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Thursday, February 13, 2025

No. 5

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 4 (Cont'd)

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Rep. Osborne moved that the House adjourn.
Motion was adopted.

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 5

Thursday, February 13, 2025

The House assembled at 10:00 a.m., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the Speaker. Prayer was offered by House Chaplain, Reverend Jonathan Hopkins, Pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church in Concord.

Dear God, today we bring the needs of our government before You and ask You to bless our state through these elected leaders. We give thanks that they have heard the call to serve all the people of the great State of New Hampshire. We pray for the members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives to find peace and direction, and for these men and women to act and lead according to wisdom and justice. A house divided against itself cannot stand, therefore, we pray for them to be unified in righteousness for the sake of our state. We remember that beyond politics, we care for one another. We pray for Rep. Gaby Grossman's son, Oscar. Be with them in this difficult time. We stand here today on the shoulders of all the other men and women who served in government before us. We remember today the prayer of President George Washington, "That thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States of America at large. And finally that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind." We remember today the words of President Abraham Lincoln, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and for his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." Be with us today as we work to continue the work of the great State of New Hampshire that serves to bring about good for all citizens. Amen.

Representative Julie Miles, member from Merrimack, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Tristan Plumb of Merrimack.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Gagne and Lundgren, the day, illness.

Reps. William Dolan, Dupont and John MacDonald, the day, important business.

Reps. Crawford and Grossman, the day, illness in the family.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Marissa Klomp, student at the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School, Page for the day.

Elise and Peter Rouleau, guests of Rep. Miles. Elizabeth Spain Foss, guest of Rep. Foss. The Honorables Michael McCarthy and Peggy McCarthy, former members of the House from Nashua, guests of Rep. Doucette. Executive Councilors Karen Liot Hill and Janet Stevens, guests of the Speaker.

RESOLUTION

Reps. Osborne and Simpson offered the following: RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives notify the Honorable Senate that it is ready to meet in Joint Convention for the purpose of hearing the Budget Address by her Excellency, Governor Kelly Ayotte.
Motion was adopted.

SENATE MESSAGE

The Senate is ready to meet with the Honorable House of Representatives in Joint Convention for the purpose of hearing the Budget Address by her Excellency, Governor Kelly Ayotte.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE

The Sergeant-at-Arms introduced the Honorable Senate and Senate President, Sharon Carson of Londonderry.

JOINT CONVENTION

(Speaker Packard presiding)

The Sergeant-at-Arms introduced the Governor, her Excellency, Kelly Ayotte.

BUDGET ADDRESS

Mr. Speaker, Madame President, honorable members of the House and Senate, Councilors, Commissioners, my fellow citizens, our state is on a remarkable upward trajectory, and today, I am here to present my recommended budget for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027, which will keep us on the path to greater prosperity for all of New Hampshire. We begin this year with our economy in a very strong position. Our rate of job growth exceeds the national average and is the best in New England. New business start-ups exceed the national average. Unemployment is low, wages continue to rise, and we are outperforming our neighbors on a host of different measures. Our New Hampshire Advantage is on display for all to see. Our prudent, financially responsible approach to taxes and regulations, and our commitment to protecting our unique quality of life, has made us a prime destination in the region in the competition for talent. As individuals assess their opportunities and families look at their costs and quality of life, New Hampshire is seen as a destination where they can each realize their full potential. What we've created over these last number of years is special and all of New Hampshire is benefitting from it. This success does not come without new challenges, like increasing our housing supply or keeping a best-in-class education system, or keeping up with demand for our services, but I believe that together we can meet these challenges head on. When I stood here one month ago, I shared with you the necessity for us to recalibrate. I told all of you that we must operate within our means and meet our commitments to those that are depending on us. For the past number of years, our budgets have been bolstered by billions of dollars from the federal government because of the COVID pandemic. We have also seen high revenues that made it easy to engage in surplus spending in new areas. Our last budget saw a 21% spending increase over a two-year period, not to say anything of the off-budget spending that occurred as well. The simple fact is that our revenue landscape looks different from that of the past number of years. With federal transfers dropping and revenues lower overall, a recalibration of our approach is in order – both for the total amount of spending, and also the way in which we steward every single taxpayer dollar. But let's be clear about something...something that our friends across the aisle don't seem to understand, the State of New Hampshire is strongest when individuals, families, and small businesses have more money in their pockets to make critical decisions. That's where the strength of our state lies – in the individual – in those that create jobs and opportunities for others. That isn't the role of government. Furthermore, the answer to our challenges is not to take more from our citizens in the form of taxes, but rather it is to look carefully and thoughtfully at what we are doing as a state, asking if we need to be doing it, and asking if we can afford to be doing it. Much of what we accomplish best in our state is done at the local level, and that's why we are pushing funds to the local level more than ever before in our history. And it's why I challenge our local officials to take the same stance we do as a state and take a hard look at what they are spending taxpayer dollars on, especially when we are supporting them more than ever before, so that they accordingly pass along relief to taxpayers through their property taxes, where possible. In building this budget, our guiding principle has been to deliver a budget worthy of our people that represents a recalibration of the way we do business, but continues our New Hampshire way of not raising taxes, but instead taking a hard look at spending. We have a constitutional responsibility to deliver a balanced budget for the citizens of New Hampshire. We rolled up our sleeves to find savings to meet this mandate and our commissioners worked diligently alongside us. In comparison to our last budget, we are spending \$150 million dollars less in General Funds. This adjustment in General Funds was undertaken smartly and thoughtfully, with a scalpel, not a shovel. It does so without across the board cuts and prioritizing those who are depending on services provided by the state. We focused on making our government more efficient and ensuring tax dollars do more with less. We cut bloated contracts with out-of-state vendors, took a hard look at how our agencies operate and worked with commissioners to dial in spending. And we also found areas to make responsible adjustments that bring us in line with the times and what other states are doing as well... We brought our adult Medicaid eligibility back in line with pre-pandemic levels and joined our neighbors in requiring nominal

copays for those receiving these benefits. I'd like to thank our commissioners for their diligence in working through this process and their openness to considering new ideas and approaches to our work. Those who depend on the services our state provides can rest assured that this budget will deliver for them. Rising costs are a problem for everyone and we heard loud and clear the need to help our local communities meet the needs of tomorrow. I am proud to announce that this budget sends more money to the local level, and spends more on education, than ever before. Begins the overhaul of the group 2 retirement system to make good on our promise to those who keep our state safe. Delivers record levels of spending for special education, nearly 50% higher than the last biennium. Expands education freedom to all public-school students. Will help get cell phones out of the classroom. Continues the tuition freeze at our community colleges. Ensures no waitlist for persons with disabilities. Streamlines the permitting process for housing and a whole lot more. This budget not only honors our unbreakable commitment to those in need of our help, but it will help prepare our next generation to meet the needs of tomorrow as well. What we have done for our students in this budget is tremendous. We are spending more on education than ever before and putting our students and teachers first. This budget continues the increases from the last biennium and ensures that our education system has the resources it needs. We are making a \$98.8 million dollar investment in special education, nearly a 50% increase from the previous biennium. We understand the skyrocketing costs facing towns in providing special education and we want to help lessen that financial burden and ensure students are receiving the resources they need. We are making education freedom available to public-school students so that parents can decide what learning environment is best for their children and every child has the opportunity to succeed. And we are making good on my promise to stop cell phones from disrupting our learning environments, doing it the New Hampshire way, making \$1 million dollars available in grants to school districts to develop individual approaches to pursue this goal. We're looking to our districts that have already taken steps to do this for examples as we craft a policy that works for schools across our state. At Stevens High School in Claremont, they've given every student a secure pouch to lock their cell phone in at the beginning of the day, and at the end of the day they are unlocked. This policy is helping reduce distractions in the classroom and instances of cyberbullying, all without asking teachers to become cell phone police. We are making investments in our community college system to keep career-ready education accessible to our students, ensure our businesses have a dependable pipeline of talent in the trades and other high-demand jobs and build the workforce of tomorrow here in New Hampshire. We are investing \$4.4 million to ensure tuition stays flat at our community colleges to make this opportunity as accessible as possible for everyone. We are putting \$6 million towards dual and concurrent enrollment at our community colleges, giving students the opportunity to jumpstart their careers in high school, whether by making it faster and cheaper for them to receive necessary training for the career they want, or giving them the exposure and the experience earlier to discover their passion and build their confidence to go for it. 10,000 students across our state are taking advantage of these programs and collectively represent millions of dollars in savings for themselves and their families. We're also funding expansions for career and technical education and our workforce credentialing programs, which make it easier for individuals to get the training they need to fill in-demand jobs in our state – from trades like welding, HVAC, or electrical work, to important health care workforce needs like licensed nursing assistants. Just last week I heard the story of Lindsay Taylor, a mom of two, who wanted to change careers and find a way to serve in her community. She entered the short term, credentialed LNA program at NHTI and after passing the licensing exam went to work in dementia care at the Merrimack County Nursing Home. Lindsay is an incredible example of an individual who was able to answer her calling because of the pathway created by credentialing programs. We want everyone who feels a similar pull to have the opportunity to do so. Investing in these opportunities for students to learn a trade or get credentialed in a high-demand field like health care will pay dividends in the long run for our state, by opening new pathways to public-private partnerships, addressing critical gaps in our workforce and putting more Granite Staters on the path to a good-paying career. Last month, I spoke to you about service, and how important it is that we foster a spirit of service across our state, that we teach it and model it for our kids so that they grow up and want to serve themselves. Those that serve others are truly the backbone of our state: our law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, corrections officers, first responders, nurses, teachers, state employees, National Guard members to our public officials and citizen legislature – service can take on so many different forms. They protect us, take care of us, teach us, defend us, help lead us...their contributions to our communities cannot be properly valued. And that's why it is so important to me that when it comes to public safety employees, that they have a retirement system that is best-in-class, to ensure we can recruit and retain those that are willing to serve. Which is why I am proud to announce today that we are starting the process of overhauling our group 2 retirement system, by making a \$33 million dollar investment to restore the benefits that were promised to our public safety employees. It's the right thing to do for those that do so much to keep us safe. This is only the beginning, but it is a big step forward in ensuring they receive the retirement they have earned. Our ranking as the safest state in the nation is the result of the work of our dedicated law enforcement personnel, from our state troopers to our corrections officers and local police, deputy sheriffs, firefighters, probation and parole officers, we depend on them, and they depend on us to make sure they have the tools they need to do their jobs. And that begins with you sending me legislation, to fix this disastrous bail law that is putting our police unnecessarily in harm's way and is a danger to the public at

large. What happened in Manchester last Friday night is completely unbelievable, when an individual accused of repeatedly stabbing a complete stranger, and who has a prior conviction for domestic violence, is allowed to walk free by a magistrate. I cannot emphasize this enough. Send me legislation to fix this once and for all. This budget ensures our law enforcement have the tools and resources necessary to keep our state safe. It fully funds the Granite Shield initiative, which is combating fentanyl, methamphetamine, and xylazine statewide and fund the creation of a new Northern Shield effort to bring even more resources to Coos, Grafton, Carroll and Sullivan counties to combat drug trafficking, and a new focus on collaboration with the City of Lawrence to stop the flow of drugs coming up 93. It adds an additional full-time investigator to the Attorney General's Cold Case Unit to bolster their resources in cracking these cases and providing closure for victims' families. Provides \$10.5 million dollars to fulfill our Victims of Crimes Act obligations, \$2.3 million for Court Appointed Special Advocates, \$3 million dollars for Child Advocacy Centers, and nearly \$1 million dollars for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. And as our nation struggles with the impacts of illegal immigration, here in New Hampshire, we created the Northern Border Alliance which is now a deterrent along our northern border. I've heard directly from law enforcement in the North Country, our federal partners, members of our Coos County delegation, and residents, and the response is resounding: this program works. That's why we will continue to fund it to allow them to do their work. One of my critical responsibilities as Governor is to provide for those who depend on the State of New Hampshire for their daily needs. Our first step in shaping this budget was to protect the programs that those who are most in need depend on. Which is why we secured over \$1 billion for the biennium to fund services for citizens with developmental disabilities. From transportation to medical appointments, to physical therapy programs, to other vital services, we are ensuring those with disabilities in our state have the support system they need. I am also proud to say today that this budget will ensure there continues to be no waitlist for disability care in the State of New Hampshire. I said in my inaugural address that seeking treatment for mental health challenges is just as important as going to the doctor when you're sick. My budget will support the continued efforts to strengthen our mental health care system. We've added \$10 million dollars to fund the work of our Community Mental Health Centers as they help Granite Staters struggling with mental health challenges to get the care they need. New Hampshire will also continue to lead the way in giving a hand up to our citizens who are seeking treatment for and recovering from substance use disorders. This budget fully funds the Recovery Friendly Workplace program so we can continue to ensure that working through recovery is not a barrier to economic opportunity for Granite Staters. There is no greater pressure weighing on the economic success of our state today, than our housing market. Supply is tight, demand is high, and inventory is expensive. Our economic success hinges on our ability to attract talent here, and given the great story we have to tell, we are succeeding. People are coming. But they have to have affordable places to live. We also need to combat this affordability crisis so that our kids stay, so that our retirees stay, and so our communities keep old faces, and welcome new ones. Our job growth leads the region, but today home listings are half their pre-pandemic levels and rentals are extremely tight. Not to mention, higher home prices and rents, mortgage rates, all of which make this task even harder. I believe that the first step we can take as a state to help loosen our housing market is to be good models of the change we'd like to see. This starts with streamlining our processes to get builders answers faster, so that their projects are not unnecessarily bogged down in bureaucracy. Which is why I am announcing a plan to streamline the permitting process to ensure it takes no more than 60 days and puts the burden on the state to meet this timeline or forfeit the right to act. This is a first step in ensuring that we are a good actor as a state and set a model for local communities to follow as we respond to the critical housing shortage our state faces. But let me be clear about something, we aren't going to meaningfully bring down prices, and loosen our supply, unless our local communities are coming to the table and recognizing the role each of them play in our shared success as a state. What we have here in New Hampshire is working, it's working for all of us, and the more that we can share this with others, the stronger we are going to be. It's important for us to understand what we're doing well as a state in the context of our neighbors. As I said earlier, our job growth is leading the region, and it's our ability to attract talent to our state that is really to thank for the economic prosperity our state is seeing. We cannot be shy about telling the story about what we're doing, which is why I felt it so important to keep funding going to promote our state, encourage tourism, and spread the gospel of the New Hampshire Way. And since we're on the subject of what draws others here... our natural beauty as a state is both one of our points of pride and the bedrock of our unique quality of life. To me, it's pretty much common sense to say that our North Country, our lakes region, our beautiful open spaces, shouldn't be scarred by poorly envisioned projects that detract from our quality of life. Which is why I am announcing today a landfill moratorium and a revamped regulatory process for approving these projects going forward, to ensure that our beauty as a state is not compromised. And lastly, before I close, I want to mention one of my new initiatives, the Commission on Government Efficiency, what you all know as, the COGE. COGE will be working diligently to develop new ideas on how the state can operate going forward. Like past Governor-appointed commissions to study and improve government operation, we've brought in outside experts to bring new thinking and ideas. I look forward to reviewing their recommendations in the coming months, as they thoughtfully consider ways we can do things better as a state. In conclusion, our state remains in an enviable position. To maintain our standing as the beacon of the northeast, and adjust to the revenue environment we are facing, some recalibra-

tions are in order. But we have been thoughtful and taken care to ensure they will not be felt by those that depend on us the most. This budget is a step forward for our future, and it will help us directly address the challenges we face in growing our prosperity as a state. This is truly a budget for all of New Hampshire. Thank you for your time this morning, God bless you, and God bless the great State of New Hampshire.

Rep. Osborne and Sen. Birdsell moved that the Joint Convention arise.
Motion was adopted and the Joint Convention adjourned.

HOUSE SESSION

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Rep. Osborne moved that the Consent Calendar with the relevant amendments as printed in the day's House Record be adopted.

Consent Calendar was adopted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0078h)

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0156h)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

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

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. While most Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) courses within the dual and concurrent enrollment program are 3 or 4 credits, the CCSNH does offer some trade courses in formats that are as much as 12 credits. The only change made in this bill states that a dual and concurrent enrollment course taken by a high school student in grades 10, 11, or 12 shall not exceed 4 credits. The state pays the student's enrollment tuition, which is established by statute at \$150 per course. This is a huge savings to students and families and the program is calculated to save more than \$10 million

if the same courses were taken later after graduation as an adult. In accordance with statute, and if available funds remain available, a student may take up to four courses per year. The program is extremely successful; this program addresses the higher education affordability issue. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0200h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

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

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

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rep. Connie Lane for Election Law. This bill asks for the formation of a committee to study alleged violations of voting laws submitted by a group of citizens to the Ballot Law Commission on April 5, 2023 where they asked the commission to take action against the alleged perpetrators. Because the Ballot Law Commission does not have the authority to prosecute or penalize the alleged perpetrators, it referred all the materials provided by the citizens to the Attorney General's office for review. The Attorney General's office did not pursue any prosecutions based on the information provided to them. The citizens group is now asking for the legislature to take action since the Ballot Law Commission and the Attorney General have not assessed penalties against the alleged perpetrators. The General Court is neither a judicial nor an executive body, and its review of the report would amount to a "report on a report." Rather than forming a committee to examine the findings, the committee believes it would be more productive for the citizens group to propose specific legislative remedies. Vote 16-1.

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

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

Amendment (0217h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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

652:23 Chief Election Officer.

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0193h)

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

AN ACT relative to nonpayment of dog licensing fees.

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

HB 180, relative to critical incident stress management teams. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is an iterative improvement to the critical incident stress management team program, which provides crisis intervention designed to assist emergency response/public safety workers in coping with the psychological trauma resulting from response to a critical incident or personal experiences. While tying training to the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) training program made sense in the past, the ICISF has added a \$400 test to the certification process which creates significant financial hardship for the volunteers on these teams that in the opinion of the sponsor and this committee is unnecessary. The amendment further improves the bill by making clear that these teams may or may not be affiliated with a municipality and defines the role of team leader. Vote 11-0.

Amendment (0261h)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

HB 236-FN, relative to the granting of retired status to certified public accountants. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Stephen Pearson for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill creates the designation of "CPA (Certified Public Accountant) Retired" as a permitted designation for those that meet the requirements outlined in the bill. This came as a request from the Board of Accountancy. This would allow a retired CPA to use this designation on business cards and other areas stating professional designations. This is not a new concept. Twenty-two other states allow for a CPA Retired designation. This status does not allow for a retired CPA to act as a currently practicing CPA. What it does is allow for those retired CPAs to do volunteer work using their knowledge to assist organizing the finances of groups they wish to volunteer for. Vote 11-1.

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

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would establish a new, full-time position at Volunteer NH, paid for out of state funds. Volunteer NH is a private entity that currently receives no state funding (other than office space and incidentals). The committee was not convinced that a new, full-time employee was necessary to assist Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers obtain grant, scholarship, or

other aid to help them stay in New Hampshire. This was a recommendation from a 2020 study commission that urged better connection to national programs, but we received no indication that Volunteer NH had started such an effort on their own initiative. This function is solidly within the authority of this operation, and it is able to use federal funds, grants, and donations to accomplish its purposes. Vote 10-2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0132h)

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

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

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

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would re-establish the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with a mental illness whose impairment is primarily due to intellectual disability. The current definition of mental illness excludes impairment primarily caused by an intellectual disability. As a result, intellectually disabled individuals who experience a behavioral crisis significant enough to be hospitalized are not provided treatment and are essentially just warehoused, often for many weeks, until the crisis subsides. Because treatment is never provided, the affected individuals and their families are doomed to repeat this process over and over again with no end or help in sight. The initial commission was created in the last term to identify procedures to address this issue, but the appointment

of the commission members was delayed to the point that it did not have sufficient time to come up with the necessary recommendations before the statutory deadline. The re-established commission will pick up where the old commission left off and finally develop a path to provide intellectually disabled persons suffering with mental illness the help they need and deserve. The committee therefore recommended Ought to Pass. Vote 18-0.

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0061h)

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

2 Statement of Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

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

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

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

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

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

Forensic Liaison and Competency Restoration Pilot Program

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

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

II. The department of health and human services shall establish a 2-year pilot program creating the position of one or more forensic liaisons (FL) and contracting for all services necessary for competency restoration not otherwise covered by a third-party payer. The FL shall operate as neutral entities between the parties and the court in instances when competency is raised as an issue in a criminal case. The FL shall operate in the superior court in Merrimack or Strafford county and in the circuit courts district division in the county that is selected. The

commissioner of the department of health and human services shall be responsible for designating an employee of the department to hire, train, and supervise the FL, or shall contract with another entity to provide such services and any services necessary for competency restoration not covered by a third-party payer. The FL shall hold at least a bachelor's level degree in social work, psychology, criminal justice, or sociology, or have a minimum of 2 years of work experience in a relevant field, as determined by the department or contracted entity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0075h)

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

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

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

I. In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rep. Linda Franz for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to increase the amount that municipalities could receive from the state after a natural disaster from Municipal Road and Bridge Disaster Relief Funding. The capped maximum per calendar year award would increase from \$25,000 to \$100,000. This increase is more in line with what current costs may be to repair infrastructural damage caused by a natural disaster. Additionally, as suggested by New Hampshire Homeland Security Emergency Management, this bill also inserts clarifying language to the existing statute to ensure that this funding only applies to this municipal disaster relief program. Vote 18-0.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

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

Rep. Charles Melvin for Public Works and Highways. This bill names the alternative use trail bridge spanning Rt. 101 in Keene (also known as south bridge) the Charles Redfern Bridge. Mr. Redfern envisioned that abandoned railway lines could be transformed into multi-modal pathways and in 1994 founded Pathways for Keene. He has raised over \$750,000 over acquired numerous federal grants over the years to transform

stranded rail lines into functional rail trails. He has served numerous leadership positions in Keene including Keene State College and in the New Hampshire Rail Trail Coalition. The City of Keene fully supports this bill and will fully fund the cost, installation, and maintenance of necessary signage with appropriate New Hampshire Department of Transportation oversight. Vote 15-0.

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

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

Amendment (0126h)

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

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

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

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

(a) Commercial barges engaged in their trade and moored adjacent to shorefront property with the permission of the landowner;

(b) Vessels operated by state, local, or federal agencies; or

(c) Vessels occupied by an operator for stabilization in the water for waterborne activities, including, but not limited to, fishing.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment (0085h)

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. The bill focuses exclusively on "lane filtering" - which allows motorcycles to overtake and pass motor vehicles that are stopped or traveling less than 10 miles per hour in the same lane and in the same direction. The majority of the committee felt that the bill, as presented, was too broad and could apply to too many situations, potentially creating safety concerns not only for motorcycle

operators but also for other vehicle operators. Given that this bill would require a significant investment to develop an education program for both motorcyclists and the driving public, the committee felt it was best to take the spirit of the bill and possibly apply it to future legislation in a more targeted way. Vote 15-1.

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

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

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

REGULAR CALENDAR

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

Rep. Michael Granger for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. Due to federal law, independent workers can have their negotiating rights stripped by a union if the union chooses to represent all workers, instead of just the union workers. If a union does this, the independent workers are not allowed to get a separate contract; they are stuck with the one that the union negotiates. Unions can make a lot of money by extracting union dues from these non-union members and can use them to increase the bargaining power of the union against the interest of the independent workers. As things are right now, independent workers are coerced to join unions against their will through this mechanism. This legislation seeks to remedy this by giving independent workers the right to work without paying dues to the union; it solves the problem of forced unionism. This bill recognizes the value unions provide in terms of wages, benefits and training but balances those attributes with the rights of employers and workers to choose their form of employment. For these reasons, the majority of the Labor Committee recommends ought to pass on this bill. Vote 10-9.

Rep. Mark MacKenzie for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The so-called right to work bill promotes economic insecurity by undermining and dismantling the relationship between workers and their employers. Pushed by out-of-state interests, this bill will do nothing to protect workers' freedom. The law is clear in this country, and workers have the personal freedom to choose whether to join and support a union and cannot be subject to coercion or intimidation. Further, the union has a legal obligation to represent all workers in the bargaining unit equally regardless of the workers' union status. Currently, a union can negotiate a union security agreement allowing them to charge a fee to cover only those costs which are related to the bargaining and administration of the contract and cannot charge for political activities or ancillary activities of the union. This legislation would remove this provision in the law and allow free riders to get all of the benefits as other union members and contribute nothing to this effort. This legislation undermines unions' strength and security by allowing workers to get all of the benefits of union membership and not pay anything, in spite of the law which requires the union to represent all people in the bargaining unit. This legislation is part of a national strategy driven by out-of-state interests aimed at undermining and weakening unions. Proponents of the bill suggest this will strengthen unions but hope for the opposite. Ninety-five percent of the nearly fifteen hundred people who signed in opposed the legislation. Not one union member appeared in support of the legislation. Therefore, given the facts, and the overwhelming public testimony opposing the bill the minority of the committee recommend Inexpedient to Legislate.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE

Rep. Stephen Pearson moved that **HB 238-FN**, prohibiting collective bargaining agreements from requiring employees join or contribute to a labor union, be Indefinitely Postponed.

Reps. Stephen Pearson and LeClerc spoke in favor.

Rep. Creighton spoke against and yielded to question.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 200 - NAYS 180

YEAS - 200

BELKNAP

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
King, Seth

Murphy, Michael
Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Pank, Sandra
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Flanagan, Jack
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Guthrie, Joseph
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
Foote, Charles
Haskins, Linda
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Pearson, Stephen
Turer, Eric

Bryer, Scott
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Nelson, Jodi
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Khan, Aboul
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 180**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Pernel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Layon, Erica
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Doucette, Fred
Ford, Mary
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guzofski, James
Walsh, Lilli
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

and the motion was adopted.

Rep. Dennis Mannion recused himself from the vote and did not participate.

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

Rep. Denis Murphy for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. This bill would allow cities and towns to charge fees for licensing motor vehicle racetrack operations. The fees may range from \$0 to \$500. Licenses entail annual inspections for compliance with fire and health, concession stands, or other code enforcement ordinances that a municipality may have, and other related inspection costs. Municipalities may charge a fee from nothing up to \$500 which determines all fees related to their community needs. The original maximum inspection fee was \$100. That fee has not changed since the original bill passed in the late 60's or early 70's. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Dale Girard for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. NH RSA 31:41-a grants towns the authority to establish bylaws regulating motor vehicle tracks, including setting a fixed annual fee not to exceed \$100 for their operation. This bill seeks to increase that cap to \$500. The minority of the committee believe this issue effects a single community based upon testimony. Once bylaws are established, the existing annual fee should be sufficient to cover the review process for the upcoming season. Additionally, the annual property taxes paid by the facility, should offset any costs incurred by municipal staff. For these reasons, the minority oppose the Ought to Pass motion.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

On a division vote, with 183 members having voted in the affirmative, and 185 in the negative, the majority committee report failed.

Rep. Girard moved the minority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Minority committee report was adopted.

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

Rep. Arnold Davis for the Majority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would allow a 10-mile section of OHRV trail in Pittsburg, New Hampshire to remain open until Columbus day to align with the rest of the trails in this area. These connector trails will bring much needed revenue to the Town of Pittsburg. The representative of the owner of the property had no objection to this bill. The chairman of the HB 1188 commission to study the use of OHRVS in New Hampshire spoke in favor of this bill and presented an informal poll of the commission showing the majority of those voting in favor of this bill. A petition was submitted with over 700 signatures in support of keeping the trails open. Local businesses were in support of this bill. Before this bill was filed, a request was made to DNCR to extend the OHRV riding season with no success. Support for this bill was filed by the District 1 Executive Councilor, Joseph Kenney. Vote 11-5.

Rep. Will Darby for the Minority of Resources, Recreation and Development. The Connecticut Lakes Headwaters is a large tract of privately owned forest lands in Coos County with a conservation easement held by the State of New Hampshire permitting the public's use of wide ranging outdoor recreational activities. The Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee, consisting of a broad set of stakeholders from surrounding towns, was created in RSA 12-A:9-b to advise state departments on compliance with the conservation easement and uses on the lands. A new five-year management plan was adopted by the Citizens Committee in April 2024, and no requests were received to increase the operating period at public hearings while it was developed. New Hampshire Fish and Game opposes the two-week operation period extension in this bill because it conflicts with the beginning of small game season, when a large number of Granite State and non-resident hunters visit the North Country in pursuit of ruffed grouse and woodcock, often hunting near the same trails used by OHRVs which puts expensive bird dogs at risk from these fast-moving vehicles. The Head of Trails for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources testified that the season can be extended by petitioning the commissioner by April 1st, thereby alleviating the need to modify the statute. Ultimately, this bill allows the legislature to usurp local control to favor one activity over others, disregards inputs from the HB 1188 commission to study the use of OHRVs in New Hampshire and is unnecessary since non-legislative solutions can extend the permitted period of OHRV use on the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters' trails in time for the 2025 season.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Darby spoke against.

Rep. Arnold Davis spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 198 members having voted in the affirmative, and 180 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

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

Rep. Arnold Davis for the Majority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would increase the maximum unladen dry weight limit of an OHRV to 3,500 pounds. The majority of the committee believes

this will pave the way for electric OHRVs and that the noise and pollution reduction from electric OHRVs would remove noise and pollution concerns of abutters. It was discussed that presently the vehicles using these rails are not weighed and may already be in violation of the weight limit. This bill is limited to state owned trails in Coos County as well as certain other specified recreational trails. Testimony was received from the New Hampshire Off-Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA) in support of this bill to keep up with consumer demands and technological advances. The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) also submitted testimony in support of this bill for similar reasons. Vote 9-7.

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

On a division vote, with 188 members having voted in the affirmative, and 190 in the negative, the majority committee report failed.

Rep. Vail moved the minority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Minority committee report was adopted.

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

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

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 215 - NAYS 162**YEAS - 215****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
St. Clair, Charlie

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
King, Seth

Murphy, Michael
Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Spier, Carry
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Sheehan, Vanessa
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Sargent, Gregory
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Larochelle, John
Turcotte, Len

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Malone, Amy
Walker, David

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 162**CARROLL**

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Panek, Sandra
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efsthia
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Fox, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

MOTION TO SUSPEND HOUSE RULES

Rep. Belcher moved that all necessary House Rules be so far suspended as to allow late drafting and introduction of a House Resolution relative to affect the impeachment of Magistrate Stephanie Johnson.

The question being the motion to suspend House Rules.

Reps. Belcher and Berry spoke in favor.

Rep. Scherr spoke against.

Rep. Belcher requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 199 - NAYS 176**YEAS - 199****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Buco, Thomas
Peternel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
King, Seth

Murphy, Michael
Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi

Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 176

BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foss, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Polozov, Yuri
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eilean
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
MacDonald, Wayne

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Spilsbury, Walter

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion failed lacking the necessary two-thirds vote.

Rep. Johnson recused himself from the vote and did not participate.

The House recessed at 11:45 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

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

Rep. Pierre Dupont for the Majority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill, which allows for the establishment of a village district to protect and remediate surface waters, adds another layer of government where the state already has the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to care for our water quality and enforcement. It was suggested to the committee that there are other methods of obtaining cooperation between towns, such as zoning amendments, without creating another layer of government which may increase local taxes. Testimony was received by a resident of Newbury located in the Lake Sunapee Watershed, who stated that smart, protective policies implemented by local town government was the preferred method of creating meaningful protective actions. A similar bill, HB 1250, did not pass last year. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Gregory Sargent for the Minority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill is a common-sense update to RSA 52:1, enabling voters in neighboring communities to establish a village district to protect local surface waters and remediate contamination and pollution if they so choose. Growing threats such as cyanobacteria blooms, PFAS contamination, and stormwater runoff pose serious economic and environmental risks to our communities. This legislation ensures that those communities have the ability to collaborate and act locally to ensure New Hampshire's watersheds and surface waters remain viable economic engines. As with other village districts currently in statute, this would require voters in each town to vote in favor of the district and ensures the importance of local control.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Harb spoke in favor.

Rep. Rung spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 196 - NAYS 171**YEAS - 196****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Cordelli, Glenn
Taylor, Brian

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Morency, Pete

Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Soucy, Timothy

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 171**BELKNAP**

Ploszaj, Tom

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

COOS

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige	Bergeron, Dan	Booras, Efstathia	Bouchard, Donald
Budathoki, Suraj	Chourasia, Manoj	Chretien, Suzanne	Cornell, Patricia
Darby, Will	Dargie, Paul	DiSilvestro, Linda	Elberger, Susan
Davis, Fred	Foss, Lily	Georges, Mary	Gregg, Alicia
Grill, Jessica	Grund, Stephanie	Harriott-Gathright, Linda	Hartnett, Tim
Hegner, Karen	Jack, Martin	Judy, Jean	Juris, Louis
Kerwin, Erin	Kluger, Lee Ann	Foxx, Loren	Leapley, Nicole
LeClerc, Daniel	Leishman, Peter	Lloyd, Christal	Long, Patrick
Howard, Molly	Murray, Megan	MacKenzie, Mark	Manohar, Sanjeev
McGhee, Kat	Miles, Julie	Mooney, Maureen	Murphy, Nancy
Petrigno, Peter	Plamondon, Marc	Preece, David	Newman, Ray
Raymond, Heather	Rombeau, Catherine	Rung, Rosemarie	Ryan, Linda
Newman, Sue	Salvi, Santosh	Seibert, Christine	Sofikitis, Catherine
Spier, Carry	Staub, Kathy	Swanson, Dale	Telerski, Laura
Tellez, Trinidad	Vail, Suzanne	Veilleux, Daniel	Thomas, Wendy
Wheeler, Jonah	Wilhelm, Matthew		

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy	Caplan, Tony	Colby, Eleana	Kelly, Eileen
Ebel, Karen	Gibbs, Merryl	Hicks, Matthew	Lane, Connie
Luneau, David	Hall, Muriel	MacKay, James	Newsom, James
Payeur, Stephanie	Richards, Beth	Roesener, James	Sargent, Gregory
Schamberg, Thomas	Schultz, Kris	Snodgrass, Jim	Wallner, Mary Jane
Woods, Gary			

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy	de Vries, Erica	Edgar, Michael	Gilman, Julie
Grote, Jaci	Guthrie, Joseph	Haskins, Linda	Murray, Kate
Knab, Allison	Cahill, Michael	Paige, Mark	Maggiore, Jim
Malloy, Dennis	Mandelbaum, Jennifer	Manos, Zoe	Meuse, David
Muns, Chris	Raynolds, Ned	Read, Ellen	Scherr, Buzz
Simpson, Alexis	Sorensen, Carrie	Turer, Eric	Ward, Gerald
Weinstein, Toni			

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz	Bixby, Peter	Burton, Wayne	England, Myles
Smith, Geoffrey	Gilmore, Gary	Howard, Heath	Horrigan, Timothy
Howland, Allan	Johnson, Erik	LaMontagne, Jessica	Larochelle, John
Levesque, Cassandra	Smith, Marjorie	Malone, Amy	Miller, Seth
Schmidt, Peter	Selig, Loren	Southworth, Thomas	Stone, John
Pearson, Wayne	Wade, Alice	Wall, Janet	

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian	Cloutier, John	Damon, Hope	Palmer, William
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and the majority committee report was adopted.

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

Rep. Ron Dunn for the Majority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill adds the following language to the existing RSA 9-A:1, III (b) which sets forth the goals and policies which are relevant to the topical areas included in the plan by adding: drinking water aquifer identification and protection, protection of our lakes, rivers, estuaries, forest, wetlands and shoreline uplands, coastal marshlands, wildlife habitat, and..." to subsection (7). The majority of the committee believes that this bill and the additional language it seeks to include is not necessary. Also, the Department of Business and Economic Affairs estimate the additional requirements will lead to an indeterminable increase in costs. The department estimates this additional cost would range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 which is not affordable in this economic environment. As a result, the majority of the committee voted this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Will Darby for the Minority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would update the state's comprehensive development plan to encourage state agencies to work together towards the protection of critical natural resources including drinking water aquifers, lakes and wildlife habitat, as well as identifying the impacts of pollutants and waste disposal practices on New Hampshire's air, water, and land resources. A healthy environment is an essential component of the state's economic prosperity; for example, outdoor tourism alone contributes \$3.9 billion to the New Hampshire economy. Likewise, proactively assessing threats to vital resources guards against costly remediation, such as the ongoing PFAS drinking water contamination crisis and extensive MtBE mitigation in the past and protects against calamities like those experienced in Maine where farmland was poisoned from toxic sludge.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 199 - NAYS 171**YEAS - 199****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Cordelli, Glenn
Taylor, Brian

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
King, Seth

Murphy, Michael
Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Michael

NAYS - 171**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efsthathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Fox, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Grant, George

Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

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

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

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Donnelly spoke in favor.

Rep. Rung spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 196 - NAYS 175

YEAS - 196

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
King, Seth

Murphy, Michael
Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slotte, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aylward, Deborah
Devold, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guzofski, James
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Selby, Donald
 Sytek, John
 Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Edwards, Jess
 Harb, Robert
 Walsh, Lilli
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Nelson, Jodi
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Soti, Julius
 Tudor, Paul
 MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
 Thomas, Douglas
 Doucette, Fred
 Foote, Charles
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Vandecasteele, Susan
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Drago, Mike
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 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
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 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sweeney, Joe
 Verville, Kevin
 Wilson, Vicki

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 Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
 Spilsbury, Walter

SULLIVAN**NAYS - 175
BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

St. Clair, Charlie

Buco, Thomas
 McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
 Brown, Richard

Paige, David
 Woodcock, Stephen

Hamblen, Joseph

Ames, Dick
 Faulkner, Barry
 Germana, Nicholas

Harvey, Cathryn
 Gruber, James
 Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rourke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
 Jones, Philip
 Weber, Lucy

CARROLL**CHESHIRE****GRAFTON**

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lucas, Janet
 Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
 Sullivan, Jared
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
 Lovett, Peter
 Spahr, Terry

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Murray, Aissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Lascelles, Richard
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Kerwin, Erin
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Luneau, David
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Gibbs, Merryl
 Hall, Muriel
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Hicks, Matthew
 MacKay, James
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Dolan, Tom
Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

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Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Grant, George

and the majority committee report was adopted.

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

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

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

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

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

Amendment (0174h)

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

AN ACT relative to the Selective Service Compliance Act.

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

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

Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act

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

112:14 Application.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill relocates the Selective Service Registration Awareness and Compliance Act from RSA chapter 187-A to chapter 112, and removes the state university's requirement to enforce selective service registration. The question being adoption of the committee amendment. Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

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

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This measure seeks to apply certain hiring preferences currently in place for veterans to veterans' spouses as well in certain circumstances. For example, some law enforcement organizations give hiring consideration points to veterans seeking civilian careers in law enforcement. This measure would extend certain considerations to military spouses as well. Supporters raised awareness as to the unique sacrifices and contributions that veteran spouses make as indispensable members of our military teams. Vote 18-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass. Committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

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

Rep. Tom Mannion for the Majority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority believes that the decades-long dispute between Maine and New Hampshire over the boundary between our states re: Portsmouth Harbor and the Piscataqua River requires our federal delegation to take action and introduce legislation that could more clearly document that the entirety of the harbor lies within New Hampshire. For most of its history, the US Navy seems to have acknowledged that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was New Hampshire territory, but more recently it has taken a neutral stance. Some current tax estimates indicate the amount of Maine state income taxes collected from Portsmouth area Granite Staters working at the shipyard is as high as \$6 million a year. Considering that the New Hampshireers have zero representation at the Maine State House in Augusta, this clearly appears to be "taxation without representation." Vote 14-4.

Rep. Christine Seibert for the Minority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution was brought to us with the intent of providing tax relief to employees of the shipyard who reside in the State of New Hampshire. One big concern is given the number of New Hampshire citizens who work in another state, this could set a precedent for future border changes based on one employer being located within "close enough" proximity. In this case, less than half of the shipyard workers are permanent New Hampshire resi-

dents. Another unintended consequence involves the costs associated with an official location change. The Kittery, Maine, town manager states: “If New Hampshire wants the shipyard it will need to build bridges from Portsmouth to the Naval Station Island, so they can assume all the traffic congestion and infrastructure impacts, which Maine currently shoulders as the host of the shipyard.” The issue of who has jurisdiction is not new and involves fishing rights as well. The United States Supreme Court unanimously ruled on a border dispute in Maine’s favor in 2001, dismissing New Hampshire’s claim to the shipyard. The court denied a New Hampshire request to reconsider, ruling that the boundary between the states is the middle of the Piscataqua River. Considerations of equity persuade the court that application of judicial estoppel is appropriate in this case. New Hampshire’s claim that the Piscataqua River boundary runs along the Maine shore is clearly inconsistent with its interpretation of the words “Middle of the River” during the 1970’s litigation to mean either the middle of the main navigable channel or the geographic middle of the river. Either construction located the “Middle of the River” somewhere other than the Maine shore of the Piscataqua River. Moreover, the record of the 1970’s dispute makes clear that this court accepted New Hampshire’s agreement with Maine that “Middle of the River” means middle of the main navigable channel, and that New Hampshire benefited from that interpretation. Notably, in their joint motion for entry of the consent decree, New Hampshire and Maine represented to this court that the proposed judgment was “in the best interest of each State.” Were the court to accept New Hampshire’s latest view, the risk of inconsistent court determinations would become a reality. The court cannot interpret “Middle of the River” in the earlier decree to mean two different things along the same boundary line without undermining the integrity of the judicial process.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Seibert spoke against.

Rep. Barton spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 250 members having voted in the affirmative, and 123 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HCR 9, urging the United States to reject compliance with the European Union’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Mike Belcher for the Majority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority believes that Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) is an attempt to inflict on the United States, extraterritoriality, a host of dubious measures the likes of which the American electorate recently rejected via the November elections. These measures would reduce quality of life by promoting “de growth” of energy and economics, and institute ideological nepotism via divisive and preferential DEI policies. The coercive cartel nature of the European actors here seems to conflict with the New Hampshire Constitution, Article 83. In usurping the freedoms of speech and association of private US companies, the EU compels US businesses to commit to mandatory social activism against other Americans, effectively turning them into an arm of European government. The foundation of so-called “sustainability,” as adopted by the United Nations and the EU, is really the concept of “de growth.” Simply put, it results in degrading economic activity, limiting energy production, restricting travel, and much more. For further details look to the work of prominent German-educated Japanese philosopher Kohei Saito, and his book, “Marx in the Anthropocene: Towards the Idea of De growth Communism.” This attempt by the EU to force statist policies on the American people from across the Atlantic should be seen as nothing short of a hostile act against the United States of America. This resolution requests that our federal government be firm in resisting this EU overreach while simultaneously promoting American sovereignty. Vote 12-6.

Rep. Lily Foss for the Minority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution would urge the United States government to interfere with the affairs of private businesses and a foreign entity, the European Union. This seems like nebulous virtue-signaling concerning “DEI” and “Green New Deal” targets that don’t even exist in the EU’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). Neither this body nor Congress should interfere with a measure that the EU has passed to regulate commerce within its own borders. Passing this resolution and imploring Congress to take some ill-advised stance will at best indicate that our General Court is willing to encourage double standards concerning a Congress that recently chose to impose regulations of its own upon ByteDance and TikTok. At worst, it could encourage yet another inflationary trade war. Claims that this resolution effort is worth the cognitive dissonance necessary to honor the idea of small government while at the same time encouraging government overreach seem to be rooted in the premise that the ends (protecting large corporations from the onerous obligation of making sure their business don’t enable human rights abuses) justify the means (inserting the US government into private and foreign enterprises to challenge perceived “woke” policies). Surely our constituents don’t expect us to engage in such posturing in order to strengthen our partisan bona fides. The minority urges rejection of this measure.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Foss spoke against.

Rep. Bernardy spoke in favor.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 204 - NAYS 163**YEAS - 204****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

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Taylor, Brian

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Rhodes, Jennifer

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Nalevanko, Rich

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Durkin, Sean
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori
King, Seth

Murphy, Michael
Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
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Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Turer, Eric
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

**NAYS - 163
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foss, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

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

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

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Khan spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 328 members having voted in the affirmative, and 41 in the negative, the committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Heath Howard moved that the debate on **HR 11**, urging the United States government to investigate allegations of abuse of minorities, especially Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and other religious minorities by the interim government of Bangladesh, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HR 11

Representative Khan: Good afternoon, Mister Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. My name is Aboul Khan, and I represent the town of Seabrook. I am here before you to talk about my native country, Bangladesh. I immigrated to the United States 45 years ago. I have many friends and relatives living in Bangladesh and I am a frequent visitor to my birth country. Last August 5th, 2024, everything changed in that beautiful country. A fundamentalist student uprising took over the country's power and installed a pro-fundamentalist, anti-West, anti-India and anti everything government led by Muhammad Yunus. Last six months, the country has been in political turmoil. Lots of attacks are reported targeting homes and businesses of the opposition party, properties and places of worships of the religious minorities mainly Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and the Indigenous Peoples. Five days ago, they bulldozed the father of the nation's home, which used to be a museum. They are in a rampage all over the country and I am getting frequent calls to let the policymakers in the United States know what is happening in that small country in South East Asia. On Nov 25, a well-known Hindu and ISKON religious monk, Chinmoy Krishna Das, was arrested under false accusation and detained without any due process for his bail to this day. His fault was that he had been vocal regarding minority rights. The government alleged that he disrespected the Bangladeshi flag, which is false and even this is not considered a big non-bailable crime in the real world. Out of 350 parliament members of Bangladesh, nearly 135 members' houses were either burned, destroyed or vandalized by this government-supported fundamentalist or so-called student mob. Mister Speaker, Honorable Members, for many years Bangladesh army were deployed by the United Nations for peacekeeping purposes all over the world. Now the question is if they can't keep peace in their own country, how they can fulfill their job as peace keepers in another country supported by our tax dollars. Mister Speaker, there is a huge issue in that part of the world about Islamic educational institutions called madrasas. These student-thugs are educated in those madrasas by the jihadists who promote fundamentalism spreading hatred and lawlessness in the country and many other parts of the world. Mister Speaker, currently there is no law and order, and no democracy in Bangladesh. There is no freedom of press. The government is arresting any journalist who does fair and independent reporting about the current events. These fundamentalists are dictating the courts and law enforcement agencies in their own way. I would also like to mention that since last August's uprising, these fundamentalists killed thousands of police officers. In conclusion, I am urging all my colleagues to please vote yes on HR 11 so that we can send this resolution to the United States government to look into this and investigate the continued massacre happening right now as I speak. Thank you, Mister Speaker and God Bless America and God Bless the State of New Hampshire.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the Ought to Pass motion on HR 11. A division has been requested. Members take your seats. The motion before us is Ought to Pass on HR 11. This is a division vote. The Chair recognizes Rep. Budathoki for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Budathoki: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Honorable colleagues, I rise in strong support of HR 11 because silence in the face of oppression is complicity. Sorry, If I know that what is going on in Bangladesh at this time is a human rights violations and abuse. And if I know that we need to stop what is going on there, I would urge you to vote yes on this resolution. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is Ought to Pass on HR 11. This is a division vote. If you are in favor, you'll press the green button. If you are opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 328 voting Yea; 41 voting Nay, the motion is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

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

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

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Nicholas Germana spoke against.

Rep. Judy Aron spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 191 members having voted in the affirmative, and 177 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

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

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

Amendment (0167h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

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

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

RESOLUTION

Rep. Osborne offered the following: RESOLVED, that the House now adjourn from the early session, that the business of the late session be in order at the present time, that the reading of bills be by title only and resolutions by caption only and that all bills ordered to third reading be read a third time by this resolution, and that all titles of bills be the same as adopted, and that they be passed at the present time, and when the House adjourns today it be to meet, Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 213, relative to wage garnishment for child support.

HB 81, relative to consumption of beverages or liquor in areas not approved for service by the liquor commission.

HB 242, relative to brew pub licenses.

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

HB 291-FN, relative to the penalty for incorrect application of fertilizers.

HB 193, relative to the maximum number of credits per course eligible for the dual and concurrent enrollment program.

HB 261, relative to election audits.

HB 626, directing the secretary of state to implement a vulnerability disclosure program for certain election systems.

HB 180, relative to critical incident stress management teams.

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

HB 72, extending the commission to study telehealth services.

HB 301, relative to cultivation locations for alternative treatment centers.

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

HB 337, relative to the reporting requirements of the judicial council.

HB 480, relative to restoration of competency to stand trial for criminal defendants.

HB 697-FN, relative to witness fees in criminal cases.

HB 225-FN, relative to the employment of military spouses in the event of involuntary deployment of service member.

HB 745, naming a bridge in the city of Keene after Charles Redfern.

HB 393-FN, prohibiting mooring of boats without a permit.

HB 513, allowing the department of transportation to execute a right-of-way use agreement, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, from NH Route 114, traveling south for one mile.

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

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

HB 127-FN, extending the closing date of the OHRV trails on the Connecticut River Headwaters property from September 30 to Columbus Day.

SB 4, relative to commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency (C-PACER).

HB 55, relative to the Selective Service Compliance Act.

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

HCR 8, urging Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire.

HCR 9, urging the United States to reject compliance with the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Selig requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding the passing of the former member from Durham, the Honorable Emma Rous and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Bixby moved that the remarks made by Rep. Selig during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Selig: Thank you very much, Mister Speaker and colleagues. Today we rise, collectively and anyone that wants to join us, to offer memorial remarks for the Honorable Emma Rous who served in this body from 2002 to 2010, four of those years as Chairman of the Education Committee. Prior to the legislature, Emma also taught English at Oyster River High School for 20 years. On February 1, Emma passed away after a year and a half battle with cancer. More than her dedication to service in the schools and in this body, Emma was involved in many areas of the community, including her synagogue, various farming groups, environmental causes, and so much more. She was also one of the very first people I met when I came to New Hampshire. She soon became a dear friend and a member of our family. Emma approached the world with curiosity, deliberativeness, and kindness. As Valentine's Day is tomorrow, I invite you to hold those values dear. She was truly a treasure, and she made a mean apple pie. I'd like you all to please join me in a moment of silence for the late, Honorable Emma Rous.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed in honor and in memory of the former Member from Durham, the Honorable Emma Rous.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Lascelles requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding President Lincoln and Frederick Douglas and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Telerski moved that the remarks made by Rep. Lascelles during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Lascelles: Thank you, Mister Speaker and Honorable colleagues for allowing me to speak with you today. Today is February 13th and if my math is correct, yesterday was the 12th and tomorrow is the 14th. I'm taking this time to honor two wonderful, patriotic Americans whose birthdays are on the 12th and the 14th of February. These two Americans, one of which I know you all know well, and the other maybe not so well, had a profound impact on this country. The first gentleman here over my right shoulder is Abraham Lincoln. I know you all know Abraham Lincoln. He came from a very humble background. His family was farmers, and he was born in Kentucky and moved to Indiana and then ended up in Illinois very close to where I grew up in Illinois. He hated farming. He wasn't cut out for it so as soon as he was able to leave the farm at 18, he got out of there. He moved to a community called New Salem and in his formative years, he was a store keeper, he was a soldier in the Black Hawk War, he was a postmaster, and he was a surveyor. Just as a personal note, he surveyed the town where my farm was, where I was born. He ended up becoming a politician. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives for four terms and then to the U.S. Congress for one term. The only Whig from the State of Illinois. At the end of one term, he got out of there. In the meantime, he had studied law. He never attended any formal education. He didn't go to law school, but he passed the bar and became an outstanding, very successful attorney in the State of Illinois. If you know the Illinois Central Railroad, he was their attorney, so he made a lot of money in the 1850s. In the election for Senator in 1858, he ran against Stephen A. Douglas, and they had a series of debates. The Lincoln Douglas debates were very famous. He made a great name for himself, but he lost that election. In 1860, he ran for President as a Republican and although he got only 40% of the popular vote, he was elected. But as we all know, in 1860 the United States was in utter turmoil. We were divided drastically by the whole issue of slavery. By the time he was inaugurated, half the states had seceded from the Union, so, he came into a terrible, terrible situation. The other person that I want to honor that you might not know so much about was Frederick Douglass. Frederick Douglass was born a slave. He never knew who his father was. His

mother was sold off when he was very young, so he grew up in a terrible situation, but he had a deep-seated thirst for freedom. When he was a teenager, he tried to escape. One time they caught him and brought him back, beat him and he tried to escape again. They caught him and brought him back, beat him again. The third time, he escaped. He made his way north and became a celebrated, celebrated speaker and printer. He became acquainted with William Lloyd Garrison who was the publisher of the leading abolitionist newspaper in the north and from the time he went north, he became celebrated, not just in the north, but all over the world. He was a voice of freedom and abolition. He never knew what his birth date was, but he chose February 14th because the few times he saw his mother, she called him her little valentine, so he chose the 14th as his birth date. When Lincoln was elected, the south had seceded, the country was going down a terrible path, the issue of slavery came up in front of Lincoln and Lincoln was sort of an agnostic. He hated slavery, but he knew that he couldn't possibly eradicate slavery. He said very famously, he said, "If I could save the Union by freeing the slaves, all the slaves, I would do it." But he also said, "If I could save the Union by not freeing a single slave, I would do that also." So, after Lincoln was inaugurated, Frederick Douglass when to Washington and broke in through a line of office seekers and elbowed his way to Lincoln and bent his ear. Lincoln was so taken by Frederick Douglass that for the rest of their lives, they became terrific admirers of each other. Lincoln knew that he could not eradicate slavery, but he worked with Douglass and Douglass worked with him and together on January 1, 1863 Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation. Now, for that we remember Lincoln as the guy that freed the slaves, but that's not really true because Lincoln only, the emancipation only applied to the confederacy. It didn't apply to the states that had slaves that were loyal to the Union. So, as the Union forces moved through the south and liberated the south, they liberated those slaves and those slaves became free, but by the time the war was over, there were still about a half a million slaves in the U.S. They were in the border states of Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware. Yes, Delaware was a slave state. So, there were half a million slaves left. Frederick Douglass was looking forward to working with Lincoln to get the job done and to give the freed, black, former slaves an opportunity to participate in the real America. Well, that didn't happen. Lincoln's life was taken as we all know shortly after his 2nd inauguration, but Frederick Douglass kept working at it, kept working at it and slavery was finally eradicated in the 13th Amendment to the constitution in December of 1865 and that's when slavery ended. Douglass didn't stop there. The 14th and 15th Amendments were also very critical. Douglass not only worked for the freedom of black folks, but he also worked for women's suffrage and a lot of people don't know that, but he was a leading proponent of women's suffrage and was personal friends with Susan B. Anthony. He delivered the eulogy at Susan B. Anthony's father's funeral, and they were buried together. He lived to be an old man. He was 77 when he died of a heart attack after attending a women's suffrage meeting. A lot of people don't realize this about Frederick Douglass, but in the 19th century he was the most photographed person in the world, in the 19th century. So, I ask you today that we honor these two people who were so very important to our history and that we honor them and respect their memory by doing everything we can to complete the mission and make America the best it can be for all Americans. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Wheeler requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Black History Month and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. DeSimone moved that the remarks made by Rep. Wheeler during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Wheeler: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Thank you, Rep. Lascelles for that amazing and thorough history of this country and a call to make this country the best it can be as it is in its spirit. I rise today. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Representative Jonah Orion Wheeler. I represent the towns of Peterborough and Sharon. It is good to see all of you here today and I apologize for keeping us a little bit longer. I want to go home too. I rise with my friends, the three other African American Members of this body in the middle of February to mark the Black History Month celebration. This is a tradition of the House in which we read out the names of the Black Members of this body and then give a little statement and then we will let you go home. So, let's start with retired Army Colonel, the first man, Black man to get elected to this body, Henry Boyd Richardson of 1974 who served until 1978. Then there was Lionel Johnson from Manchester from 1988 to 2004. Linda Long from Nashua, the first African American woman to be elected to this legislature. She was elected in 1986. Juanita Bell from Nashua in 1998. Harvey Keye from Nashua, a good friend, in 1998. Jackie Weatherspoon from Exeter in 1997. Kris Roberts of Keene from 2004 to 2016. James Lawrence of Hudson from 2002 to 2008. Melanie Levesque from 2006 to 2010 and again in the 2012 biennium. Carol Estes from Plymouth from 2006 to 2008. Claire Clarke from Boscawen from 2000 to 2010. Caroletta Alicea from 2012 to 2018 and then again from 2020 to 2022. My good friend, Jean Jeudy from Manchester

2005 to now. My good friend, the longest serving African American woman in this body and somebody who words do not describe the public service she has brought to this state, Linda Harriott-Gathright of Nashua. Damond Ford of Manchester serving last year. Our new friend, Mary Ngwanda Georges from Manchester who is joining us this biennium. All of these people, about 18, 19 of them, laid the path for a 19-year-old, idealistic kid with a lot of dreams and crazy hair to come to this legislature and pass legislation into law and as Rep. Lascelles said, this country has gone through some very tough times and there were people like Martin Luther King and Elvis Presley who had a dream that we would all live together as one. That black children and white children would dance and sing and be friends, not as black children or white children, but as children. That people would be together as people, not black people or white people, but people. I stand before you today, a 21-year-old with a lot of dreams and energy to get them done as a testament that those dreams are now a reality that I grew up. I didn't grow up with a white mother, I grew up with a mother. I didn't grow up with white friends or black friends, I grew up with friends. That is the dream becoming a reality when we can all look at each other as human beings, not through the divisions that those with a lot of power are trying to divide this country with, but as human beings working together to advance the state in which we all love. There are so many of us out there who have come to this body and it is an honor, Mister Speaker, to be a representative with so many people who care so deeply about the State of New Hampshire and those that would wish to divide us using lies, political gamesmanship and all the divisive tactics that we see from those who do not believe in the Republic of the United States of America and what it can be for this country. We stand, all of us, as a testament that we will rise above those lies, deception and deceit and make the United States of America the greatest Republic this world has every seen. So, thank you very much Mister Speaker. Let's bring about the 21st century American Republic.

RECESS MOTION

Rep. Osborne moved that the House stand in recess for the purposes of the introduction of bills, vacate motions, enrolled bill amendments, enrolled bill reports and receiving messages.

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 2:45 p.m.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:

Rep. Kesselring on the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

Rep. Nagel off the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILL REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled Senate Bill numbered 4.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

RECESS