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HOUSE RECORD

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Calendar and Journal of the 2025 Session

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Concord, N.H.

Thursday, March 20, 2025

No. 9

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 8 (Cont'd)

Thursday, March 13, 2025

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 9

Thursday, March 20, 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, we give You thanks for every leaf in springtime. They remind us that underneath the cold fallow ground there is life waiting to spring forth. Remove in our hearts the coldness and open them to our fellow citizens today. Remind us that people live and work within the State of New Hampshire. Remind us that they desire to live in freedom and fidelity to their neighbors. Help us to pass laws and make decisions that benefit the lives of every citizen. Help us to remember the single mother working two jobs to keep things together. Help us remember the father working hard to provide a home. Help us to remember the homeless family searching for affordable housing. Help us remember the small business owner trying to be fair to her employees and turn a profit. Help us remember the parents who desire their children a robust public education. Help us to pass laws that reflect the lives of the people we serve. Let us never forget to make no more laws than necessary so that we do not stop people's ambition and freedom. We ask this day for wisdom to guide our decisions, and a warm heart that remembers always the people we are called to serve. Amen.

Representative Muns, member from Hampton, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Girl Scout Troops from Hampton.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Bucu, Katsakiores, Schmidt and Stavis, the day, illness.

Reps. Dumont, Hicks, Kerwin, Louis, Minor, Michael Murphy, Paquette and Thomas Walsh, the day, important business.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Serena Althea Mackay, student from the Founders Academy in Manchester, and Reese Sanders, student from Dover Regional High School, Pages for the day.

Brenda Dearborn, and Elaine and Ray Sarosy, mother, aunt and uncle of Rep. Hegner. Roger Rice, guest of Rep. Plante. Susan Moeller, guest of Rep. Tenczar. Ted Barbour, husband of Rep. Barbour. Sarah Smith, Willow Young, Sara Tirrel, Elizabeth Greenberg and Caden Dole, guests of Rep. Alissandra Murray. Aubrianne LaDuke, Kate McCarty, Tye Thompson, Mackenzie West, Vern Masters, Eileen Bilodeau, and Eric and Lauren Cole-Johnson, guests of Rep. Wade. Family and friends of the Hampton Girl Scout Troops, guests of Reps. Bridle, DeVries, Edgar and Muns. Fourth grade students from Pembroke Hill School, guests of Reps. Mehegan and Seaworth. Fourth grade students from New Franklin School, guests of Reps. Vandelbaum, and Meuse.

MEMORIAL REMARKS

Rep. McGhee offered memorial remarks for the former member from Hollis, the Honorable Carolyn Gargas.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed in honor and in memory of the former member from Hollis, the Honorable Carolyn Gargasz.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative McGhee: Thank you, Mister Speaker. We come before you this morning to honor a fallen long-time traveler to the State House who left her mark on this place and passed from this world on January 31st surrounded by her loving family, some of whom are here with us today in the gallery. Carolyn Gargasz was a strong, quiet soul, a woman who knew how to keep her counsel and stand firmly in her beliefs. She was the kind of person who gave quiet comfort to those around her by her countenance and her kindness. When I first met her, it was to watch her speak at the Hollis Town Hall, taking questions from constituents. She listened more than she spoke. Then in 2012, I reached out to her to talk to her about running for State Rep. myself in the opposite party. We sat on the benches outside Brookdale Fruit Farm, and she patiently listened as I told her why I wanted to run. At the end of the conversation, she said, “Kat, I think you’d be a good Rep.” That was Carolyn. Clear, honest, supportive and to the point. I spent time with her at the polls and in the Hollis Women’s Club, where we were both members and she a past president. As I told her husband, Lou, at her beautiful service on February 21st, the last time I spoke with Carolyn was when she called me shortly before the November 2024 election. She came right out and asked her question, “Kat, are you running again?” When I replied yes, she said, “You are just like me. You don’t know when to quit.” We had a good laugh and agreed that we were both hard to dissuade from work that we felt needed doing. Carolyn served in the House from 2000 to 2018. She served most of that time on Child and Family Law and eventually became chairwoman of that committee. She had a passion for protecting the wellbeing of children and for enabling the kind of volunteerism that builds community. Lou referred to her as a professional volunteer. Carolyn understood the value of being part of and building a strong community. It came from the same place as building a strong and loving family and Carolyn did that too. Born on January 24, 1938 as Carolyn Mae Cox in Aberdeen, Washington, she spent a happy childhood in Washington state where she attended the University of Puget Sound earning a degree in Economics in a time when that was not so common for women. After college, she moved to New York City to work in publishing and then to Rome, New York where she taught second grade and that is where she met Lou Gargasz, an officer in the US Air Force and the man with whom she would craft a life that lasted for 61 years of marriage. I believe Lou is here with us in the gallery today. So, Carolyn and Lou moved to Hollis, New Hampshire in 1966 and they maintained a home base there through continued deployments. In 1969, the Gargasz family relocated with their two young children to Famagusta, Cyprus where they spent four years enjoying the Mediterranean lifestyle making lifelong friends traveling through the Middle East and Europe. In 1973, they returned to Hollis. Carolyn was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was known for her kindness, warmth, unwavering support and family dinners which were more than meals. They were opportunities for discussion, debate and life lessons. To hear her wonderful son, John and his wife, Laura, and their children, Kaitlyn and Ian recall Carolyn’s influence, acceptance and generosity, we learned from those who knew her best that she was as authentic and special as she seemed. She had many accomplishments in her life, some focused on Concord, some in Hollis, where she cofounded the S-Team to prevent youth substance abuse, was a long-standing member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Hollis Circle of Home and Family and she was president of the Hollis Woman’s Club and cofounder of Hollis Old Home Days, a beloved town tradition. Carolyn’s passion for prioritizing the wellbeing of children led to her being honored with the Voice for Children award. She also helped establish the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and served as its manager for a decade, and that advisory council is still with us today. On a national level, she served as Vice President for Public Policy for Family and Community Education and was an active member of the National Taskforce on Television Violence. Her commitment to global community efforts took her to international conferences with the Associated Country Women of the World and those conferences included Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa. Carolyn got around. There is an old saying in that how we view the world is a reflection of what we bring to the world. Her family wanted it said that most notably Carolyn was cherished by all for her humility, grace, curiosity and unwavering acceptance of others, qualities her friends and family will forever remember and aspire to embody. May we all be inspired by Carolyn’s example of purpose, love and service. Hollis was lucky to have her. Concord was lucky to have her. Thank you to her family, friends and colleagues here who continue to honor her in loving memory.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

HB 631-FN, permitting residential building in commercial zoning by right, removed by Reps. Kuttub, Bridle, Bordes, Panek, Coker, Popovici-Muller, Tenczar, Seidel, Lilli Walsh and Perez.
Consent Calendar was adopted.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW

HB 431, establishing a commission to review draft rules related to minimum standards for public school approval and state academic standards developed by the department of education, removed by Reps. Notter, Layon, Farrington, Osborne, Noble, McFarlane, Cordelli, Tom Mannion, Wherry and Litchfield.

The question being adoption of the motion to withdraw.

Rep. Cordelli requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 160 - NAYS 207

YEAS - 160

BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efsthathia
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 207**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Lunney, Matthew
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Nagel, David
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

and the motion failed.

CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 430, reducing the retention period for records of unfounded abuse and neglect reports by the department of health and human services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. Reducing the retention period for unfounded abuse and neglect reports could hinder child protection efforts, weaken accountability, and limit the ability of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to identify patterns of potential abuse over time. While an individual report may be unfounded, multiple reports could signal risk that would be harder to detect if records are prematurely erased. Retaining these records ensures transparency, allows for proper oversight, and aligns with best practices in child welfare. While privacy concerns are valid, DHHS already had safeguards in place to prevent misuse of information, making retention necessary to protect vulnerable children, and ensuring the integrity of investigations. Instead of reducing record retention, effort should focus on strengthening protocols for access and use to balance privacy with child safety. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 543, establishing a committee to study how the family division customarily treats accusations of domestic violence and to study current family division practices relative to the right to testify and right to submit evidence. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Pearson for Children and Family Law. When the Special Committee on the Family Division of the Circuit Court completed its two years of work, members asked what we should work on next. As we discussed this question, not only among ourselves, but with many others in the legislature, we concluded that two major issues were the family court's treatment of domestic violence and its protocols for the submission of evidence. Many on the special committee had hoped to pick up our work this term with these questions. Although the Speaker did not wish to reconstitute the special committee for two more years, he did suggest a subcommittee of the Children and Family Law Committee could attend to this work. Were the bill to pass, by the time the bill is signed into law and a committee is appointed, some months will have passed. The subcommittee, however, has been appointed and will hit the ground running very soon. For this reason, and for only this reason, the recommendation is Inexpedient to Legislate. Further, this bill is a good bill and the enumeration of items to study given in sections Roman numerals II to VI will inform the subcommittee's work. Vote 16-0.

HB 560, relative to parental access to a minor child's medical records. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lori Korzen for Children and Family Law. This bill aims to secure parents' rights to access their minor child's medical files. The committee feels it deserves a vote of Ought to Pass with Amendment due to its critical importance in upholding parental rights and child welfare. Parents need this for compelling reasons. First, it ensures they can make informed decisions about their child's healthcare, particularly where an understanding of past treatments or allergies could be lifesaving. Second, it empowers parents to monitor and address potential mental or physical health issues early, such as detecting signs of illness or emotional distress that a minor might not fully disclose. Third, it strengthens family accountability by allowing parents to verify the accuracy of medical records to ensure their child receives appropriate care tailored to their needs. This bill, as amended, reinforces the fundamental role of parents as guardians, equipping them with the transparency required to protect and nurture their children effectively. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0673h)

Amend RSA 332-I:1-a, II(c) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) When a health care provider has determined by evidence based upon articulable facts that disclosure of the records to a parent or legal guardian of a minor child is likely to result in abuse or neglect. A health care provider who makes this determination shall document in the medical record of the minor child all facts upon which he or she relied in making the determination.

HB 321-FN, requiring the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days if the driver requests the extension. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, with the replace all amendment will allow for the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations and make pleas and payments online. Any person who enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere on a sum-

mons, in lieu of court appearance as provided in paragraph I, and has no unpaid motor vehicle fines or other outstanding motor vehicle violations, may request a fine payment period of up to 90 days from the date of the summons either in person or online. Additionally, a person may request an extension for an additional 90 days upon proof that the driver is unable to make full payment within the period of the first extension. The committee felt strongly that these changes are reasonable considering the person is paying their violation. Given that so many residents are paid an hourly wage, if they have a period that has been negatively impacted, this will allow them the opportunity to avoid a financial hardship. Additionally, with technology making it easier for a person to manage such affairs online versus having to take a day from work, we can see no logical reason to not make these reasonable changes. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0347h)

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

1 Payment Deadline Extended. Amend RSA 262:44, I to read as follows:

I. Such defendant shall receive, in addition to the summons, a uniform fine schedule entitled "Notice of Fine, Division of Motor Vehicles" which shall contain the normal fines for violations of the provisions of title XXI on vehicles for which a plea may be entered by mail **or online**. The defendant shall be given a notice of fine indicating the amount of the fine plus penalty assessment at the time the summons is issued; except if, for cause, the summoning authority wishes the defendant to appear personally. Defendants summoned to appear personally shall do so on the arraignment date specified in the summons, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Defendants who are issued a summons and notice of fine and who wish to plead guilty or nolo contendere shall **either physically** enter their plea on the summons and return **it in-person or by mail** with payment of the fine plus penalty assessment to the director of the division of motor vehicles **or enter their plea and submit their payment online at the division of motor vehicles website** within **90 days of the date of the summons if the driver has no outstanding motor vehicle violations and no outstanding unpaid fines, or** within 30 days of the date of the summons **if the driver has any outstanding motor vehicle violations or outstanding unpaid fines**. The director of the division of motor vehicles may accept payment of the fine by credit card in lieu of cash payment. Any transaction costs assessed by the issuer of the credit card shall be paid out of the portion of the fine amount which is credited to the highway fund and not out of the penalty assessment charged by the district court. The director of the division of motor vehicles shall remit the penalty assessments collected to the state treasurer to be credited and continually appropriated to the state general fund and to the victims' assistance fund and the judicial branch information technology fund in the percentages and manner prescribed in RSA 106-L:10. Fines shall be paid over to the state treasurer, and shall be credited to the highway fund within 14 days of their receipt.

I-a. A person eligible for a 90-day payment submission period under paragraph I may request one additional 90-day payment extension within the last 30 days of the 90-day payment submission period either in-person, by mail, or online at the division of motor vehicles website. The division shall grant a request made under this paragraph. The division shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A concerning requesting and granting such extension.

HB 343, relative to reporting regarding the northern border alliance program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill expands the existing reporting requirements for the Northern Border Alliance to ensure that sufficient data is collected and shared with the legislature. Specifically, the bill codifies certain information that is already being reported, and it requires further reporting on the distribution of program funds, as well as on the nature of Customs and Border Protection related incidents. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0499h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Northern Border Alliance Program; Reporting Requirements. Amend RSA 21-P:69, IV to read as follows:

IV. The program shall include semi-annual reporting, to the governor, senate president, and speaker of the house of representatives, which includes measurable program results and a detailed accounting of program funding and uses. **Any grants provided to state, county, or local law enforcement agencies in accordance with the intentions of the program shall be reported, including who received such grants, when, and what the funds were used for. The number of personnel involved in the program as well as their rank and title shall be included in the report. Any equipment or technology used and purchased through the program shall also be included. The report shall also include the number of persons arrested, persons cited, and persons subjected to a field stop or warning. The report shall also include the date, time, and location of Customs and Border Protection-related incidents, assists, intelligence received, or other activity. For persons in each of these categories, the aggregate data shall also include the municipality and country where each such person resides. For persons who are arrested or cited, the report shall also include the race of such persons to the extent such information is indicated on the complaint, summons, or citation.** The first report shall be submitted on or before December 31, 2023.

HB 387, relative to balloons being released into the air. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Richard Lascelles for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. It has become fashionable to release into the air, balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases for celebratory purposes. The bill makes such behavior statutory littering that can spread for hundreds of miles and that can remain in the environment for years. Deflated balloons pose a serious threat to the life and well-being of wildlife and marine animals via ingestion or entanglement with attached ribbons. The bill makes releasing twenty or more balloons a violation level offense. Vote 15-0.

HB 397, establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the department of safety. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda Harriott-Gathright for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill requests a task force to address the negative issues of our waterways. Outdoor tourism is a significant state industry, \$325 million annually in tax revenue; tourism, \$3.9 billion to the state economy. New Hampshire's lakes and water ways are one of its most important natural resources, however lack of control of issues such as jet skis jumping wakes behind wake surfers, unregistered watercraft, ski craft coming from Massachusetts, which are not permitted on the lake, out of state boats without invasive species decal, and the outcry of lake users at lake associations, on social media, and at public hearings. While most boaters are responsible, there are those who are not. Noticeably when law enforcement is present and/or visible, highway users are more respectful of the laws of New Hampshire. A common refrain is that there are not enough marine patrol officers and an increase in law enforcement patrols on New Hampshire water bodies is needed. Bottom line we must engage other stakeholders and experts: municipal and county law enforcement that protect public safety on lakes, those representing users of public water bodies, marine trades, New Hampshire Lakes, and the Loon Preservation committee. The passing of this bill will bring experts together providing recommendations on how to address the problem of insufficient marine patrols so residents and tourists can fully enjoy New Hampshire's treasured lakes and waterways in a safe manner. For these reasons the committee supports ought to pass. The task force will have the best of the best minds at work for the state's waterways. Vote 15-0.

HB 405, establishing a committee to study approaches to combat store-front sex trafficking in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, as amended with a replace all amendment, does two things: expands the scope of the underlying bill by changing the study committee to a study commission, and updates New Hampshire's Prostitution Statute, RSA 645:2 in cases where someone knowingly allows a place under their control to be used for acts of prostitution involving sexual contact. The New Hampshire Human Trafficking Collaborative Task Force has identified trafficking activity in every county of the state, with victims ranging in age from 3 years old to the elderly. Strong and comprehensive legislative proposals like this amendment are critical to ensuring that we are able to effectively respond to and prevent human trafficking in our state. Currently, it is very difficult to initiate a human trafficking investigation in these situations. A study commission that engages all of the key stakeholders is essential to stop these Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs) from taking advantage of our state and sexually exploiting victims. Unfortunately, many of these victims have been trafficked from other countries and are under the age of 18. The study commission will put together an interim report in November 2025, enabling the legislature to move forward with legislative proposals in 2026, providing a road map for how we can systematically address this issue. IMBs in New Hampshire remain a consistent issue in communities across the state. IMBs are a very specific type of exploitative, organized, commercial-front trafficking venue that have been identified by national organizations, like the Polaris Project, that see implicated over and over in cases reported to the national hotline, including in the Granite State. IMBs do not refer to legal, therapeutic massage businesses. Homeland Security and other agencies working to address human trafficking in New Hampshire are regularly identifying new IMBs in New Hampshire. However, stronger laws and a more coordinated effort is needed in order to adequately hold these businesses accountable and better protect identified victims of human trafficking. One immediate step that we can take is to increase the penalty under RSA 645:2 in cases where someone knowingly allows a place under their control to be used for acts of prostitution involving sexual contact. This is currently a misdemeanor under the law, and the amendment will increase it to a felony level offense. Massachusetts recently increased the penalty under their statute to a felony. This has resulted in businesses moving from Massachusetts to New Hampshire. Increasing our penalty to a felony will place us in alignment with our neighboring states and deter IMBs from taking root. The penalty for this act is further enhanced to a class A felony in cases that involve minors, or a victim has been compelled by force or intimidation. This sends a strong message that New Hampshire does not tolerate sexual exploitation and will hold offenders accountable who knowingly allow exploitation to take place under their roof. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0811h)

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses and relative to prostitution and related offenses.

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

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

I. The New Hampshire human trafficking collaborative task force has identified trafficking activity in every county, with victims of all ages experiencing exploitation in the forms of labor and sex trafficking.

II. Law enforcement officers in New Hampshire have identified illicit massage businesses (IMBs) in towns and cities across the state. IMBs are a very specific type of exploitative, organized, commercial-front trafficking venue recognized by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. IMBs do not refer to legal, therapeutic massage businesses, nor does it include non-coercive sex work that may incorporate massage. Nationally, more than 15,000 IMBs have been identified. There is no licensing oversight of IMBs in New Hampshire, making it difficult to hold traffickers accountable and ensure that victims are referred to services.

III. National and state experts have been working to prevent human trafficking in the state and hold the owners of IMBs accountable, but a more coordinated effort across sectors would help better address the problem.

2 New Section; Commission to Study Human Trafficking Within Illicit Massage Businesses. Amend RSA 633 by inserting after section 11 the following new section:

633:12 Commission to Study Human Trafficking Within Illicit Massage Businesses; Established. There is hereby established a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses.

I. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the criminal justice and public safety committee and one of whom shall be a member of the executive departments and administration committee.

(b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

(c) The attorney general, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.

(e) The executive director of the New Hampshire office of professional licensure and certification, or designee.

(f) A representative from the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, appointed by the association.

(g) A county attorney, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Counties.

(h) The executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or designee.

(i) The executive director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, or designee.

II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III. The commission shall study:

(a) Prior efforts to combat human trafficking conducted by illicit massage businesses.

(b) Statewide and interstate collaboration to prevent the establishment of illicit massage businesses.

(c) Best practices to support victims of human trafficking found in illicit massage businesses.

(d) Regulation and licensure under RSA 328-H, relative to reflexologists, structural integrators, and Asian bodywork therapists, and RSA 328-B relative to massage therapists and massage establishments.

(e) Creation of a statewide database of licensure applications and issuances to businesses.

(f) Enhancing penalties for violation of RSA 633:7 relative to trafficking in persons and RSA 645:2 relative to prostitution and related offenses.

(g) Consumer protection and labor violations.

(h) Community-based approaches to preventing illicit massage businesses such as landlord education and engagement and termination of leases, as well as health and safety inspections.

(i) Preventing sexual harassment and assault against licensed massage therapists and other reflexology professionals.

IV. The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the committee deems relevant to its study.

V. The commission members shall be appointed within 30 days after the effective date of this section.

VI. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. The commission shall hold a minimum of 10 meetings over the course of its study. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VII. The commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025. The commission shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

3 New Paragraphs; Prostitution and Related Offenses. Amend RSA 645:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

II-a. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person knowingly permits a place under such person's control to be used for violation of subparagraph I(a).

II-b. A person is guilty of a class A felony if such person violates the provisions of paragraph II-a and the violation:

(a) Involves another person who is under the age of 18; or

(b) Involves compelling another person by force or intimidation.

4 Prostitution and Related Offenses. Amend RSA 645:2, VI to read as follows:

VI. In a prosecution under subparagraph II(a) **or II-b(a)**, the actor's lack of knowledge of the other person's age shall not constitute a defense.

5 Prostitution and Related Offenses. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 645:2, II to read as follows:

II. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person violates the provisions of subparagraphs (b), (c), (d), ~~[(e);]~~ or (f) of paragraph I and the violation:

6 Repeal. RSA 645:2, I(e), relative to a misdemeanor offense for knowingly permitting a place under control to be used for certain offenses, is repealed.

7 Prospective Repeal. RSA 633:12, relative to the commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses, is repealed.

8 Effective Date.

I. Section 7 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses and provides for the commission's eventual repeal.

II. Enhances the penalties for certain prostitution-related offenses.

HB 551-FN, repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, as amended, will repeal the state required license to sell pistols and/or revolvers in the state by amending RSA 159:8. This license is no longer needed because potential businesses are required to have municipal zoning approval before opening the business operation. Currently, firearm dealers are required to be licensed by the federal ATF. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0818h)

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

2 Firearm Purchase; Identity of Purchaser Required. Amend RSA 159:8 to read as follows:

159:8 ~~[License to Sell.]~~ **Purchase of Firearm; Identity of Purchaser.**

~~[The selectmen of a town and the chief of police of a city may grant licenses, the form of which shall be prescribed by the director of the division of state police, effective for not more than 3 years from date of issue, permitting the licensee to sell at retail pistols and revolvers subject to the following conditions, for breach of any of which the licensee shall be subject to forfeiture:~~

~~I. The business shall be carried on only in the building designated in the license or at any organized sporting show or arms collectors' meeting sponsored by a chartered club or organization.~~

~~II. The license or a copy thereof, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises where it can easily be read.~~

~~III.] No pistol, revolver, or other firearm shall be delivered to a purchaser not personally known to the seller or who does not present clear evidence of his **or her** identity; nor to a person who has been convicted of a felony.~~

3 Pistols and Revolvers; Sale to Nonresidents. Amend RSA 159:8-a to read as follows:

159:8-a Sales to Nonresidents; Attorney General. No person ~~[holding a license issued under the provisions of RSA 159:8]~~ shall sell a pistol or revolver to a nonresident unless such nonresident has authority under the laws of the state of his **or her** residence, to purchase a pistol or revolver in the state of his **or her** residence, or unless the director of the division of state police, for good cause shown, has issued to such nonresident a permit for the purchase of a pistol or revolver. The attorney general shall, at least once annually, file with the secretary of state a summary of the laws of each state of the United States relative to the purchase of pistols and revolvers in such states; and a ~~[licensee]~~ **person** may rely upon such summary in determining if a nonresident offering to purchase a pistol or revolver has authority to make such purchase under the laws of the state of his **or her** residence.

4 Pistols and Revolvers; Penalties. Amend RSA 159:8-b to read as follows:

159:8-b Penalties. If a ~~[licensee]~~ **person** shall in any court be found guilty of a violation of any of the provisions of RSA 159:8-a, such court, ~~[shall,]~~ for each such violation, ~~[order the suspension of his license for a period of 3 months, and]~~ may~~[-, in addition,]~~ impose a fine not in excess of \$100.

5 Repeal. RSA 159:10, relative to penalties for sale without a license required under RSA 159:8, is repealed.

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

HB 93, enabling school districts to appoint a school district treasurer. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Melissa Litchfield for Education Policy and Administration. Elected officials are individuals who have been chosen to represent the public through a democratic election process. These officials are generally accountable to the electorate and serve terms defined by constitutional or statutory provisions. Appointed officials are individuals who are selected for governmental positions by a higher authority. Unlike elected officials, appointed officials do not go through a public voting process and may or may not be accountable directly to the electorate. The main difference between elected officials and appointed officials is that elected officials are chosen by the general populace through democratic elections, whereas appointed officials are selected by a person in a higher position of authority or by a designated committee. Elected officials are directly accountable to the constituents who voted for them and usually serve a fixed term as stipulated by law. This enabling legislation would take a position voted in by the public and change it to an appointed position, where the voting population would lose their voice. Vote 15-3.

HB 231, prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical procedures without parental consent. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kristin Noble for Education Policy and Administration. The amendment is a replace all, including the title. The new title is prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent. This bill, with amendment, requires school districts to have a policy to prohibit any school district personnel from transporting a minor, or accompanying a minor on a transport for medical, mental health, or any other health-related appointment, without parental consent. This does not include accompanying a minor during an emergency transport by ambulance. Vote 12-4.

Amendment (0603h)

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

AN ACT prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent.

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

1 New Paragraph; Policy; Transport for Medical and Health-Related Appointments. Amend RSA 186:11 by inserting after paragraph IX-e the following new paragraph:

IX-f. Require School Districts to Adopt a Policy Prohibiting Transportation for Medical and Health-Related Appointments. A school district shall adopt a policy prohibiting any school district personnel from transporting a minor or accompanying a minor during transport, except emergency transport by ambulance, for a medical appointment, mental health appointment or visit that includes any type of mental health evaluation, treatment, or counseling, or any other health-related appointment or visit, without the knowledge and approval of the minor's parent or guardian, unless he or she is following a published school district emergency health or medical emergency protocol or policy.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires school districts to create a policy prohibiting school district personnel from transporting any student who is a minor for any medical, mental health, or health-related procedures, appointments, or visits without knowledge and approval of a parent or guardian unless he or she is following a published school district emergency health or medical protocol or policy.

HB 286, establishing a study committee to investigate if one school superintendent per county is feasible. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. Given the number of study committees, the New Hampshire House of Representatives is currently conducting, as well as the potential of unintended consequences to recommendations from this study committee, it was felt, unanimously, that this bill is not viable. Vote 17-0.

HB 398, requiring holocaust and genocide studies in public schools to include the impacts on people with disabilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristin Noble for Education Policy and Administration. The committee consulted with the Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education who felt that this bill was not necessary because it is already being covered in the curriculum. Vote 17-0.

HB 653-FN, establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. The entirety of the committee agreed that exploring alternatives to restraint and seclusion in a pilot program that allows a beginning and end date provides a valuable opportunity to collect data to ascertain a better course of action for children. Vote 17-0.

HB 752, relative to procedures for the closing of a charter school. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. This bill addresses a transparency issue lacking in the current statutes pertaining to public charter schools. It allows the Department of Education to utilize a solid set of standards while ensuring transparency and due process. Vote 17-1.

HB 753-FN, relative to expedited due process hearings to enforce special education rights. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. This bill is intended to make sure the expedited special education due process hearings are truly expedited and help more quickly than regular due process hearings, per federal law. Vote 17-0.

HB 171, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Gruber for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill places a moratorium or pause on the issuance of permits for new solid waste landfills for a three-year period in order to provide time for the state to develop new regulations, data, technologies, and policies that will protect New Hampshire and its local communities. During this pause, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) may accept applications, evaluate them for completeness, and request more information, but will not issue permits. Recent data from the NHDES documents that there is existing, previously permitted, capacity within landfills in New Hampshire that will meet the needs of New Hampshire during this pause and for at least an additional five years. Anticipated expansion at existing permitted landfills is also likely to provide at least 10 to 20 years of future capacity. This bill does not prohibit the expansion or modification of any landfill facility that is currently permitted in accordance with RSA 149-M:9. Vote 13-1.

Amendment (0465h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Moratorium; Study by the Department of Environmental Services. Amend RSA 149-M by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

149-M:9-a Moratorium on Issuance of Permits for New Landfill.

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

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

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2028.

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

HB 263, relative to applications to the cost of care fund for livestock care. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. This bill requires that applications made to the cost of care fund for livestock care reimbursement demonstrate that the livestock were properly seized following consultation with an individual experienced in the care of the seized livestock. The committee felt that the language in this bill should be incorporated into another bill that the committee heard regarding seizures of animals in animal cruelty cases (HB 616). Therefore, we decided that the best option was to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill and include the language it contains into the other bill. Vote 14-0.

HB 277, relative to the use of the term “foal” and “colt.” **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Molly Howard for Environment and Agriculture. This bill amends RSA 644:8 III (f) and (g) by cleaning up inaccurate language that was in existing statute. It replaces the term “colt” with “foal” in order to include all young horses and it also clarifies language related to foals separated from their dams. Vote 14-0.

HB 307, relative to the food production area for homestead food. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. Current statute requires that homestead foods be produced only in the kitchen of a residence. For some producers, having a separate production area where they can produce homestead food out of reach of children, spouse, and pets is more practical. This bill permits the use of such an area and the amendment spells out the necessary sanitation and food safety requirements for that space. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0655h)

Amend RSA 143-A:12, I(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) "Homestead food operation" means a person who produces homestead food products, excluding potentially hazardous food, only in the home kitchen of that person's primary residence in New Hampshire ***or a food production area in the person's primary residence that has handwashing, equipment and food storage, food contact surfaces, general sanitation, and pet exclusion areas. As used in this subparagraph:***

(1) "***Handwashing***" means an area with access to a hand cleaning station with hot and cold running potable water, soap, and sanitary hand drying provisions.

(2) "***Equipment and food storage***" means an area that allows for food, equipment, and utensils to be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.

(3) "***Food contact surfaces***" means all food contact surfaces in an area able to be cleaned and sanitized.

(4) "***General sanitation***" means an area maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from pests and environmental contaminants, whose floors, walls, and ceiling surfaces are durable, smooth and easily cleanable.

(5) "***Pet exclusion***" means an area that allows for the exclusion of pets during food production.

HB 779-FN, allowing the sale of rabbit meat in intrastate commerce. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. While current state law allows the sale of rabbit meat grown on New Hampshire farms to restaurants, there is not a mechanism for New Hampshire farmers to sell rabbit meat from their farm, farmstand, or at a farmers' market. Rabbit is considered a non-amenable species under federal law and therefore does not require US Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection. The USDA simply requires that the production of rabbit meat be consistent with state food safety laws. This bill, as amended, allows the sale of rabbit meat at farms, farmstands and farmers' markets provided that the rabbits are raised, slaughtered, processed, packaged, and sold within the State of New Hampshire, that producer fulfills the educational requirements in the Department of Health and Human Services rules related to rabbit meat handling, and that the producer registers with the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Foods. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0647h)

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

1 Uninspected Rabbits; Sale at Farms, Farmstands, and Farmers Markets. Amend the subdivision heading preceding RSA 143-A:14 to read as follows:

Sale of Uninspected Poultry and Rabbits to Restaurants ***and Sale of Uninspected Rabbits at New Hampshire Farms, Farmstands, and Farmers Markets***

2 Producer Requirements; Uninspected Rabbits. Amend RSA 143-A:16 to read as follows:

143-A:16 Producer Requirements.

I. A federally exempt poultry producer may, in a calendar year, sell to licensed restaurants uninspected, processed whole poultry that the producer has raised in a quantity not to exceed the federal limit established in 21 U.S.C. section 464 and an unlicensed rabbit producer may, in a calendar year, sell to licensed restaurants up to 1,000 uninspected, processed whole rabbits that the producer has raised, provided all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The producer is current with all educational requirements that are established by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food relative to proper methods of slaughtering, processing, packaging, and storing poultry or rabbit on the farm and its subsequent transport to restaurants; and

(b) The producer has registered with the department of agriculture, markets, and food by providing his or her name, the name and address of the farm, and phone number, to allow for trace back in the event of disease outbreak. Such registry information shall be protected pursuant to RSA 436:6-a.

II. ***An unlicensed rabbit producer may, in a calendar year, sell at his or her own farm, farmstand, or farmer's market up to 1,000 uninspected, processed whole rabbits that the producer has raised provided all of the following conditions are met:***

(a) ***The rabbits are raised, slaughtered, processed, packaged, and sold within the state of New Hampshire;***

(b) ***The producer has fulfilled all educational requirements that are established by the commissioner of the department of health and human services in consultation with the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food relative to proper methods of slaughtering, processing, packaging, and storing rabbit on the farm and its subsequent transport to farmstands or farmers markets; and***

(c) The producer has registered with the department of agriculture, markets, and food by providing his or her name, the name of the address of the farm, and his or her phone number, to allow for trace back in the event of disease outbreak. Such information shall be protected pursuant to RSA 436:6-a.

III. The department may inspect these exempt products when the department has reason to suspect an imminent health hazard as defined in RSA 143-A:3, IV-b.

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

HR 13, opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. This House Resolution resolves that it is the position of the House of Representatives that no landfill should be located in the vicinity of Forest Lake Park. Forest Lake Park was one of the 10 original state parks, created in 1935. The risks to public health, safety, the environment, tourism, and the economy of the North Country far outweigh any benefit that might come from siting a landfill in the vicinity of the park. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0472h)

Amend the resolution by replacing all after the title with the following:

Whereas, Forest Lake State Park is one of the 10 original state parks, created in 1935. The park spans 397 acres and its 200-foot sandy beach lies on the shore of Forest Lake. Popular activities in the park include swimming, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, and boating; and

Whereas, the stigma, nuisances, and threat to public health, safety, environment, natural resources, as well as the state and North Country tourism and outdoor recreation economies, posed by permitting an operating landfill abutting Forest Lake State Park, cannot be underestimated and is of grave concern to the general court; and

Whereas, the risks in permitting a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park far outweigh any benefit; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That it is the position of the house of representatives that no landfill should be located in the vicinity of Forest Lake State Park.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This resolution states the position of the house of representatives that no landfill should be located in the vicinity of Forest Lake State Park.

HB 82, relative to the regulation of various occupations. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. As amended, this bill brings all of the occupations under the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) to the format standards started two years ago. Specifically, it addresses background checks, giving the OPLC the responsibility of administrative functions for the mental health practice, psychologists, manufactured housing installation and allows those licensed under medical imaging and radiotherapy the ability to practice all modalities if qualified. Lastly, it clarifies re-examinations for electricians. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0577h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

8 Mental Health Practice; Processing License Applications; Criminal History Record Check. Amend RSA 330-A:15-a to read as follows:

330-A:15-a Processing License Applications; Criminal History Record Check.

[I. License applications shall be processed as follows:

(a) ~~The board shall either request additional information or documentation within 15 days or act on an application for licensure as a mental health practitioner within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.~~

(b) ~~The board shall review complete applications received at least 10 days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting at its next regularly scheduled meeting.]~~

[H.] **I.** Every applicant for initial licensure shall submit to the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** a criminal history record release form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, department of safety, which authorizes the release of his or her criminal history record, if any, to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification. For the purposes of this section, a designee may be the office's agency counsel, administrative law judge, director of licensing and board administration, licensing service representative, or board administrator.**

[H.] **II.** The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency, an authorized employee of the department of safety, or an authorized employee of the office of professional licensure and certification, approved by the commissioner of the department of

safety. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

[IV-] **III.** The [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification**. The [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification** shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this section.

[V-] **IV.** The applicant shall bear the cost of a criminal history record check.

Amend the bill by replacing section 22 with the following:

22 Psychologists; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 329-B:14-a, I through IV to read as follows:

I. Every applicant for initial permanent licensure or reinstatement shall submit to the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** a criminal history record release form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, which authorizes the release of his or her criminal history record, if any, to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification**. **For the purposes of this section, a designee may be the office's agency counsel, administrative law judge, director of licensing and board administration, licensing service representative, or board administrator.**

II. The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency, an authorized employee of the department of safety, or an authorized employee of the office of professional licensure and certification, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

III. The [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification**.

IV. The [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification** shall review the criminal record information prior to making a licensing decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

Amend RSA 315:8, I-a(b) as inserted by section 31 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) A person holding a training license shall be subject to **discipline in accordance with this chapter and RSA 310** ~~[the disciplinary provisions of RSA 315:9]~~ and such additional professional character and competency requirements as the board may require by rule.

Amend the bill by replacing section 39 with the following:

39 Electricians; Examinations for License. Amend RSA 319-C:8 to read as follows:

319-C:8 Examinations for License. Each applicant for licensure shall present to the office, a written application for examination and license, containing such information as the [board may require] **law requires**, accompanied by the required application fee established by the office. Proctored examinations shall be written, written and oral, or computerized as approved by the board[, and shall be of a thorough and practical character]. They shall include such provisions of the National Electrical Code as the board may deem appropriate. Any person failing to pass his or her [first] examination may, **at his or her own expense**, be reexamined by an examination entity approved by the board, and thereafter may be examined as often as he or she may desire ~~[upon submitting the written application for examination and license and payment of the required application fee as set forth in this chapter]~~. **However, an applicant who has not passed the examination within one year of the office receiving his or her application and desires to be reexamined shall submit to the office a new written application for examination and license and the required application fees.**

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 41 with the following:

42 Manufactured Housing Installation Standards; Expiration and Renewal. Amend RSA 205-D:11, I to read as follows:

I. All licenses issued by the [board] **office** shall expire **in accordance with RSA 310** ~~[on the last day of the month of the licensee's birth in the third year following the year of issuance, but may be renewed during the following month, retroactive to the first day of the month. Upon failure to pay the renewal fee within the required period, a licensee may renew his or her license by submitting the required fee plus \$10 before the last day of the second month following the month of his or her birth].~~

43 Manufactured Housing Installation Standards; Fees. Amend RSA 205-D:12, I to read as follows:

I. The [board] **office** may establish, pursuant to RSA 541-A, fees for licensure, license renewal, training, inspections, and issuance of the manufacturer's warranty seal **in accordance with RSA 310**. ~~[The fees established by the board shall be sufficient to produce estimated revenues equal to 125 percent of the direct operating expenses of the board budgeted for the biennium in which they will apply.]~~

44 Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy; Licensure. Amend RSA 328-J:11 to read as follows:

328-J:11 Licensure; Medical Imaging Professionals and Radiation Therapists.

The executive director, in consultation with the board, shall issue [licenses] **a license** to individuals **in this section according to the requirements in this section. The license issued under this section shall be valid for the modality or modalities for which the licensee has achieved the required credentials** ~~[who meet the following qualifications]:~~

I. Limited x-ray machine operator license. To qualify for a license as a limited x-ray machine operator, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;
- (c) Successfully complete a course of study in limited x-ray machine operation approved by the executive director; and

(d) Pass an examination in limited x-ray machine operation approved by the board. To assess an applicant's competence in limited x-ray machine operation the board may use:

- (1) The American Registry of Radiologic Technologist limited x-ray machine operator examination for limited bone density, chest, extremities, podiatric, skull/sinus, and podiatric radiography;
- (2) The American Chiropractic Registry of Radiologic Technologists examination in spine radiography;
- (3) The American Society of Podiatric Medical Assistants examination in podiatric radiography;
- (4) The International Society for Clinical Densitometry examination in clinical bone densitometry technology; or

(5) A certification organization recognized by the executive director.

II. Magnetic resonance technologist license. To qualify for a license as a magnetic resonance technologist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~
- (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
- (c) ~~Successfully complete a course of study in radiography and additional educational requirements in magnetic resonance technology approved by the board; and~~

~~[(d)]~~ (b) Possess current certification and registration in radiography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or current certification and registration in magnetic resonance from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

~~[(e)]~~ (c) By January 1, 2020, all applicants for a magnetic resonance technologist license shall be certified in magnetic resonance by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization recognized by the executive director.

III. Nuclear medicine technologist license. To qualify for a license as a nuclear medicine technologist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~
- (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
- (c) ~~Successfully complete a course of study in nuclear medicine technology approved by the executive director; and~~

~~[(d)]~~ (b) Possess current certification and registration in nuclear medicine technology from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, or a certification organization recognized by the executive director.

IV. Radiation therapist license. To qualify for a license as a radiation therapist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~
- (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
- (c) ~~Successfully complete a course of study in radiation therapy approved by the executive director; and~~

~~[(d)]~~ **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in radiation therapy from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization recognized by the executive director.

V. Radiographer license. To qualify for a license as a radiographer, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~

~~(b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(e)] Successfully complete a course of study in radiography approved by the executive director; and

~~[(d)]~~ **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in radiography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

VI. Radiologist assistant license. To qualify for a license as a radiologist assistant, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Possess a radiographer license and current certification and registration in radiography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director;

(b) Possess current certification and registration as a radiologist assistant or radiology practitioner assistant from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, Certification Board of Radiology Physician Assistants or a certification organization approved by the executive director; and

(c) Submit to the executive director clinical protocols signed by the supervising radiologist specifying procedures that are performed by the radiologist assistant, levels of radiologist supervision, and locations of practice designated by the supervising radiologist. Updated protocols shall be submitted biannually consistent with license renewal. The radiologist assistant scope of practice shall be consistent with the most recent version of the Radiologist Assistant Practice Standards published by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

VII. Sonographer license. To qualify for a license as a sonographer, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~

~~(b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(e)] Successfully complete a course of study in sonography approved by the executive director; and

~~[(d)]~~ **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in sonography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Cardiovascular Credentialing International, or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

VIII. Cardiac electrophysiology specialist licensure. To qualify for a license as a cardiac electrophysiology specialist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~

~~(b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(e)] Successfully complete a course of study in cardiac electrophysiology approved by the executive director; and

~~[(d)]~~ **(b)** Possess current certification in cardiac electrophysiology from Cardiovascular Credentialing International or a certifying organization approved by the executive director.

IX. Cardiovascular invasive specialist license. To qualify for a license as a cardiovascular invasive specialist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~

~~(b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(e)] Successfully complete a course of study in cardiovascular invasive procedures approved by the executive director; and

~~[(d)]~~ **(b)** Possess current certification in cardiovascular invasive procedures from Cardiovascular Credentialing International or a certifying organization approved by the executive director.

X. Computed tomography license. To qualify for a license in computed tomography, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~

~~(b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(e)] Successfully complete a course of study in computed tomography approved by the executive director; and

~~[(d)]~~ **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in tomography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

45 Repeal. RSA 310-A:208, relative to board of septic system evaluators; fees, is repealed.

46 Effective Date.

I. Sections 8 and 22 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends licensing statutes and the office of professional licensure and certification's governing statutes to shift certain responsibilities and regulation to the office, in keeping with prior legislation.

This bill amends statutes related to the regulation of (1) land surveyors, (2) landscape architects; (3) alcohol and other drug use professionals, (4) mental health practitioners, (5) professional engineers, (6) psychologists, (7) architects, (8) podiatrists, (9) the boxing and wrestling commission, (10) auctioneers, (11) electricians, (12) professional bondsmen, (13) nurse agency registration, (14) doula and lactation specialist certification, (15) manufactured housing licensing, (16) medical imaging professionals and radiation therapists, and (17) septic system evaluators.

This bill is at the request of the office of professional licensure and certification.

HB 470, relative to the use of general anesthesia, deep sedation, and moderate sedation in dental treatment. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill clarifies the legislative intent for rulemaking authority of the board of dental examiners and allows for dentists, appropriately licensed, to administer moderate sedation to patients under the age of 13 without a second anesthesiologist. The rule-making process needs more clarity regarding legislative intent and the profession assisted in drafting this legislation. Vote 14-0.

HB 117, relative to the substitution of biological products. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda McGrath for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Biosimilar pharmaceutical products are biological medications that are highly similar to an already approved reference biologic product, with no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety, purity, and potency. The passage of this bill would allow pharmacists, in consultation with their patients, to substitute biological similar products subject to certain restrictions. These medications make up 2% of prescriptions but account for 46% of total prescription cost. Europe already allows for interchange of these medications. Vote 18-0.

HR 14, relative to litigation concerning healthcare monopolies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Yury Polozov for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee supports the goals of reducing health care costs and tackling monopolization but believes this resolution is not the right approach for New Hampshire. Antitrust litigation demands significant resources, which are more readily available at the federal level. Monopolization often stems from existing laws and is better addressed through state and federal legislative action rather than litigation led by the Attorney General. Additionally, the practices targeted by this resolution, such as high prices and group pricing, are so widespread that the Attorney General would struggle to objectively determine which entities to sue first. Given that this resolution is unlikely to effectively resolve medical pricing issues, the committee favors exploring more clear and impactful alternatives. Vote 18-0.

CACR 7, relating to the presumption of innocence. Providing that in all cases and suits of the state against one of the people, the defendant shall be innocent unless proven guilty. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for Judiciary. This bill seeks to amend the New Hampshire Constitution to require that "[i]n all cases and suits of the state against one of the people, whether criminal or civil, and whether in equity or law, and in any court or tribunal whatsoever, the accused shall be innocent unless proven guilty." The standard of proof required for a criminal conviction in New Hampshire is already proof beyond a reasonable doubt, as criminal cases contemplate the potential loss of liberty or life; the proposed amendment would not make any difference in current state law. This proposal would entirely upend civil proceedings, however, which generally require a preponderance of evidence to establish liability for disputes over property or money. The proposed amendment does not state what the standard of proof should be in such cases and therefore would create completely unnecessary conflict in very well-settled law. Vote 16-2.

HB 268-FN, relative to hearings before the board of tax and land appeals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Zoe Manos for Judiciary. The amendment to this bill will amend RSA 498-A:16 to allow any party to participate in a just compensation hearing under RSA 498-A:24 through electronic or telephonic means consistent with RSA 91-A. It will also allow hearings on appeals to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (the board) to be held in the county in which the declaration has been filed, unless the parties agree to hold the hearing at the board's hearing room in Concord. If there is a lack of available space at the local county courthouse (where such hearings have been historically held), as determined solely by the board, then the hearing shall be held in the board's hearing room in Concord. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0359h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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

498-A:16 Offices; Hearings. The board shall be provided with suitable office space in Concord, together with such furnishings and office equipment as shall be necessary for the administration of its business, ***and with a suitable room in which it may hold hearings. Any party may elect to participate in a just compensation hearing under RSA 498-A:24 though electronic or telephonic means consistent with***

RSA 91-A. All hearings before the board shall be open to the public. ~~[, and] Each hearing shall be held in the county in which the declaration has been filed, unless the parties agree to a hearing~~ ***at the board's hearing room in Concord*** ~~[elsewhere]. To the extent~~ ***there is a lack*** ~~of available space[, hearings shall be conducted]~~ in the respective county courthouse, ~~[, otherwise, they shall be held in such place or places, accessible to the public, as the board shall direct]~~ ***as determined solely by the board, the hearing shall then be conducted in the board's hearing room in Concord.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill codifies the board of tax and land appeals' authority to hold hearings at its hearing room in Concord and allows parties to request that hearings be held electronically or telephonically. This bill further states that the hearings may be held in the hearing room in Concord in lieu of the county where the declaration was filed upon agreement of the parties of if the board determines that there is a lack of available space in the respective county courthouse.

HB 544-L, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Gilman for Municipal and County Government. This bill enables a municipality to collect up to \$2 per 24 hour stay in a hotel as defined in RSA 78-A:3, VII which includes apartments. Despite giving authority to the legislative body to set the number of consecutive days of any such occupancy it is not clear if the fee applies per "occupancy" or per "occupant." There is no provision given for this bill to apply to short-term rentals. The bill is well intentioned, but the inconsistencies need further clarification. Vote 18-0.

HB 737-L, creating local options for games of chance. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for Ways and Means. This bill addresses gaming room games of chance (poker, blackjack, craps, roulette), not historic horse racing or video lottery terminals, for local approval. It allows a municipality to opt out of allowing games of chance. However, if games of chance are allowed, a municipality could not change its position to "not allowed" unless the operation was approved and had not started up operation within six years from the time of application approval or had ceased operation for more than four years. The thought behind this timeframe is that an operator would have made a substantial investment and needs time to finish the project and start operation before a municipality might change its mind on approval. The bill sets time limits on both the municipalities and upon the operator to get the project completed or not. The amendment merely was a time limit compromise from four years to six years on the time limit for commencing operation after application approval and a change from two years to four years for any operator that ceases operations. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0850h)

Amend RSA 287-D:32, II-III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. If a majority of those voting on the question vote "Yes," new games of chance may not be operated within the town or city.

III. If the question is not approved, the question may later be voted upon according to the provisions of paragraph I as early as the next annual town meeting or regular municipal election.

Amend RSA 287-D:32 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including paragraphs I and II, any vote by a municipality to prohibit games of chance within its boundaries shall not apply to any games of chance operator licensed by the lottery commission, or any applicant who has applied for a games of chance operator license prior to the date of the petition in subparagraph I(a) or the notice date in subparagraph I(b), except that any operator who ceases operation for a period exceeding 4 years, or an applicant who fails to commence operation within 6 years of application approval, shall be subject to any intervening vote by the municipality.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Janigian, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 123**, relative to yield taxes on property enrolled or registered for the purpose of generating carbon offset credits.

REGULAR CALENDAR

HB 109-FN, relative to false reports to law enforcement. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for the Majority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill establishes a crime to knowingly falsely allege misconduct or criminal conduct by a police officer acting in the performance of his or her official duty. False reports involving an officer consume valuable resources, divert attention from actual emergencies, and create unrepairable harm to a person's reputation and career. While it is already a crime to knowingly make a false report of a crime against a fellow citizen, the act of making a false claim against a police officer is not. This will create a misdemeanor to falsely make a claim of officer misconduct, and a class

A misdemeanor to falsely claim criminal misconduct while in the act of duty. The 1st amendment guarantees our right to speak out against our government, including law enforcement. It does not however give the right to make knowingly false statements to the government with the intent that those false statements be used to cause harm to an innocent person. When false allegations are made against a police officer, all of society is harmed, because during the investigation the officer is not able to fulfill their duties and the public faith in law enforcement is damaged. When an officer is accused it is always front-page news, but when they are cleared it is page 5, if it makes the news at all. If we wish to continue to attract the best and brightest to serve in our law enforcement community and continue to hold them to the highest of ethical standards, it is only proper that when they are falsely targeted, the perpetrator face consequences for their bad acts. It was alleged that this could have a chilling effect on people making legitimate complaints against law enforcement. The majority disagrees. In order to charge someone under this, a prosecutor must first be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person knew the allegations that they made were false. That will be a very high bar to reach and ensures that only the most egregious offenders will be charged. Vote 9-6.

Rep. Jodi Newell for the Minority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill would create additional categories within the statute governing the false reporting of crimes, specifically when the report alleges misconduct or criminal behavior of a law enforcement officer. While the minority certainly agrees that knowingly submitting a false report should be strongly discouraged, there are deep concerns about the chilling effect this expansion of law may have on justifiable reporting overall, particularly considering the power imbalance inherent in this situation. Further, by including allegations of misconduct, offenses that are difficult to prove, but crucial to identifying patterns of behavior, this kind of chilling effect may inadvertently result in truly bad apples from being held accountable.

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

Rep. Newell spoke against.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 198 members having voted in the affirmative, and 173 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 218-FN, relative to providing victims of crime with a free police report of the investigation. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for the Majority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, as amended with a replace all amendment, will allow all crime victims in New Hampshire to receive a police report at no cost to them. Several police departments around the state already provide this for free, however not all have adopted this procedure. Currently under New Hampshire law, victims of domestic violence crimes have the right to request a free police report in their own case. Passing this bill, as amended by the committee, will ensure that all victims receive a free report if requested ensuring they have the required documents to access resources. The majority is highly concerned over the minority trying to insert the word alleged. Under the New Hampshire Crime Victims Bill of Rights, there are no alleged victims of crimes. This will undermine a victim's credibility and deter a victim from coming forward. Vote 12-4.

Rep. David Meuse for the Minority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Currently under New Hampshire law, victims of domestic violence crimes have the right to request a free police report in their own case. These reports may be needed for victims to access certain services, including temporary housing, victims' compensation, and insurance. What this bill would do is expand this right to all crime victims. While the minority agrees wholeheartedly with the aim of the bill, as written there are major issues with the wording that could lead to a potential conflict with the New Hampshire right to know law that could prevent or significantly delay a victim from receiving a report. The minority feels these issues are easily fixable and are worth fixing.

Majority Amendment (0765h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Rights of Crime Victims; Copy of Police Report. Amend RSA 21-M:8-k, II(i) to read as follows:

(i) The right to be informed about available resources, financial assistance, and social services; ***the right to request and receive within 7 business days, a copy, at no cost, of the initial report filed by the peace officer from the law enforcement department; and the right to request and receive within 15 business days following adjudication by the investigating or prosecuting agency, a copy, at no cost, of the complete case file.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides victims of crime with a right to request a free initial police report and, following the conclusion of the investigation or case, a free copy of the complete case file.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Meuse offered floor amendment (0948h).

Floor Amendment (0948h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Rights of Crime Victims; Copy of Police Report. Amend RSA 21-M:8-k, II(i) to read as follows:

(i) The right to be informed about available resources, financial assistance, and social services; ***the right to request and receive, at no cost, written confirmation within 5 business days of reporting a crime to the police department; and the right to request and receive, at no cost, a complete copy of the case file within 15 business days following adjudication by the investigating or prosecuting agency.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides victims of crime with a right to request and receive at no cost a written confirmation that the person has reported an alleged crime to the police department and the right to request and receive following adjudication by the investigating or prosecuting agency, a copy, at no cost, of the complete case file.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0948h).

Rep. Meuse spoke in favor.

Rep. Rhodes spoke against.

On a division vote, with 157 members having voted in the affirmative, and 213 in the negative, floor amendment (0948h) failed.

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

SENATE MESSAGE**CONCURRENCE**

HB 592-FN, relative to magistrates and the standards applicable to and the administration of bail.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 10-FN, establishing the parental bill of rights. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Debra DeSimone for the Majority of Children and Family Law. This bill establishes a framework regarding education and care of parents' minor un-emancipated children. It ensures that parents are informed about their children's health and well-being and education while in school custody. The provisions of this bill are that parents shall have the right to direct the education, care, upbringing, and moral/religious training of their children. To enroll their children in public, private, or home-based schools, or other state/federally approved educational system. They have access to and review school and medical records. To consent to biometric scans, DNA records, and video recordings via yearly waiver/consent forms in schools that parents can sign as part of yearly paperwork and be notified of suspected allegations and criminal offenses against their children. The school board responsibilities are to develop policies to promote parental involvement and provide information on courses, clubs, activities and behaviors. The school board shall allow parents/caregivers to object to instructional materials and withdraw their children from certain health education programs and to inform parents of their rights and responsibilities annually. The healthcare services responsibilities are required to obtain written consent from both parents/caregivers for health care services to include medical procedures except in the case of an emergency. There is no known fiscal impact, no new positions are known to be necessary or authorized. 18 states currently have parental rights statutes. 32 more states and the District of Columbia have proposed new legislation known as parents' bill of rights. Vote 9-7. Rep. Heather Raymond for the Minority of Children and Family Law. This bill claims to seek to protect the rights of parents in New Hampshire. While this is a laudable goal, the language of the amendment creates a number of unsurmountable obstacles. It creates criminal penalties for medical providers and requires written permission before doctors can treat children. Currently parents can provide verbal consent for routine services like prescription refills. This bill will end that practice. The bill makes no allowances for circumstances where the Division for Children, Youth and Family (DCYF) is involved with a family and does not align with other existing federal and state laws governing medical care and medical records. In educational settings, this bill creates a new requirement for school staff to surveil students' romantic and personal relationships for the purpose of answering parents' questions and imposes penalties for teachers who would rather stick to just focusing on education. The public response to this bill was overwhelmingly negative; opposing testimony outnumbered support by a 10 to 1 margin and members of the committee received hundreds of emails in opposition to the bill. The minority strongly opposes the current language and encourages voting Inexpedient to Legislate.

Majority Amendment (0695h)

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

1 Declaration of Purpose. The general court finds and affirms that parents have a fundamental liberty interest to raise and care for their minor children, as well as make decisions concerning their care, custody, and fundamental liberty interest is protected under both the federal and New Hampshire constitutions, and have the right, to have access to, and be notified of and be provided with all information relating to these rights.

2 New Chapter; Parent Bill of Rights. Amend RSA by inserting after 169-H the following new chapter.

CHAPTER 169-I

PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

169-I:1 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Parent's Bill of Rights.

169-I:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Parent" means a person who is the legal natural or adoptive parent of a minor child. A legal guardian appointed pursuant to RSA 463:2, IV shall be deemed to be a parent for as long guardianship is in force. The term "Parent" shall not apply to a person whose rights to a child have been either voluntarily surrendered or involuntarily terminated pursuant to law.

II. "Parental rights and responsibilities" shall have the same meaning as care custody and control, and shall include parenting time, decision making, and residential responsibility. Parents for whom such rights to care, custody, or control of a child have been abridged, halted, modified, or suspended, shall have their rights restored upon showing a preponderance of the evidence that is in the child's best interest and the child is returned to parental care.

III. "Minor" means an unemancipated person under the age of 18 years.

IV. "Compelling state interest" means the governmental interest in the welfare of a child which includes, but is not limited to, parental rights and responsibilities pursuant to RSA 461- A:1, V.

169-I:3 Infringement of Parental Rights Prohibited. The state; any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit; any other governmental entity; or any other institution may not infringe on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, that such action is narrowly tailored, and that such interest is not otherwise served by less restrictive means.

169-I:4 Parental Rights.

I. All parent's rights are reserved to the parent of a minor child in this state without obstruction or interference from the state, any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit, any other governmental entity, or any other institution, including, but not limited to, all of the following rights of a parent of a minor child in this state:

(a) To inquire of the school or school personnel and immediately receive accurate, truthful, and complete disclosure regarding any and all matters related to their minor child, unless an immediate answer cannot be provided when the initial request is made, in which case the answer shall be provided no later than 5 days after the request;

(b) Direct the education and care;

(c) Direct the upbringing and moral or religious training;

(d) Apply to enroll in a public school, or private school, religious school, home school program, or other available options, as authorized by law;

(e) To access and review all school records pursuant to RSA 189:66 IV;

(f) Make health care decisions unless otherwise prohibited by law to include end of life treatments and care with terminal conditions;

(g) To be physically present at any health care facility providing care licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2;

(h) Access and review all medical records as the personal representatives of their children, unless such representation is modified or terminated by court order, or the parent is the subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor child and a law enforcement agency or other officials request the information not be released.

(i) To consent in writing before a biometric scan is made, shared, or stored pursuant to RSA 189:65 and RSA 189:68;

(j) Consent in writing before any blood or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is created, stored, or shared, except as required by general law or pursuant to a court order;

(k) To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit; pursuant also to the provisions of RSA 189:68, III-V makes a video or voice recording unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding or part of a forensic interview in a criminal or other investigation by the bureau of child protective services or it is to be used solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in the common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles; and

(l) To be notified promptly if an employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against his or her minor child, unless the incident has first been reported to law enforcement or the bureau of child protective services and notifying the parent would impede the investigation.

II. This section does not:

(a) Authorize a parent of a minor child in this state to engage in conduct that is unlawful or to abuse or neglect his or her minor child in violation of general law.

(b) Prohibit a court of competent jurisdiction, law enforcement officer, or employees of a government agency that is responsible for child welfare from acting in his or her official capacity within the reasonable and prudent scope of his or her authority, pursuant to RSA 186:11, IX-c.

III. An employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit, or any other governmental entity who encourages or coerces a minor child to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action.

IV. A parent of a minor child in this state has inalienable rights that are more comprehensive than those listed in this section, unless such rights have been legally waived or terminated. This chapter does not prescribe all rights to a parent of a minor child in this state. Unless required by law, the rights of a parent of a minor child in this state may not be limited or denied.

169-I:5 School Board Notifications on Parental Rights.

I. Each school board, school district, or school administrative unit shall, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, develop, adopt and promulgate publicly a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system. Such policy must include:

(a) A plan for parental participation in schools to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, school attendance, and discipline.

(b) A procedure for a parent to learn about his or her minor child's course of study, including the source of any supplemental education materials.

(c) Procedures for a parent to object to instructional materials and other materials used in the classroom. Such objections may be based on beliefs regarding morality, sex, and religion or the belief that such materials are harmful. For purposes of this section, the term "instructional materials" shall include, without limitation, all materials used in the classroom, including workbooks and worksheets, handouts, software, applications, and any digital media made available to students.

(d) Procedures for a parent to withdraw his or her minor child from any portion of the school district's health education program that relates to sex education or instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality if the parent provides a written objection to his or her minor child's participation. Such procedures must provide for a parent to be notified in advance of such course content so that he or she may withdraw his or her minor child from those portions of the course.

(e) Procedures for a parent to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at his or her minor child's school, including those that are extracurricular or part of the school curriculum.

(f) Procedures for a parent to learn about parental rights and responsibilities under general law, including all of the following:

(1) The right to opt his or her minor child out of any portion of the school district's health education program that relates to sex education instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality.

(2) The right of a parent to exempt his or her minor child from immunizations, as per the provisions of RSA 141-C:20-a relative to immunizations.

(3) The right of a parent to receive statewide, standardized assessment results.

(4) The right of a parent to enroll his or her minor child in gifted or special education programs if the child qualifies for such programs.

(5) The right of a parent to inspect school district instructional materials.

(6) The right of a parent to access information relating to the school district's policies.

(7) The right of a parent to receive a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements and compliance with such requirements.

(8) The right of a parent to access information relating to the state public education system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and instructional materials requirements.

(9) The right of a parent to opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by federal or state law.

II. A school board may provide the information required in this section electronically or post such information on its website. Additionally, at the beginning of each new school year a school board shall provide to parents a written copy of the following rights which shall be titled, "Parents' Bill of Rights" all of which are consistent with or pursuant to the provisions of this statute, and in no way conflict with them:

(a) You have the right and expectation to question and address your child's school officials via letters, electronic communications, and in person meetings including elected school board meetings. You also have the right to attend publicly designated meetings with proper notice of the meetings provided.

(b) You have the right and expectation to question and review curriculum taught in your child's school by questioning your school board and school administrators during public comment periods at publicly designated meetings.

(c) You have the right and expectation that academic curriculum taught in your child's school aligns with New Hampshire and federal law.

(d) You have the right and expectation to participate in the selection and approval of academic standards for the state of New Hampshire.

(e) You have the right and expectation to access educational materials and curriculum taught to your child in the classroom and school.

(f) You have the right to make decisions regarding vaccinations and immunizations for your child.

(g) You have the right and expectation to make medical decisions on behalf of your child.

(h) You have the right and expectation to receive your child's student health records.

(i) You have the right to receive special education services on behalf of your child with a disability.

III. A parent may request, in writing, from the district school superintendent the information required under this section pursuant to RSA 91-A.

169-I:6 Parental Consent for Health Care Services.

I. Except as otherwise provided by law or a court order, a health care practitioner or an individual employed by such health care practitioner may not provide or solicit or arrange to provide health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent.

II. Except as otherwise provided by law or a court order, a health care provider shall not allow a medical procedure to be performed on a minor child in its facility without first obtaining written parental consent.

III. This section does not apply to services provided by a clinical laboratory, unless the services are delivered through a direct encounter with the minor at the clinical laboratory facility with parental consent.

IV. This section does not apply to emergency services pursuant to RSA 153-A:18.

V. A health care practitioner or other person who violates this section is subject to disciplinary action, and such a violation constitutes a class A misdemeanor.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Reps. DeSimone, Wheeler and Kofalt spoke in favor.

Rep. Petrigno spoke against.

On a division vote, with 210 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Raymond offered floor amendment (1152h).

Floor Amendment (1152h)

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

1 Declaration of Purpose. The general court finds and affirms that parents have a fundamental right to raise and care for their minor children, as well as to make decisions concerning their care. Furthermore, parents have the right to have access to, be notified of, and be provided with all information relating to these rights.

2 New Chapter; Parent Bill of Rights. Amend RSA by inserting after 169-H the following new chapter.

CHAPTER 169-I

PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

169-I:1 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Parent's Bill of Rights.

169-I:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Parent" means a person who is the legal natural or adoptive parent of a minor child. A legal guardian appointed pursuant to RSA 463:2, IV shall be deemed to be a parent for as long guardianship is in force. The term "Parent" shall not apply to a person whose rights to a child have been either voluntarily surrendered or involuntarily terminated pursuant to law.

II. "Parental rights and responsibilities" shall have the same meaning as care custody and control, and shall include parenting time, decision making, and residential responsibility. Parents for whom such rights to care, custody, or control of a child have been abridged, halted, modified, or suspended, shall have their rights restored upon showing a preponderance of the evidence that is in the child's best interest and the child is returned to parental care.

III. "Minor child" means an unemancipated person under the age of 18 years.

IV. "Compelling state interest" shall include a circumstance in which the medical providers, schools, or school personnel have an actual and objectively reasonable belief, supported by evidence, that any action or inaction that infringes upon any of the rights identified in RSA 189-B:3 is likely to cause a child to be abused or neglected as defined in RSA 169-C:3, or likely to infringe on the fundamental rights of a child, including the rights to privacy, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of speech, and due process.

169-I:3 Infringement of Parental Rights Prohibited. The state; any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit; any other governmental entity; or any other institution may not infringe on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, that such action is narrowly tailored, and that such interest is not otherwise served by less restrictive means.

169-I:4 Parental Rights.

I. All parent's rights are reserved to the parent of a minor child in this state without obstruction or interference from the state, any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit, any other governmental entity, or any other institution, including, but not limited to, all of the following rights of a parent of a minor child in this state:

(a) To inquire of the school or school personnel and receive accurate and truthful disclosure regarding their child's academics, behavior, and mental, emotional, or physical health unless a reasonably prudent person would believe such disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as per RSA 186:11, IX-e and RSA 169-C:3;

(b) To direct the education and care of their child;

(c) To direct the upbringing and moral or religious training of their child;

(d) To apply to enroll in a public school, or as an alternative to public education, a private school, religious school, home school program, or other available options, as authorized by RSA 193:1;

(e) To access and review all school records relating to their minor child pursuant to RSA 189:66 IV;

(f) To make health care decisions for their child unless otherwise prohibited by law to include end of life treatments and care with terminal conditions;

(g) To be physically present at any health care facility providing care licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2 at which their child is receiving hospital care unless otherwise prohibited by law;

(h) To access and review all medical records as the personal representatives of their children, unless such representation is modified or terminated by court order, or the parent is the subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor child and a law enforcement agency or other officials request the information not be released, or the release is otherwise prohibited by law;

(i) To consent in writing before a biometric scan of their child is made, shared, or stored pursuant to RSA 189:65 and RSA 189:68;

(j) To consent in writing before any record of their child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is created, stored, or shared, except as required by general law or pursuant to a court order;

(k) To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit; pursuant also to the provisions of RSA 189:68, III-V makes a video or voice recording of their child unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding or part of a forensic interview in a criminal or other investigation by the bureau of child protective services or it is to be used solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in the common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles; and

(l) To be notified promptly if an employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against their child, unless the criminal activity was a simple assault involving students in kindergarten through grade 12 if the school board has adopted a discipline policy as per RSA 193-D:4, or unless the incident has first been reported to law enforcement or the bureau of child protective services and notifying the parent would impede the investigation;

(m) To be notified if their child has been subjected to restraint or seclusion in schools or residential programs as per RSA 126-U:7;

(n) To raise their child in a community with clean drinking water;

(o) To access medical treatment for their child including childhood vaccinations, routine well-child checkups, vision, hearing, and other developmental screenings;

(p) To receive information on how to apply for early intervention and special educational interventions for their child and to participate in the process if their child qualifies for such programs;

(q) To access affordable child care programs;

(r) To send their child to school or daycare that is free of gun violence;

(s) To access mental health care for their child including outpatient and inpatient services; and

(t) To petition for a protective order on behalf of their child under the provisions of RSA 173-B, if the child has been the victim of abuse by an individual other than the child's other parent.

II. This section does not:

(a) Authorize a parent of a minor child in this state to engage in conduct that is unlawful or to abuse or neglect his or her minor child in violation of general law, or to infringe on the fundamental rights of a child including the rights to privacy, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of speech, and due process.

(b) Prohibit a court of competent jurisdiction, law enforcement officer, or employees of a government agency that is responsible for child welfare from acting in his or her official capacity within the reasonable and prudent scope of his or her authority, pursuant to RSA 186:11, IX-c and RSA 169-C.

III. An employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit, or any other governmental entity who encourages or coerces a minor child to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to RSA 186:11, IX-e.

IV. A parent of a minor child in this state has inalienable rights that are more comprehensive than those listed in this section, unless such rights have been legally waived or terminated. This chapter does not prescribe all rights to a parent of a minor child in this state.

169-I:5 School Board Notifications on Parental Rights.

I. Each school board, school district, or school administrative unit shall, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, develop, adopt and promulgate publicly a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system. Such policy must include:

(a) A plan for parental participation in schools to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, school attendance, and discipline.

(b) A procedure for a parent to learn about his or her minor child's course of study, including the source of any supplemental education materials.

(c) Procedures for a parent to object to instructional materials and other materials used in the instruction of their child. Such objections may be based on beliefs regarding morality, sex, and religion or the belief that such materials are harmful. For purposes of this section, the term "instructional materials" shall include, without limitation, all materials used in the classroom, including workbooks and worksheets, handouts, software, applications, and any digital media made available to students.

(d) Procedures for a parent to withdraw his or her minor child from any portion of the school district's health education program that relates to sex education or instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality if the parent provides a written objection to their minor child's participation. Such procedures must provide for a parent to be notified in advance of such course content so that they may withdraw his or her minor child from those portions of the course.

(e) Procedures for a parent to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at their child's school, including those that are extracurricular or part of the school curriculum.

(f) Procedures for a parent to learn about parental rights and responsibilities under general law, including all of the following:

(1) The right to opt their child out of any portion of the school district's health education program that relates to sex education instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality pursuant to RSA 186:11, IX-b and IX-c.

(2) The right of a parent to exempt their child from immunizations, if in the opinion of a physician, the immunization is detrimental to the child or because of religious belief as per the provisions of RSA 141-C:20-a.

(3) The right of a parent to receive their child's standardized assessment results.

(4) The right of a parent to enroll their child in gifted or special education programs if the child qualifies for such programs.

(5) The right of a parent to inspect school district instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their child as per 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232h.

(6) The right of a parent to access information relating to the school district's policies.

(7) The right of a parent to receive a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements and compliance with such requirements.

(8) The right of a parent to access information relating to the state public education system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and instructional materials requirements pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act Section 1112(e)(1)(B)(i).

(9) The right of a parent to opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by federal or state law.

(10) The right of a parent to opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by federal or state law as per RSA 193-C:6.

(11) The right to be informed of school district policy regarding school discipline as per RSA 193:13.

(12) The right to be notified whenever restraint or seclusion has been used on their child as per RSA 126-U:7.

(13) The right to be advised of any non-academic survey or questionnaire to be administered to their child and the right to opt their child out of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as per RSA 186:11, IX-d.

(14) The right to receive information regarding their child in an understandable format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand as per Title I Part A sections 1112 (e)(4), 1114(b)(4), 1116(e)(5), 1116(f).

(15) The right to enroll their child to a school that provides education that helps the child attain English proficiency Title III Part A 1112 (c)(3)(C)(4).

II. A school board may provide the information required in this section electronically or post such information on its website. Additionally, at the beginning of each new school year a school board shall provide to parents the following rights which shall be titled, "Parents' Bill of Rights" all of which are consistent with or pursuant to the provisions of this statute, and in no way conflict with them:

(a) You have the right to question and address your child's school officials via letters, electronic communications, and in person meetings including elected school board meetings. You also have the right to attend publicly designated meetings with proper notice of the meetings provided.

(b) You have the right and expectation to question and review curriculum taught in your child's school by questioning your school board and school administrators during public comment periods at publicly designated meetings.

(c) You have the right and expectation that academic curriculum taught in your child's school aligns with New Hampshire and federal law.

(d) You have the right and expectation to participate in the selection and approval of academic standards for the state of New Hampshire.

(e) You have the right and expectation to access educational materials and curriculum taught to your child in the classroom and school (20 U.S.C sec. 1223h(c)(1)(C)).

(f) You have the right to exempt your child from vaccinations and immunizations if in the opinion of a physician the immunization is detrimental to your child, pursuant to RSA 141-C:20-a.

(g) You have the right and expectation to make medical decisions on behalf of your child.

(h) You have the right to receive your child's student health records.

(i) You have the right to access special education services on behalf of your child with a disability.

(j) You have the right to be informed if restraint or seclusion are used on your child.

(k) You have the right to review education records relating to your child pursuant to RSA 189:66, IV.

(l) You have the right to be informed of the school district policies on discipline pursuant to RSA 193:13.

III. A parent may request, in writing, from the district school superintendent the information required under this section pursuant to RSA 91-A.

169-I:6 Parental Consent for Health Care Services.

I. Except as otherwise provided by law or a court order, a health care practitioner or an individual employed by such health care practitioner may not provide or solicit, or arrange to provide, health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent.

II. Except as otherwise provided by law or a court order, a health care provider shall not allow a medical procedure to be performed on a minor child in its facility without first obtaining written parental consent.

III. This section does not apply to services provided by a clinical laboratory, unless the services are delivered through a direct encounter with the minor at the clinical laboratory facility with parental consent.

IV. This section does not apply to emergency services pursuant to RSA 153-A:18.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1152h).

Rep. Raymond spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Mark Pearson spoke against.

On a division vote, with 163 members having voted in the affirmative, and 209 in the negative, floor amendment (1152h) failed.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Petrigno moved that **HB 10-FN**, establishing the parental bill of rights, be laid on the table.

Rep. Kuttub requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 162 - NAYS 211

YEAS - 162

BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick

Berch, Paul

Harvey, Cathryn

Fox, Dru

Germana, Dylan

Faulkner, Barry

Gruber, James

Jacobs, Samantha

Jones, Philip

Germana, Nicholas

Newell, Jodi

O'Rourke, Terri

Parshall, Lucius

Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan

Baldwin, Heather

Bolton, Bill

Cormen, Thomas

Fellows, Sallie

Fracht, David

Hakken-Phillips, Mary

Sullivan, Jared

Lovett, Peter

Lucas, Janet

Muirhead, Russell

Oppel, Thomas

Rockmore, Ellen

Spahr, Terry

Stringham, Jerry

Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vandecasteele, Susan

Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

NAYS - 211**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Lunney, Matthew
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Nagel, David
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary

Drew, Matt
 Flanagan, Jack
 Gould, Linda
 Labrie, Brian
 Mazur, Lisa
 Morton, Jonathan
 Pauer, Diane
 Proulx, Mark
 Schneller, John
 Sirois, Shane
 Mannion, Tim
 Wheeler, Jonah

Dupont, Pierre
 Griffin, Gerald
 Kenny, Catherine
 Lascelles, Richard
 McLean, Mark
 Notter, Jeanine
 Peeples, Raymond
 Prout, Andrew
 Scully, Kevin
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Mannion, Tom
 Wherry, Robert

Erf, Keith
 Gagne, Larry
 Kesselring, Steven
 Leishman, Peter
 Miles, Julie
 Ohm, Bill
 Post, Lisa
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Seidel, Sheila
 Suiter, John
 Ulery, Jordan

Fedolfi, Jim
 Giasson, Henry
 Kofalt, Jim
 Murphy, Mary
 Mooney, Maureen
 Panek, Sandra
 Presa, Adam
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Tenczar, Jeffrey
 Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Harb, Robert
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Maggiore, Jim
 McMahon, Charles
 Nelson, Jodi
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Janigian, John
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Soti, Julius
 Sytek, John
 Verville, Kevin
 Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Brown, Pam
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Dolan, Tom
 Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guzowski, James
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Pearson, Mark
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Packard, Sherman
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Summers, James
 Tripp, Richard
 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

Girard, Dale
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

and the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
 Rep. Telerski requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 212 - NAYS 161

YEAS - 212

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
 Comtois, Barbara
 Lunney, Matthew
 Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
 Dumais, Russell
 Nagel, David
 Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
 Freeman, Lisa
 Ploszaj, Tom
 Varney, Peter

Coker, Matthew
 Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
 Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
 Hamblen, Joseph
 Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
 MacDonald, John
 Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
 Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
 Petermel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
 Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
 Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
 Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
 Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

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, Yuri
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Knab, Allison
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
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
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 161
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Fogg, Loren
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Gibbs, Merryl
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Richards, Beth
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Grote, Jaci
 Cahill, Michael
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Paige, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vandecasteele, Susan

Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Malloy, Dennis
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
 Murray, Kate
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Stone, John

England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

Rep. Knab voted Yea and intended to vote Nay.

Rep. Vandecasteele voted Nay and intended to vote Yea.

HB 433-FN, making 17 the age of consent for marriage if either party is active duty military and removing language regarding age waivers for marriage registration records, since age waivers are no longer issued in New Hampshire. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: When a 17-year-old is in a relationship with a person 18 or older who is an active-duty member of the US Military and they choose to marry, an exception to the current marriage statute RSA 457:5 should be considered. Military members can be moved from one base to another frequently. Leaving a potential spouse and possible children unable to avail themselves of possible base housing could prevent a parent's ability to assist in raising their child, which could seriously affect children since children historically do better with both parents in their lives. The military does not provide any benefits to a non-married partner. This bill also requires written permission from a parent or guardian.

Rep. Debra DeSimone

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: Those that support the Inexpedient to Legislate motion understand that, while the intent of the bill is valid, the outcome will not be what the intent is. There have been many that have shared their stories and many others that showed the isolation the spouses faced. Those on the committee understand the requirements of the military and that there is no clear-defined age limit

on the active-duty military member. There are concerns that the recent marriage law hasn't been in effect for long and it is undetermined if this is a real issue. Finally, there are also concerns for those marrying the members solely for the benefits despite there being government programs available.

Rep. Cassandra Levesque

Rep. Mark Pearson moved Ought to Pass.

Rep. Levesque spoke against.

Rep. Drye spoke in favor.

Rep. Nicholas Germana requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 193 - NAYS 178

YEAS - 193

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Lunney, Matthew
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sellers, John

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

Franz, Linda

Ladd, Rick

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Fedolff, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James

Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 178

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
McFarlane, Donald
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Beaulier, Calvin
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Berezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
Drew, Matt
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

Boyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tim
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Slottje, Jeremy
Tellerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Turer, Eric
Wilson, Vicki

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

DeVito, Sayra
Guzofski, James
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath

England, Myles
Harrington, Michael

Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion of Ought to Pass was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 718, requiring the state board of education to report the unfunded financial impact to school districts for rules adopted by the board which exceed state or federal minimum standards. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for the Majority of Education Funding. This bill requires the State Board of Education to report out-of-pocket costs that local districts must incur to comply with the rules that exceed state or federal special education standards. RSA 186-C:16-c enables the State Board of Education to make special education rules which exceed the minimum requirements for state or federal law and requires the board to annually report all such rules which exceed the minimum requirements of law. The state board is currently required to include in the annual report the following: 1. the rule number, 2. the nature of the rule, 3. identify any state minimum requirement exceeded, 4. identify any federal minimum requirement exceeded, and 5. the reasons for exceeding minimum standards. The proposed bill adds a sixth requirement that reads, 6. to also report “unfunded financial impact on local districts for rules exceeding state or federal minimum requirements.” Although ambiguity associated with state and federal special education law may require clarification through rule making, question is raised when and if rules exceeding law result in additional unfunded costs to local districts. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 and originally proposed that federal funding would cover up to 40% of the cost of programming for students with disabilities; however, the federal government has historically not fully funded this amount, with current funding significantly lower than the intended 40% mark. States and local school districts have absorbed the federal government’s declining fiscal support. This bill simply requires the Department of Education to annually report the additional costs contributed to state rules that exceed federal law. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Hope Damon for the Minority of Education Funding. This bill would require the State Board of Education to report the out-of-pocket costs that local districts must incur to comply with rules that exceed state or federal education standards. The bill does not have a fiscal note which seems to overlook the costs incurred by Department of Education staff to research and track rules impact. Costs could be profoundly different across districts depending on the particular rule, the number of students impacted, and the reality that special education is very individualized. It was suggested that if the fiscal notes provided for bills were complete and accurate, those could be the foundation for what this bill requests – but currently many fiscal notes simply say indeterminable cost. The chair of the state board noted in his testimony that the board does not employ a statistician, economist, or data analyst on their staff – suggesting they lack capacity to comply with this bill without additional staffing. Further, New Hampshire takes pride in providing special education that exceeds the minimum federal standards. The very likely unintended consequence of this bill is to ultimately reduce our special education standards. Minimum should not be the goal – excellent student outcomes should be the goal.

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

Rep. Ladd spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 211 - NAYS 163

YEAS - 211

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Lunney, Matthew
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Nagel, David
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
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

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 163
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Dargie, Paul
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Seibert, Christine
 Teterski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Gibbs, Merryl
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Richards, Beth
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Grote, Jaci
 Cahill, Michael
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Maggiore, Jim
 Markell, Jay
 Read, Ellen
 Turer, Eric

Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Malloy, Dennis
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Stone, John

England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

ENROLLED BILL REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bill numbered 592.
 Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 68, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: IN-EXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill remedies the existing process of best interest placements by increasing communication between superintendents and parents, thus increasing transparency. Under current law, parents may request for their student to attend another school within the same district. Since most requests result from unfortunate circumstances, such as extreme bullying, the superintendent typically approves the request. However, when requests for best interest placements are denied, parents deserve to know why. This bill requires superintendents to explain in writing why accommodations were not met within ten days of the decision. Furthermore, this bill requires best interest placements to be approved, absent a valid reason to deny the request. Finally, this bill has neither a fiscal impact nor an impact on districts with only one available school for the grade level. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Megan Murray for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee feels that this bill has many uncertainties and recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Nothing in the bill sets a time limit on how many times an individual can request a move or placement to another school within a district. There is a pre-existing process in place for learners if alternate placements are being petitioned. Additionally, it may become increasingly difficult for districts to plan and budget or develop anticipated census numbers, in addition to new students moving into or leaving within an academic year. This legislation is an affront to locally made decisions and takes away the options decided upon by our local boards.

Majority Amendment (0103h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Change of School or Assignment; Best Interest of Student. Amend RSA 193:3, I(c) to read as follows:

(c) Prior to or at such meeting, the parent or guardian shall make a specific request that the student be re-assigned by the school board to another public school, public academy, or an approved private school within the district or to a public school, public academy, or an approved private school in another district. ***If such request is made to re-assign the student to another public school or public academy within the school district, the superintendent shall approve the request unless it fails to meet the requirements under this section.***

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 201 members having voted in the affirmative, and 160 in the negative, the majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Megan Murray spoke against.

Rep. McDonnell spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 217 - NAYS 156

YEAS - 217

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Lunney, Matthew
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Paternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Labrie, Brian
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Carol
Gibbs, Merry
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Cahill, Michael
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

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

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 156
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 235, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. We often hear in our committee of the “three-legged stool” of education: students, teachers, and parents. When any part of this shared venture is missing, the stool can’t stand up. In the list of responsibilities of educational personnel in RSA 21-N:9, II(cc)(1)(B), only a responsibility to teachers and students is mentioned. This bill seeks to add parents, defined in RSA 193:1, III as “parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child,” to the list. This would amend the Educator Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct to specifically include responsibility to the third leg of the stool: parents. Vote 9-8. Rep. Peggy Balboni for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. The New Hampshire Code of Conduct for Educators establishes a set of rules and procedures to guide educators in upholding high standards in the education profession and “make decisions which are, first and foremost, within the best interests of the student.” This bill would require the addition of specific responsibilities to parents and guardians to this document. This legislation is not necessary as parents are already included in four of the six identified obligations to the school community. Moreover, this bill lacks specificity. The bill permits the New Hampshire Department of Education to enter the rule-making process without any guidance from the legislature as to what should be included in those “parent/guardian” responsibilities; giving the commissioner and state board of education the ability to arbitrarily determine teacher obligations to parents and potentially re-write the Educator Code of Conduct. Since violations of the code of conduct can lead to the loss of an educator’s credentials, any changes to the established document should only be made after consultation with and consensus by professional educators. Parents already have strongly established rights in New Hampshire and access to their child’s education environment. This bill will not improve students’ education and will erode the trust amongst teachers, students, and the parents.

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

Rep. Balboni spoke against.

Rep. Drye spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 209 - NAYS 164**YEAS - 209****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Lunney, Matthew
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriis, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

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

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 164
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foss, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
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
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 329, relative to school district policies governing air quality and temperature issues in schools. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Paul Terry for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill requires school boards to develop a policy governing air quality and temperature issues in schools, as well as a heat illness prevention and emergency response plan. Proponents of the approach detailed in this bill failed to persuade the majority that providing safe temperatures in schools must be dictated by the state. In fact, the New Hampshire School Boards Association provides a plethora of model policies ranging over a whole host of issues and concerns and could do so for the subject matter of this bill, presumably and preferably in consultation and collaboration with the state's school boards. No compelling evidence was presented that there are significant problems with temperature regulation that compel state intervention in the form of emergency response plans, specialized training, and annual investigations reportable to the Department of Education. Additionally, and finally, no evidence was presented to us from school boards asking us to do for them what they are fully capable of doing on their own, or with the assistance already available to them. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Stephen Woodcock for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill is a simple two-part change to the existing law that already requires a school principal or designee to annually investigate the air quality of any school house and complete a survey provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education. This bill would require the survey to also identify issues and plans for improvement to the temperature in a building. Very few school buildings in New Hampshire have air conditioning or HVAC systems created to cool extreme heat. There are multiple research studies that recognize that as the heat in a room increases the ability for students to learn is reduced. Testimony further reinforced the reality that New Hampshire's old school buildings easily can reach temperatures between mid-80's, into the high 90's, and often over 100 degrees on the third floor, in classroom spaces during the August-September start of school period as well as the mid-May- June close of school period. This bill would require the school system to respond by identifying spaces that need cooling and/or provide a policy to address the extreme heat issue. In addition, part two of the bill requires that school districts develop and implement a heat illness and emergency response plan and provide appropriate training to staff. Old classrooms do not have proper ventilation and along with decreased learning, and ability to stay focused on the topic, students and staff are put into a dangerous health situation. This common-sense bill requires identification of the issue, policy to correct the issue, and staff safety training to assist in emergency situations.

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

On a division vote, with 210 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

The House recessed at 12:20 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 676, relative to the composition and responsibilities of the parent and education service provider advisory commission, and establishing education freedom account impact and parent satisfaction surveys. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This amended bill modifies the current Education Freedom Account Service Provider Advisory Commission to clarify membership, ensure that they meet quarterly, and file an annual report. Most importantly, this bill adds two surveys that are currently mandated for the Education Tax Credit Scholarship and will provide useful information for the EFA program. The first is a parent satisfaction survey – are they satisfied with the program and is their child making academic progress? The second survey asks if the EFA parent of a child attending a private school has to pay out of pocket for tuition not covered by the EFA. These surveys should provide useful information for the program. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Muriel Hall for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill does nothing to improve the current statute. Rather, this legislation increases the size of the voting membership of the commission, which already consists of only Education Freedom Account (EFA) parents. Furthermore, an added responsibility of the Parent and Education Service Provider Advisory Commission establishes EFA impact and parent satisfaction surveys for which specific leading questions are included in the legislation. These surveys would be administered to only a small percentage of our EFA population, given that it only pertains to those families with children who exited our public schools for EFAs, and not vice versa. The purported intent of these surveys is seemingly to tout the satisfaction of EFA parents and to suggest the need for improvement in our public schools. As such, the data collected will likely have minimal impact, since it is generally considered poor practice to conduct a survey when the results are already known prior to its distribution.

Majority Amendment (0601h)

Amend RSA 194-F:14, I(a) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) I am satisfied with the education option(s) my child is utilizing as compared to the option(s) my child utilized prior to the availability of the education freedom account program.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Muriel Hall spoke against.

Rep. Cordelli spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 205 members having voted in the affirmative, and 166 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

CACR 5, relating to absentee ballots. Providing that no excuse shall be needed by the voter to receive an absentee ballot. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for the Majority of Election Law. Absentee voting should be done as a matter of necessity, not of convenience. We strive to make voting accessible to all eligible voters while also protecting the election process from anything that will increase distrust in elections. New Hampshire voters currently have many options for why they may vote by an absentee ballot; if they are absent from their community on election day, if they have a work obligation that keeps them from the polling place, if they are caring for an ill person or caring for a child, if they are incarcerated while awaiting trial (and not serving a sentence for a felony), for religious obligations and for an impending major winter storm. They may vote absentee for what they consider to be a disability. There is no requirement for a note from a doctor, religious leader or employer. No eligible voter is denied an absentee ballot when they request one. They are treated with trust. Our current system of a traditional voting day elections, managed by elected local officials allows for the highest amount of transparency and public observation possible. Absentee ballots are currently processed at local polling places on election day by election officials who are known to voters. This public process creates high levels of voter trust. The majority of the committee believes that eliminating the requirement of a voter to state a reason for voting absentee and potential expanding the practice while also endangering traditional voting day is unwise. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. This CACR would allow a registered voter the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot without providing any excuse, such as out of town or being a caregiver or disabled. 29 states allow no excuse absentee ballots, including FL, GA, ID, AZ, WY, ND, SD, MT and NE. Eight other states conduct all mail-in voting, which is in reality no excuse absentee ballot voting. No excuse absentee ballot voting is secure. Over 18 years, Oregonians have cast 50 million absentee ballots with only 2 cases of fraudulent abuse, for a fraud rate of .000004%. You are more likely to be hit by lightning than have a voter commit absentee ballot fraud. Benefits of no excuse absentee voting include reduction of wait lines at the polls; easier management for election officials; and it does not significantly benefit either major party. Our constituents overwhelmingly want no excuse absentee voting to deal with the fact that they find it difficult, if not impossible, to vote in person at the polls. Upwards of 70% want the choice to vote by absentee ballot. This CACR will allow the people of New Hampshire to decide whether to allow no-excuse absentee ballots, rather than the House and Senate. The minority feels that New Hampshire voters should have the right to determine if they want the same access and freedom to vote that the vast majority of Americans already enjoy.

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

Rep. Lane spoke against.

Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 201 members having voted in the affirmative, and 169 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 136, extending the time period for delivery of an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. to the close of the polls. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Clayton Wood for the Majority of Election Law. The current law already supports timely absentee ballot delivery and changing it may cause delays or confusion for poll volunteers responsible for supporting the final voter registration and proper polling procedures required prior to ballot counting. Given that there is no universal closing of the polls in New Hampshire there would be variance from town to town as to when the deadline would be, and the majority feels that one universal deadline creates a better and more consistent process. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Matthew Wilhelm for the Minority of Election Law. The minority of the committee believes that the passage of this bill would clear up confusion for voters delivering their completed absentee ballots to their local polling location on the day of the election. The committee heard testimony of voters who were turned away from submitting a completed absentee ballot because they arrived at their polling location after the absentee ballot deadline of 5:00pm, despite polling locations remaining open later into the evening. This bill would amend RSA 657:17, aligning the deadline to deliver completed absentee ballots with the time that polls close at each local polling location and clearing up confusion for those committed to exercising their right to vote.

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

On a division vote, with 203 members having voted in the affirmative, and 169 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 288, requires that absentee ballots be requested at least 6 months prior to any election for which the absentee ballot is requested. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for the Majority of Election Law. This bill, as amended, limits how far in advance an absentee ballot may be requested. The amendment addresses federal law requirements for UOCAVA voters.

UOCAVA voters may complete a new federal official post card no sooner than January in the calendar year in which a federal election occurs. Other applications for absentee ballots are limited to no sooner than six (6) months prior to the election. A review of absentee ballot requests show there were thousands of requests for an absentee ballot in 2024 that were requested over a year before the election itself. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Russell Muirhead for the Minority of Election Law. This bill, as amended, would require those who wish to vote absentee to file their application form no earlier than 6 months before the election in which they wish to vote absentee. However, in order to comply with federal law, the bill allows uniformed and overseas citizens to request their absentee ballots anytime after January 1 of the calendar year in which the election occurs, even if it is more than six months before the election. Thus, the minority believes the bill creates two classes of voters, each with different privileges: ordinary citizens, and those who are uniformed and live overseas. It would be more fair and more simple to treat all citizens equally. Thus, the minority recommends Inexpedient to Legislate.

Majority Amendment (0349h)

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

AN ACT limiting how far in advance of an election an absentee ballot may be requested.

Amend RSA 657:6 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

657:6 Procedure by Applicant. An application form for an absentee ballot shall be mailed or delivered to any person who applies therefor to the secretary of state or to any town or city clerk. It shall be filled out by the applicant and sent to the clerk of the town or city in which he or she desires to vote. Alternatively, a person may apply for an official absentee ballot by sending to said clerk a written statement containing the information required by RSA 657:4, I or by the federal official post card form *for UOCAVA voters as described under RSA 654:20. The federal official post card forms shall be received no earlier than January of the calendar year in which the election occurs. All other application forms shall be received or postmarked within 6 months of the election for which the absentee ballot is being requested. Except for the federal official post card forms, any application received or postmarked prior to the 6-month period shall not be accepted by the secretary of state or any town or city clerk.*

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits how far in advance an absentee ballot may be requested. Federal law requires that UOCAVA voters complete a new federal official post card no earlier than January of the calendar year in which a federal election occurs. Other applications for absentee ballots are limited to no earlier than 6 months prior to the election.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 344, enables the processing of absentee ballots before election day. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ross Berry for the Majority of Election Law. Pre-processing absentee ballots may seem like a convenience, but it fundamentally alters the integrity and uniformity of our elections. By allowing some voters the opportunity to “cure” their ballots before election day while others do not get that chance, the majority believes it creates two classes of voters—those who receive a second chance and those who do not. Additionally, moving election processes away from election day opens an extended window for potential inconsistencies, raising unnecessary questions about election security and public confidence in the results. The fact that some towns may opt in while others do not—and that the timeline for pre-processing would vary from location to location—further compounds oversight issues, making it harder to ensure uniform application of election law across the state. Rather than making elections more efficient, this bill risks undermining the very transparency and trust that are essential to our democratic process. Vote 10-8.

Rep. James Newsom for the Minority of Election Law. This bill would allow, but not require, a return to the successful procedures used during COVID by allowing moderators who so chose to open absentee ballot outer envelopes up to one week prior to the election, instead of the currently mandated “on election day.” The ballots are not removed from the outer envelope; all security measures remain in place; the bill does not alter the requirements of public notice or the ability of the public to witness. This bill will allow moderators to identify problems with absentee ballots, notify the voter who may be able to cure the deficiency. In person testimony from clerks and moderators were strongly in favor of the bill as it will save time on election day to get all ballots counted easier and earlier and therefore more accurately. Citizens support this bill at a rate of over 6 to 1. The minority thinks it best to listen to our election officials and our constituents and therefore must recommend Ought to Pass.

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

On a division vote, with 204 members having voted in the affirmative, and 168 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 389-FN, requiring candidates to attest they have not spent more than \$1,000 in an election. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Qualey for the Majority of Election Law. It is the view of the majority of the Election Law Committee that the change proposed by this bill is unnecessary because it is redundant. Under the current statute (RSA 664:7), candidates who do not file a campaign finance report are already attesting, by an act of omission, that they are not required to do so because they have not expended over \$1000.00. This bill would require even those candidates to register with the online campaign finance system and file reports thus imposing an unnecessary administrative burden upon them with no increased benefit to the public. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Russell Muirhead for the Minority of Election Law. This bill would require candidates for State Representative who do not receive or spend more than \$1000 during an election cycle to mark a check box attesting to this fact. The simple check box would be inserted in the candidate reporting form supplied by the Secretary of State's Office and would be on the state's online campaign finance system. At present, candidates who do not spend or receive more than \$1000 do not need to file at all, which leaves many voters wondering whether candidates are neglecting to file reports when they should. The simple check box would eliminate suspicions and doubts about whether candidates are complying with campaign finance reporting requirements and would make campaign funding in New Hampshire more transparent to voters.

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

HB 403, relative to weather conditions which enable absentee voting. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Travis Toner for the Majority of Election Law. The majority of the committee does not believe that there is a justification for changing the current law related to reasons for a registered voter to request an absentee ballot. The current reasons to justify an absentee ballot associated with weather are winter storm warnings, blizzard warnings and/or ice storm warnings. In the view of the majority, these reasons sufficiently cover weather events that would make it difficult or unsafe to travel to the polls on the day of an election. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. Currently, we only allow voters to vote by absentee ballot if the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning. This bill enables absentee voting when the National Weather Service declares any severe weather watch or warning – such as flooding or a hurricane, both of which could happen when voting occurs. Primaries occur during hurricane season and severe flooding could occur during town meeting season or in the fall during primaries or city elections. It is common sense to include these weather events as reasons to vote absentee since they are also major weather events that disrupt safety while traveling to the polls. For these reasons, the minority recommends that this bill Ought to Pass.

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

HB 474, requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Claudine Burnham for the Majority of Election Law. This bill, as amended, simplifies who the second witness is during the election processes and is supported by the Secretary of State. By passing this bill, as amended, it protects voters' write-in ballot when it is displayed as a digital image on a counting device and ensures the vote is cast according to the voter. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Gerald Ward for the Minority of Election Law. This well-meaning bill, as amended, is redundant and unnecessary. The tabulation of write-in votes is already undertaken by election officials, normally at least two under the direction of the moderator, who are elected themselves and/or have been sworn in on the day of the election and thus are allowed behind the guardrail. The single new sentence in the amendment simply addresses the process for a new technology and adds the requirement that the second person be an election official, removing the requirement that they be a member of the opposite party. Inexplicably, it also does not address the method used for tabulating write-in votes when physical ballots are examined, instead of requiring the same process for the two procedures and thus creates two systems for the same process.

Majority Amendment (0216h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Counting of Votes; Counting Write-In Votes. Amend RSA 659:64-a, I to read as follows:

I. In a town or city that uses a ballot counting device approved by the ballot law commission pursuant to RSA 656:40 and which prints or digitally displays an image of all write-in votes as part of the device's report of votes cast, a moderator may use the printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote. ***This counting shall take place in the presence of another sworn-in election official.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires a second witness who is another sworn-in election official if a moderator uses a ballot counting device's printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.
Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Granger requested a roll call; not sufficiently seconded.
Majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 630-FN, preventing the dissemination of deepfake materials of political candidates before an election.
MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Claudine Burnham for the Majority of Election Law. The majority of the committee believes that the current language in statute covers all types of technology by stating "other technology." Adding more types of technology would begin an ongoing language change to the existing law. Since there are so many variations and as technology continues to evolve, this bill would continuously need updates, when the current language covers "other technology." This statute has the needed language, and it is unnecessary to add further changes. Vote 10-7.
Rep. James Newsom for the Minority of Election Law. This bill seeks to close a legislative gap that allows deep fake materials to be propagated in elections. Current law prohibits deep fake materials, but only when it is created using artificial intelligence or generative AI. Current law does not prohibit the use of simpler technology such as photoshop or garage band. This bill seeks to prohibit all deep fake materials. The minority believes voting Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill is a vote in favor of and to allow misinformation and nefarious actions that directly and dangerously undermine elections.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Rep. Corman spoke against.
Rep. Burnham spoke in favor.
Rep. Nicholas Germana requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 201 - NAYS 169

YEAS - 201
BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Proulx, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew

Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Devoid, Ricky
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aures, Cyril
Gallager, Eric
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
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
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 169

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue

Booras, Efsthathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh

Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

McGuire, Carol
Kelly, Eileen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

McGuire, Dan
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vose, Michael

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

England, Myles
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 233, requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours, and requiring that questions put to it in writing or at a meeting be answered and posted on its website within 14 days. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Stephen Pearson for the Majority of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill requires that the meetings of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association, that are currently conducted via Zoom, be recorded and placed on their website for viewing. This will ensure transparency of the organization. The amendment removes a requirement that questions to the board be posted to their site within 14 days. This board does not set policy, and the board finds itself answering mostly questions related to policy. It was argued by the board that they were being singled out in this requirement. During public testimony it was suggested that this requirement expand to all boards of this type. The majority reject the claim that they are being singled out, but that they simply are the first under this requirement for better public transparency. Vote 7-6.

Rep. Jaci Grote for the Minority of Executive Departments and Administration. The minority recognizes that the New Hampshire vaccine association (NHVA) is a transactional organization whose sole purpose is to provide an efficient mechanism for insurance reimbursement of immunizations for commercially insured children under 19 covered by a group health plan under New Hampshire's childhood universal vaccine purchasing program. Its plan of operation must be approved by the New Hampshire insurance commissioner. NHVA is not a public entity or public agency, is not a quasi-public entity, and is not state chartered. The NHVA does not create vaccine policy or receive state funds. It is a not-for-profit voluntary corporation formed under RSA 292 and created by statute in RSA 126-Q in 2002. Passing this bill not only targets NHVA but could impact all non-profits in New Hampshire in terms of intrusive and expensive reporting requirements. Although the minority appreciates the concerns by the majority for transparency, the minority does not think this is the proper manner to achieve this.

Majority Amendment (0163h)

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

AN ACT requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Membership, Powers, and Duties of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association; Recording and Posting Requirements. Amend RSA 126-Q:3 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. In addition to the requirements for meetings under RSA 91-A, the board of directors of the association shall audio and video record all meetings and publish the recordings on its website in a generally accessible format within 48 hours of the meeting.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Grote spoke against.

Rep. Carol McGuire spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 208 members having voted in the affirmative, and 164 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 278-FN, relative to proxy carbon pricing in state procurement. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for the Majority of Executive Departments and Administration. The Executive Departments and Administration Committee reviewed this bill, which mandates the Department of Administrative Services to incorporate a proxy carbon price, starting at \$85 per ton in 2026, increasing by \$10 annually until 2050, into procurement decisions for transportation and building project costs. After evaluating testimony and the fiscal note, the committee finds the bill imposes an unclear and potentially burdensome mandate. Existing procurement processes already allow for cost and efficiency considerations, and the indeterminable fiscal impact, coupled with no funding or staffing provisions, risks straining state resources without proven benefits. Vote 11-5.

Rep. Peter Schmidt for the Minority of Executive Departments and Administration. Countries around the world are adopting carbon pricing programs. Canada, Mexico, China, and most European countries have, or are in the process, of implementing carbon pricing. These programs will increase the cost of carbon-intensive production in their domestic markets and globally. Private companies who conduct business internationally are preparing for this shift in the global market by implementing internal carbon pricing models. This bill aims to have the State of New Hampshire follow the lead of these businesses and take steps to assure the most responsible use of taxpayers' money by factoring carbon pricing into state purchasing decisions. This bill pertains only to state purchases, it does not affect private energy consumers in any way and does not require the state to purchase based on carbon emissions. When all factors are weighed, the state will make purchasing decisions that are most cost efficient for taxpayers.

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

Rep. Heath Howard spoke against.

Rep. Slottje spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 213 members having voted in the affirmative, and 159 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 732-FN, to enhance informed consent and accountability in psychotropic drug prescriptions for children under Medicaid. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The amendment clarifies the definitions of parents and guardians and addresses Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) concerns regarding cases where a child is no longer in parental custody, ensuring proper consent is obtained. It also refines the definition of psychotropic drugs and sets an effective date of April 1, 2026, allowing time for implementation. This legislation reinforces the fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to be fully informed about the potential risks and side effects of psychotropic medications prescribed to minors, ensuring they can make informed decisions about their child's health and well being. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Tim Hartnett for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. It is the opinion of the minority that this bill is unnecessary. Although paid for by the Medicaid to Schools program, these medications are prescribed at the child's primary care provider's office in the presence of the parent or guardian. It is standard practice for all medical providers to review, with patients, parents and guardians, all possible benefits, risks, side effects, dosing, and timelines for positive benefit for such significant medications. The bill requires use of specific FDA materials to explore all risks, potential side effects, and adverse drug reactions. Compliance with the bill may require prescribers to toggle between two specific FDA materials (FDA Medication Guides and Medication Package inserts) to be in full compliance. These materials may not be accessible or suitable for all patient audiences. The bill also applies only to Medicaid beneficiaries. This is unwise; if the bill's concern is worthy of legislation, we should not leave out others simply because their medical care is covered in other ways. Further, it is unclear if the bill satisfies all relevant scenarios that may arise when minors are in state custody, living out of state, and/or involved in unresolved custody disputes.

Majority Amendment (0761h)

Amend RSA 167:3-n, I-III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. In this section:

(a) "Psychotropic drugs" shall have the same meaning as "psychotropic medication", defined in RSA 169-D:2, XIII-a, and shall include stimulants, including ADHD drugs such as methylphenidate, antidepressants, antipsychotics, and other behavioral drugs.

(b) "Medical care providers" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 507-E:1, II.

(c) "FDA medication guides" are handouts that come with many prescription medicines. The guides address issues that are specific to particular drugs and drug classes, and they contain FDA-approved information that can help patients avoid serious adverse events.

(d) "State-designated caregiver" shall mean the department of health and human services if the department has authority to consent to medical treatment for the minor in accordance with RSA 463:12-a.

II.(a) Medical care providers prescribing psychotropic drugs to minors under Medicaid shall provide FDA medication guides to the parent, legal guardian, or state-designated caregiver before the prescription is issued.

(b) A physical copy of the FDA medication guide shall be printed and reviewed with the parent, legal guardian, or state-designated caregiver to explain:

(1) The FDA-identified risks of the medication, including pediatric-specific warnings.

(2) The signs of potential side effects and adverse drug reactions detailed within the medication guide.

III. Before a medical care provider prescribes a psychotropic drug, the provider shall obtain written informed consent from the parent, legal guardian, or state-designated caregiver confirming they have received and reviewed the FDA medication guide and understand the associated risks and side effects.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires medical care providers to review FDA medication guides with the parent, guardian, or state-designated caregiver before prescribing a psychotropic drug for a minor under Medicaid.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Miles offered Floor Amendment (1037h).

Floor Amendment (1037h)

Amend RSA 167:3-n, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Medical care providers who fail to comply with the informed consent and medication guide requirements of this section shall be reported to the board of medicine or other appropriate governing board for the health care provider involved.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1037h).

Rep. Miles spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber spoke against.

Floor amendment (1037h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Hartnett spoke against.

Rep. Kesselring spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 206 members having voted in the affirmative, and 165 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HCR 7, recognizing abortion as a critical component of comprehensive reproductive health care. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Lisa Mazur for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee thinks that we should be prioritizing policies and resolutions that address adoption, prenatal and postpartum care and overall support for women and children rather than specifically highlighting abortion. Focusing solely on abortion in a non-binding House Concurrent Resolution overlooks other critical aspects such as support for infertility, high-risk pregnancies, preventive care (such as cancer screenings) and more. Singling out abortion as a critical component of reproductive health care while ignoring other pressing medical issues affecting women creates a narrow and politicized approach to women's health. A truly comprehensive resolution should address the full spectrum of medical needs rather than elevating one issue above all others. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Janet Lucas for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The minority recognizes that abortion is a critical component of reproductive health care, and that this fact should be affirmed by resolution. Women and their caregivers are choosing where to live, work, and study based upon their perceptions of a state's respect for bodily autonomy and unimpeded access to abortion without infringement. States with abortion bans or restrictions have adverse outcomes including elevated death rates for women of reproductive age, maternity care deserts, departure of specialists to practice in less restrictive states, and

declining enrollment in OB-GYN residency programs. It is the opinion of the minority that this issue is of sufficient importance to deserve its own resolution. For these reasons, the minority voted against Inexpedient to Legislate and instead recommends Ought to Pass.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Mazur moved that **HCR 7**, recognizing abortion as a critical component of comprehensive reproductive health care, be laid on the table.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 199 - NAYS 171

YEAS - 199

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James

Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Tripp, Richard
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, Michael

Grant, George
Spilsbury, Walter

Hemingway, Wayne

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 171

BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tim
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foss, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

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

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HR 16, recognizing the essential contributions of frontline health workers in assisting the state to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and urging greater attention and support for local frontline health workers. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lucy Weber for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This House Resolution recognizes the critical contributions made by frontline health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the recovery from that pandemic, as well as in other areas of healthcare. The resolution reaffirms the central role front-line health care workers in achieving the goals of state health programs. It acknowledges the role they play in recovery from natural disasters, disease outbreaks and conflicts, and recognizes the personal costs they incur in the course of their work. The resolution urges greater attention to and support for frontline workers, including provisions of the equipment and supplies to perform their work. The resolution concludes by giving affirmative recognition, acknowledgment, and appreciation to New Hampshire's frontline health workforces for their noble and valiant efforts every day, the sacrifices they and their families made personally, and most especially on the days, weeks, months, and years in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Jim Kofalt for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The minority fully supports both the language and intent of the original bill but believes that it is vitally important to also acknowledge the fact that many frontline workers were fired because they refused to take the COVID-19 vaccine. That rapid shift "from heroes to zeros" was an injustice that we ought to be mindful never to repeat.

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

Rep. Kofalt offered minority committee amendment (0757h).

Minority Amendment (0757h)

Amend the resolving clause of the resolution by replacing paragraphs III and IV with the following:

III. Urges greater attention and support for local frontline health workers to ensure their protection and ability to respond effectively during humanitarian and public health crises, including with adequate personal protective equipment and other essential health product supplies to guard against disease, and protection of frontline health workers;

IV. Gives affirmative recognition, acknowledgment, and appreciation to New Hampshire's frontline health workforces for their noble and valiant efforts every day, the sacrifices they and their families made personally, and most especially on the days, weeks, months, and years in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

V. Acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices of all frontline health workers, including those who faced termination for declining the COVID-19 vaccination;

VI. Urges greater attention and support for local frontline health workers, including those who lost their jobs due to vaccine mandates;

VII. Encourages policies that recognize and reintegrate these workers into the healthcare workforce; and

VIII. Affirms the importance of medical choice and workplace protections for all health professionals.

The question being adoption of the minority committee amendment.

Rep. McGrath spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 202 - NAYS 166**YEAS - 202****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
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
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 166**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
 Gibbs, Merry
 MacKay, James
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Gallager, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 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
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Sytek, John
 Weinstein, Toni

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Stone, John

England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the minority committee amendment was adopted.

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

HB 351, requiring landlords to give tenants of at-will tenancies at least 60-days notice to evict. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dick Thackston for the Majority of Housing. This bill amends RSA 540:3, II to increase the required notice given to at-will tenants from 30 to 60 days. This bill represents a significant impediment to housing providers to regain control of their property from an at-will tenancy. The bill, as proposed, when combined with the 90-day discretionary stay, available in all landlord/tenant actions under current law, would effectively bar a housing provider from regaining possession of their property for 150 days or more. The committee finds that current law provides both housing provider and tenant equitable and reasonable options with 30 days notice by either party to either party. This change, if enacted, would likely result in higher rents, due to increased risks and difficulty to the housing provider when seeking to terminate a tenancy while simultaneously incentivizing housing providers to start eviction proceedings more aggressively than current practice. The goal of the Housing Committee in light of the current housing crisis in New Hampshire is to stabilize the housing market by increasing affordability and availability. Increased investment in rental properties will be a requirement of achieving these goals under any scenario. This bill would decrease the willingness of

individuals and entities to invest in residential properties in New Hampshire while significantly worsening the situation for at-will tenants. Passage of this bill would damage the residential real estate rental market with no appreciable public benefit. The majority of the committee recommends the bill in the current form as Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Ellen Read for the Minority of Housing. This bill would simply establish a 60-day notice of eviction to tenants (except in cases where rent is in arrears, there's been substantial property damage, dangerous tenant behavior, or sexual/domestic violence, which all require only 7 days notice). Considering that a rent increase requires 30 days notice, but eviction ostensibly has much more potential to require sudden relocation, the minority of the committee felt strongly that 60 days notice was very reasonable, especially considering that the current vacancy rate in New Hampshire is approximately 0.8%, making finding alternative living accommodations a lengthy process. Further, as the House recently passed the somewhat related HB 60, which added an additional cause of eviction, but provided a 60-day notice for that cause of eviction only, the minority believes that extending that 60-day notice of eviction to all causes of eviction (other than the exceptions listed), made our tenant law more consistent, understandable, and fair. Since finding new housing does not get easier according to the cause of eviction, the length of notice should not be different. While some proponents of the overlapping HB 60 propagated the message that it would provide stability to tenants by providing a 60-day notice for all causes of eviction, the minority believes this bill would actually accomplish this goal of increased tenant security and notification.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Cole moved that **HB 351**, requiring landlords to give tenants of at-will tenancies at least 60-days notice to evict, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 352 members having voted in the affirmative, and 11 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

Rep. Barton recused himself and did not participate in the vote.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 558-FN, creating a public county registry of the monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit and prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Dick Thackston for the Majority of Housing. The goal of the Housing Committee in light of the current housing crisis in New Hampshire is to stabilize the housing market by increasing affordability and availability. Increased investment in rental properties will be a requirement of achieving these goals under any scenario. This bill requires county registries to create a portal for landlords to annually disclose exact amounts of rent charged to each tenant of a residential housing unit. This bill would likely harm existing tenants who often benefit for lower rents as a result of successful long-term tenancies while interfering in the contractual relationship between housing providers and tenants. Normal terms of contracts between individuals and entities are subject to a reasonable degree of privacy which this bill totally undermines. Further, the majority of the committee believes this bill provides an unfunded mandate on county registries to develop a new form of recording and reporting not currently contemplated in their operational structure. Further, the bill provides no additional public benefit or information that is not readily available from entities as diverse as the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, Zillow, Realtor.com, Redfin, Craig's List and/or the local paper while significantly undermining the free flow of commerce by imposing an additional level of reporting on both the private and public sectors. The majority recommends the bill in the current form as Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Ellen Read for the Minority of Housing. This bill would provide crucial information to study rent increase trends, as well as price fixing and other predatory rental behaviors, which have been a large contributing factor to skyrocketing housing prices and our ensuing housing crisis. It does this simply by requiring that a landlord report the location, amenities, and rental amounts on each of his or her rented properties, the same non-sensitive, non-tenant identifying public information available on sites such as Zillow, to each county, to be made publicly available in a database that would be overseen by the county Registry of Deeds office. The office would have six months to establish a database and online portal or other format, which would be inexpensive and largely self-curating since landlords self-report. Enforcement would be provided by the same structure that enforces all other landlord laws, and not a responsibility of the Register of the Deeds. The form would also require that landlords sign an affidavit affirming that they have not engaged in illegal price-fixing schemes, including those that use software as an intermediary, such as the widely used site RealPage which has been sued by the federal government for price fixing. While this bill would add a very minor responsibility to the paid Register of Deeds staff, the incredibly vital information gathered (which is consistent with the information reporting requirements placed on a wide range of other necessity-impacting industries such as energy, medical, and food businesses) would be of critical importance for understanding why, with only a

1.8% increase in New Hampshire population since 2020, the housing market has gotten to unlivable levels, driving homelessness and the exodus of workers from the state. It would also allow a way to hold bad actors accountable for contributing to the crisis through predatory price fixing. The minority of the committee feels strongly that this information is a very small ask, and absolutely indispensable for addressing the inability of our much-needed workers to secure housing in the state.

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

HB 628-FN, prohibiting landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants holding certain vouchers under the housing choice voucher program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Calvin Beaulier for the Majority of Housing. This bill would attempt to force housing providers to accept a government program and to enter into a contract with a government agency. Under this bill, housing providers that do not wish to accept vouchers would need to increase rents beyond the amount of a voucher or offer housing that is of insufficient standards so as to no longer qualify for a voucher program. Those housing providers that do accept vouchers would have a perverse incentive to raise rents to the maximum amount of the voucher offered or pass any costs of compliance on to regular tenants who do not hold vouchers. The net effect would be an almost certain increase in rental prices without an increase of housing supply or quality. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Merryl Gibbs for the Minority of Housing. Housing choice vouchers provide improved housing opportunities for New Hampshire residents who have very low income. These residents have income below 50% of the median income in the relevant area. Because a large proportion of voucher holders are generally families with children and people with disabilities, discrimination against voucher holders tends to have a discriminatory effect on the basis of disability and familial status, which covers families with children in the household.

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

On a division vote, with 213 members having voted in the affirmative, and 152 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

Rep. Barton recused himself and did not participate in the vote.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 88-FN, establishing community property trusts. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill allows married individuals to create community property trusts. Creating such a trust provides tax advantages to the couple under federal tax law. Specifically, it means that in many situations, upon the death of one spouse, the surviving spouse will get a stepped-up date-of-death basis for the entire value of the property in question, whereas if the property was not held as community property the surviving spouse would only get a stepped-up basis in the portion of the property representing the deceased spouse's interest. The amendment ensures that a transfer of property to such a trust that would otherwise be subject to the real estate transfer tax remains subject to the tax under this bill; and also makes clear that transferring property to such a trust does not defeat the rights of anyone who has a secured interest in the property. Although in a community property situation, the presumption is that assets will be divided equally between the spouses on dissolution of the marriage, courts in community property states generally are permitted to deviate from such distribution when fairness and equity require as much. More importantly, to the extent adopting such a trust does make it less likely that a court would deviate from a 50-50 split of property between the parties on marriage dissolution, there is nothing that compels anyone to enter into such a trust and, as long as a person does so with full knowledge of the consequences, there is nothing unfair about holding such person to the terms of what he or she agreed to. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Zoe Manos for the Minority of Judiciary. The minority of the committee is concerned that this bill, which creates community property trusts, will change the dissolution of marriage law in New Hampshire. The minority's concern is that the bill will preclude judges in the Family Division of the Circuit Court from equitably dividing marital assets and debts upon the dissolution of a marriage. Instead, this bill will move New Hampshire toward becoming a community property state, such as California. Specifically, the amendment to the bill states, in relevant part, that "[a]n obligation incurred by only one spouse before or during marriage may be satisfied from that spouse's one-half share of a community property trust and such other assets of the spouse not in the community property trust" and "[a]n obligation incurred by both spouses during or before marriage may be satisfied from a community property trust of the spouses." Further, the bill provides that "[u]pon the dissolution of the marriage of the settlor spouses, the community property trust shall terminate, and the trustee shall distribute one-half of the trust assets to each spouse, with each spouse receiving one-half of each asset, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by both spouses." The minority believes that these provisions in the amendment and the bill would disempower a marital judge from equitably divid-

ing the marital property in the community property trust, unless the spouses agreed between themselves to do so. The minority also believes that the amendment to the bill disempowers a marital judge from equitably dividing the debts of the spouses, whether incurred before or during the marriage and whether incurred by one or both of the spouses. This would be true in all cases, including where one spouse greatly outearned the other and one spouse contributed in non-monetary ways to the marriage. This moves New Hampshire toward becoming a community property state, rather than an equitable division state.

Majority Amendment (0706h)

Amend the bill by deleting section 1 and renumbering the original sections 2-3 to read as 1-2, respectively. Amend RSA 564-B:13-1306 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

564-B:13-1306 Satisfaction of Obligations.

(a) The transfer of property into a community property trust shall not impair, limit, or dilute the rights of creditors or lienholders to enforce an obligation against such property. Any secured interest in property transferred into a community property trust, whether arising by mortgage or other secured interest, shall remain in full force and effect.

(b) An obligation incurred by only one spouse before or during marriage may be satisfied from that spouse's one-half share of a community property trust and such other assets of the spouse not in the community property trust. This provision shall not limit the rights of creditors under paragraph (a).

(c) An obligation incurred by both spouses during or before marriage may be satisfied from a community property trust of the spouses.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Dan McGuire requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 211 - NAYS 155

YEAS - 211

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Stringham, Jerry

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry
Juris, Louis
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Caplan, Tony
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Seaworth, Brian

Cambriels, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Larochelle, John
Walker, David

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 155
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
DiSilvestro, Linda
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Foss, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Meryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
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
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 148, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill passed both the House and Senate as HB 396 in 2024. It acknowledges New Hampshire's fundamental commitment to treat all persons without discrimination and with equal respect and dignity. It also acknowledges the fact that there are certain circumstances in which recognition of biological sex may be necessary for the physical safety and privacy rights of an individual, especially when, although not limited to, situations involving minors. There are specific and limited situations where this may be the best practice. The three circumstances in which the bill permits biological sex to be utilized as a basis for classification are limited to (1) multiple use bathrooms, (2) athletic/sporting events of a kind where an advantage to biological males is recognized to exist, and (3) facilities where an individual is committed involuntarily. Even in these limited situations, the bill does not require classification based on biological sex; it merely allows for this to occur if the institution in question determines the same is necessary. Upholding sex-based classifications in athletics protects the integrity of female sports and preserves fair competition. Failure to maintain sex-based distinctions could put federal education and public safety funding at risk. Recent events across the country and in New Hampshire indicate the necessity of this bill. Vote 10-8. Rep. Eric Turer for the Minority of Judiciary. This bill attempts to create exceptions to the sexual or gender identity provisions in RSA 354-A, the "Law Against Discrimination," to allow "classification of individuals based on biological sex" in three circumstances, including the use of restrooms/locker rooms, participation in sports, and housing for jails/prisons. Governor Sununu vetoed similar legislation in 2024, and that veto was sustained by a majority in the New Hampshire House. Beyond questions of the need for such legislation, as noted in the Governor's veto message, the bill invites discrimination, abuse, and confusion by purposefully omitting key components required in any responsible legislation. Most notably, the key term 'biological sex,' found in the bill's title, is not defined in any way. There are multiple possible approaches to how one's sex can be described biologically, including a person's gonadic features, chromosomal characteristics, hormone levels, or a range of secondary sexual characteristics. Each of these has more than two possible categorizations, and these may be inconsistent at the same point in one's life and at different times in one's life due to natural changes and/or legal medical interventions. Allowing each person and every public or private organization in the state to adopt any standard it chooses is both irresponsible and dangerous. Furthermore, the bill doesn't address the significant privacy concerns raised regarding how an individual might be compelled to demonstrate their "biological sex" in the situations outlined. Lastly, the bill does not prescribe how a person is to be treated once their "biological sex" is ascertained, allowing completely different treatment of the same individual by different entities. Rather than offering some form of needed protection, the bill endangers vulnerable populations and would likely lead to the very situations that it portends to prevent, as has happened in other states where such provisions have been adopted.

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

Reps. Wade and Turer spoke against.

Rep. Wheeler spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Layon spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 201 - NAYS 166**YEAS - 201
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrijs, Jose
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
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

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

SULLIVAN

NAYS - 166

BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxx, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

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

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 199, extending the statute of limitation on civil actions relative to damage caused by per-and polyfluoro-alkyl substances (PFAS). **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Marjorie Smith for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill extends the statute of limitation on civil actions brought relative to damage caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). By extending the statute of

limitations to 20 years, individuals and entities have ample time to discover potential claims and have a fair and reasonable time to seek justice. In certain cases, the harm may not be evident for some time. The 20-year limit allows for thorough investigation and action designed to protect public welfare. It also may serve as a deterrent, discouraging entities to engage in misconduct. This limit balances the right of potential plaintiffs to seek justice while preventing indefinite legal liability for defendants. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for the Minority of Judiciary. This bill increases the current 6-year statute of limitations to a 20-year statute of limitations on civil actions involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). While we support the principle of accountability, 20 years is excessive, given that it's not 20 years from the time of exposure, but rather 20 years from when the plaintiff discovers, or reasonably should have discovered, such harm or injury from PFAS. Comparatively, other civil cases have a statute of limitations of 3 years.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Alexander moved that **HB 199**, extending the statute of limitation on civil actions relative to damage caused by per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 188 members having voted in the affirmative, and 170 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that the debate on **HB 148**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 148

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Wade is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Wade: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 148 and against every single bill targeting LGBTQ+ community this session. I'd like to take some time to share one of the most profound conversations I've had in my entire life because it's essential to understand what's really at stake with this legislation. It was November 5, election day last year, and like many of you, I spent the day at my polling place, talking to voters and holding signs. Around nighttime, the last Republican volunteer showed up to hold signs and I introduced myself. After talking for a little while, he told me the reason he hadn't participate much in politics this year. It turned out that one of his children had passed away the previous summer and he just didn't have the energy. I could tell how difficult it was for him to share that, but at the same time I knew he was reaching out to me for a reason. By now, it was almost 7 pm and all the other volunteers had left. It was just the two of us waiting for the clock to turnover so we could finally rest and see the results. I was getting ready to pack up my things when he pulled me aside to ask me a question, are you transgender? I said yes and it turned out the reason his child had passed away was that he was a transgender man who had taken his own life the previous summer. He said I reminded him of his child and started telling me stories about how proud he was of his son becoming a scientist. Even though he didn't fully understand what it meant to be transgender, he loved his child deeply and regretted not being able to understand them more before they passed away. He asked about my own experience in being a trans woman and what I thought could have contributed to their suicide. I shared how overwhelming it could be for trans people to go through life in a society hostile to our very existence and how transitioning managed to save my life six years ago. We kept talking about all sorts of things, all sorts of stories about his child long past the time that the polls had closed. He was worried about how the rest of his family was coping with the loss. After that, we hugged for a bit and everything else that happened that day just faded away. Long after he had left, I could not stop thinking about our conversation. About a father just trying to understand his child and cope with his loss. How much pain could be avoided if we didn't treat trans people like political weapons. I will remember that conversation for the rest of my life. In those moments, we were not a Republican or a Democrat. We were just two people reaching out and trying to genuinely understand each other. I really hope that his family is doing better now, but their child is not coming back. I wish I had gotten the chance to meet them. I think we need more of that willingness as a country to speak honestly and to seek to understand one another, to stop the vilification of our fellow citizens and to find common ground. This bill does the exact opposite, labeling all trans people as a threat to public safety and privacy while somehow claiming to oppose discrimination. On February 19th in Arizona, police were called on Kalaya Morton, a 19-year-old cis woman using the restroom because she looked too masculine. The only men in the women's restroom that day were the sheriff's deputies. As they flashed lights under the stalls and shouted for her to come out of the stall, she came out and to prove she was a woman, she lifted her shirt. The sheriffs did not believe her even then. All of this when Arizona doesn't even have a bathroom law, a bathroom ban. Imagine how different it could have been if that happened here with HB 148. That's why defeating this bill here today matters. That's why I'm asking you

from the bottom of my heart don't do this. Do not make New Hampshire a state where people like me, like his son and some of the people up in the gallery here today are told we don't belong. We do. Public testimony overwhelmingly opposed this bill, 206 in favor, 2,910 opposed. For hours, more than 50 people testified against this bill in person during the hearing. Only around 10 showed up to support it. The public has told us loud and clear they do not support this measure. Voting to bring back discrimination in the Granite State will not stop harassment. It will only make it worse. That is not freedom. That is not New Hampshire and that is why I ask you today to please vote against HB 148. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Wheeler is recognized to speak for the committee report.

Representative Wheeler: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, that was a powerful story, and I have heard many stories like that in the lead up to this vote here today. But, Mister Speaker, the powerful anecdotes of one person and the consent of one person cannot stand for the consent of another person and if there are women who feel unsafe, if there are women who feel like their space has become not private, then we should listen to those women. Just because a small segment of the population would like those policies to accommodate them over women, doesn't mean that we here today can do that. So, Mister Speaker, for us and I pause because my colleagues are walking out as I give this speech, people are clapping in the gallery for them walking out. And, Mister Speaker, I think that illustrates exactly why I got up here today. I could have quietly voted my conscience. I could have followed the party line, but Mister Speaker, again the consent of one person cannot stand for the consent of another and just because one person is comfortable with a transgender woman being in the bathroom with them or playing sports with them or being in a prison with them, doesn't mean that another woman is. These issues do not have to cause violence. These conversations can be nuanced, and we can have conversations about treating each other with respect and humanity. Putting in place policies that say that women who are born women deserve a space to themselves whether that be the bathroom or sports or the locker room or prisons, is not transphobic. There are people in my town, there are people throughout the country who are liberal, left leaning people who agree with what I just said here, but some of them won't vote with me here. Some of them, in fact, have left the party in my town. There was a woman just last week who left my party because she felt that not only was she not being heard, but she felt like there was no way for her to even speak up about this position. Given how many people are still in their seats, I can understand why. The orthodoxy of the Democratic Party on this issue has left us to where we can't have nuanced discussions and women are being silenced in this conversation. As much as people don't want to hear that, that is what is happening. When I talked to people on this side of the issue and that side of the issue, I heard I don't want any violence to happen against me. I don't want to be disrespected or unheard. I heard that from transgendered individuals and I heard that from women. So, Mister Speaker, I think HB 148, legislation which enables localities, municipalities and businesses to put in place specific policies around definitions of sex is not a rightwing, fascist, nazi movement like I've been told that it is. I was called a nazi for the prospect of giving this speech. I don't think that your position or side benefits from calling the other a nazi when they are trying to ask genuine questions about women's spaces and the protection of women inside those spaces. So, Mister Speaker, this is a controversial topic. I absolutely understand that, and I apologize that we had to clear out half the room for it, but municipalities, localities, private gyms, prisons, these places should be able to put in place policies, which in limited circumstances, separate people based on biological sex. I ask that the members on this side to feel the pressure of the orthodoxy on them would consider the alternative side and consider not calling them bigots or racists or homophobes or transphobes just because we certainly have questions about women's spaces and the protection of women within them. Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question?

Representative Wheeler: Always.

Speaker Steven Smith: Slow your roll, Representative. Before you inquire, it is a violation of House Rules to come down that aisle while someone is at the well. So, I don't want to see that again.

Representative Heath Howard: I apologize. Thank you, Mister Speaker. Thank you for taking my question. With white passing African Americans being free from discrimination during Jim Crow era laws, do you think that it is fair that we can compare this situation directly to the bathroom bans that African Americans were given and told that they were dangerous to white people? Thank you.

Representative Wheeler: Thank you for the question, Representative. Representative, race and what happened in the Jim Crow era is yes, significantly different than sex and talking about women and their private spaces.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Turer is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Turer: Mister Speaker, let me first acknowledge the courage and the honesty of my colleague, the member from Dover who spoke first to share what we heard. It shouldn't take courage for any person in our state to live as they are or to discuss who they are, but it does. I also rise to speak against passage of this bill. I'm still here. I'm hoping that members will focus on its deep and dangerous structural flaws. Passing a bill this impactful, yet this poorly written, could only be described as "legislative malpractice." Unlike our state's licensed professionals, we in the legislature can't actually be accused of malpractice, but our constituents certainly don't see it that way. Regardless of how you feel about the underlying issues of

this bill, the only thing I can tell you with any confidence is that if you think you know what this bill will do in our state or how it will be used, you are wrong. RSA 354-A:1 is titled the law against discrimination. This bill seeks to carve out key exceptions to those protections, specifically the protections against gender identity discrimination edited by our Republican led legislature and signed by our Republican Governor 7 years ago. In our live free or die state, if such a change is needed, it should require the strictest of care and narrowest of limits. The opposite is true of HB 148. No attempt is even made to define the key term biological sex in the bills title. Nor is any attempt made to define what types of deeply personal information or invasive examinations could be used to “verify” a person’s sex. Finally, nor does it even state how one must act based on that information once they have it. Those that haven’t read the actual bill that I’m talking about might not believe me. Take a moment to look at it while I’m talking. It’s a shockingly short read given the legal doors it intends to open. So, you likely believe that this bill is about transgender people, which almost certainly it is, but you won’t find any language about that in the bill either. No, this bill impacts everybody, and it can be used, and I quote from the bill, “any person or organization, public or private, to legally question anyone to verify their sex.” Imagine what that might involve. Isn’t that the very definition of state sanctioned invasion of privacy? They can make any subjective sex determination that they feel is appropriate and then use that to force a person to do as they say. Different organizations and even different individuals will likely choose to treat the same person in opposite ways based on this bill. Isn’t that the very essence of state sanctioned discrimination? It’s really a recipe for endless litigation over the most personal of matters. So, the bills application to supposedly “limited circumstances” is also hardly comforting. If you think HB 148 is just to protect women’s bathrooms or school local rooms, think again. Any person using any public restroom or locker room can be questioned about their sex and told to use whatever facility the operator thinks they should. We’ve seen examples of this happening to cisgendered women, as my colleague mentioned a few minutes ago in Arizona and also in DC recently. Just this past year, and this is based on nothing but their appearance. This will happen here, legally, if this bill passes. Likewise, if you think this bill is to protect girls in sports, the bill doesn’t actually do that either. It actually allows the opposite. How could that be true? Well, biological sex is most often taken to mean one’s given sex at birth. Sounds plausible, but the advantage is noted in the bill for biological males in sports are not set at birth. They are the result of hormones and related secondary sexual characteristics established later in life. So, a trans boy who is apparently biologically female at birth but now has male muscular tissue due to the use of legal transitioning hormones could be forced to compete on the girl’s team based on their “biological sex.” If that sounds absurd, that is exactly what happened under a similar rule in Texas. Members might want to google the name Mack Beggs. He was the undefeated statewide girls wrestling champion in Texas for two years in spite of living as a boy and wanting to wrestle as a boy. He was jeered when competing simply for not dropping out when he was forced to wrestle as a girl. That story also is not unique. Can you imagine how some team could use this rule in that way here? Honestly, there are activist organizations and individuals on both sides of this issue, and they will use the unrestricted provisions in this law any way they wish. Some will do so to make a point. Some to gain a purposeful advantage and some simply not recognizing the unintended consequences. Regardless, the lives of real people who never wanted to be in the spotlight will be caught in the middle. Lawsuits will follow, but the courts will be powerless to say any party is in the wrong based on a plain reading of the law under this bill. Nobody here in this body can say now that they did not know such things were possible, even likely. We will be asked how we voted when they do. So, finally in his veto message of the exact same bill last July, exact same bill, not a word changed, Governor Sununu noted that the legislation “runs contrary to New Hampshire’s live free or die spirit and seeks to solve problems that have not presented themselves in New Hampshire and in doing so invites unnecessary discord.” I think he is right. The House upheld his veto by a bipartisan majority, but we have a new Governor now. Perhaps she will see things differently. I say we should never let it get to that point. Let’s protect the privacy, liberty, dignity and safety of all New Hampshire citizens and particularly our most vulnerable by stopping this irresponsible bill right here in the New Hampshire House. Advancing this bill would truly be legislative malpractice and we will be held to account for the results. Thank you, Mister Speaker. To facilitate any necessary voter follow up, I ask for a roll call.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Layon is recognized to speak in support of the committee report.

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. First, I’d like to speak to the Representative from Dover. I thank you for your bravery in sharing the experience and conversation that you had, and I hope that you also understand that there are women who have the same deeply held convictions about their needs and their own experience. We need to reach a point where we can have a discussion instead of calling this a political football. I rise today to speak in favor of the Ought to Pass motion on HB 148, a bill which allows but does not require biological sex to be used as a criterion for defining who can access intimate spaces, bathroom, locker rooms, athletic competitions and places where people are locked up against their will. Several decades ago, an entrepreneurial couple started a gym you may remember, Curves. It was for women to give them a space where they could exercise without getting ogled by guys and where they could feel comfortable, that this was a safe space for women. In 2006, there are almost 8,000 of those in the US. Today there is less than 200.

We've gone from a point where there were more than tens of thousands of gyms that were oriented to giving women a space where they felt safe to be to a point where now in locker rooms when somebody drops their pants and exposes male genitalia to a room full of women, there is nothing that can be done as long as that person says that I identify as female. Now, that's a problem for the women that are exposed to genitalia they don't want to see, but perhaps even worse, this is a problem for transgendered people who may be victimized by people who are falsely claiming a transgender identity in order to get access to women. That's one of the things that this bill is about. By allowing the criteria of gender, of biologic sex to be considered, we have an opportunity to do something when somebody shows off their equipment in the locker room. Right now, we don't. With the current law, we cannot do anything to protect vulnerable women and girls. We need to move forward and have a discussion about how we can heal this rift and realize that no one person is superior or more equal to others because right now the way that the law is written, is that transgender people have superior rights to women. We need to get back to equal rights by passing this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Granger requests a roll call. Anybody want to second it? Sure do. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on HB 148. Let's find our seats. Rep. Turer is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Turer: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that HB 148 undermines key protections against gender discrimination proudly added seven years ago by a Republican led legislature and signed by our Republican Governor. And if I know that that same Republican Governor then vetoed this exact same bill last summer and this body supported his veto by a majority. And if I also know that the Governor's veto message noted that one, this bill runs contrary to our live free or die spirit; two, is unnecessary and three, will sow discord in our state. If I further know that he was absolutely correct due to the glaring problems with this bill. Then, finally, if I know this bill undermines the privacy, the dignity of all of our citizens, not just transgender, but particularly the most vulnerable amongst us, then would I now press the red button to halt this act of legislative malpractice right here in the people's house? Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Alexander is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Alexander: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know we all deserve reasonable privacy and security in intimate spaces such as bathrooms and locker rooms. And, Mister Speaker, if I know that school boards, prison officials and others need the flexibility to establish policies for the safety and wellbeing of all. And if I know that a lack of flexibility with respect to athletic competitions puts federal funding for our educational institutions at risk, would I then push the green button to pass this bill? Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on HB 148. This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor, press the green button. If you are opposed, 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. 201 in the affirmative, 166 in the negative, the committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 254-FN, relative to options for end of life care. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill is similar to last year's (2024) HB 1283, which passed the House but died in the other chamber. RSA 137-J:1 "recognizes that individual persons have the right, founded in the autonomy and sanctity of a person, to control decisions relating to the rendering of their own medical care." Subsequent sections of New Hampshire law lay out many options addressing end of life matters. Advance directives, durable powers of attorney, palliative care and hospice care are just some of the options that are in state law. For more than three decades, myriad versions of medical aid in dying (MAID) have been submitted to the legislature, and while other end of life options have been approved and enhanced, MAID was, appropriately, not added to state law. Previous legislatures were clear that they did not want to add this alternative until there had been significant opportunity to evaluate the experiences in other states. Oregon was the first state to adopt MAID, in 1998, followed by 9 other states and the District of Columbia, so there are now almost three decades of experience in the United States. That experience is particularly relevant because, while other countries may have laws addressing end of life matters, their constitutions, laws, and culture differ from ours. This bill is very narrowly focused. It limits eligibility to those who have had two independent evaluations by medical professionals who have concluded that the individual is terminally ill with likely six months or less to live. These medical professionals must advise the patient of all other care alternatives, including palliative care and hospice. They must assess that the patient is mentally competent, and physically able to administer the medication themselves. They must establish that the patient is not being unduly influenced by others – whatever their relationship to the patient. It is not available to those with painful, debilitating diseases but for whom there is no expectation of death in six months or less. This year's bill specifically states that being disabled or being of advanced age does not make a person eligible for MAID. There are specific reporting requirements and penalties for misuse or noncompliance. While concerns have been raised by some members of the disability community, Disability Rights Oregon reported very few complaints, all of which focused on the concern that the

Oregon Act might discriminate against persons with disabilities who would seek to make use of the Act but have disabilities that would prevent self-administration, thereby denying those persons to use the act. The Executive Director of Disability Rights Oregon, states that never to his knowledge has a complaint come forward that a person with disabilities was coerced to make use of the Act. In fact, a survey conducted by the well-respected UNH Survey Center found that more than 70% of Granite Staters favor this legislation, including majorities of both major political parties as well as 75% of people living with disabilities. Many of those who qualify and have received the necessary prescriptions do not fill the prescriptions, but they or their families report that they were comforted by the knowledge that they could take control of their own end of life. These are people who want to live but are destined to die in a very short time and want to die peacefully, with their family and friends able to be with them to honor their life. There is no substantiated correlation between medical aid in dying and suicide. Suicide is a public health and medical crisis that requires collective efforts to address. Suicide is frequently violent, carried out in isolation, frequently by those with unresolved mental health crises. Those who choose MAID are terminally ill and would much prefer to live, but destined to die soon, would choose to die peacefully. This alternative is likely to be considered by a relatively small number of people and acted on by even fewer. But it adds one alternative that, even just knowing it exists, can increase the quality of the end of life. The majority of the committee strongly believes that fully competent but terminally ill individuals who are close to death should have the freedom to make the choice to end their suffering and die with dignity. Vote 11-7. Rep. Kristine Perez for the Minority of Judiciary. The minority holds that this bill for medically assisted suicide remains flawed and opens New Hampshire to far reaching effects by messaging to individuals of all ages that ending one's life by assisted suicide for terminal illness is acceptable. We already have an overwhelming problem with increasing suicide among young individuals (second cause of death ages 14 to 34), the LGBTQ community, those suffering from depression, and our veterans. By sanctioning the ending of one's life at the state level, are we saying to these individuals that this is an acceptable choice for them as well? Many young people spoke with concerns about losing their friends who feel that their depression is a "terminal" illness. Already in Colorado a psychiatrist has termed anorexia nervosa as a terminal illness and assisted such patients in obtaining "aid in dying medication" to end their lives. This brings to mention some of the concerns about the bill itself and the lack of strong safeguards to prevent a "slippery slope." Other countries including Canada have allowed for the expansion of this bill to include death that is "reasonably foreseeable" or those with serious disabilities as well as "mature minors." This bill allows a medical professional to never meet with the patient in person and neither of the two providers of their "cocktail" are their personal treating physician. There is no residency requirement, no mental health evaluation, no guarantee that the "cocktail" will provide a peaceful death. In as many as 15% of reported cases in Oregon there are reports of seizures, vomiting or the patient waking hours after ingestion. There is no witness requirement and no mention of the disposal of unused medication which was ingested by a non-ill Colorado resident. How many incidents go unreported? We heard from many that support and those that oppose this bill. The majority of those in support were individuals who had witnessed the suffering of their family members or acquaintances but lacked organization support other than one. The majority in opposition were from organizations that fear the future for their members with the potential expansion or just the misinterpretation of this weak bill. We must also consider that for many within our society, this bill is morally and ethically completely unacceptable. No matter what the intent of the bill, the bill itself is a bad bill. This bill would undermine our suicide prevention policies and its acceptance of one taking their own life has the potential of increasing the rates of non-assisted suicide. New Hampshire deserves better. We deserve a bill that protects the terminally ill patients as well as those with disabilities, depression, PTSD, and the diverse communities in our society. This bill sends a message that we are no longer saying that we should protect all lives from suicide. Is that what we really want to be saying? Especially to our youth?

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Osborne moved that **HB 254-FN**, relative to options for end of life care, be laid on the table.

Rep. Marjorie Smith requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 183 - NAYS 182

YEAS - 183

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Sellers, John

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise

Franz, Linda

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Proulx, Mark
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Gallager, Eric
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Howard, Heath
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

NAYS - 182**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Berezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
McFarlane, Donald
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tim
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Peeples, Raymond
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Swanson, Dale
Mannion, Tom
Thomas, Wendy

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Drew, Matt
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foss, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Telerski, Laura
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

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

McGuire, Dan
Hill, Gregory
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Morse, Bryan
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Foote, Charles
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Tripp, Richard
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Milz, David
Simpson, Alexis
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Lynn, Bob
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Vallone, Mark
Wilson, Vicki

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Spilsbury, Walter

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Rollins, Skip

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 273, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristine Perez for the Majority of Judiciary. This very logical bill allows a parent living in the same household to access current library records of a minor child. These adults are responsible for any financial loss to the library and therefore should at least know what they are paying for if materials are lost or destroyed. This also allows parents to monitor any harmful, inappropriate, or explicit material being accessed. Simply put, it is a parent's responsibility to protect their child, and this bill is one more step in removing any hindrance to that responsibility. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for the Minority of Judiciary. Parents currently may fully access their children's available library records by having their children borrow materials through a parent's library card. To the extent

parents are concerned about their minor children's choice of library materials, or loss of library materials that may incur replacement fees, they may decline to authorize issuance of a separate library card for their minor child. This bill thus seeks information that is already available to parents and instead imposes a host of practical problems. Where the bill would require library records to be made available to a parent or guardian when requested by the parent or guardian whose address matches that of the minor, it is silent as to how to verify the currency of that address for either the child or the parent, or how to assess if any current court orders or other legal restrictions apply to the requesting parent due to abuse, neglect or domestic violence interventions. The bill also does not identify which library staff member should make that determination, whether further approval would be required, whether the requestor must make the request in person and/or in writing, how much time the library has to verify and comply with the request, and the method by which the library must comply. This bill puts libraries between parents and their children and provides no guardrails for doing so.

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

Rep. Mark Paige spoke against.

Rep. Drago spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 196 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 196

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Pernel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Stringham, Jerry

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrijs, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess

Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

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

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

STRAFFORD

SULLIVAN

NAYS - 162 BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer

Foote, Charles
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe

Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 280, relative to wage payments. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Michael Granger for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would simplify the chapter of law dealing with weekly and bi-weekly wages. Currently, this RSA operates as a “whitelist” of allowable means to pay employees. This means that every time new technology comes out, a bill must be submitted to legalize the payment method before it can be used. For instance, when direct deposit was invented, this required a bill to allow New Hampshire employees to opt into this payment method. The law, as it currently stands, is fairly onerous and serves as legislative micro-management of what should be a fairly straight-forward agreement between two interested parties. This bill, with the committee amendment, allows the employer and the employee to come together and decide between themselves a proper method of payment. To prevent abuse, the bill also contains a provision that if the method of payment changes, the employee must be notified 90 days in advance. This provides them enough time to either come back with opposition, or to reject the offer. Therefore, the majority of the committee believes this long overdue simplification and housekeeping bill should be found Ought To Pass as amended by the committee. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Daniel LeClerc for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill seeks to allow an employer to inform the employee, in writing, on or before the first day of employment, the manner in which the employee shall be paid. Although this sounds favorable, every way an employee is typically paid has been removed from RSA 275:43, including section 1. (a) In awful money of the United States. This may include non-monetary payment making it difficult for proper record keeping by the employer, and impossible for an employee to buy groceries, pay bills, etc. Although bartering may have been acceptable payment many years ago, lawful money of the United States is the way people are expected to be paid today.

Majority Amendment (0452h)

Amend RSA 275:43, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Every employer shall pay all wages due to employees within 8 days after the expiration of the work week if the employee is paid on a weekly basis, or within 15 days after the expiration of the work week if the employee is paid on a biweekly basis, except when permitted to pay wages less frequently as authorized by the commissioner pursuant to paragraph IV or IV-a(a), on regular paydays designated in advance by the employer and at no cost to the employee[:

(a) In lawful money of the United States;

(b) By electronic fund transfer;

(c) By direct deposit with written authorization of the employee to banks of the employee's choice;

(d) By a payroll card provided that the employer shall provide to the employee at least one free means to withdraw up to and including the full amount of the employee balance in the employee's payroll card or payroll card account during each pay period at a financial institution or other location convenient to the place of employment. None of the employer's costs associated with a payroll card or payroll card account shall be passed on to the employee; or

(e) With checks on a financial institution convenient to the place of employment where suitable arrangements are made for the cashing of such checks by employees for the full amount of the wages due; provided, however, that if an employer elects to pay employees as specified in subparagraphs (b), (c), or (d), the employer shall offer employees the option of being paid as specified in subparagraph (e), and further provided that all wages in the nature of health and welfare fund or pension fund contributions required pursuant to a health and welfare fund trust agreement, pension fund trust agreement, collective bargaining agreement, or other agreement adopted for the benefit of employees and agreed to by the employer shall be paid by every such employer within 30 days of the date of demand for such payment, the payment to be made to the administrator or other designated official of the applicable health and welfare or pension trust fund.

II. If an employer offers its employees the option of receiving wages by a payroll card, the employer shall:

(a) Provide to the employee written disclosure in plain language of all the employee's wage payment options. The written disclosure shall state the terms and conditions of the payroll card account option, includ-

ing, but not limited to, the requirements set forth in this section and a complete itemized list of all known fees that may be deducted from the employee's payroll card account by the employer or card issuer. The disclosure shall also state whether third parties may assess transaction fees in addition to the fees assessed by the employee's payroll card issuer or issuers. In no event shall the employer provide payment of wages to a payroll card that has an expiration date, unless the employer agrees to provide a replacement payroll card before the expiration date at no cost to the employee.

(b) Initiate payment of wages to an employee by electronic fund transfer to a payroll card account only after the employee has voluntarily consented in writing to that method of payment. Consent to payment of wages by electronic fund transfer to a payroll card account shall not be a condition of hire or of continued employment. The written consent signed by the employee shall include the terms and conditions of the payroll card account option.

(c) Provide written notice of any change to any of the terms and conditions of the payroll card or payroll card account, including but not limited to an itemized list of all fees that may have changed, and obtain written assent from the employee that the employee voluntarily consents to receive wages to a payroll card or payroll card account subject to the changes. The employer shall be responsible for any increase in fees charged to the employee before the employer provides written notice of such changes to the employee.

(d) Provide the employee the option to discontinue receipt of wages by a payroll card or payroll card account at any time, without penalty to the employee]. *The manner in which payment is made shall be determined by the employer and employee. The employer shall, on or before the first day of employment, inform the employee, in writing, the manner in which payment shall be made. At anytime an employer intends to change its method of payment, each employee shall be given written notice no less than 90 days prior to the change.*

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Brian Sullivan moved that **HB 280**, relative to wage payment, be laid on the table.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 172 - NAYS 192

YEAS - 172

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike	Coker, Matthew	St. Clair, Charlie
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CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita	Paige, David	Hamblen, Joseph	McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen			

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick	Berch, Paul	Harvey, Cathryn	Fox, Dru
Germana, Dylan	Faulkner, Barry	Gruber, James	Jones, Philip
Germana, Nicholas	Newell, Jodi	O'Rorke, Terri	Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy			

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan	Baldwin, Heather	Bolton, Bill	Cormen, Thomas
Fellows, Sallie	Fracht, David	Hakken-Phillips, Mary	Sullivan, Jared
Lovett, Peter	Lucas, Janet	Muirhead, Russell	Oppel, Thomas
Rockmore, Ellen	Spahr, Terry	Stringham, Jerry	Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra	Beauchemin, Paige	Bergeron, Dan	Booras, Efstathia
Bouchard, Donald	Budathoki, Suraj	Chourasia, Manoj	Chretien, Suzanne
Colcombe, Riché	Cornell, Patricia	Darby, Will	Dargie, Paul
DiSilvestro, Linda	Elberger, Susan	Davis, Fred	Foss, Lily
Gregg, Alicia	Grill, Jessica	Grund, Stephanie	Hartnett, Tim
Hegner, Karen	Herbert, Christopher	Jack, Martin	Jeudy, Jean
Juris, Louis	Kluger, Lee Ann	Foxx, Loren	LeClerc, Daniel
Leishman, Peter	Lloyd, Christal	Long, Patrick	Howard, Molly
Murray, Megan	MacKenzie, Mark	Manohar, Sanjeev	McGhee, Kat
McLean, Mark	Murphy, Nancy	Petrigno, Peter	Plamondon, Marc
Post, Lisa	Preece, David	Newman, Ray	Raymond, Heather
Rombeau, Catherine	Rung, Rosemarie	Ryan, Linda	Newman, Sue
Salvi, Santosh	Seibert, Christine	Sofikitis, Catherine	Staub, Kathy
Swanson, Dale	Telerski, Laura	Tellez, Trinidad	Vail, Suzanne
Veilleux, Daniel	Dolan, William	Thomas, Wendy	Wheeler, Jonah
Wilhelm, Matthew			

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edwards, Jess
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Pearson, Stephen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

Bryer, Scott
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 192**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

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 failed.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.
Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Brian Sullivan spoke against.

Rep. Turcotte spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 191 - NAYS 176**YEAS - 191****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri

Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin

Bernardy, JD
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
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 - 176

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Hamblen, Joseph

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark
Preece, David

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray

Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallagher, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Donnelly, Tanya
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bridle, Nicholas
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 379, relative to youth employment during the school year and at night. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Brian Labrie for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill aims to specify the number of hours minors are allowed to work during the school year and to impose restrictions on their evening work hours while school is in session. The proposed limitations on working hours for minors could potentially reduce their job opportunities, as employers might prefer to hire individuals with more flexible schedules. While employers are generally aware of the considerations involved in hiring young workers, the majority of the committee believes that the restrictions outlined in this bill may be overly stringent for minors seeking employment. Additionally, there are concerns regarding the enforcement of these regulations. The committee notes that there are differences between federal and state perspectives on enforcement, and it is felt that the Department of Labor may face challenges in effectively implementing and monitoring compliance with the proposed changes. For these reasons, the majority of the committee advises against the passage of this bill and recommends that it be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Michael Cahill for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill limits the hours 16- and 17-year-olds may work while enrolled and attending school to 9:00 p.m. on school nights and 11:00 p.m. when there is no school the next day. The goal being to improve their educational outcomes in preparation for a lifetime of work.

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

Rep. Cahill spoke against.

Rep. Labrie spoke in favor.

Majority committee report was adopted.

HB 386-FN, prohibiting nursing agencies from including non-compete clauses in contracts with health care entities. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mark Warden for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. There is currently an effective market in New Hampshire for nurse staffing agencies to provide per diem and short-term contract labor to hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities. The nursing agency fills an important gap in staffing for providers who need to cover short term vacancies; likewise, it offers welcome opportunities for nurses and nursing assistants who prefer to work per diem and not commit to a full-time job. This bill would add unnecessary new regulations that would complicate the existing balance among facilities, agencies, and nursing professionals. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Michael Cahill for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would address two issues plaguing healthcare facilities and the nurses that provide care through employment agencies. The agencies have non-compete agreements – not with the nurse but with the facility they are assigned to. This circumvents RSA 275:70, the requirement that employees be notified of non-competes as a condition of employment and receive a copy prior to an offer of employment. Under this arrangement, nurses can be assigned to work a single shift at several facilities and be prevented from being employed directly from them all. This impacts hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities and schools, raising the cost of nursing staff and limiting the availability of this critical workforce. In effect, these agencies (many from out of state) corner the market with higher hourly wages and then prevent direct hire through a non-compete the nurse never saw or signed. A local healthcare agency uses a 13-week period after which the client facility is free to hire the nurse directly; this has worked well for all involved and was included in an amendment which was not adopted.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 386-FN**, prohibiting nursing agencies from including non-compete clauses in contracts with health care entities, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 442, relative to prohibiting payment of subminimum wages. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mark Warden for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would eliminate the ability for New Hampshire employers to pay a statutory “subminimum” wage (currently \$3.27/hour), enjoyed primarily by tipped workers who voluntarily agree to the arrangement and predominantly earn well above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour when tips are included. There are myriad compensation agreements that businesses offer to attract and retain employees, and a wholesale change to current arrangements as proposed by this legislation would lead to widespread disruption among our state’s enterprises. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Kris Schultz for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The minority of the committee feels New Hampshire’s subminimum wage of \$3.20/hr is out of date for a modern economy, and that the hard-working tipped wage workers of New Hampshire deserve the same floor of wages as all other New Hampshire workers are promised, plus tips on top. This is fairer in a modern economy and shows the value of our hospitality workforce is as a top economic driver within tourism. New Hampshire would become the 11th state in the country to take this important step, and those economies have thrived, not stalled. People are New Hampshire’s greatest resource and, as such, our workers deserve to be compensated for their labor at a rate that reflects their contributions to the economy. The subminimum wage disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including mothers and people of color, perpetuating inequality and financial instability. By eliminating this wage, we can create a more free, just and sustainable economy where all workers are empowered to support themselves and their families. This will lead to increased productivity, higher morale, and reduced turnover, benefiting both workers and employers in the long run.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 442**, relative to prohibiting payment of subminimum wages, be laid on the table.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 199 - NAYS 153

YEAS - 199

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Foxx, Loren
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

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

**NAYS - 153
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Newell, Jodi

Faulkner, Barry
O'Rourke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
 Gibbs, Merryl
 MacKay, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Gallager, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Grote, Jaci
 Cahill, Michael
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

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

Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vallone, Mark

Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Malloy, Dennis
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Miller, Seth
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 726-FN, relative to the state minimum hourly rate. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Samuel Farrington for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would mandate that all employers pay their employees a wage of at least \$15 per hour by 2028. The economic effects of this legislation would actually harm those it seeks to help. Minimum wage laws discriminate against low-skilled workers, such as recent high school graduates, by making it illegal to employ someone whose skills only justify a lower wage. Wages have meaning behind their value. If an employee can only produce \$14 worth of goods per hour, it is completely reasonable that they will be laid off under a \$15 minimum wage. Rather than imposing government mandates on the private sector, we should allow firms and employees to compete for higher productivity and stable wages. The majority of the committee therefore recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 11-9. Rep. Kathy Staub for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The last time New Hampshire raised its minimum wage was in 2008. Our current default minimum wage of \$7.25 is about half of what surrounding states require. Most of our workforce lives an hour or less away from a state where they would be guaranteed a minimum wage of \$14 to \$15 an hour. Our state must raise our minimum wage to attract new workers and retain young workers. Approximately 60,000 New Hampshire workers, who make less than \$15 an hour would benefit from this bill. They work primarily in retail and food service and caring for our children and elderly. Their work is important to our economy and the quality of life for all Granite Staters, and they deserve to be compensated fairly.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 726-FN**, relative to the state minimum hourly rate, be laid on the table.
Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 197 - NAYS 159**YEAS - 197****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

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

NAYS - 159**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Germana, Dylan
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Morse, Bryan
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

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

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 757, relative to tip pooling and sharing and automatic service charges. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This version of the bill seeks to undo what was passed back in 2023, adding additional requirements and paperwork for every hospitality employer and employee. Outside of the bills sponsor, we did not hear from any employers that were requesting this additional clarification or another paperwork mandate. For those reasons and more, the majority feels this bill is unnecessary. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Michael Cahill for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill provides restaurant employers and employees with a clear understanding of the tip pooling/sharing method in use in the business including an example in a document signed by the server and retained by the employer. The goal being to reduce misunderstandings and resulting wage claim violations.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 757**, relative to tip pooling and sharing and automatic service charges, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 204 members having voted in the affirmative, and 152 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 221, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would allow the Public Utility Commission, as part of their rate setting duties, to consider modifications to the Granite State Test and different or additional tests to determine the cost effectiveness of the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC). The SBC is a fee paid by all ratepayers with the idea that spending funds on programs such as energy efficiency will have an overall benefit to all ratepayers. The changes specified in the bill would not be allowed until the program year 2027. Any method for determining a cost benefit analysis should not be fixed for all time as circumstances may change. This bill only allows that the commission may consider changes. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Ned Raynolds for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill concerns one of the most arcane matters of state energy policy possible: the mathematical formula(s) used for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the energy efficiency programs (collectively known as NH Saves) offered by our distribution utilities (Eversource, Unitil, Liberty Utilities), and, importantly, who gets to decide what those formulas are. The programs are funded through the Systems Benefits Charge (SBC), a part of every customer's monthly bill. The programs are longstanding and far from unique to New Hampshire – in fact, those offered by NH's utilities are highly consistent with those in the other five New England states and draw on 25+ years' experience with program design, implementation, and cost-effectiveness evaluation in over 30 states across the country. Nonetheless, three years ago the newly appointed membership of our 3-member Public Utilities Commission (PUC) nearly "blew up" the suite of programs by refusing to approve the triennial renewal of the program package despite rigorous Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) reports – a mandatory aspect of the programs – having consistently shown that every dollar of SBC funds spent produces >\$3 in short and long-term energy savings. The blowback was so big that the legislature had to get involved and enact a law (HB 549) codifying the specific, well-established and well-understood (in the utility, energy efficiency, and energy advocacy fields) mathematical formulas that the Public Utilities Commission should use in conducting its triennial reviews. This bill would go back on that widely supported agreement to now authorize the PUC to open a docket to potentially change the formulas or even develop new formulas.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that **HB 221**, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge, be laid on the table.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 151 - NAYS 193

YEAS - 151

CARROLL

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas

Germana, Dylan
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

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

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Dolan, Tom

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

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

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

SULLIVAN

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

NAYS - 193**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Scherr, Buzz
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

and the motion failed.

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

Rep. Harrington Spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 195 - NAYS 151**YEAS - 195****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
Seaworth, Brian

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 151**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Germana, Dylan
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hegner, Karen
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Bouchard, Donald
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Herbert, Christopher
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
 Gibbs, Merryl
 MacKay, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris

Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Richards, Beth
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
 Murray, Kate
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Ward, Gerald

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Miller, Seth
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 535-FN, relative to defining the role of the public utilities commission. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill attempts to clarify the policy making and investigative functions of the Department of Energy (DOE) as separate and distinct from the independent adjudicative functions of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In so doing, it requires the PUC to approve without adjudicative review any agreements signed between the utilities and intervening parties including the DOE. This is likely illegal in that it forecloses the PUC's ability to decide whether rates proposed are just and reasonable. It could allow utilities to completely avoid PUC review of rates, charges, tariffs, and services. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Thomas Cormen for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. When HB 2 in 2021 created the Department of Energy (DOE), the intent was that the DOE would implement policy, and the existing Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would become an adjudicative body primarily focusing on setting rates for the regulated utilities. Unfortunately, much of the existing language in statute leaves the PUC in a position, along with the DOE, to implement policy. This bill would clean up that language, clarifying the DOE's policy and the PUC's adjudicative roles. The primary objection to the bill voiced in executive session by the majority of our committee centered on a section of the bill that says if a case is before the PUC in which the DOE and the Office of the Consumer Advocate are among the parties, and if all parties agree to a settlement, then the PUC should approve that settlement (unless it is contrary to law). The PUC told our committee that they base their decisions in adjudicated cases only upon the evidence presented to them. The minority of our committee does not understand the majority's objection to this section of the bill, since if all parties agree to a settlement, then all the evidence presented will support the settlement, and the PUC should readily approve.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 535-FN**, relative to defining the role of the public utilities commission, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 194 members having voted in the affirmative, and 153 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 599, establishing a committee to examine weatherization initiatives for homes in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill seeks to create a committee to study home weatherization. The state Department of Energy oversees several million dollars of home weatherization projects each year and spends \$400,000 each year educating residents about the importance of home weatherization and energy efficiency. NHSaves, operated by the state's utilities, spends \$70-\$80 million each year on energy efficiency, including home weatherization. This subject is well understood and cannot benefit by being studied yet again. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Wendy Thomas for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. Supporting this bill is a crucial step toward reducing energy costs for New Hampshire residents while promoting healthier living conditions. Properly weatherized homes require less energy for heating and cooling, leading to lower utility bills and long-term savings for consumers. Additionally, improved insulation reduces drafts, moisture buildup, and air leaks, creating a healthier indoor environment with better air quality. By studying weatherization initiatives, this committee can identify cost-effective solutions that benefit both homeowners and the environment. Investing in weatherization will not only enhance energy efficiency but also support economic growth and sustainability for communities across the state.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Vose moved that **HB 599**, establishing a committee to examine weatherization initiatives for homes in New Hampshire, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 198 members having voted in the affirmative, and 148 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 672-FN, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill enables the building of off-grid electricity generation facilities. Such facilities would be exempt from all utility regulation, since an off-grid supplier is not a public utility, except for siting regulation, which primarily serves to protect natural resources. This enabling legislation would spark innovation in the deployment of energy generation that serves a distinct customer base and would be regulated only by the contract developed between the buyer and seller. The most logical application of this capability would be a data center. Such a business could be a boon to the state's economy. The amendment added a reference to the applicability of local municipal and state roadway and safety regulations. Vote 12-5.

Rep. Wendy Thomas for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill poses significant risks to consumers and the reliability of New Hampshire's energy system. By allowing off-grid electricity providers to operate without regulatory oversight, consumers could be exposed to inconsistent service, higher costs, and potential safety hazards. Without oversight, there is no guarantee of fair pricing, reliable electricity, or adherence to environmental standards. Additionally, the fragmentation of the energy market could weaken the state's overall energy infrastructure, making it less resilient in times of crisis. Instead of deregulating off-grid providers, efforts should focus on strengthening and modernizing the existing regulated grid to ensure stable, affordable, and sustainable electricity for all.

Majority Amendment (0627h)

Amend RSA 374:3-c as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

374:3-c Off-Grid Electricity Provider.

I. In this section:

(a) "Off-grid electricity provider" means an entity, person, private company, electric cooperative, municipal agency, or otherwise, that engages in any combination of generating, transmitting, distributing, or selling electricity at retail to consumers; not connected to any existing regulated electric grid within the state, operating independently of existing utilities and other regulated entities, and does not cross state boundaries. Off-grid electricity providers are not public utilities.

(b) “Begins operations” means the date on which the off-grid electricity provider first generates, transmits, distributes, or sells electricity within the state.

II. An off-grid electricity provider that begins operations on or after the effective date of this section shall be exempt from RSA Title XXXIV. Each off-grid electricity provider shall remain subject to all other applicable laws and regulations, such as municipal and state highway safety regulations, and RSA 162-H, unless specifically excluded from those laws or regulations by a separate act.

III. At anytime, if an off-grid electricity provider elects to connect to any portion of the existing regulated electric grid, it shall cease being an “off-grid electricity provider” and immediately become subject to the provisions of RSA Title XXXIV.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Wendy Thomas spoke against.

Rep. Vose spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

On a division vote, with 215 members having voted in the affirmative, and 132 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 710-FN, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill, as amended, allows utilities to sign purchase power agreements (PPAs) with advanced nuclear resources for the acquisition of up to 20% of a utility’s need for electrical energy. It signals that New Hampshire is open for business for nuclear energy. This groundbreaking legislation will put New Hampshire on the leading edge of states that recognize the importance of nuclear energy. It builds on 2022’s SB 54 that allows long-term energy contracts from new sources by adding advanced nuclear resources to the list of allowable sources. The amendment removed the original bill’s provision that allowed utilities to own or invest in advanced nuclear resources, which could be expensive for ratepayers. As amended, the bill avoids this burden while still allowing the acquisition of nuclear power from a willing seller. Its emphasis on new resources opens the door for encouraging the building of small modular reactors in New Hampshire. Vote 14-3.

Rep. Tony Caplan for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. The amendment is a vast improvement on the original bill, which would have allowed electric utilities to go into the business of owning nuclear stations but still falls short of working in the best interests of New Hampshire ratepayers. By not changing the current statutory limit on allowing utilities to purchase long term energy contracts for the next 10 years with any other form of energy except nuclear, this bill will strictly limit our diversity of energy options and shows New Hampshire is not serious about pursuing an all-of-the-above strategy to ensure safe, reliable, low-cost, clean, and diverse energy.

Majority Amendment (0716h)

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

1 New Paragraph; Electric Utility Restructuring; Definitions. Amend RSA 374-F:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. “Advanced nuclear resource” (ANR) means generation IV nuclear technologies that include gas-cooled, lead-cooled, sodium-cooled, supercritical water-cooled, and molten salt and very high temperature reactors, small modular, thermal-only, and encased fuel pellets reactors, including any micro, mini, or small nuclear reactor having a generating capacity between 0 and 300 megawatts.

2 Purchased Power Agreements. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 374-F:11, I to read as follows:

I. Investor-owned electric distribution utilities may elect to develop and, no later than June 30, 2025, issue a request for proposals for multi-year agreements for energy, in conjunction with or independent of any attendant environmental attributes from electric energy sources, ***except for advanced nuclear resources as defined in RSA 374-F:2, II-a, for which proposals can be developed until June 30, 2035.***

3 Purchased Power Agreements. Amend the introductory paragraph for RSA 374-F:11, II to read as follows:

II. Any investor-owned electric distribution utility electing to enter into an agreement pursuant to this section shall petition the public utilities commission for authorization to enter the agreement no later than June 30, 2026, ***or June 30, 2036, for advanced nuclear resources as defined in RSA 374-F:2, II-a.***

4 Coordination of Studies and Development Activities; Position Established. Amend RSA 162-B:4, III to read as follows:

III. The coordinator of nuclear development and regulatory activities shall have the duty to coordinate and produce the reports required by RSA 162-B:3, as well as coordinate the studies conducted, and the recommendations and proposals made, in this state with like activities in New England and other states and with the policies and regulations of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. ***These activities may include the management of funding and oversight of nuclear incentive programs, such as those described by RSA 374-G:4, as well as outreach programs to inform and educate the public, particularly regarding safety.***

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

On a division vote, with 259 members having voted in the affirmative, and 85 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HCR 2, declaring the development of advanced nuclear energy technology to be in the best interest of the state of New Hampshire and the United States. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This resolution calls for policymakers to support nuclear energy initiatives and projects to ensure the United States remains a leader in nuclear technology. By adopting this resolution, the majority strongly believes it will be a first step to open the door to potential investors; that these investors will see New Hampshire as a place to explore new advanced nuclear technology to do business. It sends a strong message to the federal government that we know this carbon-free technology is important to baseline energy generation and urges the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to prioritize and expedite the review and approval process for advanced nuclear projects to ensure that the United States remains a global leader in nuclear technology. It also encourages the development of educational and workforce training programs to build the highly skilled workforce necessary for advancing nuclear energy technologies and maintaining the state's leadership in this critical industry. By getting behind this resolution, New Hampshire will join other states in adjusting their energy policies to facilitate development of advanced nuclear energy technology. Vote 16-2.

Rep. Wendy Thomas for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. Small modular reactors (SMRs) have proven to be economically unviable in a market-driven economy, relying heavily on government subsidies with no clear path to profitability. The failure of NuScale Power, despite billions in federal funding, demonstrates that SMRs cannot attract private investment due to high costs and financial risks. Additionally, studies indicate that SMRs generate disproportionately higher levels of nuclear waste compared to conventional reactors, further complicating their feasibility. Rather than diverting resources to speculative nuclear projects, New Hampshire should prioritize proven renewable energy solutions like wind, solar, and hydro, which offer immediate economic and environmental benefits without excessive government intervention.

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

Rep. Parshall spoke against.

Rep. Ammon spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 258 members having voted in the affirmative, and 83 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HCR 4, relative to rejecting all offshore wind energy projects in the waters off the coast of New Hampshire and the Gulf of Maine. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This House Concurrent Resolution asserts that New Hampshire stands opposed to offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine until all questions regarding the environmental and economic impacts of such development are fully understood. This understanding requires input from all concerned citizens, particularly the offshore fisheries industry, which has expressed concerns about ocean substations that must be cooled by sea water and chlorine, thereby discharging warmer, toxic water back into the ocean in massive amounts, and by ocean bed disturbances caused by transmission cables extending for long distances, requiring the seabed to be sculpted, with ocean currents producing continuous movement of the cables back and forth and thus disturbing sea life and underwater ecosystems. The resolution states that New Hampshire will support offshore wind only when questions about these projects are carefully vetted and verified, without financial risk to the state or its ratepayers. Vote 9-6.

Rep. Kat McGhee for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. The minority opposes having the state pass a resolution to ban a form of clean energy while admitting in the same sentence that we lack a complete understanding of whether the impacts will be good or bad. There are many countries with successful offshore wind installations and that information has been entirely discounted. The resolution fails to recognize that the State of New Hampshire lacks jurisdiction over federally controlled waters, and the recent lease auctions are in waters under the control of the US Department of the Interior. The only way to gain a complete understanding of the issues that will affect our citizens is to have a seat at the table. Finally, banning offshore wind as a potential source of electricity for the regional grid runs counter to our stated preference for an 'all of the above' energy strategy.

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

Rep. Swanson spoke against.

Rep. Doug Thomas spoke in favor.

Rep. McGhee requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 195 - NAYS 149**YEAS - 195
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slotte, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Morse, Bryan
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 149**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Germana, Dylan
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HR 15, urging New Hampshire's congressional representatives to advocate for a change in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's policy. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. This is a resolution asking New Hampshire's Congressional representatives to take whatever actions are possible to change the method the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) uses to approve costs associated with transmission projects. Presently, FERC operates under a policy of a presumption of prudence where all costs presented by a transmission company are considered just and reasonable unless a third party proves otherwise. All these charges would

then be paid for by ratepayers. This is totally different than how distribution system costs are handled in New Hampshire. Here, it is the responsibility of the utility who owns the system to prove that costs are just and reasonable. Under existing rules for example, a \$400M cost for a transmission project are presumed to be just and reasonable unless a third party proves them otherwise while a \$4M cost for distribution project are assumed not to be just and reasonable until the utility proves otherwise. There are plans to spend billions of dollars to modify existing and build new transmission projects in New England. New Hampshire ratepayers are responsible for 10% of these costs so this is an important message to send now. The amendment added text about the presumption of prudence and listed to whom the resolution will be sent. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0679h)

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

Whereas, it is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission practice to accept new and upgraded transmission costs via a presumption of prudence, without a detailed review of individual project cost; and

Whereas, consumer utility costs are increasingly burdensome and warrant detailed scrutiny of large-scale utility systems' investments to protect consumers; and

Whereas, new and upgraded New Hampshire electric utility projects for distribution system work are reviewed by the public utilities commission (PUC) to ensure that the costs are just and reasonable; and

Whereas, new or upgraded electric utility transmission projects, which are often significantly more expensive than distribution projects, are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which operates under a policy that assumes all costs are just and reasonable unless proven otherwise; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the general court of New Hampshire hereby urges elected members of the United States Congress to take whatever actions are possible to change FERC's policies so that only those costs associated with new or upgraded electric transmission projects that are found to be just and reasonable can be collected from the ratepayers; and

That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the house clerk to the President of the United States; Secretary of Energy; President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation; the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Chair of the United States Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Chair of the United States House of Representative's Committee on Energy and Commerce; Chair of the United States Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works; governor of New Hampshire; the commissioners of the New Hampshire public utilities commission; commissioner of the New Hampshire department of energy; commissioner of the New Hampshire department of environmental services; commissioner of the New Hampshire department of business and economic affairs; director of workforce development at the New Hampshire department of business and economic affairs; and the New Hampshire state librarian.

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.

Rep. Harrington spoke in favor.

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

HR 12, urging Congress to amend the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Mike Belcher for the Majority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The 2013 Smith-Mundt Modernization Act repealed the longstanding prohibition on using federal government resources in the State Department and military to propagandize and conduct information warfare operations against Americans on American soil. Very many of the most controversial political items of the past decade, including the Covid-19 pandemic origin, treatment, and "lockdown" policies, the war in Ukraine, USAID funding, and domestic political coercion are immediately downstream from the lifting of this prohibition on propaganda, which legalized these operations and opened up pathways to funding them with tax dollars. This resolution calls for the reinstitution on this longstanding policy prohibiting propaganda operations against Americans. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Christine Seibert for the Minority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. In 2012 a new law amended the US Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, known as the Smith-Mundt Act. Our media agencies that are still restricted to only operating abroad, can now make their content available in broadcast quality upon request within the United States. This change allows for freedom of information requests to be fulfilled, effectively ending the unconstitutional practice of state sanctioned censorship. We should promote transparency and accountability while providing the public fair access if they so choose. The wide distribution of information via the Internet makes the information prohibitions of Smith-Mundt largely meaningless or counter-productive. Today, in the age of the Internet, enforcing previous restrictions on the domestic dissemination of content has become entirely impossible. Technological advancement has simply overwhelmed the old Smith-Mundt Act restrictions. I would argue that repealing the 2012 amendment would be a

violation of the First Amendment, as it restricts freedom of the press. Smith-Mundt had long been outdated, ineffective, disabling, and arguably unconstitutional. It is worth noting that provisions in the current law expressly state that it shall only apply to the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors and to no other department or agency of the Federal Government. This strictly prohibits creation or use of materials by the military, DOD, DHHS, CDC, FEMA, or any other agencies, departments, or counterparts. Congress's 2012 H.R. 5736 clearly states that: "No funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State, or the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall be used to influence public opinion in the United States."

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

Rep. Seibert spoke against.

Rep. Belcher spoke in favor.

Rep. Scully requested a roll call; not sufficiently seconded.

On a division vote, with 192 members having voted in the affirmative, and 150 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 290-FN, increasing the taxes on cigarettes and electronic cigarettes and establishing a committee to study taxes on tobacco and other nicotine products. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for the Majority of Ways and Means. The majority of the members of the Ways and Means Committee agreed that the revenue derived from the sale of cigarettes and electronic cigarettes is a direct result of the low tax structure we enjoy here in New Hampshire. Both New Hampshire citizens and citizens from surrounding states are buying in New Hampshire because of very reasonable pricing. We also heard testimony that there may be an issue with accounting for appropriate taxation when it comes to electronic cigarettes and vape products. It is our understanding that there may be another piece of legislation in the other body that would directly address this. Vote 11-8.

Rep. Terry Spahr for the Minority of Ways and Means. The State of New Hampshire garners most of its tax revenue through charging a percentage of revenues, sales, income, or profits of products and services produced or sold by New Hampshire businesses and residents. As inflation and economic activity grow each year, the state's tax revenue increases along with this growth. A very few taxes in the state, like the tobacco tax, are a flat tax that does not increase along with inflation each year. The last time the tobacco tax was raised was 2009, 16 years ago. As a result, the state has lost and will continue to lose money every year from this key source of revenue. This bill would adjust those losses for inflation restoring this tax in line with the majority of New Hampshire's other taxes. Anticipated inflation adjusted revenue to the state could yield \$40 million to \$87 million annually. The lower figure is based on an analysis by the American Cancer Society as a "worst case" scenario of reduced sales for New Hampshire. The high figure is based on smokers continuing to smoke as usual.

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

MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 290-FN**, increasing the taxes on cigarettes and electronic cigarettes and establishing a committee to study taxes on tobacco and other nicotine products, be Indefinitely Postponed.

Motion was adopted.

BILL REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 631-FN, permitting residential building in commercial zoning by right. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ellen Read for Housing. This bill balances the rights of property owners to allow residential use in commercial zones, with the ability of towns to ensure health and safety as well as plan mixed use zones with retail on the ground floor. The current practice of preventing residential use in commercial zones that are otherwise compatible with living makes no sense in the current housing crisis. As amended, this bill creates more housing opportunities immediately by promoting more mixed-use areas. The committee enthusiastically agreed that this was a needed and common-sense way to easily and quickly create more available housing. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0667h)

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

AN ACT permitting residential building in commercial zoning.

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

1 New Subdivision; Multi-Family Residential Development on Commercially Zoned Land. Amend RSA 674 by inserting after section 76 the following new subdivision:

Multi-Family Residential Development on Commercially Zoned Land

674:77 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. "Commercially zoned land" means land zoned for such commercial activities as retail and office space.

II. "Mixed-use" means a type of development that combines residential, commercial, cultural, institutional, or entertainment uses within a single building or development area.

III. "Adaptive reuse" means the repurposing of existing buildings or structures in whole or in part for residential purposes.

674:78 Amendment to Zoning Regulations.

I. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, municipalities shall allow multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land, provided that adequate infrastructure, including roads, water, and sewage systems, shall be available or provided to support the development.

II. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit municipalities from restricting residential development in zones where industrial and manufacturing uses are permitted which may result in impacts that are incompatible with residential use, such as air, noise, odor, or transportation impacts.

III. A municipality may require all available ground floor space or a percentage thereof to be dedicated to retail or similar uses.

IV. A municipality shall provide an exemption to any requirements regarding setbacks, height, or frontage of a building being converted to multi-family or mixed-use through adaptive reuse, provided that the building's floor area, height, and setbacks do not change.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires municipalities to permit multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land, with stipulations for infrastructure and exemptions for adaptive reuse.

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.

MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE

Rep. Kuttab moved that **HB 631-FN**, permitting residential building in commercial zoning, be Indefinitely Postponed.

The question being adoption of the motion to Indefinitely Postpone.

Rep. Turcotte spoke in favor.

Rep. Beaulier spoke against.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 128 - NAYS 211

YEAS - 128

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Cordelli, Glenn
Taylor, Brian

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Berch, Paul
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tierney, James

Durkin, Sean
Valerino, Brian

Korzen, Lori

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

Franz, Linda

Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Boyd, Bill
Corcoran, Travis
Gagne, Larry
Jack, Martin
Leishman, Peter
Morton, Jonathan
Preece, David
Salvi, Santosh
Sirois, Shane
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Creighton, James
Gorski, Ted
Juris, Louis
Murphy, Mary
Ohm, Bill
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John

Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Gould, Linda
Kenny, Catherine
McGhee, Kat
Panek, Sandra
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey

Colcombe, Riché
Flanagan, Jack
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Peeples, Raymond
Rombeau, Catherine
Sheehan, Vanessa
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Schamberg, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Hill, Gregory
Seaworth, Brian

Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
See, Alvin

Devoid, Ricky
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Sytek, John

Bernardy, JD
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Pearson, Stephen
Tripp, Richard

Bridle, Nicholas
Ford, Mary
Knab, Allison
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Verville, Kevin

Bryer, Scott
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Summers, James
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan

Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Smith, Steven

Girard, Dale
Spilsbury, Walter

Hemingway, Wayne

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 211
BELKNAP**

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Peternel, Katy

Paige, David
Woodcock, Stephen

MacDonald, John

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer

Murphy, Denis
Newell, Jodi
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Morency, Pete

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Berezhny, Lex
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
McFarlane, Donald
Sellers, John

Baldwin, Heather
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Barton, Joseph
Fellows, Sallie
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Beaulier, Calvin
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bergeron, Dan
Budathoki, Suraj
Daniels, Gary
Drew, Matt
Davis, Fred
Giasson, Henry
Hegner, Karen
Foxx, Loren
Long, Patrick
Mazur, Lisa
Pauer, Diane
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Slottje, Jeremy
Telerski, Laura
Ulery, Jordan
Warden, Mark

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Dupont, Pierre
Foss, Lily
Gregg, Alicia
Kesselring, Steven
Labrie, Brian
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Ammon, Keith
Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Grill, Jessica
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tim
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Bouchard, Donald
Cole, Brian
DiSilvestro, Linda
Erf, Keith
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kofalt, Jim
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Murphy, Nancy
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Mannion, Tom
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Gibbs, Merryl
Moffett, Michael

McGuire, Carol
Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Morse, Bryan

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Newsom, James

Colby, Eleana
Gallager, Eric
MacKay, James
Pitaro, Matthew

Polozov, Yury
Snodgrass, Jim
Woods, Gary

Richards, Beth
Soucy, Timothy

Sargent, Gregory
Thibault, James

Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
DeVito, Sayra
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Osborne, Jason
Scherr, Buzz
Spillane, James
Vose, Michael
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Potucek, John
Simpson, Alexis
Sweeney, Joe
MacDonald, Wayne

Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Gilman, Julie
Layon, Erica
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Markell, Jay
Muns, Chris
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Granger, Michael
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Farrington, Samuel
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Burnham, Claudine
Smith, Geoffrey
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Rollins, Skip

Grant, George

and the motion failed.

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

Rep. Turcotte spoke against.

On a division vote, with 204 members having voted in the affirmative, and 134 in the negative, the committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

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, Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 123, relative to yield taxes on property enrolled or registered for the purpose of generating carbon offset credits.

HB 560, relative to parental access to a minor child's medical records.

HB 321-FN, requiring the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days if the driver requests the extension.

HB 343, relative to reporting regarding the northern border alliance program.

HB 387, relative to balloons being released into the air.

HB 397, establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the department of safety.

HB 405, establishing a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses and relative to prostitution and related offenses.

HB 551-FN, repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers.

HB 231, prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent.

HB 653-FN, establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.

HB 752, relative to procedures for the closing of a charter school.

HB 753-FN, relative to expedited due process hearings to enforce special education rights.

HB 171, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.

HB 277, relative to the use of the term "foal" and "colt."

HB 307, relative to the food production area for homestead food.

HB 779-FN, allowing the sale of rabbit meat in intrastate commerce.

HR 13, opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire.

HB 82, relative to the regulation of various occupations.

HB 470, relative to the use of general anesthesia, deep sedation, and moderate sedation in dental treatment.

HB 117, relative to the substitution of biological products.

HB 268-FN, relative to hearings before the board of tax and land appeals.

HB 737-L, creating local options for games of chance.

HB 109-FN, relative to false reports to law enforcement.

HB 218-FN, relative to providing victims of crime with a free police report of the investigation.

HB 10-FN, establishing the parental bill of rights.

HB 433-FN, making 17 the age of consent for marriage if either party is active duty military and removing language regarding age waivers for marriage registration records, since age waivers are no longer issued in New Hampshire.

HB 718, requiring the state board of education to report the unfunded financial impact to school districts for rules adopted by the board which exceed state or federal minimum standards.

HB 68, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement.

HB 235, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents.

HB 676, relative to the composition and responsibilities of the parent and education service provider advisory commission, and establishing education freedom account impact and parent satisfaction surveys.

HB 288, limiting how far in advance of an election an absentee ballot may be requested.

HB 474, requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.

HB 233, requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

HB 732-FN, to enhance informed consent and accountability in psychotropic drug prescriptions for children under Medicaid.

HR 16, recognizing the essential contributions of frontline health workers in assisting the state to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and urging greater attention and support for local frontline health workers.

HB 88-FN, establishing community property trusts.

HB 148, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances.

HB 273, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records.

HB 280, relative to wage payments.

HB 221, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge.

HB 672-FN, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire.

HB 710-FN, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources.

HCR 2, declaring the development of advanced nuclear energy technology to be in the best interest of the state of New Hampshire and the United States.

HCR 4, relative to rejecting all offshore wind energy projects in the waters off the coast of New Hampshire and the Gulf of Maine.

HR 15, urging New Hampshire's congressional representatives to advocate for a change in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's policy.

HR 12, urging Congress to amend the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013.

HB 631-FN, permitting residential building in commercial zoning.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Jared Sullivan requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Forest Lake State Park and addressed the House.

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 6:30 p.m.

RECESS