r

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

RELATING TO: the adoption of tax laws.

PROVIDING THAT: the house of representatives may not adopt based on personal income.

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

I. That the second part of the constitution be amended by inserting after article 18-a the following new article:

[Art.] 18-b. [Taxes Based on Personal Income Prohibited.] The house of representatives shall not adopt a tax on wages, earned income, personal income, or other income of individuals. This prohibition shall apply to any tax measured in whole or in part by personal income, regardless of its designation. Nothing in this article shall prohibit the taxation of businesses, corporations, or other non-individual entities as otherwise permitted under this constitution.

II. That the above amendment proposed to the constitution be submitted to the qualified voters of the state at the state general election to be held in November, 2026.

III. That the selectmen of all towns, cities, wards and places in the state are directed to insert in their warrants for the said 2026 election an article to the following effect: To decide whether the amendments of the constitution proposed by the 2026 session of the general court shall be approved.

IV. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:

“Are you in favor of amending the second part of the constitution by inserting after article 18-a a new article to read as follows:

[Art.] 18-b. [Taxes Based on Personal Income Prohibited.] The house of representatives shall not adopt a tax on wages, earned income, personal income, or other income of individuals. This prohibition shall apply to any tax measured in whole or in part by personal income, regardless of its designation. Nothing in this article shall prohibit the taxation of businesses, corporations, or other non-individual entities as otherwise permitted under this constitution.”

V. That the secretary of state shall print the question to be submitted on a separate ballot with other constitutional questions or on the official ballot. The ballot containing the question shall include 2 ovals next to the question allowing the voter to vote “Yes” or “No.” If no oval is marked, the ballot shall not be counted on the question. The outside of the ballot shall be the same as the regular official ballot except that the words “Questions Relating to Constitutional Amendments proposed by the 2026 General Court” shall be printed in bold type at the top of the ballot.

VI. That if the proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of those voting on the amendment, it becomes effective when the governor proclaims its adoption.

VII. Voters’ Guide.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, the house of representatives may adopt a tax on personal income.

IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, the house of representatives may not adopt a tax on personal income.

2026-1134h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution prohibits the house of representatives from adopting any tax on personal income.

**Amendment to SB 88-FN  
(2026-1577h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services–r**  
Amend RSA 21-I:86-b as inserted by section 1 of the bill by deleting paragraph III and renumbering the original paragraph IV to read as paragraph III.

**Amendment to SB 223-FN  
(2026-1829h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Election Law–r**

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

AN ACT     relative valid photo identification for purposes of obtaining a ballot and relative to the production of lists of certain schools of higher education.

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

1 Election Procedure; Voting Procedure; Obtaining a Ballot. Amend RSA 659:13, II(a) to read as follows:

II.(a) A valid photo identification shall show the name of the individual to whom the identification was issued, and the name shall substantially conform to the name in the individual’s voter registration record; it also shall show a photograph of the individual to whom the identification was issued. The photo identification shall also have an expiration date that has not been exceeded by a period of more than 5 years, except that a voter 65 years of age or older may use an otherwise qualified form of identification without regard to expiration date. [The] **Only the** following forms of identification bearing a photograph of the voter shall satisfy the identification requirements of paragraph I:

2 Repeal. RSA 21-N:4, VII, relative to the duty of the commissioner of the department of education to provide a list of certain schools operating in New Hampshire to the secretary of state, is repealed.

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

2026-1829h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that only the forms of identification listed in RSA 659:13, II(a) be used to satisfy voter identification requirements.

**Amendment to SB 298-FN  
(2026-1751h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration–r**  
Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse; Definitions. Amend RSA 172-B:1 by inserting after paragraph XIII the following new paragraph:

XIII-a. “Recovery residence” means a home-like environment for individuals recovering from substance use disorder centered around peer-support that provides an alcohol-free and drug-free living environment or any other business holding themselves out as recovery housing, sober living, or a recovery residence. This term shall not include a halfway house, treatment unit, or detoxification facility.

Amend RSA 172-B:2, V(a)(3) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(3) Criteria by which the department may **revoke certification of** ~~[exclude]~~ a residence ~~[from the list]~~ if the frequency ~~[or]~~ **and/or** severity of complaints received supports a determination that the recovery ~~[housing]~~ **residence** at issue does not maintain standards or provide an environment that appropriately supports recovery.

Amend RSA 172-B:2, VII(b)-(d) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) The certifying body shall investigate complaints received by the department regarding non-compliance with ~~[NARR]~~ **nationally recognized** standards. The certifying body shall provide an annual report to the department, and shall report quarterly on any newly certified ~~[houses]~~ **residences** or ~~[houses]~~ **residences** that are out of compliance. The certifying body shall inform the department **and the municipality in which a recovery house operates** within ~~[5]~~ **3** business days if ~~[a recovery house's]~~ certification is suspended or revoked.

~~[(c) The department shall identify certified recovery houses in good-standing on the registry created pursuant to paragraph V.~~

~~[(d) The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the process for certification and the requirements of this paragraph.]~~

Amend RSA 172-B:2, VIII and IX as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

**VIII. All recovery residences operating in the state of New Hampshire shall file with the department, on a form prescribed by the department, within 120 days of the effective date of this section to initiate the certification process. For any recovery housing residence that begins operations after the effective date of this section, the required form shall be filed with the department no later than 30 days before the first resident begins occupancy. The following information shall be included on the form:**

**(a) The name and contact information of the operator;**

**(b) The first date of occupancy;**

**(c) Information related to any existing certification or equivalent accreditation the residence has obtained or is in the process of obtaining; and**

**(d) Any other information required by the department through rule.**

**IX. All recovery residences operating within the state of New Hampshire shall obtain and maintain certification directly or through a contracted entity pursuant to the rules adopted under this chapter and the following:**

**(a) Certification shall be completed within 12 months of filing. A recovery residence shall not operate without certification unless it is actively engaged in efforts to obtain certification. For purposes of identifying this 12-month time frame, a recovery housing residence is considered to begin operating on the date that the first resident occupies the residence.**

**(b) If the department finds that a recovery residence is operating without certification, the department shall issue by certified mail a cease operations notice. The department shall notify the municipality in which a recovery house operates and the attorney general for prosecution.**

**(c) No person, business, or government entity shall advertise or represent any residence or other building to be a recovery residence, sober living home, or any other alcohol and drug free housing for persons recovering from substance use disorder unless the residence or building meets one of the following conditions:**

**(1) The residence or building is certified under this chapter; or**

**(2) The residence or building is regulated and licensed by the department.**

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

4 Department of Health and Human Services; Funding. The department shall not be required to implement the provisions of this act until such date that the program is sufficiently funded to meet the requirements of sections 1 through 3 of this act.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

#### **Amendment to SB 409-FN**

**(2026-1389h)**

#### **Proposed by the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety-r**

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Disobeying an Officer; Penalties. Amend RSA 265:4, II-III to read as follows:

II. Any person who violates any provision of paragraph I of this section may have his or her license or privilege to drive and any registrations issued in his or her name suspended.

#### **III. In addition to the penalty listed in paragraph II:**

**(a) Any person who violates the provisions of subparagraphs I (a), (b), (d), (e), or (f) of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.**

~~[(H)(a) In addition to the penalties listed in paragraph II,]~~ **(b) Any person who violates the provisions of subparagraph I(c) shall be guilty of a class B felony who, at the time of the offense alleged:**

*(1) Drives or operates at a speed more than 30 miles per hour in excess of the prima facie limit;*

*(2) Extinguishes the vehicle's exterior lighting to evade detection;*

*(3) Operates a vehicle against the designated flow of traffic on a one-way street, divided highway, or off-ramp;*

*(4) Intentionally causes a collision with, or damage to, a law enforcement vehicle with the intent to disable said vehicle or elude apprehension;*

*(5) Engages in any other extrahazardous behavior in addition to refusing to stop, that is intended to evade apprehension which a reasonable person would know creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to the officer, the person, or the general public* [A misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$500].

[~~(b)~~] *(c)* Any person who violates the provisions of subparagraph I(c), and is involved in a motor vehicle [accident] **collision** which causes serious bodily injury as defined in RSA 625:11, VI [~~while being pursued~~], shall be guilty of a class B felony.

[~~(c)~~] *(d)* Any person who violates the provisions of subparagraph I(c), and is involved in a motor vehicle [accident] **collision** which causes the death of another, shall be guilty of a class A felony.

2026-1389h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer.

#### Floor Amendment to SB 409

(2026-1773h)

Proposed by Rep. Terry Roy –r

Amend RSA 265:4, III(a)(4) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

*(4) Intentionally causes a collision with, or damage to, a law enforcement vehicle with the intent to disable said vehicle or elude apprehension; or*

2026-1773h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer.

#### Amendment to SB 416

(2026-1830h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services–r

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

2 Tip Pooling. RSA 279:26-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

279:26-b Tip Pooling.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the pooling and sharing of tips by employees shall incorporate by reference the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. section 201 et seq., and regulations promulgated under such act, including but not limited to 29 C.F.R. sections 531.50, 531.52, 531.54, 531.55, 531.56, 531.57 as amended and as applicable.

II. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no employer shall impose a tip pooling or sharing arrangement that includes employees who are not employed in an occupation in which employees customarily and regularly receive tips.

III. Paragraph II shall not apply to employees who engage in customer service functions and have direct interactions with customers in the chain of service in roles including, but not limited to, bartenders, bussers, hosts, and food runners.

IV. Owners, managers, and supervisors of a business shall be prohibited from participating in a tip pool or tip share arrangement, even if these individuals provide direct service or have direct interactions with customers.

V. The commissioner of the department of labor may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, as may be relative to this section.

3 Definition of Tip Pooling. Amend RSA 279:1, XIII to read as follows:

XIII. "Tip pooling" means the [~~voluntary~~] practice by which the tip earnings of directly tipped employees within the same job category are intermingled in a common pool and then redistributed among participating employees.

4 Repeal. RSA 279:1, XV, relative to the definition of coercion, is repealed.

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

2026-1830h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill replaces the state restriction on tip pooling and sharing with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act rules governing tip pooling and authorizes the labor commissioner to adopt rules regarding the practice.



**Amendment to SB 418  
(2026-1481h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture—c**

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

AN ACT prohibiting municipalities from requiring licenses, restrictions, or exclusions for the production and sale of homestead food products.

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

1 New Paragraph; Local Regulations; Homestead Food Licenses. Amend RSA 147:1 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Neither the governing body of a municipality nor the health officers of a town or city under RSA 47:12 shall make regulations requiring licenses, restrictions, or exclusions for activities or products that are exempt under RSA 143A:12 or RSA 143-A:5, VII.

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

2026-1481h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits municipalities from requiring licenses, restrictions, or exclusions for the production and sale of homestead food products.

**Amendment to SB 430  
(2026-1817h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Policy and Administration—r**

Amend RSA 189:13-d, I-II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Educators credentialed by the New Hampshire department of education shall have a duty to respond to written inquiries by parents and legal guardians regarding information relating to their child enrolled in that educator's school. Such response to a written request shall be sent within 10 business days of its receipt and be answered completely and honestly, except where prohibited by state or federal law.

II. If, in the good faith determination of the credential holder, such complete and honest response to a request would put the child at imminent risk of abuse or neglect, as defined in RSA 169-C:3, such credential holder shall file a report with the superintendent, and the request for information shall be denied in writing.

2026-1817h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires all school employees to respond honestly and completely to written requests by parents and legal guardians regarding information relating to their children, except where such responses are prohibited by state or federal law.

**Amendment to SB 434  
(2026-1815h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Policy and Administration—r**

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

1 New Subdivision; Prohibition of Materials Harmful to Minors in Schools. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after section 74 the following new subdivision:

Prohibition of Materials Harmful to Minors in Schools

189:74-a Prohibition of Materials Harmful to Minors in Schools.

I. For the purposes of this subdivision:

(a) "Material" means any printed matter, visual presentation, web-based content, live performance, or sound recording, including, but not limited to, books, magazines, motion picture films or videos, pamphlets, phonographic records, pictures, drawings, photographs, figures, statues, plays, dances, or other representations that are provided by the school district or by school employees, volunteers, guests, or speakers.

(b) "Material considered harmful to minors" means material that, when considered as a whole:

(1) Predominantly appeals to the prurient interest of minors;

(2) Depicts sexual conduct in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable for minors;

(3) Lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value; and

(4) Is inappropriate to the age of the minors to whom it is being made available or presented.

II. No later than September 1, 2026, each local school board shall adopt a policy to be used to address complaints submitted by parents or guardians alleging that material that is presented or made available is harmful to minors or age inappropriate. The policy shall be posted on the district website. The policy shall include the definition for material considered harmful to minors, as defined in RSA 189:74-a, I(b).

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

2026-1815h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires local school boards to adopt and display a policy to be used to address complaints submitted by parents or guardians alleging that material made available in school is harmful or inappropriate to minors.

**Amendment to SB 438  
(2026-1833h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Election Law—c**

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

AN ACT      relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days.

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

1 Department of State; Centralized Voter Registration Records. Amend RSA 654:12, VI to read as follows:

VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in accordance with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity to the city and town clerks. The secretary of state shall work with the city and town clerks to ensure direct or indirect access on election day at the polling location to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place. If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that qualification. Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

2 Centralized Voter Registration Database. Amend RSA 654:45 to read as follows:

654:45 Centralized Voter Registration Database.

I.(a) The secretary of state ~~[is authorized to]~~ **shall** plan, develop, equip, establish, site, and maintain a statewide centralized voter registration database and communications system, hereinafter referred to as the voter database, connecting users throughout the state. The voter database shall include the current information on the voter registration forms, the accepted absentee ballot applications, the voter checklists, and voter actions as recorded on the marked checklist maintained by each city, ward, and town in the state. The database shall maintain addresses in accordance with United States Postal Service standardized addresses as described in the current USPS Publication 28.

(b) The secretary of state shall provide for a verification process that voters sharing a place and date of birth, along with a substantially similar name to include nicknames or likely maiden/married name changes, are unique voters. Should any voter appear to be a duplicate, that information shall be forwarded to the supervisors of the checklist of the cities or towns involved for review and confirmation. The supervisor of the checklist shall notify the secretary of state of the result of such review, and should the records show that a single individual may have voted more than once in any election such information shall be forwarded to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution.

II. Any election official in the state authorized by this chapter to have direct access to the voter database may obtain immediate electronic access to the information contained in the voter database related to individuals registered or registering to vote in the election official's jurisdiction. The office of the clerk is hereby designated as a database access point for each town or city. The secretary of state may authorize additional database access points in a town or city, including election day access points at polling places **during the operational hours of the polling place**.

III. The voter database shall, upon certification by the secretary of state, be the official record of eligible voters for the conduct of all elections held in this state.

IV.(a) The voter database shall have the following minimum components:

(1) An electronic communications system that provides access for election officials from at least one point in each city and town within the state.

(2) An interactive computer program allowing local election officials access to records contained in the database with a process to add, delete, modify, or print a voter registration record related to the election official's jurisdiction. The system shall be designed so that there can be regular updates to the database, the records reflect the name of each registered voter with no duplication, and the names of ineligible voters are removed. The system shall contain safeguards to ensure that the names of properly registered voters are not removed in error.

(b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of the department of safety and the federal Social Security Administration as are required by law, and with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this purpose the voter registration record database [may] **shall** be linked to the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency or division may save or retain voter information

or use it for purposes other than verifying the accuracy of the information to be entered or contained in the voter database. The link authorized by this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles; provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall ~~[authorize]~~ **provide, via a secure electronic transmission**, the release of information from the voter database necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II. The commissioner of safety ~~[may authorize the release of]~~ **shall provide, via a secure electronic transmission**, information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records to the extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies or to complete voter registration. The commissioner of safety and the secretary of state ~~[are authorized to]~~ **shall** enter into an agreement that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those services. ~~[The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to pay the cost for the services.]~~ The system shall facilitate the completion, identification, and correction of voter registration records, including but not limited to when a registered voter has died or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the same individual to the department of safety or to verify citizenship for voter registration.

— (c) Access by local election officials to the voter database shall be limited to the supervisors of the checklist, city registrars and deputy registrars, and town or city clerks and their deputies, as determined by the secretary of state. Access by local election officials shall be subject to the limitations of paragraph VI, and shall be limited to the records of individuals who are currently registered to vote in the official's jurisdiction and individuals who are applying to register to vote in the official's jurisdiction.

— (d) Beginning July 1, 2022, the secretary of state shall, no less than annually, cause voter records to be checked with the United States Postal Service for changes of address. All records identified as moving shall be provided to the city or town supervisors of the checklist for verification pursuant to RSA 654:39, III.

— V. The secretary of state shall:

— (a) Specify the employees of the department of state authorized to access records contained in the voter database, subject to the limitations of paragraph VI.

— (b) Provide adequate technological security measures to deter unauthorized access to the records contained in the voter database.

— (c) Issue guidelines to implement the voter database.

— VI. The voter database shall be private and confidential and shall not be subject to RSA 91-A and RSA 654:31, nor shall it or any of the information contained therein be disclosed pursuant to a subpoena or civil litigation discovery request. The secretary of state is authorized to provide voter database record data to the administrative office of the courts to assist in the preparation of master jury lists pursuant to RSA 500-A and to the clerk of the District Court of the United States for the District of New Hampshire to assist in the preparation of federal court jury lists. The voter checklist for a town or city shall be available pursuant to RSA 654:31. Any person who discloses information from the voter database in any manner not authorized by this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

— VII. The city and town clerk shall enter, maintain, and keep up to date election official contact information and polling place information as determined by the secretary of state in the statewide centralized voter registration database for use by the secretary of state in effecting election laws.

— VIII.(a) The secretary of state may enter into an agreement to share voter information or data from the statewide centralized voter registration database for the purpose of comparing duplicate voter information with other states or groups of states. The secretary of state shall only provide information that is necessary for matching duplicate voter information with other states and shall take precautions to make sure that information in the database is secure in a manner consistent with RSA 654:45, VI. The secretary of state ~~[may]~~ **shall** solicit input from the department of safety and the department of information technology and shall ensure that any information or data shared between the agencies that is of a confidential nature remains confidential.

(b) The secretary of state shall investigate any duplicate matches of voters resulting from any comparisons of the statewide centralized voter registration database with other states. If the investigation results in the inability to confirm the eligibility of a person or persons who voted, or there is reason to believe a person or persons voted who were not eligible, the secretary of state shall forward the results to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution.

(c) Upon completion of any investigation authorized under RSA 654:45, VIII(b), the attorney general and the secretary of state shall forward a report summarizing the results of the investigation to the speaker of

the house of representatives, the president of the senate, *the majority and minority leaders of the house of representatives and the senate*, and the chairpersons of the appropriate house and senate standing committees with jurisdiction over election law.

IX. [Repealed.]

3 New Paragraph; Motor Vehicles; Records and Certification. Amend RSA 260:14 by inserting after paragraph III-e the following new paragraph:

III-f. Motor vehicle records relevant to voter registration shall be provided to the secretary of state pursuant to RSA 654:45. These records may be further transferred by the secretary of state or otherwise made available by the secretary of state to city or town clerks, supervisors of the checklist, or other election officials for purposes of voter registration.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 30, 2026.

2026-1833h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the secretary of state, town, and city clerks to ensure that each polling place in the state has access to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place.

#### Amendment to SB 439

(2026-1807h)

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Subdivision; Data Centers. Amend RSA 674 by inserting after section 80 the following new subdivision:

#### Data Centers

674:81 Definition. In this subdivision, “data center” means a facility used primarily for the storage, processing, management, and transmission of digital data. “Data center” does not include:

I. Embedded or accessory computing uses within larger facilities, meaning a computing operation that meets all of the following conditions:

(a) Occupies not more than 25 percent of the gross floor area of all on-site buildings or portions thereof attributable to such use;

(b) Is used to serve the enterprise functions of the on-site property owner and is not primarily engaged in providing services to third parties; and

(c) Is not used to lease data services to third parties; or

II. A facility owned or operated by a provider of telecommunications, broadband, Internet, cable, or wireless services that primarily supports telecommunications network operations or broadband Internet access services.

674:82 Zoning Authority to Permit Data Centers.

I. Data centers shall be a permitted use by right within zoning districts designated for commercial or industrial use and subject to the provisions of local land use regulations.

II. A municipality shall not adopt or enforce any ordinance, regulation, fee, or other requirement that imposes restrictions on data centers more restrictive than those imposed on other uses permitted within the same zoning district, except through ordinances of general applicability.

III. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a data center from operating in any zoning district where it is otherwise permitted by local zoning regulations in effect at the time of application.

674:83 Planning Board Regulations.

The planning board may adopt regulations as necessary to implement this subdivision.

2026-1807h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill defines data centers and authorizes them as permitted uses by right within zoning districts designated for commercial and industrial use, while prohibiting municipalities from imposing requirements on them that are more restrictive than those applied to other permitted uses in the same districts.

#### Amendment to SB 461

(2026-1344h)

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Hemp; Definitions. RSA 439-A:2, V is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V. “Hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. Total THC concentration shall include the sum of all THC, including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA).



**Amendment to SB 475  
(2026-1838h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture–c**

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

AN ACT       relative to pet vendor foster homes, defining pet vendor foster facility, and relative to cruelty to livestock.

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

1 New Paragraphs; Pet Vendor Foster Home; Definition. Amend RSA 437:1 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. “Pet vendor foster home” means a private residence in New Hampshire associated with and inspected by a pet vendor licensed under RSA 437:3 that is used to provide temporary physical custody and care at such private residence for the pet vendor’s animals, including, but not limited to, pregnant or lactating animals, when it is deemed to be in the best interests of that animal’s health, safety and wellbeing as determined by a New Hampshire licensed veterinarian.

VII. “Pet vendor foster facility” means a facility in New Hampshire that may house animals owned and inspected by a pet vendor licensed under RSA 437:1 that is used to provide temporary physical custody and care at such facility for medical or behavioral rehabilitation when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the animal’s health, safety, and wellbeing as determined by a New Hampshire licensed veterinarian.

2 New Paragraphs; Sale Of Pets And Disposition Of Unclaimed Animals; Transfer of Animals and Birds; Requirements. Amend RSA 437:3 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. A pet vendor shall report, at least annually and updated as necessary, on all pet vendor foster homes associated with the pet vendor to the department of agriculture, markets, and food to ensure compliance with licensure, animal inventory, and applicable pet limit requirements, as established by department rules pursuant to RSA 541-A.

VII. Information contained in such pet vendor foster home listings shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public disclosure in accordance with RSA 436:6-a and RSA 91-A.

3 Cruelty to Animals. Amend RSA 644:8, IV(a)(1) to read as follows:

IV.(a)(1) Any person charged with animal cruelty under paragraphs III or III-a may have his or her animals, ***except for livestock***, confiscated by the arresting officer. ***The confiscation of livestock shall be governed by paragraph IV-b.***

4 Cruelty to Animals. Amend RSA 644:8, IV-a(a) to read as follows:

IV-a.(a) Except as provided in subparagraphs (b) and (c) any appropriate law enforcement officer, animal control officer, or officer of a duly licensed humane society may take into temporary protective custody any animal, ***except for livestock, which shall be governed by paragraph IV-b***, when there is probable cause to believe that it has been or is being abused or neglected in violation of paragraphs III or III-a when there is a clear and imminent danger to the animal’s health or life and there is not sufficient time to obtain a court order. Such officer shall leave a written notice indicating the type and number of animals taken into protective custody, the name of the officer, the time and date taken, the reason it was taken, the procedure to have the animal returned and any other relevant information. Such notice shall be left at the location where the animal was taken into custody. The officer shall provide for proper care and housing of any animal taken into protective custody under this paragraph. If, after 7 days, the animal has not been returned or claimed, the officer shall petition the municipal or district court seeking either permanent custody or a one-week extension of custody or shall file charges under this section. If a week’s extension is granted by the court and after a period of 14 days the animal remains unclaimed, the title and custody of the animal shall rest with the officer on behalf of the officer’s department or society. The department or society may dispose of the animal in any lawful and humane manner as if it were the rightful owner. If after 14 days the officer or the officer’s department determines that charges should be filed under this section, the officer shall petition the court.

5 New Paragraphs; Cruelty to Animals; Livestock. Amend RSA 644:8 by inserting after paragraph IV-a the following new paragraphs:

IV-b.(a) Any person charged with cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8 paragraphs III or III-a concerning livestock may have his or her livestock confiscated by the arresting officer. No animal shall be confiscated unless a person is charged under this section, except when there is probable cause to believe the livestock’s life is in imminent danger. The investigating officer for a case involving livestock as defined in RSA 427:38, III shall be accompanied by the state veterinarian or designee, to include New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food staff, or a licensed veterinarian, or other qualified staff from an animal shelter facility approved by the state veterinarian, in person or by video who shall determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the livestock should be confiscated. Livestock confiscated without a warrant where a charge has not been filed shall be returned within 10 days.

(b) The department of justice shall develop a form to be distributed to any person charged with cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8, paragraphs III or IIIa, concerning livestock. The form shall inform the person of their right to have the confiscated livestock examined by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332B, chosen by the person charged, at the person's expense.

(c) Courts shall give cases in which livestock have been confiscated by an arresting officer priority on the court calendar, as outlined in RSA 644:8, IV(a)(3).

(d) Any person with proof of sole ownership or co-ownership of the livestock confiscated by an arresting officer in a livestock cruelty case and who is not a defendant or party of interest in the criminal case may petition the court for temporary custody of the livestock. The court shall give such person priority for temporary custody of the livestock if the court determines it is in the best interest of the livestock's health, safety, and wellbeing.

(e) No custodian of the livestock confiscated under this section shall spay or neuter or otherwise permanently alter the confiscated livestock in his or her custody pending final disposition of the court case unless a treating veterinarian deems such procedure necessary to save the life of the livestock or the owner of the livestock agrees in writing to the procedure or treatment. If the treating veterinarian believes that livestock which has been confiscated is in a state of suffering and that the cost to alleviate the suffering will exceed the amount of allowable reimbursement as set by Agr 3504.01(c)(8), unless the owner pays for the care, the animal shall be euthanized.

(f) Upon a person's conviction of cruelty to animals regarding livestock, the court shall dispose of the confiscated livestock in any manner it decides except in a case in which the confiscated livestock is owned or co-owned by persons other than the defendant. If the defendant does not have an ownership interest in the confiscated livestock, the court shall give priority to restoring full ownership rights to any person with proof of ownership if the court determines that such is in the best interest of the livestock's health, safety, and wellbeing. If the confiscated livestock is co-owned by the defendant, the court shall give priority to transferring the defendant's interest in the property to the remaining owner or co-owners equitably if the court determines that such is in the best interest of the livestock's health, safety, and wellbeing.

(g) The costs to provide the confiscated livestock with humane care and adequate and necessary veterinary services, if any, incurred in boarding and treating the livestock, pending disposition of the case, and in disposing of the livestock upon a conviction of said person for cruelty to animals regarding livestock, shall be borne by the person so convicted in accordance with rules adopted by the department of agriculture, markets, and food.

(h) Any donations raised using the stories or likenesses of the animals in protective custody shall be used to offset the cost of care of such animals.

IV-c.(a) Except as provided in RSA 644:8, IV(b), any appropriate law enforcement officer or municipal animal control officer may take into temporary protective custody any livestock when the owner or caretaker is not present and there is probable cause to believe that it has been or is being abused or neglected in violation of paragraphs III or III-a when there is a clear and imminent danger to the livestock's health or life and there is not sufficient time to obtain a court order. Such officer shall leave a written notice indicating the type and number of livestock taken into protective custody, the name of the officer, the time and date taken, the reason it was taken, the procedure to have the livestock returned and any other relevant information. Such notice shall be left at the location where the livestock was taken into custody. The officer shall provide for proper care and housing of any livestock taken into protective custody under this paragraph. For any livestock confiscated without a warrant where a charge has not been filed, the confiscated livestock shall be returned within 10 days. If, after 10 days, the livestock has not been returned or claimed, the officer shall petition the municipal or district court seeking either permanent custody or a one-week extension of custody or shall file charges under this section. If a week's extension is granted by the court and after a period of 14 days the livestock remains unclaimed, the title and custody of the livestock shall rest with the officer on behalf of the officer's department. The department may dispose of the livestock in any lawful and humane manner as if it were the rightful owner. If after 14 days the officer or the officer's department determines that charges should be filed under this section, the officer shall petition the court. An owner of livestock taken into protective custody shall have the right as referenced in subparagraph IV(b).

(b) For purposes of subparagraph (a) the investigating officer for livestock, as defined RSA 427:38, III, shall be accompanied by the state veterinarian or their designee in person or by video who shall set the probable cause criteria for taking the livestock.

(c) In cases where one or more lactating livestock is confiscated, proof shall be provided by the confiscating party to the attending veterinarian and the owner or caretaker that proper care and facilities shall be provided for adults and offspring. No lactating livestock shall be separated from its non-weaned offspring unless such separation is authorized by a licensed veterinarian.

(d) No person, other than the state veterinarian or their designee, or an employee of a government agency with jurisdiction to investigate violations of this section, and which is conducting an investigation under

this section, may take part during any investigation into a complaint conducted pursuant to this section. No person who may be called upon to take custody of any livestock seized as a result of a complaint under this section may participate in the decision to seize any livestock. The act of making or forwarding a complaint does not make a person part of an investigation and does not render that person ineligible to take animals into custody.

(e) In order to protect the integrity of complaint investigations an appropriate law enforcement officer shall require any person or their designated agent called upon to take custody of any livestock seized or to assist during any complaint investigation, to sign a binding nondisclosure agreement intended to protect any shared or confidential information against unauthorized use pending final adjudication or dismissal of such complaint; provided that information may be disclosed only to officials with a need to know who are subject to confidentiality obligations.

(f) No custodian of livestock in temporary protective custody under this section shall spay or neuter or otherwise permanently alter the confiscated livestock in his or her custody pending final disposition of the court case unless a treating veterinarian deems such procedure necessary to save the life of the livestock or the owner of the livestock agrees in writing to the procedure or treatment. If the treating veterinarian believes that livestock which has been confiscated is in a state of suffering and that the cost to alleviate the suffering will exceed the amount of allowable reimbursement as set by Agr 3504.01(c)(8), unless the owner pays for the care or surrenders the animal outright or for care by an animal shelter facility, the animal shall be euthanized.

6 Veterinarian Assistant. Amend RSA 644:8, V to read as follows:

V. A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state *and the state veterinarian or their designee* shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made for services rendered under the provisions of this section or RSA 435:11-16. Such a veterinarian *or designee* is, therefore, under this paragraph, protected from a lawsuit for his *or her* part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.

7 State Veterinarian; Powers. Amend RSA 436:8 to read as follows:

436:8 Powers. The state veterinarian, under the direction of the commissioner, shall have all of the powers of the commissioner and shall have general charge of the enforcement of this chapter. Complaints under RSA 644:8, 644:8-a, 644:8-aa and any other law pertaining to the abuse of domestic animals, as defined under RSA 436:1, shall initially be filed with the local law enforcement agency, animal control officer, state police, or sheriff which has jurisdiction over where the animal is located or kept. At the request of the local law enforcement agency, animal control officer, state police, or sheriff, the state veterinarian shall assist in a secondary capacity in enforcing the provisions of and investigating said complaints. ~~[In the event the commissioner becomes incapacitated or a vacancy occurs in the office, the state veterinarian shall perform all the duties of that office during any such incapacity or until any such vacancy is filled. The commissioner may direct the state veterinarian to act for him or her in an official capacity whenever he or she may be absent from his or her duties.]~~

8 Repeal. RSA 644:8, IV-a(b), relative to livestock confiscation, is repealed.

9 Effective Date.

I. Sections 3-8 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

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

2026-1838h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill includes a determination of the best interest of the animal in the definition of foster home and provides procedures for the potential confiscation of livestock involved in cruelty to animal cases.

#### Amendment to SB 498-FN (2026-1757h)

#### Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-r

Amend RSA 135-F:10, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. "Assessable lives" means all children under 19 years of age residing in the state who have assessable coverage written or administered by an assessable entity, with the exception of:

(a) Children whose childhood behavioral health services are paid for under Medicaid; or

(b) Children covered under a health benefit plan product that qualifies for an exemption under RSA 135-F:13-a.

Amend RSA 135-F:12, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after subparagraph (q) the following new subparagraph:

(r) Coordinate with the commissioner of the department of health and human services to receive an annual, de-identified report detailing the aggregate cost of childhood behavioral health services reimbursed by the state during the prior calendar year.

Amend RSA 135-F:13 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

## 135-F:13 Assessment Determination.

I. The board shall determine an assessment for each assessable entity in accordance with this section. An assessment determination made pursuant to this section is a medical benefit cost and not a regulatory cost for purposes of calculating the carrier's medical loss ratio.

II. In determining the assessment amount, the board shall:

- (a) Estimate the total non-federal program cost for the succeeding year;
- (b) Add its anticipated operating costs for the succeeding year and such additional working capital reserves as may be established by the board from time to time;
- (c) Add a reserve of up to 10 percent of the anticipated cost under subparagraph (a) for unanticipated costs associated with providing childhood behavioral health services to children covered;
- (d) Subtract the amount of any unexpended assessments collected in the preceding year along with any unexpended interest accrued to the fund during the preceding year; and
- (e) Apportion the resulting total assessment need among all assessable entities by dividing that total assessment need by the total number of assessable lives in the state, as defined in RSA 135-F:10, III, and applying that per-life rate to each assessable entity.

III. The board shall include in its plan of operations, details regarding the timing for assessment collections, and the form and format assessable entities shall use to calculate assessments.

IV. The board shall include in its plan of operation details regarding payment due dates, grace periods, late payment fees, interest, and other details regarding the collection of assessments.

V. The board may determine an interim assessment for new childhood behavioral health services or unanticipated shortfalls in the association's ability to meet childhood behavioral health services funding needs. The board shall calculate the interim assessment in accordance with paragraph II, and the interim assessment is payable the calendar quarter that begins no less than 30 days following the establishment of the interim assessment. The board shall not impose more than one interim assessment per year.

VI. In the event that the association discontinues operation for any reason, any unexpended assessments, including unexpended funds from prior assessments in the state childhood behavioral health services fund, shall be refunded to payees in proportion to the respective assessment payments by payees over the most recent 8 quarters prior to discontinuation of association operations.

## 135-F:13-a Conditional Exemption and Provider Responsibilities.

I. Subject to joint approval by the department of insurance and the department of health and human services and subsequent to a coverage adequacy review to be jointly conducted by both departments, to qualify for the exemption under this section as referenced in RSA 135-F:10, III(b), an assessable entity shall provide:

(a) Comprehensive coverage of the children's behavioral health service array defined in RSA 135-F:10, VIII; and

(b) Inclusion of care management entities (CMEs) as defined in RSA 135-F:10, VII in its provider network; or

(c) Evidence that care management entities refused commercially reasonable rates, defined as actuarially reasonable and not less than Medicaid, for provider network participation.

II. To maintain the exemption for a given calendar year, the assessable entity shall maintain its service array and CME network contract in good standing for the entirety of that year.

III. Care management entities operating within the state shall engage in good faith negotiations with assessable entities to establish in-network contracts. The department of health and human services shall require such negotiations as a condition of CME provider contracts.

IV. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a health benefit plan to provide coverage for childhood behavioral health services.

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 180 days after its passage.

**Amendment to SB 504  
(2026-1742h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration-r**

Amend RSA 318:1, XIV(a)(6) as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(6) The prescribing, ordering, administering, and interpretation of laboratory tests, controlled and noncontrolled drugs, and devices in accordance with applicable state and federal law;

Amend the bill by replacing section 10 with the following:

10 Pharmacy Board; Rulemaking; Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technicians. Amend RSA 318:5-a, XI-c(a) to read as follows:

(a) Requirements for licensure, including experience and education requirements. ***Any examination requirement for licensure shall be limited to the scope of practice, and such requirement shall be suspended if the board is unable to verify that the exam complies with board requirements.***



Amend the bill by inserting after section 12 the following and renumbering the original section 13 to read as 14:  
13 Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines. Amend RSA 318:16-b, II to read as follows:

II. A pharmacist, pharmacy intern, [or] licensed advanced pharmacy technician, ***or certified pharmacy technician***, under the supervision of an on-site immunizing pharmacist may administer vaccines licensed by the United States Food and Drug Administration [~~that are recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or successor organization,~~] to individuals 18 years of age or older as ordered by an immunizing pharmacist.

2026-1742h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Authorizes the dispensing of up to a 30-day supply of noncontrolled oral anti-cancer medication by a licensed health care professional legally authorized to prescribe and administer medications to a patient under a provider's care or supervision subject to certain conditions.

II. Amends the display requirements for certain licenses and permits.

III. Authorizes licensed advanced pharmacy technicians to engage in remote processing.

IV. Removes the requirement that a pharmacist's name or initials be on a label affixed to any controlled drug or prescription issued.

V. Amends the definition of the "practice of pharmacy."

VI. Removes certain authority of the board of pharmacy with respect to the regulation of collaborative pharmacy practice agreements.

VII. Limits any examination requirement for licensure as an advanced pharmacy technician to scope of practice.

VIII. Prohibits the pharmacy board from testing applicants on pharmacy jurisprudence or law.

IX. Allows supervised certified pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines, and eliminates a requirement that vaccines be recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices before being administered by pharmacists, pharmacy interns, licensed advanced pharmacy technicians, or certified pharmacy technicians.

**Amendment to SB 524  
(2026-1579h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-c**

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

AN ACT     relative to the sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products and relative to the licensure and sale of certain liquor products.

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

1 Liquor Licenses and Fees; Combination Licenses. Amend RSA 178:18, I-III to read as follows:

I. Off-premises licenses shall be issued only for grocery and drug stores. Such licenses shall authorize the licensees to sell fortified wine, table wine, beverages, and specialty beverages for consumption only off the premises designated in the licenses and not to other licensees for resale. Such sale shall be made only in the immediate container in which the beverage, specialty beverage, wine, or fortified wine was received by the off-premises combination licensee; except that in the case of the holder of a wholesale distributor license, beverages and specialty beverages may be sold only in such barrels, bottles, or other containers as the commission may by rule prescribe. [~~Off-premises licenses may also authorize the licensee to sell tobacco products or e-cigarettes.~~] There shall be no restriction on the number of combination licenses held by any person. The license shall authorize the licensee to transport and deliver beverages, specialty beverages, [~~tobacco products, e-cigarettes,~~] and table or fortified wines ordered from and sold by the licensee in vehicles operated under the licensee's control or an employee's control.

II. All sales of [~~tobacco, e-cigarettes,~~] beverages, fortified wines, and table wine shall be recorded on cash registers. No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year without prior approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued during the license year.

[~~III. The commission may suspend the tobacco, e-cigarettes, or alcohol sales portion of the license separately under the provisions of RSA 179:57; any revocation shall revoke the entire license.~~]

2 Liquor Licenses and Fees; Retail Wine License. Amend RSA 178:19, I-IV to read as follows:

I. A retail wine license may be issued by the commission to any person operating a retail outlet in this state which shall allow the licensee to sell [~~tobacco products, e-cigarettes,~~] fortified wines[,] and table wines directly to individuals at retail on the premises for consumption off the premises; provided, however, that persons holding any license authorizing the sale of liquor or wine by the glass under this chapter shall sell the wines authorized pursuant to this section in a separate area of the premises from the areas licensed for on-premises consumption. A separate license shall be required with respect to each place of business of an

applicant. The license shall authorize the licensee to transport and deliver fortified and table wines ordered from and sold by the commission and sold by the licensee in vehicles operated under the licensee's control or an employee's control.

II. All sales of wine[, tobacco products, and e-cigarettes] shall be recorded on cash registers. No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year without prior approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued during the license year.

III. On-premises licensees licensed under this chapter shall maintain separate rooms for storage, shelving, display[, and sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes,] and fortified and table wine for consumption off the premises. Such rooms shall be equipped with at least one cash register which shall be capable of separately registering wine sales, and such rooms shall have an attendant at all times while open for business. Wine purchased for resale by virtue of the retail wine license shall be purchased on separate invoices from that wine intended for consumption in the dining room or lounge, and separate sales records shall be maintained for this purpose.

~~IV. The commission may suspend the tobacco, e-cigarette, or alcohol sales portion of the license separately under the provisions of RSA 179:57; any revocation shall revoke the entire license.]~~

3 Liquor Licenses and Fees; Beer Specialty License. Amend RSA 178:19-d, I-VI to read as follows:

I. A beer specialty license may be issued by the commission to any person operating a retail outlet in this state the primary business of which is the sale of beer as defined in RSA 175:1. A beer specialty license shall allow the licensee to sell beverage[; **and** wine[, tobacco, and e-cigarettes] products directly to individuals at retail on the premises for consumption off the premises; beer may be sold in such barrels, bottles, or other containers as the commission may by rule prescribe.

II. Beer specialty licensees shall maintain an inventory of 500 or more selection of beer labels.

III. Beer specialty licensees shall maintain an inventory of food and nonalcoholic beverages which are readily available to the public, the wholesale value of which shall not be less than \$1,000.

IV. The commission may establish restrictions on the number of beer specialty licenses held by any person.

V. All sales of beer[, tobacco products, and e-cigarettes] shall be recorded on cash registers. No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year without prior approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued during the license year.

~~VI. The commission may suspend the tobacco, e-cigarette, or alcohol sales portion of the license separately under the provisions of RSA 179:57.]~~

4 New Subparagraph; Liquor Licenses and Fees; Tobacco Product Seizure. Amend RSA 178:19-g, I by inserting after subparagraph (d) the following new subparagraph:

(e) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized under this section, the commission may exercise the seizure authority provided in RSA 178:19-g and may implement a "seizure in place" method for tobacco products found in violation of RSA 78 or this chapter. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, governing the procedures for seizure in place, custody, and disposition.

5 New Section; Liquor Licenses and Fees; Reporting Requirements. Amend RSA 178 by inserting after section 19-h the following new section:

178:19-i Reporting Requirements.

I. The holders of the retail tobacco licenses, tobacco products manufacturers, and tobacco products wholesalers shall be required to report inventory, loss, purchases and sales to the commission.

II. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing reporting requirements and procedures pursuant to this section.

6 Enforcement Proceedings and Penalties; Suspension or Revocation; Administrative Fines. Amend RSA 179:57, I(e) to read as follows:

(e) Otherwise fails to carry out in good faith the purposes of this title or if the premises are regularly the site of violence, the license of such licensee may be suspended or revoked after notice and hearing, in accordance with RSA 541-A:31-36. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the commission after the appropriate hearing may impose a fine of a specific sum, which shall not be less than \$100 nor more than \$7,500 for any one offense, **except for fines issue under subparagraph (1), which may exceed \$7,500.** Such a fine may be imposed instead of, or in addition to, any suspension or revocation of a license by the commission.

**(1) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized under this section, a licensee who is found in possession of, selling, delivering, or otherwise receiving illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products in violation of RSA 78, RSA 178:19-a, 178:19-e, or 179:19-f shall be subject to an administrative fine equal to the amount of state tobacco tax that would have been due had the tobacco products been lawfully purchased and taxed under RSA 78.**

**(2) The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing procedures for the assessment, notice, hearing, and collection of such fines. Such products shall not be returned to the licensee and shall be destroyed.**

7 New Paragraphs; Minors; Tobacco Violations. Amend RSA 126-K:6 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraphs:

IV. Notwithstanding RSA 169-B and RSA 169-D, a person 12 years of age and older who violates this section shall not be considered a delinquent or a child in need of services.

V. Any person who has not attained 21 years of age who violates this section shall be guilty of a violation and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100 for each offense or shall be required to complete up to 20 hours of community service for each offense, or both. Where available, punishment may also include participation in an education program.

8 New Section; Alcoholic Beverages; Definitions and General Provisions; Alcoholic Preparations Not Fit for Use as a Beverage. Amend RSA 175 by inserting after section 5-b the following new section:

175:5-c Alcoholic Preparations Not Fit for Use as a Beverage. RSA 175 through RSA 180 shall not apply to the sale of alcoholic preparations that are not fit for use as a beverage, including:

I. Dietary supplements, as defined in 21 U.S.C. 321, amended by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, and as may be amended from time to time;

II. Nonprescription or proprietary medicines, as defined in RSA 318:1, XVIII;

III. Toilet, medicinal, or antiseptic preparations that are not fit for use as a beverage; and

IV. Flavoring extracts or syrups that are not fit for use as a beverage.

9 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-1579h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Creates a fine for a person under 21 years of age who violates the laws relative to use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products.

II. Changes what types of products businesses with different types of liquor licenses are able to sell.

III. Requires holders of the retail tobacco licenses, tobacco products manufacturers, and tobacco products wholesalers to report inventory, loss, purchases and sales to the liquor commission.

IV. Subjects licensees found in possession of selling or delivering illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products to an administrative fine equal to the amount of state tobacco tax that would have been due had the tobacco products been lawfully purchased and taxed.

V. Exempts the sale of alcoholic preparations not fit for use as a beverage from regulation under the title relative to alcoholic beverages.

#### **Amendment to SB 544-FN (2026-1703h)**

#### **Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-c**

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

#### **Amendment to SB 550-FN (2026-1702h)**

#### **Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-c**

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

#### **Amendment to SB 557-FN (2026-1798h)**

#### **Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Finance-r**

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

AN ACT making synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal to prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise, with exceptions made for scientific research.

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

1 New Subdivision; Synthetic Kratom Policy. Amend RSA 318-B by inserting after section 50 the following new subdivision:

#### **Synthetic Kratom Policy**

318-B:51 Definitions. In this subdivision, “synthetic kratom” or “semisynthetic kratom” means:

I. An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has been created by chemical synthesis or biosynthetic means, including fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast derived, and enzymatic techniques, rather than traditional food preparation techniques, such as heating or extracting that synthetically alters the composition of any kratom alkaloid or constituent;

II. A product containing 7-Hydroxymitragynine concentrated at a level above 1000 parts per million on a dry-weight basis; or

III. An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative contained in kratom that has been exposed to chemicals or processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids, resulting in material that has been chemically altered.

318-B:52 Synthetic Kratom Limitations. No person or entity person shall prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise synthetic or semisynthetic kratom, unless such preparation, distribution, manufacturing, sale, possession, or advertisement is undertaken for the sole purpose of scientific research.

2 New Paragraph; Controlled Drug Act; Scheduling by the Commissioner. Amend RSA 318-B:1-a by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. Notwithstanding paragraph I, synthetic or semisynthetic kratom shall be classified as a schedule II controlled drug.

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

2026-1798h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal to prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise, with exceptions made for scientific research.

**Amendment to SB 567-FN  
(2026-1750h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration—c**

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

AN ACT relative to the composition of the board of dental examiners and relative to the practice of dentistry and when radiographic examinations are required.

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

2 New Paragraph; Practice of Dentistry; X-Rays; When Required. Amend RSA 317-A:17 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. Notwithstanding RSA 317-A:17, II(g), a dentist may treat a patient who has declined to have a radiographic examination. In such cases, the dentist shall require the patient to sign a waiver of liability, indicating that the patient waives the right to sue the dentist in the event that the lack of a radiographic examination results in unforeseen injury to the patient. No dentist shall be subject to license suspension, revocation, or any other disciplinary action by the board for actions taken pursuant to this paragraph.

3 Effective Date.

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

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

2026-1750h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Mandates that one member of the board of dental examiners be a general dentist.

II. Provides that a dentist may treat a patient who declines to have a radiographic examination and the dentist in such cases shall require the patient to sign a waiver of liability.

**Amendment to SB 569  
(2026-1869h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration—c**

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Hearing Officers. Amend RSA 281-A:42-b to read as follows:

281-A:42-b Hearing Officers. The commissioner shall appoint as many individuals as necessary to carry out the department's responsibilities under this chapter. Such individuals ~~[shall have experience in workers' compensation and]~~ shall hear workers' compensation cases before the commissioner. The commissioner shall set forth the job qualification necessary to ~~[insure]~~ **ensure** that each hearing officer is qualified to hear workers' compensation cases. ***Individuals employed as hearing officers shall have graduated from an accredited law school. The commissioner shall give a hiring preference to licensed attorneys who have workers' compensation experience or who have administrative adjudication experience.*** The ***hearing officer*** salary shall be commensurate with the responsibilities and experience required. The commissioner shall, by rules adopted under RSA 541-A, strengthen the reporting structure and the role of a hearing officer; develop a code of ethics for hearings and hearing officers; develop and require at least 15 hours of continuing education on an annual basis for hearing officers; and require a minimum of an additional 15 hours of annual training and briefing with the attorney general's staff.



2026-1869h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires hearing officers at the department of labor to be graduates of an accredited law school and directs the labor commissioner to give a hiring preference to licensed attorneys who have workers' compensation experience or who have administrative adjudication experience.

**Amendment to SB 573  
(2026-1675h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-c**

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

AN ACT establishing certification standards for certified public safety comfort dogs.

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

1 New Chapter; Public Safety Comfort Dog Certification. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 167-D the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 167-E  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMFORT DOG CERTIFICATION

167-E:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Certified public safety comfort dog" means a specifically trained dog that provides support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, disaster relief areas, emergency response/public safety agencies and other places where people may be experiencing stress, trauma, or crisis. Certified public safety comfort dogs are trained to interact gently and empathetically with people, offering unconditional support and non-judgmental companionship to help alleviate anxiety, reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being and resilience. Certified public safety comfort dogs are not considered service dogs or emotional support animals.

II. "Certified public safety comfort dog handler" means an emergency response or public safety worker who is responsible for the care, training, and supervision of a certified public safety comfort dog during its interactions with individuals, groups, and communities in need of support or crisis response. A certified public safety comfort dog handler shall ensure that it behaves appropriately, follows commands, and maintains a calm and comforting presence in various environments. A certified public safety comfort dog handler shall be trained to understand canine behavior, communication, and emotional support techniques, allowing them to effectively guide the certified public safety comfort dog's interactions with individuals, groups, or communities in distress or crisis situations.

III. "Emergency response or public safety worker" means any law enforcement officer certified under RSA 106-L, certified county corrections officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff, state police officer, civilian law enforcement employee, civilian county corrections employee, any call, volunteer, or regular firefighter, civilian fire department employee, rescue or ambulance worker, including ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer personnel, telecommunicators, and local dispatchers, including any retired emergency response or public safety workers as defined in this section.

IV. "Local dispatcher" means a person who determines the location, status, and assistance required by callers and walk-in customers for public safety services and dispatches the appropriate police, fire, ambulance, or other units to provide needed emergency services at the state, city, town, or private emergency services level.

V. "Telecommunicator" means an employee of the department of safety, division of emergency services and communications who is responsible for receiving at the public safety answering point telephone calls made to E911 and transferring or relaying such calls to public or private safety agencies.

VI. "Certified public safety comfort dog team" means a trained certified public safety comfort dog and its handler, working collaboratively to provide support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings. The certified public safety comfort dog team shall undergo specialized training to develop skills in empathy, active listening, and non-verbal communication, enabling them to effectively respond to the emotional, behavioral, physical, cognitive, and relational needs of those they encounter.

VII. "Certified public safety comfort dog trainer" means any person who is employed to train dogs for the use of a certified public safety comfort dog or is volunteering and training to raise dogs for the use of certified public safety comfort dogs by emergency response or public safety worker, or an individual trainer who helps an emergency response or public safety worker to train their certified public safety comfort dog.

VIII. "Housing accommodation" means any publicly assisted housing accommodation or any real property, or portion thereof, which is used or occupied, or is intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons.

IX. "Public facility" means any place of public accommodation and any street, highway, sidewalk, walkway, public building, and any other place or structure to which the general public is regularly, normally, or customarily permitted or invited.

X. "Place of public accommodation" includes any tavern roadhouse, hotel, motel, or trailer camp, whether for entertainment of transient guests or accommodation of those seeking health, recreation, or rest; any producer, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retail shop, store establishment, or concession dealing with goods or services of any kind; any restaurant, eating house, or place where food is sold for consumption on the premises; any place maintained for the sale of ice cream, ice, and fruit preparations or their derivatives, soda water or confections, or where any beverages of any kind are retailed for consumption on the premises; any garage; any public conveyance operated on land or water, or in the air, or any stations and terminals thereof; any bathhouse, boardwalk, or seashore accommodation; any auditorium, meeting place, or hall; any theater, motion picture house, music hall, roof garden, skating rink, swimming pool, amusement and recreation park, fair, bowling alley, gymnasium, shooting gallery, billiard and pool parlor, or any other place of amusement; any comfort station; any dispensary, clinic, or hospital; any public library; any kindergarten, primary and secondary school, trade or business school, high school, academy, college and university, or any educational institution under the supervision of the state board of education, or the commissioner of education of the state of New Hampshire.

167-E:2 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Training.

I. The initial training and certification testing shall be completed by the dog's second birthday. Such initial training and certification shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certificates, or an equivalent certificate from another nationally recognized organization:

- (a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).
- (b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).
- (c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

II. The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following:

(a) A minimum of 1 hour per month of structured training. Training shall focus on maintaining and reinforcing CGC, CGCA, and CGCU skills.

(b) Exposure to various emergencies or public safety environments, including interactions with first responders and the public.

III. The emergency response or public safety agency employing or owning the certified public safety comfort dog shall maintain detailed training records. Records shall include:

- (a) Dates and duration of training sessions.
- (b) The type of training conducted.
- (c) Progress and any corrective actions needed.
- (d) Certificate completion and renewal dates.

167-E:3 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Handler Training.

I. Each certified public safety comfort dog handler working with the certified public safety comfort dog shall complete training with his or her assigned certified public safety comfort dog. Such training and certificate testing shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certificates, or an equivalent certificate from another nationally recognized organization:

- (a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).
- (b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).
- (c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

II. The following training shall also be required of certified public safety comfort dog handlers:

(a) Training on recognizing and responding to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

(b) Education on crisis intervention techniques for emergency response or public safety workers, including CIT training.

(c) Training on providing basic emergency care and first aid for canine partners.

III. The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following:

(a) A minimum of one hour per month of structured training with the certified public safety comfort dog. Training shall focus on reinforcing RSA 167-E:2 certification skills, handling techniques, and scenario-based public interactions.

(b) Regular exposure to emergency/public safety environments to maintain proficiency.

IV. The emergency response or public safety agency employing or owning the certified public safety comfort dog shall maintain detailed training records for both the dog and handler. Records shall include:

- (a) Dates and duration of training sessions.
- (b) The type of training conducted.
- (c) Progress and any corrective actions needed.
- (d) Certificate completion and renewal dates.

167-E:4 Animal Duties. The official duties performed by a certified public safety comfort dog shall be directly related to the handler's role as an emergency response or public safety worker. Official duties may include but are not limited to: critical incident stress management, survivor advocacy and support, school support, crisis response, community mental health support, and community relations.

**167-E:5 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Licensing, Rabies Certificate and Insurance.**

I. The owner or employer of the certified public safety comfort dog shall comply with all state and local ordinances regarding licensing and rabies certification under RSA 466:1 and RSA 466:1-a. The owner or employer of the certified public safety comfort dog shall also fully insure the dog for the duration of its service career.

II. Nothing in this section is intended to inhibit, interfere, or impede with the protections provided to service animals and search and rescue dogs under RSA 167-D.

**167-E:6 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Team Certification.**

I. Each certified public safety comfort dog team shall complete all training requirements outlined within RSA 167-E:2 and RSA 167-E:3 in order to be certified in the state of New Hampshire.

II. Each certified public safety comfort dog shall be retested with his or her assigned certified public safety comfort dog every 3 years. Such retesting shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certificates or an equivalent certificate from another nationally recognized organization:

- (a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).
- (b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).
- (c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

III. The emergency response or public safety agency owning or employing the certified public safety comfort dog shall maintain all training and certification records, including:

- (a) Initial certification documentation.
- (b) Recertification dates and results.
- (c) Any ongoing training or corrective action records.

IV. All certified public safety comfort dog teams working in the state of New Hampshire shall have one year from the effective date of this chapter to meet certification and recertification requirements outlined therein.

**167-E:7 Certified Public Safety Dog May Accompany Handler.** A certified public safety comfort dog may accompany their handler into any public facility, housing accommodation, or place of public accommodation to which the general public is invited, while they are in the course of performing their official duties, and/or, while in the course of, or traveling to or from the location of, their official duties.

**167-E:8 Prohibited Acts.**

I. It is unlawful for a person, directly or indirectly, either to prohibit, hinder, or interfere with a certified public safety comfort dog team, while in the course of performing their official duties.

II. It is unlawful for any person to represent, and/or fit, a dog with a collar, leash, vest, sign, or harness of any type which represents that the dog is a certified public safety comfort dog if the dog is not a certified public safety comfort dog certified under this chapter.

**167-E:9 Certified Public Safety Dog Care.**

I. A certified public safety comfort dog shall be confined when traveling above 55 miles per hour. Confinement may be a crate or tether attached to a harness but not to a collar. A remote temperature sensor shall be placed in any vehicle in which the certified public safety comfort dog will be left unattended.

II. No prong or electronic collars shall be used for American Kennel Club testing, and no dog may wear prong or electronic collars while being deployed.

III. The decision to spay or neuter a certified public safety comfort dog shall be determined by the recommendation of the dog's veterinarian.

**167-E:10 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Retirement.** Each emergency response or public safety agency employing a certified public safety comfort dog shall have a policy which outlines the certified public safety comfort dog's safe and humane retirement. If it is determined that a certified public safety comfort dog in training cannot meet the standards set forth in this chapter, such policy shall outline the certified public safety comfort dog's permanent ownership, and/or, options to return to the agency, non-profit, business or breeder the certified public safety comfort dog was obtained from.

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

2026-1675h

**AMENDED ANALYSIS**

This bill establishes certification standards for certified public safety comfort dogs, certified public safety comfort dog handlers, and certified public safety comfort dog handling teams.

**Amendment to SB 574**

**(2026-1810h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Policy and Administration—r**

Amend RSA 194-C:13, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after subparagraph (f) the following new subparagraph:

- (g) A member appointed by the School District Governance Association of New Hampshire.

**Amendment to SB 575  
(2026-1853h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Education Policy and Administration–c**

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the issue of school bullying and modifying both the exemption of teacher certification records from the right-to-know law and the assignment of superintendent services for school administrative units.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following and renumbering the original section 6 to read as 8: 6 Access to Governmental Records and Meetings; Exemptions; Certification Records Modified. Amend RSA 91-A:5, V to read as follows:

V. [Teacher] **Educator** certification records in the department of education, provided that the department shall make available [teacher] **educator** certification status information.

7 Assignment of Superintendent Services; Personnel; Superintendent Assignment of Services Modified. Amend RSA 194-C:4-a to read as follows:

194-C:4-a Assignment of Superintendent Services; Personnel. When used in this title, the term “superintendent” shall include the superintendent and any personnel assigned by the superintendent **or school board** to perform superintendent services under the authority in RSA 194-C:5.

2026-1853h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a committee to study the issue of school bullying.

II. Modifies the exemption of teacher certification records under RSA 91-A by replacing the term “teacher” with “educator”.

III. Modifies the assignment of personnel authorized to perform superintendent services for school administrative units by permitting assignment by the school board in addition to the superintendent.

**Amendment to SB 577-FN  
(2026-1778h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Education Policy and Administration–c**

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

AN ACT prohibiting the use and recommending avoidance of specific color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools as a part of school breakfast and lunch meal programs.

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

1 New Paragraph; Prohibition and Recommended Avoidance of Certain Color Additives. Amend RSA 189:11-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a.(a) No public elementary or secondary school shall offer or make available to any student, as a part of a school breakfast or lunch meal, any food that contains any of the following color additives as recognized by the Food and Drug Administration:

(1) FD&C red number 3, CAS Registry number 16423-68-0.

(2) FD&C citrus red number 2, CAS Registry number 6358-53-8.

(3) FD&C orange letter B, CAS Registry number 15139-76-1.

(b) Public elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to avoid offering foods containing the following color additives in school breakfast and lunch meals and to work with vendors to transition away from foods containing such color additives where feasible:

(1) FD&C blue number 1, CAS Registry numbers 3844-45-8, 3844-45-9.

(2) FD&C blue number 2, CAS Registry number 860-22-0.

(3) FD&C green number 3, CAS Registry number 2353-45-9.

(4) FD&C red number 40, CAS Registry number 25956-17-6.

(5) FD&C yellow number 5, CAS Registry number 1934-21-0.

(6) FD&C yellow number 6, CAS Registry number 2783-94-0.

(c) This paragraph shall not apply to foods offered outside school breakfast and lunch meal programs, including but not limited to foods brought by students, vending machine items, a la carte sales, and school fundraisers.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2028.

2026-1778h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Prohibits the use of certain red, citrus red, and orange color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools as a part of school breakfast and lunch meal programs.



II. Encourages public schools to avoid offering foods containing certain other color additives in school breakfast and lunch meals.

III. Encourages public schools, where it is feasible, to work with vendors to transition away from foods containing certain color additives in school breakfast and lunch meals.

IV. Exempts foods offered outside school breakfast and lunch meal programs from the prohibition and recommended avoidance of certain color additives.

**Amendment to SB 578  
(2026-1806h)**

**Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Policy and Administration—r**

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Expansion of Play-Based Curriculum. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, II-a to read as follows:

II-a. Instruction in support of ***standards for*** kindergarten [~~standards~~] ***through third grade*** shall be engaging and shall foster children's development and learning in all domains including physical, social, cognitive, and language. Educators shall create a learning environment that facilitates high quality, child-directed experiences based upon early childhood best teaching practices and play-based learning that comprise movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization, and music. [~~Educators shall develop literacy through guided reading and shall provide unstructured time for the discovery of each child's individual talents, abilities, and needs.~~]

**Amendment to SB 585-FN  
(2026-1769h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Municipal and County Government—c**

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Communications Districts; Audits. Amend RSA 53-G:10 to read as follows:

53-G:10 Audits. The governing board shall hire a certified public accountant or a public accountant licensed by the state under RSA 309-B:5 to conduct a financial audit, in accordance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards as adopted by the United States General Accounting Office and applicable state statutes, to be completed within 6 months after the close of each fiscal year. Upon completion of an audit, the governing board shall review and vote on acceptance of the audit and send a copy of the audited financial statements, the auditor's opinion on those statements, a report on internal control, a report on compliance, and any other auditor reports to the governing body of each of the member municipalities and to the department of revenue administration. ***The department of revenue administration shall waive the requirement of an independent audit for any fiscal year upon petition by the governing board demonstrating that either the district's annual revenue or expenses during the previous year was less than \$50,000 and the district agreement provides that the district is not a tax authority and prohibits the district from raising revenue from any member municipality except through voluntary contribution by such member or pursuant to contractual agreement with such member.*** At least every 2 years, the governing board shall vote on whether to contract for a performance audit of the district in accordance with the generally accepted governmental auditing standards. Upon completion of a performance audit, the committee shall review and vote on acceptance of the audit and send a copy of the resulting materials to the governing body of each of the member municipalities and to the department of revenue administration.

**Amendment to SB 614-FN  
(2026-1626h)**

**Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs—c**

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

**Amendment to SB 617  
(2026-1755h)**

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

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

AN ACT relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways and relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement.

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

1 Fees for Removal and Impoundment of Motor Vehicles. Amend RSA 262:35-a to read as follows:

262:35-a Review of Fees for Removal and Impoundment.

I. All fees charged for the removal and storage of any vehicle caused to be removed by an authorized official pursuant to RSA 262:32 or RSA 262:40-a shall be reasonable, and may reflect market variables, including, but not limited to, distance traveled to and from the storage facility, vehicle size and weight, the amount of time needed to remove and store the vehicle, any special equipment needed, and personnel costs. If the

owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge the reasonableness of the fee charged, the owner or other person may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of the vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the [release of the vehicle] **receipt of the invoice**, request in writing a review by the commissioner of safety. The commissioner of safety or designee shall review the claim to determine if there are sufficient grounds to conduct a hearing to determine whether the charge was reasonable. If the commissioner or designee determines that a hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be scheduled by the bureau of hearings within 20 days after review by the commissioner, at which time the extent of removal and storage fees shall be determined. The commissioner or designee shall approve or disapprove of the decision of the bureau of hearings within 7 days after the hearing was held. Notwithstanding RSA 262:25, any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner or designee under this section may appeal the decision to the superior court in the same manner as that prescribed in RSA 263:75, II and III. If no request for review is filed within the [15-day] **30-day** period, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle shall be deemed to have waived all rights to review under this section and shall be liable for the total amount billed.

II. Nothing in this section shall prevent a review of the reasonableness of the towing or other action as may be permitted by laws of this state by a court of competent jurisdiction.

III. Any time that a person is storing a vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision, the person may remove any items from within the vehicle that are not a part of or accessories to the vehicle. The person may hold any such items, other than wallets, purses, life essential clothing, mail, legal documents, car seats, eyeglasses, medicine, medical equipment, or house keys pending payment of any fees due under this subdivision. If fees remain unpaid after [20] **30** days, the person may dispose of the items.

2 Abandoned Vehicles; Procedure for Removal and Impoundment. Amend RSA 262:33, II and III to read as follows:

II. Whenever a vehicle is towed pursuant to RSA 262:31-a or RSA 262:32 the owner or other person lawfully entitled to the possession of the vehicle shall be entitled to recover said vehicle and release of the above lien by payment of all reasonable towing and storage charges. If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge whether there was sufficient grounds for towing and impoundment, he or she may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of such vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the [towing and impoundment] **receipt of the invoice**, request in writing a hearing.

III. The hearing shall be held before the head of the law enforcement agency which employs the authorized official who caused the vehicle to be removed and stored, or his or her designee. In the event such agency head or his or her designee determines sufficient grounds did not exist for the removal and storage of the vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall reimburse the owner or other person lawfully claiming possession for any amount paid to the custodian to secure release of the vehicle, **or, if payment has not yet been made, order that the vehicle be immediately released from impoundment, with the agency assuming full liability of the lien.**

3 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, XVIII to read as follows:

XVIII. The tow business shall provide state police with a complete updated list of all rates for the services it performs related to the towing and storage of vehicles, on the letterhead of the business, and shall update such list when prices change. State Police shall not set the fees for these services nor use the rate schedule provided in determining placement on a rotation schedule. ~~[Price lists shall remain confidential except when determining the reasonable fee in a requested hearing conducted by the department of safety.]~~

4 New Section; Notice of Right to Dispute Towing and Storage Charges. Amend RSA 262 by inserting after section 35-a the following new section:

262:35-b Notice of Right to Dispute Towing and Storage Charges.

I. This section shall apply to any tow of a motor vehicle performed at the direction of a law enforcement officer within the state. This section shall not apply to any tow conducted pursuant to a private property agreement, municipal contract, or municipal ordinance.

II. An invoice for towing or storage of a motor vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appealing the reasonableness of such charges. Such notice shall be provided on the invoice and may include an Internet website address or scannable code linking to additional information.

III. Any towing service that fails to provide the notice required in paragraph II shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined \$100 for each violation. Repeated violations of this section may be referred to the department of safety for review and for any action authorized under the law.

5 State Police; Use of Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:27, IV to read as follows:

IV. The director of state police with the approval of the commissioner of safety may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A consistent with relevant provisions of this subdivision setting forth minimum qualifications of tow companies and their employees to participate in the state police tow list, including qualifications, training, and minimum standards for equipment, response times, storage and release of towed vehicles and their contents, and criminal history and motor vehicle record checks of ~~[tow truck drivers]~~ **employees.**

6 Definitions; Removal of Abandoned Vehicles. Amend RSA 106-B:28 to read as follows:  
106-B:28 Definitions.

In this subdivision:

**I. “Employee” means any individual employed by the tow business who may physically respond roadside to a state police tow call for service.**

**II. “Heavy duty wrecker” means a wrecker intended and suitably equipped for towing vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds gross weight, such as a tractor-trailer, large truck, or similar vehicle but excluding carriers and flatbeds, and meeting the following requirements, provided that come-a-longs, chains, or other similar devices shall not be used as substitutes for winch and cable:**

- (a) A truck chassis having a minimum gross vehicle weight rating of not less than 54,500 pounds;
- (b) Tandem axles, or a cab-to-axle length of not less than 102 inches;
- (c) A combined winch capacity of not less than 50,000 pounds, as rated by the winch manufacturer;
- (d) A single winch in good operating condition with a capacity of 50,000 pounds, as rated by the winch manufacturer, or if equipped with 2 winches, a combined rating of 50,000 pounds;
- (e) A manufactured wheel-lift in good operating condition, with retracted lifting capacity of not less than 20,000 pounds, as rated by the lift manufacturer, with safety chains or a tow bar of equal capacity;
- (f) A winch cable rated as specified by the winch manufacturer, in good condition;
- (g) Light and air brake hookups for the towed vehicle; and
- (h) Additional safety equipment as specified in this chapter and consistent with United States Department of Transportation inspection requirements.

**[H:] III. “Light/Medium duty wrecker” means a wrecker intended and suitably equipped for safely towing vehicles weighing 26,000 pounds or less gross weight, including passenger cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles, small trailers, and similar vehicles, that meets the following requirements, provided that come-a-longs, chains, or other similar devices shall not serve as substitutes for a winch and cable:**

- (a) A minimum gross vehicle weight rating of not less than 14,500 pounds;
- (b) Individual boom capacity of not less than 8,000 pounds, as rated by the boom manufacturer;
- (c) Individual power takeoff or hydraulic power or electric winch capacity of not less than 8,000 pounds, as rated by the manufacturer, and wire rope of a capacity and length consistent with the device manufacturer;
- (d) A manufactured wheel-lift with a retracting lifting capacity of not less than 3,500 pounds, as rated by the manufacturer, with safety chains;
- (e) Dual rear wheels;
- (f) Two chock blocks that will prevent rolling or slippage of the wrecker; and
- (g) Additional safety equipment as specified in this chapter and consistent with United States Department of Transportation inspection requirements.

**[H:] IV. “Recovery vehicle” means a motor vehicle consisting of a commercially available truck chassis equipped with a commercially manufactured tow body or bed and that is rated and issued a serial number by the manufacturer, designed and equipped for and used in the towing or recovery of vehicles, in good condition and capable of towing a vehicle by means of a tow bar, sling, or wheel lift, and capable of recovering a vehicle by means of a hoist, winch, or towline.**

**[IV:] V. “Rollback carrier” means a flatbed vehicle in good condition that meets the following requirements, provided that come-a-longs, chains, or similar devices shall not be used as substitutes for a winch and cable:**

- (a) A minimum gross vehicle weight rating of at least 19,500 pounds;
- (b) A specially equipped chassis with a ramp on wheels and a hydraulic lift with a capacity to haul or tow another vehicle;
- (c) At least one 8,000 pound winch, as rated by the winch manufacturer, with at least 50 feet of cable, as recommended by the winch manufacturer; and
- (d) Additional safety equipment as specified in this chapter and consistent with United States Department of Transportation inspection requirements.

**[V:] VI. “Tow business” means a person, enterprise, partnership, company, LLC, or other corporation having a registered trade name, an active New Hampshire tax identification number, an active New Hampshire workers’ compensation insurance policy or exemption papers, an active New Hampshire employment security account, and that meets all state and local legal requirements including, but not limited to, those related to payment of business related taxes, fees, and insurance coverage, and that regularly engages in the impoundment, recovery, transport, or storage of towed or abandoned vehicles, or in the disposal of abandoned vehicles.**

**[VI:] VII. “Tow list” means a list or lists of qualified New Hampshire businesses compiled by the division of state police and used by them to dispatch wreckers and recovery and road service vehicles to tow, recover, and temporarily store a vehicle when the owner, driver, or other person responsible for the vehicle is not present or wishes to have the vehicle removed and expresses no choice or preference of a specific tow business, or when public safety requires the law enforcement official in charge at the scene to clear the vehicle from the location believing, in his or her sole opinion, the vehicle is causing a public hazard or safety issue or is stolen, unregistered, was involved in a crime, or is in violation of a statute that requires immediate removal.**



[VH.] **VIII.** “Vehicle storage area” means a suitable yard or enclosed building where a qualified tow business keeps or stores towed or impounded vehicles.

[VH.] **IX.** “Wrecker” for purposes of this chapter and except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, means a tow truck, road service vehicle, or carrier and recovery vehicle used by tow businesses on the state police tow list.

7 Use of Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:29, X to read as follows:

X. A tow business may terminate or temporarily suspend its designation as a service provider and be removed from the rotation list by providing prompt written notice to state police ~~[communications]~~. In the event of unforeseen circumstances such as death, fire, bankruptcy, or loss of equipment from accident or failure, a tow business on the tow list shall timely notify the director of state police in writing of its intent to suspend its designation as a service provider. If and when it desires to return to service, such tow company shall send a new application to the director. If approved to resume operation, they shall be placed at the bottom of the rotation list.

8 Use of Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:29, XV to read as follows:

XV. A tow business shall not sell, assign, transfer, pledge, surrender, encumber, or dispose of its place on the rotation list. By applying to be placed on the list, a tow business agrees to respond to all state police calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If for any reason the business cannot respond to a call, it rotates to the bottom of the list. Businesses that develop a pattern of non-response to calls ***or fail to meet the response times outlined in RSA 106-B:30*** may be subject to removal from the rotation list ***or actions outlined in RSA 106-B:34***.

9 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, II-III to read as follows:

II. The tow business shall provide as part of its application a list of all ~~[tow truck operator personnel]~~ ***employees***, including full name, current address, date and place of birth, driver’s license number and type, and any restrictions, ***and*** license expiration date~~[, and social security number]~~. The application shall be updated with ***the*** state police ~~[communications]~~ within 5 days of whenever a new employee is hired, or an employee leaves the employ of the business.

III. The application shall include an individual form approved by the director of state police for each ~~[tow truck operator]~~ ***employee*** and for the owner and manager of the business and any supervisors, listing under penalty of unsworn falsification their full name, date and place of birth, driver license number and type and any restrictions or limitations, and a listing of all motor vehicle offense convictions in this or any other state or Canadian province including type, court, and year in the preceding 5 years, and a list of any criminal convictions in this or any other state or Canadian province within the past 10 years, including type of offense, year of conviction, court, and sentence imposed, and whether the person is currently on probation or parole or has ever been a registered sex offender or subject to a domestic violence protective order. Nothing in this paragraph shall restrict the employer or state police in case of doubt from verifying the information through a record check or checks.

10 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, V to read as follows:

V. If an ~~[operator]~~ ***individual*** is ~~[employed by]~~ ***an employee*** of more than one listed towing company, each company shall maintain an independent and separate driver file on such individual. When ~~[a driver, manager, or supervisor]~~ ***an employee*** ceases employment at the business or a new such employee is hired, the company shall notify the state police director in writing within 10 days and include a copy of the application including a copy of the form described in paragraph III. It shall be the responsibility of the operator to maintain appropriate records of driving times showing full compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

11 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. Wreckers dispatched shall arrive at the scene within 30 minutes of being called, except for cases where the travel distance, posted speeds, or traffic and weather conditions and volume of traffic make this unreasonable. For heavy duty calls the company shall respond within a maximum of 60 minutes regardless of the time of day. If the time exceeds the above limit and the tow business does not provide state police communications or the trooper in charge at the scene with a valid reason for the delay within that time, a second rotation wrecker may be dispatched. If a second wrecker is requested before the arrival of the initially dispatched rotation wrecker, the initially requested wrecker shall forfeit the call and leave the incident scene. Repeated tardiness may result in suspension or removal from the rotation list ***or any other disciplinary action as outlined in RSA 106-B:34. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for imminent concerns related to public health, safety, or welfare, the director may order the immediate suspension of the tow business at their discretion, and without a hearing. Any such suspension shall be subject to the hearing requirements and timelines set forth in RSA 541-A:30, III.***

12 Requirements to Remain on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:31, XIII to read as follows:

XIII. State troopers or other designated department of safety personnel may be assigned at the discretion of the state police director to conduct reviews from time to time of towing businesses, their records, and equipment to ensure compliance with relevant rules and laws and make a recommendation~~[through the state police communications commander]~~ to the director as to the level of compliance and any appropriate



action. Tow businesses participating in the tow list shall make, during normal business hours, their records, vehicles, facility, and equipment available for examination for such reviews by troopers or other department of safety employees. In cases of non-compliance, the state police ~~[communications commander]~~ shall recommend appropriate action to the director, which may include a verbal or written reprimand, suspension, or revocation from continued participation in the rotating list. Such action is discretionary and shall be based on the nature and seriousness of the discrepancy and any prior record of the business.

13 Compliance Action; Disciplinary Enforcement. RSA 106-B:34 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:  
106-B:34 Compliance Action; Disciplinary Enforcement.

I. Participation in the state police tow list is a privilege and not a right. The director of the division of state police shall administer the state police tow list and shall ensure that towing, storage, roadside emergency service, and vehicle recovery performed at the direction or request of the division of state police are conducted in compliance with state law and rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A, and in a manner that promotes public safety and maintains the confidence of the motoring public.

II. The director may take disciplinary action upon a finding, supported by satisfactory evidence, that a tow business or tow business employee has violated:

- (a) The provisions of RSA 106-B:29 through RSA 106-B:33; or
- (b) Any rule adopted pursuant to this subdivision.

III. Disciplinary actions authorized under this section may include:

- (a) A verbal or written warning;
- (b) Suspension of a tow business, a tow business employee, or both, from participation in the state police tow list for a period not to exceed 2 years; or
- (c) Removal from the state police tow list. Tow businesses that are removed are eligible to reapply to the state police tow list after a period of not less than 2 years.

IV. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, the director shall consider the seriousness of the violation, any prior history of violations, and any resulting harm to the public or to property.

V. Any person aggrieved by a disciplinary action imposed under this section may appeal the decision to the department of safety bureau of hearings and thereafter to the superior court in accordance with RSA 106-B:31, XIV.

14 New Section; License Suspension; Failure to Pay Fines and Fees. Amend RSA 263 by inserting after section 56-g the following new section:

263:56-h License Suspension Prohibited for Unpaid Towing or Storage Fees.

I. Under no circumstances shall the director suspend or revoke a driver's license for failure to pay removal and storage fees for a vehicle towed or stored for any reason. The director is permitted to not renew a driver's license for failure to pay such fees until such a time as the fees are paid.

II. A person whose driver's license has been suspended for outstanding vehicle removal or storage fees and who is otherwise eligible to drive shall have their driver's license reinstated and shall not be required to pay a reinstatement fee. No later than 30 days after the effective date of this section, the division shall, without requiring a reinstatement fee, reinstate the driver's license or nonresident operating privilege.

15 Effective Date.

I. Sections 1-4 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

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

2026-1755h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends deadlines for disputing towing and storage fees and requires invoices to include information on how to challenge charges. This bill also revises the procedures and processes concerning the maintenance of and utilization of a list of contracted tow companies used by the division of state police for the removal of vehicles.

#### Amendment to SB 624-FN (2026-1846h)

#### Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety—

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

AN ACT restricting access to certain hemp-derived products and establishing the offenses of criminal adulteration and distribution of adulterated controlled substances.

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

1 Hemp; Definition. Amend RSA 439-A:2, V to read as follows:

V. "Hemp" means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of the plant, ~~[whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (THC) of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis]~~ ***including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinols concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.***

2 Hemp; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 439-A:4 to read as follows:

439-A:4 Hemp-Derived Products Containing THC Prohibited.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the sale of products that are derived from hemp which contain natural or synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, which appear in any formulation, including delta-8 THC, delta-9 THC, *tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA)*, or any other THC isomer variant. ***Such products are prohibited.***

3 Premises Restrictions; Unlawful Purpose. Amend RSA 179:50 to read as follows:

179:50 Unlawful Purpose.

***I.*** No licensee shall use, or allow to be used, his or her premises for any purpose contrary to law.

***II. All licensees shall comply with the provisions of RSA 439-A:4 relative to certain hemp-derived products containing THC prohibited.***

4 New Paragraph; Prohibited Sales. Amend RSA 179:5 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

***III.*** No licensee, salesperson, nor any other person, shall sell or give away or cause or allow or procure to be sold, delivered, or given away any product derived from hemp which contains natural or synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in any amount, which appear in any formulation, including delta-8 THC, delta-9 THC, or any other THC isomer variant or tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), to a person under the age of 21.

5 Legislative Findings. With respect to section 6 of this act, the general court finds that:

***I.*** The presence of unapproved substances in the illicit drug supply poses an immediate and severe threat to the health and safety of the citizens of New Hampshire.

***II.*** The state of New Hampshire currently provides widespread access to harm-reduction testing resources.

***III.*** The intentional adulteration of controlled substances with unapproved additives demonstrates a reckless disregard for human life.

***IV.*** The distribution of controlled substances without verification of contents, given the availability of testing resources, constitutes a significant public safety hazard warranting enhanced penalties.

6 New Section; Criminal Adulteration and Distribution of Adulterated Controlled Substances. Amend RSA 318-B by inserting after section 2-e the following new section:

318-B:2-f Criminal Adulteration and Distribution of Adulterated Controlled Substances.

***I.*** A person is guilty of a class B felony if they knowingly combine, mix, or adulterate a controlled substance with any substance not approved for human consumption, with the intent to distribute the resulting mixture. The state may establish intent through the presence of processing equipment, including but not limited to, scales, cutting agents, blenders, presses, or the simultaneous possession of a controlled substance and an unapproved additive in a manufacturing context.

***II.*** A person is guilty of a class A felony if they possess with intent to distribute, or distribute, any controlled substance which they know or have reasonable cause to believe contains an unapproved additive. For the purposes of this section, “reasonable cause to believe” includes the failure to utilize accessible harm-reduction testing resources or the distribution of substances in a market known to be contaminated with unapproved additives.

***III.*** The penalties provided for in this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other penalties or offenses provided for under this chapter or any other provision of law, and shall not be construed to limit the state’s authority to prosecute any other applicable criminal offense.

7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

#### 2026-1846h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

***I.*** Prohibits certain hemp-derived products, directs liquor licensees to comply with the prohibition, and amends the definition of hemp.

***II.*** Establishes the offenses of criminal adulteration and distribution of adulterated controlled substances.

#### **Amendment to SB 643-FN (2026-1812h)**

#### **Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Municipal and County Government—r**

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

**AN ACT** requiring municipalities, towns, and cities to submit documentation to the department of revenue administration proving they are in compliance with local budget and tax caps and requiring municipalities to hold a public hearing and conduct a roll call vote when seeking to override a tax or spending cap.

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

**1** Statement of Findings. With respect to section 2 of this act, the general court hereby finds that:

***I.*** There is a compelling state interest in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation when municipalities consider overriding locally adopted tax or spending caps.

II. Local tax caps and spending caps, whether adopted under RSA 32, RSA 49-C, or RSA 49-D, reflect the will of the voters to place limits on the growth of local government.

III. In cities and towns governed by elected councils, budgetary and override decisions are made by a governing body acting as the legislative authority, rather than directly by the voters.

IV. Taxpayers are entitled to clear and timely information regarding when and how elected officials vote to override such caps, particularly when such decisions may directly affect property tax rates.

V. Enhanced procedural safeguards, including advance notice, public hearings, and recorded roll call votes, are appropriate when override decisions are made by elected governing bodies.

2 New Section; Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law; Override Procedures. Amend RSA 32 by inserting after section 5-h the following new section:

32:5-i Override Procedures for Local Tax and Spending Caps.

I. Notwithstanding RSA 32:2, this section shall apply only to:

(a) Cities organized under RSA 49-C; and

(b) Towns in which the governing body is an elected town council pursuant to RSA 49-D:3, I or I-a, authorized by charter or statute to adopt the municipal operating budget.

II. This section shall not apply to:

(a) Towns operating under a traditional town meeting form of government pursuant to RSA 39:1;

(b) Towns operating under the official ballot referendum form of town meeting pursuant to RSA 40:13;

(c) Towns operating under a budgetary town meeting pursuant to RSA 49-D:3, II;

(d) Towns operating under an official ballot town meeting pursuant to RSA 49-D:3, II-a;

(e) Towns operating under a representative town meeting pursuant to RSA 49-D:3, III; or

(f) Village districts or other special districts.

III. Before any vote to override a tax or spending cap by a municipality subject to this section may be held, the governing body shall:

(a) Hold a public hearing on the proposed override and provide notice of such hearing in accordance with RSA 32:5, I, and other applicable law, except that such notice shall be provided at least 30 days in advance of the hearing;

(b) Provide at such hearing a public comment period of at least 60 minutes in duration, during which any resident may address the proposed override; and

(c) Record the final vote of the governing body on the proposed override as a roll call vote, with each member's name and vote entered into the official record.

IV. The results of the roll call vote, including the name of each member of the governing body and how such member voted, shall be published on, or included with, the next property tax bill issued by the municipality. Such disclosure shall be presented in a clear and prominent manner.

V. Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

(a) Alter the authority of voters at a town meeting or official ballot referendum to approve or reject a tax or spending cap override;

(b) Impose procedural requirements on deliberative sessions conducted pursuant to RSA 40:13; or

(c) Modify any charter provision governing the adoption of municipal budgets or override votes.

3 New Paragraphs; The State and Its Government; Property Tax Rates; Reports Required. Amend RSA 21-J:34 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

II-a. For political subdivisions that have adopted a local tax cap under RSA 32:5-b, the governing body of the political subdivision shall forward the commissioner's form for compliance with the adopted local tax cap. The form shall include the computation of the local tax cap for that year, proposed appropriations by the governing body and budget committee and estimated revenues going into the annual meeting showing estimated amount of local taxes to be raised, appropriations voted by the annual meeting of the legislative body, and the counts of any ballot votes taken to override the local tax cap.

II-b. For political subdivisions that have adopted a school district budget cap under RSA 32:5-e, or a town budget cap under RSA 32:5-g, the governing body of the political subdivision shall forward the commissioner's form for compliance with the adopted budget cap. The form shall include the computation of the budget cap for that year, proposed appropriations by the governing body and budget committee, appropriations voted by the meeting of the legislative body, and the counts of any ballot votes taken to override the budget cap.

4 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Preparation of Budgets; Local Tax Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-b, III(a) to read as follows:

(a) 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 tax cap under this section 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 tax cap under this section, ***including reductions for any appropriations already raised. In this paragraph, "appropriations already raised" shall include approved appropriations in warrant articles appearing on the ballot before the warrant article in question.***

5 New Subparagraph; Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Preparation of Budgets; Local Tax Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-b, III by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new subparagraph:

(c) For the purposes of determining when the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district exceed the local tax cap under this section, the amount of appropriations of the operating budget counting towards the tax cap shall be reduced by the estimated revenues reported to the department of revenue administration in the posted budget pursuant to RSA 32:5. In addition, the amount of appropriations in any warrant article that also includes anticipated revenue from a state or federal agency shall be reduced by the anticipated revenues for purposes of determining when the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district exceed the tax cap under this section.

6 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Preparation of Budgets; School District Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-e, I to read as follows:

I. In a school district 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 school 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 pupil cost, as defined herein, times the average daily membership in residence (ADMR), pursuant to RSA 198:38, I-a, of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year as reported ~~to~~ **by** the department of education ~~[times (1+IF), where IF is an amount for an annual increase for inflation]~~. The first year after the budget cap is adopted, the current per pupil cost shall be the per pupil cost adopted in the warrant article per RSA 32:5-f, IV. In subsequent years, the current per pupil cost shall be the previous year's current per pupil cost times ~~[(1+HFP)]~~ **(1+IF)**, where ~~[HFP]~~ **IF** is the ~~[previous]~~ **current** year's ~~[IF]~~ **annual increase for inflation**

7 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Preparation of Budgets; School District Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-e, IV(a) to read as follows:

(a) 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, **including reductions for any appropriations already raised. In this paragraph, "appropriations already raised" shall include approved appropriations in warrant articles appearing on the ballot before the warrant article in question.**

8 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Preparation of Budgets; Town Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-g, I to read as follows:

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+HFP)]~~ **(1+IF)**, where ~~[HFP]~~ **IF** is the ~~[previous]~~ **current** year's ~~[IF]~~ **annual increase for inflation**.

(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.

9 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Preparation of Budgets; Town Budget Caps. Amend RSA 32:5-g, IV to read as follows:

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, **including reductions for any appropriations already raised. In this paragraph, "appropriations already raised" shall include approved appropriations in warrant articles appearing on the ballot before the warrant article in question.**

10 New Section; Enforcement of Local Caps. Amend RSA 32 by inserting after section 5-h the following new section:

#### 32:5-i Enforcement of Local Caps.

I. If, during the review of reports required by RSA 21-J:34, II-a or II-b, and pursuant to RSA 21-J:35, II, the commissioner of revenue administration determines that the budget certified by the governing body or the budget committee, which includes the operating budget and all other warrant articles with a tax impact and posted with the warrant for the annual meeting pursuant to RSA 32:5, exceeds the adopted local tax cap, the adopted school district budget cap, or the adopted town budget cap, the commissioner shall reduce the appropriation of the certified budget by the amount the certified budget exceeds the cap, pursuant to RSA



21-J:34, III. Appropriations in warrant articles having received the required supermajority ballot vote by the legislative body to override the cap using the procedures in RSA 32:5-b, III for a local tax cap, RSA 32:5-e, III for a school district budget cap, or RSA 32:5-g, III for a town budget cap shall not be eliminated or reduced.

II. During the review of reports pursuant to RSA 21-J:34, II, if the commissioner of revenue administration determines that the required supermajority ballot vote by the legislative body for an appropriation in a warrant article to override the cap was not satisfied, or that there was a procedural failure in overriding the cap, that appropriation shall be deleted pursuant to RSA 21-J:34, III.

11 Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; Local Tax Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-b, I-b)(1) to read as follows:

(1) "Attendance" shall mean the average daily membership in residence (ADMR) of the school district, pursuant to RSA 198:38, I-a. "This year's attendance" shall be the annual ADMR reported [tø] **by** the department of education as of October 1 preceding the date of the budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5, I. "Last year's attendance" shall be the annual ADMR reported [tø] **by** the department of education as of October 1 of the year prior to the annual ADMR reported for "This year's attendance".

12 Municipal Budget Law; Application. Amend RSA 32:2 to read as follows:

32:2 Application. RSA 32:1-13, shall apply to all towns, school districts, cooperative school districts, village districts, municipal economic development and revitalization districts created under RSA 162-K, and any other municipal entities, including those created pursuant to RSA 53-A or 53-B, which adopt their budgets at an annual meeting of their voters, except RSA 32:5-b[.] which shall apply only in those towns or districts adopting that section pursuant to RSA 32:5-c, **except RSA 32:5-e which shall apply only in those school districts adopting that section pursuant to RSA 32:5-f, and except RSA 32:5-g which shall apply only in those towns adopting that section pursuant to RSA 32:5-h.** RSA 32:14-23, concerning budget committees, shall apply only in those towns or districts adopting that subdivision pursuant to RSA 32:14, I, and shall apply automatically in school districts or village districts located wholly within towns adopting that subdivision.

13 Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; Adoption of School District Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-f, IV to read as follows:

IV. If, under RSA 32:5-e, 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-e, and implement a budget cap whereby the school board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than \_\_\_\_ dollars per pupil cost times the average daily membership in residence of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year, plus **with** a \_\_\_\_ percent annual increase **on the per pupil cost** for inflation. Requires a 3/5ths majority [~~of the school district~~] **to adopt.**"

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

"Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-e, and implement a budget cap whereby the school board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than \_\_\_\_ dollars per pupil cost times the average daily membership in residence of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year, [~~plus~~] **with** an annual increase **on the per pupil cost** for inflation using (the index) published by (the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics or American City and County) as of October 1. Requires a 3/5ths majority [~~of the school district~~] **to adopt.**"

14 Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; Adoption of Town Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-h, IV to read as follows:

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~~] **with** a \_\_\_\_ percent annual increase **on the per resident expenditure** for inflation. Requires a 3/5ths majority [~~of the town~~] **to adopt.**"

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~~] **with** an annual increase **on the per resident expenditure** 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~~] **to adopt.**"

15 Applicability. RSA 21-J:34, RSA 32:5-b, RSA 32:5-e, RSA 32:5-g, and RSA 32:2, as amended by this act, shall apply to the local tax caps, school district budget caps, and town budget caps adopted prior to the effective date of this act and shall not require local amendment or re-adoption by towns or districts.

16 Effective Date.

I. Section 10 of this act shall take effect on April 1, 2027.

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

2026-1812h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires municipalities, towns, and cities to submit documentation to the department of revenue administration proving they are in compliance with local budget and tax caps.

II. Requires certain municipalities to hold a public hearing and conduct a roll call vote when seeking to override a tax or spending cap and report the results of the roll call on property bills.

**Amendment to SB 653  
(2026-1797h)**

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

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

AN ACT enabling counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets and relative to the adopting of a municipal budget committee and electing members thereof.

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

1 Municipal Budget Law; Budget Committee. RSA 32:14, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. Voting shall be by official ballot unless the town has not adopted the official ballot, in which case the clerk shall cause the same question to be printed upon special ballots, which shall be used to determine the vote of the town at the annual meeting, 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.

(a) If budget committee members-at-large are to be appointed by the moderator pursuant to RSA 32:15, II, the wording of the question shall be: "To assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds, shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:14 to establish a budget committee consisting of (number) members-at-large who are appointed by the moderator?"

(b) If budget committee members-at-large are to be elected with initial members-at-large appointed to one year terms by the moderator pursuant to RSA 32:15, III, the wording of the question shall be: "To assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds, shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:14 to establish a budget committee consisting of (number) members-at-large who are elected, with the initial members appointed to one-year terms by the moderator?"

(c) Except for a town or district that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D, if budget committee members-at-large are to be elected with initial members-at-large elected to one-year terms pursuant to RSA 32:15, III, the wording of the question shall be as follows: "To assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds, shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:14 to establish a budget committee consisting of (number) members-at-large who are elected, with the initial members elected to one-year terms by the meeting?"

(d) For a town or district that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D, if budget committee members-at-large are to be elected with initial members-at-large elected to staggered terms at the next annual meeting pursuant to RSA 32:15, III, the wording of the question shall be as follows: "To assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds, shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:14 to establish a budget committee consisting of (number) members-at-large who are elected, with initial members elected at the next annual meeting?"

2 Municipal Budget Law; Adoption. Amend RSA 32:14, V to read as follows:

V. A town or district which has adopted this subdivision may rescind its adoption in the manner described in paragraphs II and III, ***except that the wording of the question shall be: "Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 32:14, eliminating the budget committee so that the governing body assumes all budgetary responsibilities for the prudent appropriation of public funds?"***

3 Municipal Budget Law; Budget Committee Membership. Amend RSA 32:15, III-IV to read as follows:

III. ***If a town or district uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D, and the meeting decides members-at-large are to be elected, the meeting shall either elect the initial members-at-large for staggered terms as described in paragraph II at the next annual meeting, or shall authorize the moderator to appoint members-at-large to serve a one-year term until the next annual meeting, as provided in RSA 669:17. Otherwise, if the meeting decides members-at-large are to be elected, the meeting shall either elect the initial members for one-year terms by means other than by official ballot, or shall authorize the moderator to appoint members to serve until the next annual meeting, as provided in RSA 669:17. Elections for staggered terms, as described in paragraph II, shall not begin until that next annual meeting, and shall be by official ballot if the municipality has adopted the official ballot system, as set forth in RSA 669 or RSA 671. A budget committee shall be deemed duly constituted and able to conduct business once a quorum of its elected or appointed members-at-large have been sworn into office.***

IV. A town or district which has adopted this subdivision may vote at any subsequent annual meeting to change the number or manner of selection of its members-at-large. No such change shall take effect until the annual meeting following the meeting at which the change was adopted. ***Currently elected or appointed members-at-large shall continue to serve until the end of their current term.***

(a) ***To change the number of members-at-large, the wording of the question shall be: "Shall we change the number of budget committee members-at-large from (number) to (number)?"***

(b) ***To change the manner of selection of members-at-large, the wording of the question shall be: "Shall we change the manner of selection of budget committee members-at-large from ("appointed by moderator" or "elected by voters") to ("elected by voters" or "appointed by moderator")?"***

4 Cooperative School Districts; Budget Committee. Amend RSA 195:12-a, I to read as follows:

I. A cooperative school district at an annual meeting, under a proper article in the warrant, may vote to establish a budget committee pursuant to RSA 32:14 and may rescind such action in a like manner. The budget committee shall have the same number of members as the cooperative district school board plus one additional member from the school board as provided in this paragraph. The terms of office and manner of election of members shall be determined in the same manner as for the cooperative school board. Whenever it is voted to establish a budget committee, the moderator in the first instance shall appoint the members of the budget committee, except for the additional member appointed from the school board, within [15] **30** days of the vote establishing the committee. The members appointed by the moderator shall serve until the next annual meeting when the meeting shall elect their successors. No member of the cooperative school board shall be appointed or elected to the budget committee except that the chairperson of the cooperative school board shall appoint a member of the board to serve on the budget committee in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity. After appointment or election, the budget committee shall promptly organize and choose a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. The secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of the budget committee, which shall be public records open to public inspection.

5 New Section; Municipal Budget Law; Biennial Budgets; Procedure for Fiscal Year Change. Amend RSA 32 by inserting after section 26 the following new section:

32:27 Procedure for Fiscal Year Change.

I. Upon an affirmative vote of a majority of county voters, a county may move the biennial budget to the off year of the state election. Putting the question on the ballot shall require a vote in the affirmative by a majority of the county commissioners. Said vote shall happen no later than the September 1 before the state elections.

II. Notice of a vote of the county commissioners pursuant to paragraph I shall be given at least 15 days, but not more than 60 days, prior, by a local newspaper of general circulation, public notice on the county's main website or any social media accounts utilized by the county, and public notice posted in the 2 places where the county regularly posts notices of its governing body meetings, or by any other means deemed appropriate by the county commissioners.

III. The question shall be put to the voters at the November state election and shall read as follows: "Shall NAME OF COUNTY move to a biennial budget cycle starting in the year YEAR NUMBER?"

6 Repeal. RSA 32:14, IV, relative to procedure if the vote is favorable, is repealed.

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

2026-1797h

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Modifies the procedure for adopting, rescinding, and electing a municipal budget committee.

II. Modifies the time frame for the appointment of initial members of a cooperative school district budget committee.

III. Enables counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets.

#### Amendment to SB 665-FN (2026-1758h)

#### Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-r

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

1 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; Definitions. Amend RSA 402-N:1, VIII to read as follows:

VIII.(a) "Pharmacy benefits manager" means a person, business, or other entity, including a wholly or partially owned or controlled subsidiary of a pharmacy benefits manager ***or of a licensed health insurer***, that, pursuant to a contract with a health carrier, manages the prescription drug coverage provided by the health carrier ***for health coverage as defined in RSA 420-G:2, IX***, including, but not limited to, providing claims processing services for prescription drugs, performing drug utilization review, processing drug prior authorization requests, adjudication of grievances or appeals related to prescription drug coverage, contracting with network pharmacies, and controlling the cost of covered prescription drugs.



(b) "Pharmacy benefits manager" shall not include any:

- (1) Health care facility licensed in this state;
- (2) Health care professional licensed in this state;
- (3) Consultant who only provides advice as to the selection or performance of a pharmacy benefits manager; **or**

(4) Service provided to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services~~[; or]~~.

~~[(5) Health insurer licensed in this state if the health insurer or its subsidiary is providing pharmacy benefits management services exclusively to its own insureds.]~~

2 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; Registration to do Business; Rulemaking; Penalties. Amend RSA 402-N:2, III(a) to read as follows:

(a) ~~[For each separate violation, a penalty in the amount of \$2,500]~~ ***An administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 per violation.***

3 New Section; Written Agreements. Amend RSA 402-N by inserting after section 2 the following new section: 402-N:2-a. Written Agreement.

I. No pharmacy benefits manager shall act as such without a written agreement between the pharmacy benefits manager and the health carrier. The written agreement shall be retained as part of the official records of both the health carrier and the pharmacy benefits manager for the duration of the agreement and for 5 years thereafter. The agreement shall contain all provisions required by this chapter, except insofar as those requirements do not apply to the functions performed by the pharmacy benefits manager.

II. The written agreement shall include the following:

(a) A statement of duties that the pharmacy benefits manager is expected to perform on behalf of the health carrier.

(b) A statement that the pharmacy benefits manager shall maintain and make available to the health carrier complete books and records of all transactions performed on behalf of the health carrier.

(c) The instructions for how the pharmacy benefits manager will undertake the duties delegated by the health carrier.

III. In cases in which pharmacy benefits manager administers benefits for more than 100 covered lives in New Hampshire on behalf of the health carrier, the health carrier may, at least semi-annually, conduct an on-site or virtual audit of the operations of the pharmacy benefits manager.

4 Pharmacy Benefits Manager Reporting. RSA 402-N:6 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

402-N:6 Pharmacy Benefits Manager Reporting.

I. Each pharmacy benefits manager shall submit to the commissioner annually a report containing a list of health benefit plans it administered and the rebates it collected from pharmaceutical manufacturers that were attributable to patient utilization in the state of New Hampshire during the prior calendar year. The report submitted to the commissioner shall include the following information:

(a) The aggregate dollar amount spent on drugs prior to rebates;

(b) The aggregate dollar amount of all rebates that pharmacy benefit manager received from all pharmaceutical manufacturers;

(c) The aggregate dollar amount of all administrative fees that the pharmacy benefit manager received;

(d) The aggregate dollar amount of all health carrier administrative service fees that the pharmacy benefit manager received;

(e) The aggregate dollar amount of all rebates that the pharmacy benefit manager received from all pharmaceutical manufacturers and did not pass through to health plans or health carriers;

(f) The aggregate dollar amount of all administrative fees that the pharmacy benefit manager received from all pharmaceutical manufacturers and did not pass through to health plans or health carriers;

(g) The aggregate retained rebate percentage; and

(h) Across all of the pharmacy benefit manager's contractual or other relationships with all health plans or health carriers, the highest aggregate retained rebate percentage, the lowest aggregate retained rebate percentage, and the mean aggregate retained rebate percentage.

II. Information reported to the commissioner pursuant to this section shall be confidential and protected from disclosure under the commissioner's examination authority and shall not be considered a public record subject to disclosure under RSA 91-A. Based on this reporting, the commissioner shall make public aggregated data on the overall amount of rebates collected on behalf of covered persons in the state, but shall not release data that identifies a specific health carrier or pharmacy benefit manager.

III. The commissioner shall prescribe the format of the report and procedure for filing the report. Any forms, templates, or guidance regarding the report required by the section shall be exempt from the requirements of RSA 541-A.

IV. This section shall not apply to data related to Medicaid, the Medicaid Care Management program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program administered by the department of health and human services, self-funded plans, the state employee health benefit plan, or any other plan outside the jurisdiction of the commissioner.



5 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; Authority to Examine and Directly Bill Pharmacy Benefits Managers for Examinations. RSA 402-N:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

402-N:7 Authority to Examine and Directly Bill Pharmacy Benefits Managers for Examinations.

I. The acts of the pharmacy benefits manager shall be considered the acts of the health carrier on whose behalf it is acting. A pharmacy benefits manager may be examined as if it were the health carrier pursuant to RSA 400-A:37 and the commissioner may directly bill a pharmacy benefits manager for the costs of any examination.

II. The commissioner may investigate the acts of a pharmacy benefits manager pursuant to RSA 400-A:16.

III. The pharmacy benefits manager shall make all records and books of account available to the examiners or consultants and shall otherwise facilitate the performance of the examination or investigation.

6 Managed Care Law; Provider Contract Standards. Amend RSA 420-J:8, XV to read as follows:

XV.(a) All contracts between a carrier or pharmacy benefit manager and a contracted pharmacy shall include:

(1) The sources used by the pharmacy benefit manager to calculate the drug product reimbursement paid for covered drugs available under the pharmacy health benefit plan administered by the carrier or pharmacy benefit manager.

(2) A process to appeal, investigate, and resolve disputes regarding the maximum allowable cost pricing. The process shall include the following provisions:

(A) A provision granting the contracted pharmacy or pharmacist at least 30 business days following the initial claim to file an appeal;

(B) A provision requiring the carrier or pharmacy benefit manager to investigate and resolve the appeal within 30 business days;

(C) A provision requiring that, if the appeal is denied, the carrier or pharmacy benefit manager shall:

(i) Provide the reason for the denial; and

(ii) Identify the national drug code of a drug product that may be purchased by contracted pharmacies at a price at or below the maximum allowable cost; and

(D) A provision requiring that, if an appeal is granted, the carrier or pharmacy benefits manager shall within 30 business days after granting the appeal:

(i) Make the change in the maximum allowable cost; and

(ii) Permit the challenging pharmacy or pharmacist to reverse and rebill the claim in question.

**(3) All claims adjudications, appeals, and utilization review processes shall comply with the requirements of RSA 420-J and rules promulgated thereunder.**

(b) For every drug for which the **health carrier or** pharmacy benefit manager establishes a maximum allowable cost to determine the drug product reimbursement, the **health carrier or** pharmacy benefit manager shall:

(1) Include in the contract with the pharmacy information identifying the national drug pricing compendia or sources used to obtain the drug price data.

(2) Make available to a contracted pharmacy the actual maximum allowable cost for each drug.

(3) Review and make necessary adjustments to the maximum allowable cost for every drug for which the price has changed at least every 14 days.

(c) [Repealed.]

(d) [Repealed.]

**(e) Grant at least 7 days' advance notice of the initial on-site audit for each audit cycle.**

**A pharmacy that requests an additional 7 days prior to the commencement of an audit shall be granted 7 additional days.**

7 Managed Care Law; Retroactive Denials Prohibited; Exceptions. Amend RSA 420-J:8-b, III to read as follows:

III. A health carrier shall notify a health care provider at least 15 days in advance of the imposition of any retroactive denials of previously paid claims. The health care provider shall have 6 months from the date of notification under this paragraph to determine whether the insured has other appropriate insurance, which was in effect on the date of service. Notwithstanding the contractual terms between the health carrier and provider, the health carrier shall allow for the submission of a claim that was previously denied by another insurer due to the insured's transfer or termination of coverage. **If the health care provider files an appeal within 15 days of the date of the notice by the health carrier, the recoupment of the previously paid claim shall occur only after the appeal and external review process has concluded.**

8 New Subparagraphs; Standards for Accident and Health Insurance; Establishing Excess Cost Sharing. Amend RSA 415-A:7, I by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new subparagraphs:

(c) "Pharmacy benefits manager" means "pharmacy benefits manager" as defined in RSA 402-N:1, VIII.

(d) "Spread pricing" means the model of drug pricing in which the pharmacy benefit manager charges a health benefit plan a contracted price for drugs, and the contracted price for the drugs differs from the amount the pharmacy benefit manager directly or indirectly pays the pharmacist or pharmacy for the drugs, pharmacist services, or drug and dispensing fees.

9 Standards for Accident and Health Insurance; Establishing Excess Cost Sharing. Amend RSA 415-A:7, IV(b) to read as follows:

(b) A civil fine not to exceed [~~\$2,500~~] **\$5,000** may be imposed for each violation. [~~Repeated violations of the same provision shall constitute separate civil offenses.~~]

10 New Paragraphs; Standards for Accident and Health Insurance; Establishing Excess Cost Sharing. Amend RSA 415-A:7 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. An insurer providing health coverage as defined in RSA 420-G:2, IX to a group shall disclose at the time the plan is sold how rebates will be treated in accordance with this section and, if a pharmacy benefits manager is used to administer the prescription drug benefit, whether spread pricing is used to compensate the pharmacy benefits manager.

VII. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of spread pricing.

11 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-1758h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires written agreement to be formed between pharmacy benefits managers and health carriers before benefits managers can operate.

II. Amends pharmacy benefits manager reporting and examination requirements.

III. Raises the value of the maximum administrative fine that can be levied for violations of the state's pharmacy benefits manager laws.

**Amendment to SB 667-FN  
(2026-1760h)**

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

Amend RSA 631:1, I(e) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

***(e) Knowingly causes serious bodily injury to any emergency room personnel acting in the line of duty. For purposes of this subparagraph, "emergency room personnel" means a person in a hospital emergency department who, in the course and scope of their employment or as a volunteer, provides services or medical care, or who assists in the providing of services or medical care, for the benefit of the general public, including, but not limited to, any health care professional, emergency department clerk, emergency department technician, student, and emergency department volunteer working in the hospital emergency department. This section shall not apply to a person experiencing a mental health crisis who has a mental health diagnosis, a person who has a dementia diagnosis, or a person who has a disability such as an intellectual or developmental disability that impacts the person's ability to effectively communicate.***

Amend RSA 631:2, I(g) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

***(g) Knowingly causes bodily injury to any emergency room personnel acting in the line of duty. For purposes of this subparagraph, "emergency room personnel" means a person in a hospital emergency department who, in the course and scope of their employment or as a volunteer, provides services or medical care, or who assists in the providing of services or medical care, for the benefit of the general public, including, but not limited to, any health care professional, emergency department clerk, emergency department technician, student, and emergency department volunteer working in the hospital emergency department. This section shall not apply to a person experiencing a mental health crisis who has a mental health diagnosis, a person who has a dementia diagnosis, or a person who has a disability such as an intellectual or developmental disability that impacts the person's ability to effectively communicate.***

2026-1760h  
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes felony-level offenses for the assault of emergency room personnel, subject to certain exceptions.