



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

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

Web Site Address: <https://gc.nh.gov>

Vol. 47

Concord, N.H.

Thursday, March 27, 2025

No. 11

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 10 (Cont'd)

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 11

Thursday, March 27, 2025

The House assembled at 9:00 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.

We gather to make decisions for our community. May we use only our best skills and judgment, keeping ourselves impartial and neutral as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us and always act in accordance with what is best for our community and our fellow citizens. We seek blessings on the tasks before us. Bless our efforts with clear insight, our deliberations with wisdom, our work with clarity and accuracy, and our decisions with impartiality. We meet to serve our community, to use our resources wisely and well, to represent all members of our community fairly, to make decisions that promote the common good. We recognize our responsibility to the past and the future, and the rights and needs of both individuals and community. As trusted servants, we seek blessings on our deliberations, and on our efforts here today. May we act wisely and well. Amen.

Representative Matthew Hicks, member from Concord, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by students from Shaker Road School in Concord.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. DeVito, England, Gilman, Gregg, Jeudy, Prout, Roy, Suiter and Trottier, the day, illness.

Reps. Coker, Kerwin, Mandelbaum, Michael Murphy, Read and Verville, the day, important business.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Christopher Glinski, student at Windham High School, Page for the day.

Portia Costillo and Rebecca Leak, guests of Rep. Thibault. Family and friends of the students from Shaker Road School, guests of the House.

MEMORIAL REMARKS

Rep. Bridle offered memorial remarks for the former member from Hampton, the Honorable Michael O'Neil.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed in honor and in memory of the former member from Hampton, the Honorable Michael O'Neil.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. McFarlane moved that the debate on **HB 324-FN**, relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 324-FN
from the Session of March 26, 2025

Speaker Packard: Rep. Damon offers floor amendment (1361h). It is in your seat pockets. Rep. Damon is recognized to speak.

Representative Damon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Last year on this very floor, the Representative from Tuftonboro read from *Speak*, an award-winning novel by Laurie Halse Anderson which explores the emotional journey of a teen survivor of sexual assault. For nearly three decades, this book has sat on school library shelves as a source of understanding and solace for young people, particularly those young people who have experienced sexual violence themselves. It is not obscene. It is not harmful. In fact, it has saved lives. I read *Speak* this summer to gather my own impression. Frankly, it is a poignant beautiful book about growing up and finding your true self. I wish I had read it when I was 17. I highly recommend it to all. The author has been recognized with the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's highest honor in children's literature. Her work has been studied, celebrated and embraced by educators and readers worldwide. Yet, despite this, some would see her book removed from our school libraries under the guise of protecting children. So, I ask you, what are we protecting them from? Knowledge? Empathy? A chance to see their own experiences reflected in a way that helps them heal? HB 324 relies on a variation of a well-established legal standard, the three-pronged Miller test, for determining whether material is obscene or harmful to minors. There is nothing controversial about the use of this standard in making a determination of whether a work is obscene. It is, in fact, already the law here in New Hampshire. The test requires that all three prongs be met, not just one. Under this test, the work taken as a whole must be predominantly designed to appeal to the prurient interest of minors. It further requires that a book must lack serious literary, scientific, medical, artistic or political value for minors. *Speak*, a book that has now helped generations of young people understand the impact of sexual violence clearly does not meet this standard.

Speaker Packard: The member will suspend. State your point of order.

Representative Bill Boyd: My point of order is that the gentlelady who is speaking right now is speaking about the underlying bill as opposed to the floor amendment that is being presented today. That is my point of order.

Representative Damon: Mister Speaker, that is the background to the next paragraph, which is about the amendment.

Speaker Packard: The member seems to be speaking. Not having read, I believe the member has not crossed the line yet.

Representative Damon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Here's the problem. Clearly, even the sponsor of this bill seems to misunderstand how the test in his own legislation should be applied. If those writing the legislation do not fully grasp these legal criteria, how can we be sure that local school boards lacking appropriate legal training will apply them in a manner that is consistent with the constitution? That is why this amendment is essential. It ensures that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, provides a clear annual technical advisory to school districts on how to correctly apply these criteria. It also guarantees that those responsible under the legislation for reviewing challenged books have received, read and understood this guidance. We must not allow confusing and misinformation to drive censorship. Let us be clear. Banning books like *Speak* does not protect children. It silences them. It tells them that their trauma is too shameful to discuss. That their experiences should remain hidden. We cannot allow this to happen. I urge my colleagues to press the green button to support this amendment, not just to improve this legislation, but also for the young people who deserve to see their stories told with honesty and compassion. Thank you, Mister Speaker, and I request a division vote.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Cordelli.

Representative Cordelli: Thank you, Mister Speaker. The previous speaker asked what are we protecting children from. Well, wait a minute and I can tell you. This amendment talks about the State Board of Education issuing advisories to the school districts. One problem, the state board doesn't issue advisories. However, after my friends on the other side of the aisle help us pass this bill, the Department of Education I'm sure would be happy to issue an advisory. All you have to do is call Commissioner Edelblut and I'm sure he would be happy to issue an advisory for you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the Gregg floor amendment (1361h). A division has been requested. Members take your seats. The motion before us is the Gregg floor amendment (1361h). This is a division vote. If you are in favor; you'll press the green button. If you are opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations will be open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 151 voting Yea; 185 voting Nay, the amendment fails. The bill is on second reading and open to further amendment. Rep. Nick Germana offers floor amendment (1377h). It's in your seat pockets. The Chair recognizes Rep. Germana.

Representative Nicholas Germana: Thank you very much, Mister Speaker. I hope my colleagues stick around because I intend to ask for a division vote. We all agree that parents have the right to shape the collection and reconsideration policies of their public school libraries. We have disagreements about what the

process should look like to reconsider materials in those libraries. But I think there are definitely two things that we can agree on. Number one, the challenges to materials in our libraries should be done in good faith. Number two we should do everything we can to make this a transparent process that limits the expenses that our school districts will incur and pass on to taxpayers. A study by the *Washington Post* of 1,000 challenges to materials in school libraries showed that just 11 people were responsible for those 1,000 challenges. In Utah, in one school district, one couple was responsible for 199 out of 205 challenges in one district. Processing these challenges took 10,000 of staff time and cost that school district \$100,000. I think we all know that our school districts cannot afford to incur those kinds of costs to be passed along to taxpayers. What this amendment does, Mister Speaker, is add a provision at the end of the bill. If the court determines that the action was brought in bad faith or with the purpose to harass or unduly burden school officials or administration, it may award costs and reasonable attorney fees to the defendant. This amendment is a reasonable measure to provide some level of protection to local taxpayers from a small number of bad faith actors who may abuse the process. The vast majority of people, of parents in school districts, I have no doubt, will challenge material out of genuine concern for what is appropriate and that is their right. But we must make sure that a very small number of people who can incur very large costs that saddle our taxpayers are not allowed to abuse the system. Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Cordelli.

Representative Cordelli: Thank you, Mister Speaker. The prior speaker talked about the cost to school districts. Well, I'm concerned about the cost to our kids. This amendment is intended to intimidate parents from filing complaints about inappropriate materials in their schools, period. We believe in parents. We just voted that in this chamber. This amendment won't work. Vote red.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the Germana floor amendment (1377h). Are you ready for the question? A division has been requested. Members take your seats. The motion before us is the Germana floor amendment (1377h). This is a division vote. If you are in favor; you'll press the green button. If you are opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations will be open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 153 voting Yea; 186 voting Nay, the amendment fails. Now we are back to the original motion of Ought to Pass. The Chair recognizes Rep. Paige.

Representative David Paige: Thank you, Mister Speaker. As I've said on this floor before, when it comes to addressing concerns about school library materials, we have a choice. We can continue talking past one another and try to score political points or we can take a step back and ask whether we actually share common values and goals. I continue to believe that we do. We all want high quality school library collections. We all support transparency in school board decision making and due process for concerned parents. We believe in upholding the first amendment and ensuring students have access to a broad range of perspectives and yet recent data show that more than 2,000 different books across the country were subject to formal challenges or removal efforts last year, an increase of about 60% over the prior year. Parents have every right to question materials available in their children's schools. In most New Hampshire towns, that right is already protected through locally adopted policies that allow for the reconsideration of materials. For those who believe that every school district should be required to have such a policy in place, I actually agree which is why this body passed such a bill last year. This particular bill, however, represents unnecessary state overreach and it will cause significant problems when it comes to implementation. One major concern is that the process outlined in this bill is very prescriptive and, in many cases, unworkable on the ground. The goal of ensuring a timely resolution for parents and guardians is laudable. I share this goal, but the arbitrary deadlines in this bill will be impossible to meet in certain circumstances. We are increasingly seeing parents and guardians submitting large volumes of simultaneous challenges. While school districts should absolutely handle those challenges as efficiently as possible, imposing these deadlines will not change the reality that a proper review of the work "taken as a whole" as required by the legal standard. It takes time and it often involves multiple people reading each book in its entirety to make a determination as to whether the criteria have been met. In many cases, schools simply will not be able to comply with these unrealistic timelines. But more troubling is the bill's approach in determining what is harmful to minors. The bill, rightly, refers to prevailing community standards in making that determination. However, it makes the State Board of Education, a body of political appointees, the final arbiter in an appeals process. This is a fundamental contradiction. If these determinations are truly meant to reflect community values, they should be made at the local level, through locally developed policies and procedures. Not by statewide political appointees. School boards are not only closest to the communities they represent, they are also directly accountable to their constituents at the ballot box. If the policies and procedures they develop to deal with controversial materials do not reflect the values of their community, voters have the power to hold them accountable. Handing this authority over to the State Board of Education undermines the will of local voters and inserts unnecessary state interference into a local matter. We've already seen the real-world impact of legislation just like this in other states. The heightened risk of legal action discourages schools from purchasing books that could be perceived as controversial, even if they contain valuable educational content. We know which books are most frequently challenged. The simple fact of the matter is that three quarters of the titles that have come under scrutiny

under bills just like this are by or about people of color or LGBTQ individuals. Whatever the intention of the bill, its practical effect will be to pressure schools into avoiding books that reflect the full diversity of our experiences in this country. We should not be bringing these same problems that we are seeing in other states to New Hampshire. Public opinion polling consistently shows that Americans across the political spectrum, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, believe that parents should make reading decisions for their own children, but not other people's children. If, like the majority of Granite Staters, you believe that I should be able to tell my own children what they have my permission to read, but that I should not have the right to tell your children what they have my permission to read, then I urge you to vote no on this bill. If you believe that government overreach should not determine what ideas students are not allowed to engage with, then I ask you to stand up for liberty. And if you believe that a free and open society thrives when individuals have the freedom to read and learn, then I hope you will join me in pressing the red button and voting against this motion. Thank you, Mister Speaker, and I do request a division vote.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Cordelli.

Representative Cordelli: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Some of you might recall this same bill from last year and the floor speech. To quote Randy Quaid in the movie *Independence Day*, talking to aliens, I'm back. I'm back because some of you don't want to hear about age inappropriate and harmful materials in our schools. I'm back because the problem persists. I'm back because it is story time again. Let's recap this legislation. This bill is about age-appropriate educational materials, educational materials. Currently, our state obscenity laws exempt education. You heard that correctly. Education is exempt. This bill removes K-12 education from that exemption. Parents, why should your young children be exposed to obscene materials when you send them to school? HB 324 establishes a minimum, a minimum process for which parents can bring what they consider inappropriate materials to their principal and the school board and yes, if necessary, to the state board because we have in statute a duty of the state board to hear complaints from parents. What happens if a district does not adhere to the complaint process or does not adhere to the determination made about the material? A civil right of action is permitted. What materials are we talking about? We are talking about books and also a common app on school computers describing incest, sex between adults, yes, including teachers, minor girls, rape, sexual assault, drug abuse, violence, cutting and suicide. There has been much misinformation and really fear mongering about this bill. Last year we heard testimony from the AFT teacher's union that it would impact public libraries, colleges and even adults wanting to learn about the culture of New Hampshire, untrue. If they think this crap is culture, then we are in serious trouble. Let's be honest, these explicit sexual materials have no place in our schools. I will repeat that this is not banning of books, it is about making sure that our children, your children, have books that are age appropriate. It's story time. So, parents out there, you might want to mute your computers as I read from a couple of books. This one is called *Tricks* and it's in many school libraries. I know specifically in the Dover High School library, and it is page 323. "He's on me yanking my hair, pushing me to my knees. He flips me over. I hear his zipper lower. He yanks down my shorts in a single motion. He is..."

Speaker Packard: Representative will cease. State your point of order.

Representative Damon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. It's not clear that what the representative is presenting is necessary and it is triggering for a number of people here. It doesn't seem to fit the Hall.

Speaker Packard: That really was not a point of order. The member can maybe express themselves without as much graphic. The member may continue.

Representative Cordelli: Thank you.

Speaker Packard: For what reason does the member rise?

Representative Nicholas Germana: To make a point of order.

Speaker Packard: State your point of order.

Representative Nicholas Germana: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I'm not mistaken and correct me if I'm wrong, but a member needs permission from the body to be able to read material from another source. I think the Speaker has made his point in his own words. I'm not sure it is necessary to read others words and as I said I believe that the speaker needs permission in order to read the words of other people on the floor.

Representative Cordelli: Mister Speaker, if I was. Okay.

Speaker Packard: I must disagree with you. On many, many occasions, members talk about things from other books and other pieces of literature, whether they be a study, whether they be something different like that. It happens all the time. So, what this member is doing is reading from a book right now. I asked him to maybe stop the graphics, but he is doing what members have done for as long as I have been in this Chamber. For what reason does the member rise?

Representative Weber: Further inquiry of the Chair.

Speaker Packard: Yes.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Further point of order, then.

Speaker Packard: State your point of order.

Representative Weber: Am I wrong to think that our House Rules specifically say that when a member objects to the reading of a paper that the member must cease and the body votes?

Speaker Packard: I'm going to state that what we've done in the past is allow the member to continue. I am allowing the member to continue as past practice has been and I am only asking that you use caution.

Representative Cordelli: Yes, I will read what only is in the Dover school.

Speaker Packard: The member may continue.

Representative Cordelli: Thank you. "He is in me. In me. Humiliating me in every possible way right here on the kitchen floor. Trying to fight him off only in fuels him and then despite everything that's happening, I laugh out loud. Save me. What did he say? I already have been paid for a good time for you. I've been sold and just who would sell me? The answer is all too obvious. Iris, my mother. As he finishes all sticky, stinking and revolting."

Speaker Packard: You are out of order. The House will remain in order. The member may continue.

Representative Cordelli: Thank you. I have one more. A short piece from another book called *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. "I said I didn't see why not, so they closed the door and starting kissing, kissing very hard and after a few minutes the boys hand went up the girl's shirt and she started protesting. Come on, Dave, what? The kid's in here. It's okay and the boy kept working up the girl's shirt and as much as she said no, he kept working it. Pretty soon he took off her bra and started to kiss her breasts and then he put his hand down her pants, and she started moaning. He started to take off her pants and she really started to cry hard. He pulled off his pants. Please, Dave, no. She grabbed his penis with her hands and started moving it. After a few minutes, the boy pushed the girls head down and she started to kiss him, his penis. She was still crying. Finally, she stopped crying because she put his penis in her mouth. I had to stop watching at this point because I started to feel sick, but he kept going on and he kept doing other things and she kept saying no. I could not stop hearing it." These are just two examples. Are these educational materials of any value to be in our school libraries? Here is a novel idea. How about schools concentrate on academics and knowledge instead of sexualizing our children, period? Mister Speaker, I request a roll call vote.

Speaker Packard: Does the member yield to questions?

Representative Cordelli: Yes.

Speaker Packard: The member yields.

Representative Drye: Thank you, Mister Speaker and thank you for taking my question. Representative, we've heard that schools already block these kinds of sites. Is that true?

Representative Cordelli: Thank you for the question. Yes, we did hear that in committee testimony, but I've had several calls recently from a mother of a thirteen-year-old as recently as Monday. On her daughter's school laptop, they can access materials. This innocent 13-year-old girl with her friends an app. I think it is called AI Kids, and, in this app, there is an AI generated figure who talks to them about sex and demonstrates. This progressed in school and at home on this school laptop to the point where the girl sent pictures of herself nude to a real man. DCYF and the police are now involved. What was the school's attitude? The principal said they would look into it. When she talked to the IT person, he said we can't help it. It would cost more money to stop it. So, this is happening in books and on electronic devices in our schools.

Speaker Packard: Does the member yield to further question?

Representative Cordelli: Yes.

Speaker Packard: The member yields.

Representative Alissandra Murray: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Are you aware that teachers have already requested from the commissioner guidance on how to apply language from the bill that we passed last year that is very similar to this and that the commissioner has denied to give them that guidance?

Representative Cordelli: I am not aware of that.

Speaker Packard: Rep. Cordelli has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. The motion before us is ought to pass on HB 324. This is a roll call vote. The Chair recognizes Rep. Paige for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative David Paige: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I believe that it is the responsibility of each individual parent to determine what is appropriate for their own child. And if I believe it is entirely inappropriate for the State Board of Education, a group of political appointees to dictate to our local communities what our own local community standards are. And most importantly, if I believe in and support the vital work of school librarians to inspire a love of reading and to meet the informational needs of each and every child, would I now vote no on the motion of ought to pass?

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Noble for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Noble: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I know that the American Library Association has suggested to shift the narrative about controversial books to kids need to see themselves in the books they read, which is valid, but that shouldn't include graphic sex acts. And if I know that we have often heard that kids are already looking at porn, but that is not a valid excuse to offer it in public school libraries. And finally, if I know that we have always censored minors from sexually explicit materials and we should all be asking some believe we should no longer do that, then would I now press the green button?

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of ought to pass on HB 324. This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor; you'll press the green button. If you are opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations will be open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 183 voting Yea; 148 voting Nay, the committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 361, prohibiting mandatory mask policies in schools. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristin Noble for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill would prohibit public schools from adopting policies that require students or members of the public to wear a mask while on the school's property. This would not apply to protective equipment worn for sports or for handling chemicals for scientific or educational purposes. When Governor Sununu created the state-wide mask mandate in November of 2020, K-12 students, teachers, and staff were exempt. Local school districts created their own policies for mandating masks. Forcing children to wear masks had a negative impact on their learning, their speech, their mental and emotional well-being, their physical health, and their social development. This bill protects choice, but it also protects school boards from placing themselves in the middle of what parents want for their children. School boards are not qualified to make these types of decisions and should never have had this responsibility placed on them. If there is a public health crisis in the future, then the state will need to create the mandate and not our local school districts. The committee received a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) stating in part, "[f]ace masks remain an effective tool for protecting a person and preventing the spread of many infectious respiratory diseases. DPHS continues to recommend that decisions on face mask use be based on individual choice and informed by a person's own assessment and acceptance of risk from currently circulating infectious diseases rather than from universal requirements. This recommended approach to face masks is also consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated guidance on Masks and Respiratory Viruses Prevention." Vote 9-8.

Rep. Muriel Hall for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill prohibits school districts and chartered public schools from adopting, enforcing, or implementing policies requiring facial coverings with limited exceptions. The minority opposes this bill as it overrides local control which is so essential. Used judiciously, medical science shows that masks are safe, valuable tools for preventing spread of infectious disease. We need individual districts to have the flexibility of recommending them if extreme circumstances occur. We have learned so much from the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The mask recommendations followed by public school districts were based on the best information available at that time. While not perfect, the intent of masking was to best protect our public students from infection, to allow for more students and families to return to in-person instruction and provide the safest environment for everyone in our public schools. This bill is a reaction to those pandemic-era health advisories and restrictions. It will eliminate the ability of local school districts to put in place practices, procedures, and policies to protect students and staff in the event of any future health emergencies, regardless of guidance being provided by state or local health officials. No one can predict what will happen in the future. Best practices in health, disease, and prevention continue to evolve based upon scientific advances. We need to continue to allow our local, elected school boards the freedom to respond to health emergencies according to the individual needs of their community, rather than remove options that could potentially be recommended by other local, state and federal health experts. The minority strongly recommends this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate for the safety of our children and communities.

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

Rep. Damon spoke against.

Rep. Noble spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 203 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 203

BELKNAP

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

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
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
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Seidel, Sheila
Sofikitis, Catherine
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
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 - 164
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

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

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
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.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Steven Smith moved that the memorial remarks made by Rep. Bridle be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

MEMORIAL REMARKS

Representative Bridle: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Good morning, Honorable Representatives. Former New Hampshire State Representative Michael O'Neil, age 84, passed away on March 19, 2025 surrounded by loved ones at the Avow Hospice Center in Naples, Florida. Throughout his life, Mike was not just a resident, but a beloved pillar of every community he graced, leaving an indelible mark on those around him. In 1971, Mike and his beloved wife, Carol, chose Hampton as their home. His journey was one of unwavering com-

mitments to public service, spanning various paths to uplift his community. For nearly two decades, Mike made significant contributions in athletics and administration for the University of New Hampshire. After his esteemed tenure there, he took upon the role of Vice President of Administration for the New Jersey Devils hockey team. Upon retiring to the picturesque shores of Hampton Beach, Mike's passion for community blossomed further. He emerged himself in local politics, demonstrating his leadership as a Commissioner of the Hampton Beach Village District, the Hampton Capital Improvement Commission member, the Hampton Budget Committee, the Hampton Parks and Recreation Council, the Executive Board of the Hampton Historical Society and the Hampton Rotary. His dedication did not go unnoticed. Mike was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives where he proudly served five terms. From 2003 to 2004, he held the esteemed position of Chairman of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee, and he was an influential member of both the Joint Committee for the House and the House Rules Committee. During the 2005 and 2006 Session, under the leadership of Speaker W. Douglas Scamman, Representative Mike O'Neil earned the respect and admiration of his peers as the Majority Leader. I humbly request that we now take a moment of silence to honor the life and legacy of former State Representative, the Honorable Mike O'Neil.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

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. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, establishes a commission to investigate special education processes and costs. Education funding has been a major topic of discussion and legislation this term and special education is viewed as a driver. The commission will investigate the increase in students being identified for special education and compare state law, federal law, and state rules to determine if rules that go beyond law are impacting costs. The Medicaid to Schools program will be investigated as schools are billing for millions of dollars in services but we need to know who is doing the billing, student privacy protections, and where the reimbursements are going. The commission is to publish an interim report for November so any legislation suggestions can be introduced for 2026. The final report will be due July 1, 2026. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as initially introduced, sought to ensure that experienced and knowledgeable education professionals would have a role in shaping the state's minimum standards for public school approval and academic expectations. The bill was widely supported by the public and aimed to improve a revision process that had previously neglected input from key stakeholders. The minority on the committee strongly supports the original version of the bill. However, the majority completely altered the bill, replacing it with a non-germane amendment that creates a commission to study the costs of special education. This commission, primarily composed of state officials and legislators, fails to include crucial stakeholders who understand how special education is implemented in schools, such as special education administrators, related service providers, and behavioral specialists. Furthermore, the commission's purpose is overly broad, duplicates existing audits, and requests data that could violate Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations. The amended bill no longer reflects the objectives of the original legislation. Moving forward, it is essential to ensure that stakeholder input is central to shaping policies that impact both general and special education services.

Majority Amendment (0724h)

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the costs of special education.

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

1 New Section; Commission Established; Special Education Costs. Amend RSA 186-C by inserting after section 1 the following new section:

186-C:1-a Commission to Study Costs of Special Education Established.

I. There is established a commission to explore the costs of special education within public schools to school districts based on annual reporting, and to study specific revenue sources for the state to provide greater funding to reduce the reliance on local property taxes.

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

(a) Five members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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

(c) One special education educator, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators.

(d) The department of education director of special education, or designee.

(e) The advocate for special education, or designee.

(f) One public member, appointed by the chair of the commission.

- (g) Two special education parent advocates, appointed by the governor.
- (h) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.
- (i) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

III. The commission shall study the following aspects and costs of special education:

- (a) Student referral rates by IDEA category for special education programs.
- (b) Why students may be labeled “other health impaired.”
- (c) The increase in referrals since the COVID school closures.
- (d) Whether there are interventions that can be implemented prior to referrals for special education for some IDEA categories.

(e) The cost to provide services which are not “medically necessary” as defined by Medicaid, including services which are required to meet a child’s agreed upon goals as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and services required as part of a 504 Plan.

(f) A comparison of the processes, requirements, and services under federal IDEA law, state law, and the rules of the department of education.

- (g) The local district reporting of special education costs to the department of education.
- (h) The local district costs for out of district placement and if other options were available.
- (i) The analysis and effectiveness of local district developed dispute resolution options.
- (j) The use of state funds to provide services.
- (k) The Medicaid to Schools program, including:
 - (1) Who uses service reimbursement funds.
 - (2) Whether billing is in house or outsourced and its relationship with student data privacy.
 - (3) Categories of reimbursement and rates therefor.
- (l) Use of insurance by local districts to contract for legal services.
- (m) Graduation rates for students with disabilities by type of diploma and age and attendance in adult learning programs.

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

V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction over education, the state board of education, the governor, and the state library. An initial report shall be submitted on or before November 1, 2025. A final report shall be submitted on or before July 1, 2026.

2 Repeal. RSA 186-C:1-a, relative to the commission to study special education is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study the cost of special education in public schools.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 202 members having voted in the affirmative, and 163 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.

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

HB 446, relative to parental notice for non-academic surveys in public schools. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Melissa Litchfield for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. In current statute, all non-academic surveys, except the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) are opt-in. As amended, this bill seeks to remedy an inconsistency in statute, and have all non-academic surveys opt-in. This would include the YRBS. This survey has nothing to do with academics, and it is yet another step closer to having our local schools be social emotional agencies. The survey is not about the students; it is tied to local organizations possibly receiving grant money. There are too many contradictions regarding this survey. It is meant to be anonymous, therefore even though the questions are quite direct, pointed, and leading, there is no way to help any individual student in crisis. On the other hand, the survey is given at a local school, within a classroom, and the first six questions are: age, sex, grade, race, height, and weight. With this level of detail, will students be comfortable being honest? We were given testimony that many of the questions are “triggering for those

who have experienced trauma.” We further received testimony that a young man took his life after taking the survey. These surveys are intrusive and quite lengthy. The middle school survey is 76 questions and the high school survey is 98 questions. Should the child make it through the extensive survey, they walk away with specifics on how to control someone in a relationship, ideas on how to hurt themselves (cutting or burning), they are given an extensive list of vape products, etc. Testimony was shared that often children horse around with their answers and do not give accurate answers. This leads to incorrect data being derived from the survey sample. A sample of questions: Have you ever lived with a parent or guardian who had severe depression, anxiety, or another mental illness or was suicidal? Do you agree or disagree that in your community you feel like you matter to people? During the past twelve months, did you ever seriously consider suicide? Did you make a plan about how you attempt suicide? How many times did you actually attempt suicide? If you attempted suicide...did any attempt result in injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse? Let schools get back to academics and let parents be parents. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Lee Ann Kluger for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, with amendment, seeks to implement an opt-in requirement to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Testimony that was given shared data which spoke to the imperative component of student engagement. It was stated that New Hampshire currently had a 65% participation rate. Additionally, 60% involvement is deemed necessary in order for data to be valuable. The goal of this survey is to analyze youth responses that discuss current societal trends involving mental and physical health. Importantly, the compilation of this information influences programs that are necessary in order to meet the needs of the youth in New Hampshire. Moreover, at-risk youth trends can be identified through the survey results. Currently, New Hampshire state law requires a written process for parents and guardians to opt-out. Survey questions are available to parents and guardians on school district websites and are available at least 10 days prior to the survey date. It is unnecessary to provide an opt-in option that could detrimentally affect student participation. The increased tracking of opt-in responses could result in administrative error or lack of responses. The YRBS is critical in maintaining successful programs and interventions for our students at risk.

Majority Amendment (0042h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Duties of State Board of Education; Administration of Non-Academic Surveys. Amend RSA 186:11, IX-d to read as follows:

IX-d. Require School Districts to Adopt a Policy Governing the Administration of Non-academic Surveys or Questionnaires to Students. The policy shall require school districts to notify a parent or legal guardian of a non-academic survey or questionnaire and its purpose. The policy shall provide that no student shall be required to volunteer for or submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire, as defined in this paragraph, without written consent of a parent or legal guardian unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor. ~~[The policy shall include an exception from the consent requirement for the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The policy shall also allow a parent or legal guardian to opt-out of the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.]~~ The school district shall make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian, **and shall notify parents or legal guardians by sending such survey through email and any other means of delivery the district deems appropriate** at least 10 days prior to distribution to students. In this paragraph, “non-academic survey or questionnaire” means surveys, questionnaires, or other documents designed to elicit information about a student's social behavior, family life, religion, politics, sexual orientation, sexual activity, drug use, or any other information not related to a student's academics.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

The bill requires school districts to email parents copies of non-academic surveys in public schools and removes the exception for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, requiring parents to opt-in for their children to participate in this survey.

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. Kluger spoke against.

Rep. Litchfield spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 204 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.

HB 557, relative to the information that appears on the school budget ballot. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill merely increases transparency while simultaneously informing voters on average cost per pupil defined by the average daily en-

rollment of the preceding year divided by the total expenditure of the district; school district achievement proficiency scores obtained from the Department of Education for the preceding year to be printed as: “ELA Proficiency: X%; Math Proficiency: X%; Science Proficiency: X%.” Voters deserve and should be afforded all information when casting their ballot on school district budgets. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Stephen Woodcock for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, adds to the requirements of a school ballot under RSA 669:23 and 669:24 with two additional pieces of complex information, which when taken out of context, provide little value. The additional information provides information on the average cost per student for the previous year and proficiency scores for the preceding year. These two pieces of information are currently available to anyone via the New Hampshire Department of Education website and on many local school district websites and/or on mailed ballot information sheets. That said, proficiency scores only occur at three grades levels and the data would already be a year old. Voters may not understand the information they are reviewing as it doesn’t specify specific grades and they may not be aware of the actual meaning of the scores. In addition, the time it will take in the ballot box for each voter to read and decipher all of this extraneous information which will have been added to an annual school budget ballot, will make the voting process more difficult, time consuming, and may decrease voter participation in the future. The minority supports the release, explanation, and public discussion of the aforementioned material but does not believe adding it to the ballot will enhance voter understanding.

Majority Amendment (1031h)

Amend RSA 671:20, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Immediately preceding the question of adopting a school budget, the following information shall be printed on the ballot:

(a) The average cost per pupil defined by the average daily enrollment of the preceding year divided by the total expenditure of the district.

(b) School district achievement proficiency scores obtained from the department of education for the preceding year to be printed as: “ELA Proficiency: X%; Math Proficiency: X%; Science Proficiency: X%”.

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 202 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.

HB 699, relative to special education definitions. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, is a partial response to an audit of the Legislative Budget Assistant (LBA) on special education for the need for the definition of special education terms to be placed in statutes. There had been much confusion at the hearing on the original bill due to several terms being deleted from current statutes as there were only partial definitions of what is required under federal law. In the amendment, there were included with exact references to federal law to avoid confusion. The Department of Education Special Education Director worked with many of those at the hearing and her recommendations were included in the amendment. In addition, statutory references to “functionally blind pupils” was changed to “students with visual impairments.” Vote 9-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill aims to clarify certain definitions related to special education in New Hampshire state law. However, the original version of the bill was unclear and sparked significant opposition from many constituents concerned about potential changes to the services and settings for special education students. Two amendments were introduced, but neither involved consultation with key stakeholders. The amended bill still doesn’t fully address the concerns raised. Given that the New Hampshire Department of Education is undergoing an audit by the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant and is planning to update special education rules, the minority believes it would be wise to wait for input from stakeholders before making substantial changes to definitions that influence decisions on student placement, educational setting, and related services.

Majority Amendment (0606h)

Amend RSA 186-C:2, I-d-II-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I-d. “Acquired brain injury” means a brain injury that occurs after birth, including injury sustained by traumatic brain injury (TBI), injuries secondary to trauma, infection, disease, or lack of oxygen resulting in total or partial functional disability, and/or psychosocial impairment, and/or cognitive impairment, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance and requires special education and or related services.

II. "Approved program" means a program of special education [that has been approved by the state board of education and that is maintained by a school district, regional special education center, private organization, or state facility for the benefit of children with disabilities, and may include home instruction provided by the school district] ***within the school districts, chartered public schools, public academies, joint maintenance agreements, state facilities or private providers of special education that is responsible for all aspects of the provision of special education services and related supports.***

II-a. "Approved Educational environment" means a special education setting that has received approval from the bureau. This environment is managed by the school district, chartered public school, public academy or joint maintenance agreement and serves children with disabilities, as specified in their individual education program, when they are removed from their general education setting. This does not limit the different educational environments afforded to students through IDEA and would only apply to resource rooms, self-contained classrooms, and early childhood special education programs. Children with disabilities will be placed in the least restrictive environment where they are able to make the most progress towards their goals as determined by their IEP team with an emphasis on the regular education setting.

Amend RSA 186-C:2, V-VII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. "Specially designed instruction" is defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act 34 C.F.R. section 300.39(b)(3) and means instruction which is:

- (a) Provided by appropriately state certified teachers or related services providers;***
- (b) Delivered in an explicit, systemic manner;***
- (c) Can be provided in any educational environment in accordance with the child's IEP and least restrictive environment;***
- (d) Directly addresses goals in the child's IEP; and***
- (e) Is closely monitored to make sure that the student is making progress toward mastering their goals.***

VI. "Special education information system" is the electronic information system used by all districts to report their special education data and student information for federal and state requirements.

VII. "Related services" shall be as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and 34 C.F.R. section 300.34.

VIII. "Parent" means:

- (a) A natural or adoptive parent of a child who has legal custody of the child;***
- (b) A guardian of a child, but not the state when the state has legal guardianship of the child;***
- (c) A person acting in the place of a custodial parent or guardian of a child, if no other custodial parent or guardian is available, who is designated in writing to make educational decisions on the child's behalf by such parent or guardian;***
- (d) A surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with RSA 186-C:14; or***
- (e) A foster parent of a child who has been appointed in accordance with RSA 186-C:14-a.***

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 3:
2 Braille Instruction for Students with Visual Impairments. Amend RSA 186-C:7-b to read as follows:

186-C:7-b Braille Instruction for ~~[Functionally Blind Pupils]~~ ***Students with Visual Impairments.***

In developing the individualized education program for a ~~[functionally blind pupil]~~ ***student with visual impairments as defined by 34 C.F.R. section 300.8(c)(13),*** there shall be:

I. A presumption that proficiency in Braille reading and writing is essential for the pupil's satisfactory educational progress. Every ~~[functionally blind pupil]~~ ***student with a visual impairment*** shall be entitled to Braille reading and writing instruction unless all members of the pupil's special education team concur that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate for the pupil.

II. Instruction in Braille shall be provided by a teacher certified by the state department of education to teach pupils with visual impairment.

III. An initial learning media assessment by a teacher certified in the education of pupils with visual impairment shall be conducted. This assessment shall be conducted every 3 years and reviewed annually.

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. Balboni spoke against.

Rep. Noble spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 200 members having voted in the affirmative, and 168 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 741-FN, allowing parents to send their children to any school district they choose. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, expands the current “open enrollment” law that allows for a district to vote to be open enrollment and allow students from other school districts to attend. This bill makes all public schools open enrollment thus allowing a student to attend the public school of their choice. It opens the school house doors that currently keep students in their assigned school district. More education freedom will allow students to get the education that meets their needs. The bill follows the current law that has the sending (resident) district providing 80% of their average cost per pupil to the receiving or new school district of the student. The sending district keeps 20% yet does not have the student to educate. Transportation is a parent’s responsibility. As one public school district superintendent wrote the committee: “Public school choice merely introduces an element of competition that encourages our public schools to meet more families’ needs.” Vote 10-8.

Rep. Muriel Hall for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill would allow parents to send their children to any school district they choose. This would have a negative impact on local communities, school districts, and taxpayers. The minority believe open enrollment policies would weaken our public schools by eroding the foundation of community-based education while threatening the financial stability of our school districts and increasing disparities between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” The delivery of special education and transportation services would create additional challenges. This bill would make it extremely difficult for schools to plan budgets, hire staff, and maintain programs, as they rely on enrollment data and local property taxes to develop their budgets. Instead of prioritizing policies that promote open enrollment, we should focus on the principle of local control and the adequate funding of New Hampshire public schools.

Majority Amendment (0336h)

Amend RSA 194-D:2, VII-X as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VII. A pupil who is a dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders, shall be given admission preference over a nonresident pupil. Once admitted and unless expelled, military connected students as defined in RSA 110-E:1 need not reapply for admission for subsequent years.

VIII. A school district may deny a transfer application only for the following reasons:

- (a) The student was expelled by the student’s previous district;***
- (b) The student has a documented history of significant disciplinary issues;***
- (c) The student has a documented history of chronic absenteeism; or***

(d) The receiving district does not have available capacity pursuant to this section, provided that military connected students as defined in RSA 110-E:1 shall be exempt from capacity limits.

IX. No receiving school or district shall accept or reject an applicant based upon grade or age levels, pupil needs, areas of academic focus, aptitude, academic or athletic achievement.

X. Attendance at [an open enrollment] a public school for the purposes of transportation shall not constitute assignment under the provisions of RSA 189:6 and RSA 189:8. Pupils who reside in the school district in which the [open enrollment] school is located shall be provided transportation to that school by the district on the same terms and conditions as provided for in RSA 189:6 and RSA 189:8 and that transportation is provided to pupils attending other public schools within that district. However, any added costs for such transportation services shall be borne by the [open enrollment] school. For the purposes of open enrollment, neither the sending nor the receiving school district shall be obligated to provide transportation services for pupils attending [an open enrollment] a school outside the pupil’s resident district. The parent may provide transportation to a specific bus stop on an existing route of the receiving school or district. The district shall provide the parents with information regarding transportation options.

[X:] XI. Upon approval by each of the district’s legislative bodies and after a public hearing, 2 or more school districts may consolidate otherwise eligible resident pupils into one applicant pool for the purposes of an admissions lottery for designated open enrollment schools.

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. Hall spoke against.

Rep. Cordelli spoke in favor, yielded to questions and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 198 - NAYS 174

YEAS - 198

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Pernel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Thackston, Dick

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

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
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
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
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Michael

NAYS - 174**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, TerriBerch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, LuciusHarvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, LucyFox, Dru
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, GeorgeBaldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, TerryBolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, LaurelCormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Peeples, Raymond
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, WilliamBoyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, WendyBeauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, JonahBergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew**MERRIMACK**Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary JaneCaplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, GaryColby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, JimKelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, ToniBridle, Nicholas
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Read, Ellen
Turer, Ericde Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, MarkGrote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, AliceBixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, JanetBurton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, JohnSmith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne**SULLIVAN**Sullivan, Brian
Grant, GeorgeCloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE

Rep. Lynn moved that **HB 254-FN**, relative to options for end of life care, be removed from the table.

On a division vote, with 169 members having voted in the affirmative, and 205 in the negative, the motion failed.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 749-FN, requiring high schools to include instruction on the nature and history of communism. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill requires high schools to include at least one hour of instruction on the nature and history of communism prior to graduation. Instruction may be provided as a stand-alone activity or embedded in an existing course. The majority believes that contrasting communism to capitalism sheds a critical light on both historical and present-day atrocities that have occurred/are occurring worldwide. Also, the majority believes more positive views of the American Republic will result. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Loren Selig for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee disagrees with the majority of the committee and recommends that this bill be marked Inexpedient to Legislate. First, it is yet another bill that takes away control from local school boards related to their curriculum. Second, the requirements for what needs to be in a World History/Government curriculum have recently been changed in the Ed 306 rules and have not yet had the opportunity to be implemented. Third, the bill raises the questions: what would they teach about communism? Is it in comparison to capitalism, fascism, socialism, or something else? Is it the truth about the philosophical underpinnings? Will they review the difference between communist idealism and how it has played out historically? Fourth, we reiterate that decisions about high school curriculum should be made by local school boards, teachers and administrators.

Majority Amendment (1028h)

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

AN ACT requiring instruction on communism in public high schools.

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

1 New Subparagraph; Education; School Boards, Transportation and Instruction of Pupils; Instruction in National and State History and Government and Civics. Amend RSA 189:11, I-c by inserting after subparagraph (j) the following new subparagraph:

(k) A minimum of one hour of instruction in high school on the nature and history of communism. Such instruction may be provided as a stand alone activity or embedded in an existing course.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect September 1, 2025.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires high school students to receive instruction on communism.

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. Schultz offered floor amendment (1376h).

Floor Amendment (1376h)

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

AN ACT requiring high schools to include instruction on the nature and history of communism and fascism.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Instruction; High Schools; Nature and History of Communism and Fascism. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after section 11-d the following new section:

189:11-e Nature and History of Communism and Fascism. The school board of every public school and governing board of every private or nonpublic school shall certify that before receiving high school graduation diplomas, or other certificates of completion, every high school student has at least one hour of instruction on the nature and history of communism and at least one hour of instruction on the nature and history of fascism. Such instruction may be provided as a stand alone course or embedded in an existing social science course.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires school boards and governing boards of private schools to include at least one hour of instruction on the nature and history of communism and at least one hour of instruction on the nature and history of fascism for high school graduation.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1376h).

Rep. Schultz spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 162 - NAYS 209

YEAS - 162

BELKNAP

CARROLL

St. Clair, Charlie

Buco, Thomas

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

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

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Berezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Alexander, Joe
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
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

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 209**BELKNAP**

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

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

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
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

Berch, Paul
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Bergeron, Dan
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriis, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley
Walker, David

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Schmidt, Peter

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

and floor amendment (1376h) failed.

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

YEAS 200 - NAYS 173**YEAS - 200****BELKNAP**

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

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
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
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

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Franz, Linda
Muirhead, Russell

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Grill, Jessica
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
Schultz, Kris
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

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, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 173**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

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

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Barton, Joseph
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Paquette, Kathleen
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Mehegan, Peter
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

McGuire, Dan
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John

Bridle, Nicholas
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Nelson, Jodi
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Porcelli, Susan
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

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.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 768, allowing public schools to contract with any approved private school. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. After the *Espinoza v. Montana* decision in the U.S. Supreme Court, the word "non-sectarian" was removed from New Hampshire statutes in

2021 to allow school districts to contract with any private school, including religious schools, when offering a town tuition program. The section of law changed in 2021 was RSA 193:3, VI. This bill removes the word “non-sectarian” from the law that is a cross-reference to that changed law: RSA 189:1-a, IV. This bill simply cleans up the language to reflect the 2021 change. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Megan Murray for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee feels that Inexpedient to Legislate is the appropriate motion as any proposed legislation opens the door further in expending public taxpayer money to private and religious schools before fully and adequately funding public education and stands in direct opposition to what constituents desire. It also flies in the face of the New Hampshire Bill of Rights, where Article 6 specifically still notes that, “no person shall ever be compelled to pay towards the support of the schools of any sect or denomination.” Furthermore, New Hampshire already has oversight and accountability issues around other types of funding mechanisms for schooling options managed out of state and it is not entirely clear whether or not this bill would open the door further forcing public schools to pay for out-of-state religious schools or out-of-state private schools through declarations of “manifest hardship,” as best interest of a child is already included in that decision. It would be preferable to offer other public school options to districts when there are not in-district options.

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

On a division vote, with 202 members having voted in the affirmative, and 170 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 141, relative to campaign disclosures for limited liability companies. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Clayton Wood for the Majority of Election Law. This bill could disproportionately affect small businesses, particularly those, as many in New Hampshire are, structured as Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), participating in the politics of supporting or defeating the candidates of their choosing by increasing the administrative burden with the reporting requirements of tracking and disclosing ownership stakes for each contribution. Unlike large corporations with legal teams, small business owners might face compliance difficulties and additional costs to ensure proper attribution. If contributions must be divided among members, the total impact of an LLC's donation may be diluted, reducing the political influence of small business owners. Small LLC owners may avoid political contributions altogether to avoid the complexity of compliance, leading to reduced political engagement. Often chosen for flexibility and tax benefits, LLCs could become less attractive as a business structure for politically engaged entrepreneurs. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. This bill requires that a political contribution by a business entity known as a limited liability company (LLC) be allocated to its members for purposes of determining whether a member has exceeded contribution limits in the New Hampshire statutes. The goal is to treat LLCs as we do corporations with regard to campaign donations. Presently each LLC is treated as its own individual donor for the purpose of direct campaign contributions, regardless of who controls it. So, a donor can give the maximum contribution to a candidate and then set up unlimited numbers of LLCs and give as much as that donor wishes to a candidate – well in excess of the \$15,000 statutory cap. This is known as the “LLC loophole” and is used by candidates of both parties to raise funds well over the statutory limits set for individuals and corporations. Under this bill, if an LLC donates to a candidate, then it must disclose the names and percentage ownership of each member to the candidate, which will then be attributed to the member's contribution limits under New Hampshire law. This bill provides transparency to prevent wealthy individuals and corporations from having undue influence in elections due to a loophole in New Hampshire's campaign finance laws. The bill does not violate Citizens United or its progeny – that case permits limits on spending by corporations and partnership-like entities. This bill does not prevent free speech; it requires individuals and corporations to abide by the contribution limits in New Hampshire law. Its goals are to treat LLCs as we treat corporations and to provide transparency and accountability for campaign contributions.

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

Majority committee report was adopted.

HB 217, relative to absentee ballots. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for the Majority of Election Law. This bill amends three sections of the statutes to clarify the US citizenship requirement for voting in New Hampshire elections and clarifies the required supporting documentation needed when registering to vote using an absentee ballot. The statute sections affected are RSA 654:17, RSA 654:19 and RSA 654:17-a. This bill also aligns the required supporting documentation for proof of the voter's qualifications with the existing RSA 654:12. With the number of undocumented immigrants allowed into the country over the last few years, there is a widespread impetus that our election processes verify US citizenship and the identity of the registrant or voter. United States citizenship and identity should also be verified for absentee ballots. In summary, the bill helps to clarify and align voting requirements when using absentee ballots and the majority recommends Ought to Pass. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Russell Muirhead for the Minority of Election Law. This bill would compel registered New Hampshire voters who need to vote by absentee ballot to prove they are US citizens in order to receive a ballot. This bill would force voters to prove citizenship every single time they apply for an absentee ballot – unlike other registered voters, who are never compelled to prove citizenship when exercising their right to vote. The bill’s sponsors and advocates offered no evidence in the public hearing that the bill would make voting more “secure.” For instance, no evidence was adduced to show that non-citizens are impersonating registered voters or are otherwise using absentee ballots. The minority is not surprised by the absence of any relevant evidence, as noncitizens face up to one year in federal prison for voting in federal elections – and also risk deportation. Given these penalties and the absence of any evidence for illegal voting by non-citizens, the minority believes that the bill will not realize any benefit to the public. But it does make absentee voting more burdensome for New Hampshire citizens. For these reasons, the minority recommends Inexpedient to Legislate.

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

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

HB 274, relative to the verification of voter rolls annually. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Robert Wherry for the Majority of Election Law. This bill proposes changing the RSA 654:39 interval for the verification of voter rolls from every ten (10) years to annually. This verification looks to remove voters who have not voted in a number of elections or have moved but did not inform the state or have died. The ten-year interval has proven to be inadequate as indicated by almost a quarter-million voters being removed across the state during the 2021 verification. A more frequent interval might inadvertently remove a less frequent voter, and therefore the look back period has been extended from four to five years to address this concern. These changes will result in (a) more accurate voter checklists, (b) lower and less stressful workloads for the supervisors of the checklists, and (c) more consistency in the voter verification practices. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. This bill requires an annual purging of voter registration records using a 5-year look-back period, replacing the current 10-year purge using a look-back period of 4 years. Put another way, if you have not voted in the past 5 years, you will be purged from the voting records. While the minority supports purging more than once every 10 years, purging annually will be expensive for each municipality and will result in many voters being wrongly disenfranchised. A less expensive and more reliable alternative would be for New Hampshire to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which is a bipartisan group of state election officials that responsibly share their data for these purposes. ERIC has made its members’ voting rolls more accurate, which helps states steer voters to the right precincts to minimize confusion and ensure access on election day. It has enabled states to catch rare instances of double-voting. And because its membership agreement requires states to reach out to the eligible but unregistered citizens it identifies, it has facilitated millions of new registrations, fostering a more engaged citizenry and a more representative government. ERIC will update our records continuously, not just annually, and will do it with better data than is available under this bill. For these reasons, the minority recommend Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill.

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

Rep. Wherry spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 200 - NAYS 174

YEAS - 200

BELKNAP

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

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

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
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
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
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, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 174
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared

Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

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
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Fedolfi, Jim
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efsthia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

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 311-FN, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions.
MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Ross Berry for the Majority of Election Law. Participating in a labor union is not a voluntary act in New Hampshire. As such, the majority feels strongly that allowing labor unions to make direct political contributions without the use of a segregated fund violates the 1st Amendment by, in effect, being forced speech. Should membership be voluntary, like with corporations, non-profits, and other associations, then the majority is open to reconsidering their current position. The majority has long held that compelled speech is an affront to the constitution, holding it on par with suppressed speech. Unions are free (and encouraged) to make political statements and participate in the political process but as long as their dues, whether that be through an agency fee or otherwise, are compelled by the state then the majority will hold the position that they should separately solicit their political use funds. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. Current law prohibits direct political contributions made by a labor union but does not prohibit direct political contributions made by a corporation. This bill will bring needed equity between these two types of entities, which impact the political influence between and among them. The bill accomplishes this goal by prohibiting both corporations and unions from making political contributions directly. Rather, both corporations and unions must donate through separate segregated funds accumulated from voluntary contributions from individuals. Before 1999, no difference existed in how corporation and union

donations were treated. In that year, US District Court Judge McAuliffe found the broad rejection on corporate political contributions was overly restrictive and unconstitutional in *Kennedy v. Gardner*. Judge McAuliffe suggested that the legislature narrow the prohibition for both corporations and labor unions to permit the solution offered in this bill. The legislature rejected that recommendation, allowing corporations unfettered rights to contribute directly but limiting those of unions to those of segregated funds specifically designated for political donations. This bill levels the playing ground for political donations by corporations and labor unions.

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

HB 356, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for the Majority of Election Law. This bill enables the establishment of a partisan ballot system for school district elections as a means of increasing voter engagement. This enabling legislation does not mandate partisan elections. Instead, the bill allows school districts to adopt a partisan ballot system if the voters choose to do so. If the voters choose this approach, the partisan ballot system will provide additional information on the school district elections to the voters, which should increase voter awareness and voter turnout. The bill also provides appropriate methods for adopting and rescinding the partisan ballot system. The amendment amends the 91-A provisions to allow for caucus meetings between the school district elected members of the same political party. Vote 10-7.

Rep. James Newsom for the Minority of Election Law. Many bills have been said to be a solution in search of a problem and this is another one. It seeks to enable school district elections to become partisan elections. The committee heard zero testimony in support of it. We heard no constituents asking for this change. Towns and cities already have this partisan option for local elections, and we heard testimony that only 1 city has gone this way. Arguments in favor include that this bill acknowledges the reality that these elections are already partisan, or that it will be easier for a voter to decide who to vote for based on party affiliation rather than the person behind the name. These arguments ignore the importance of community unity and the need for less vitriol at local levels. As for the potential argument that voter turnout will increase, that is pure speculation with no actual proof other than absolute conjecture. With no known constituent interest in this bill, and a whopping 2% support in online testimony, the minority suggests the representatives give the people of New Hampshire what they are not asking for and achieve this with a vote of Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill.

Majority Amendment (0619h)

Amend the bill by inserting after section 6 the following and renumbering the original section 7 to read as 8:

7 Public Officers and Employees; Access to Governmental Records and Meetings; Meetings Open to Public.
Amend RSA 91-A:2, I(c) to read as follows:

(c) A caucus consisting of elected members of a public body of the same political party who were elected on a partisan basis at a state general election or elected on a partisan basis by a town, *school district*, or city which has adopted a partisan ballot system pursuant to ~~[RSA 669:12 or RSA 44:2]~~ ***RSAs 44:2, 671:30-b, or 669:12***; or

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 200 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 363, establishing redistricting criteria. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for the Majority of Election Law. This bill ignores the fundamental reality that redistricting is an inherently political process. While we support fairness and compliance with federal and state law, this bill would force those drawing maps to disregard the largest and most natural communities of interest—political ones. By attempting to strip politics from a process that is, by nature, political, this bill would only empower unelected judges to impose their own interpretations of fairness, overriding the decisions of elected representatives who are directly accountable to voters. The legislature, as the body closest to the people, should maintain control over redistricting to ensure the process remains transparent and responsive to those it serves. Vote 10-8.
Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. This bill implements criteria that must be followed when redistricting occurs. It will make our redistricting process fairer and more transparent. Right now, our legislature has almost no criteria that it needs to follow when redistricting. It must follow the US Constitution, the New Hampshire Constitution, federal laws and state laws. This bill adds additional criteria that have become considered traditional districting principles and emerging criteria that have been used increasingly. About 23 states have adopted the criteria that are proposed in this bill, including AL, AK, AZ, AR, GA, ID, MO, NE, NV, OK and SD. Granite Staters overwhelmingly support creating fair maps in a transparent process.

Seventy-four towns in New Hampshire passed resolutions asking for fair maps in 2021, but they were ignored. The process in 2021 was not transparent and the majority of the Redistricting Committee did not address the many pleas that we heard in all 10 public hearings for fair and transparent maps. We each represent constituents of both parties and have taken an oath to represent all of them to the best of our ability – not just those of our party. We must put our constituents above party. We may never be able to remove politics totally from redistricting, but we certainly owe it to our constituents and our constitutional democracy to remove them as much as possible. The amendment removes one criteria and adds school districts as a possible indicia of community interest, which were suggested at the public hearing. For these reasons, the minority supports a motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Rep. Berry spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 203 - NAYS 167

YEAS - 203

BELKNAP

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

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

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

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
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peebles, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess

Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Nelson, Jodi
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Dolan, Tom
 MacDonald, Wayne

Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Summers, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Weyler, Kenneth

Guthrie, Joseph
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Wilson, Vicki

Guzofski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Sytek, John
 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 - 167 BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
 Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
 Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

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

Harvey, Cathryn
 Gruber, James
 Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Juris, Louis
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Teterski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Haskins, Linda

de Vries, Erica
 Murray, Kate

Edgar, Michael
 Knab, Allison

Grote, Jaci
 Cahill, Michael

Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 367, changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for the Majority of Election Law. Due to an oversight from the chairman, this bill is being reported out incorrectly. There was a missed formal reconsideration vote that occurred without objection. There were two subsequent improper votes taken that were both unanimous. As such, this report reflects the actual unanimous disposition of the committee. The committee unanimously adopted an amendment which will be brought as floor amendment and then unanimously recommended Ought to Pass with Amendment on a vote of 17-0. Current regulations allow for towns to utilize one of three (3) different types of ballot systems for town elections. Either an unofficial ballot system, or a non-partisan ballot system or a partisan ballot system may be used. An unofficial ballot system uses slips of paper on which voters write their selection. A partisan ballot identifies the candidates by party, and a non-partisan ballot does not identify the candidate's party affiliation. The choice of which system to use is adopted by a town warrant article. This bill clarified the process for adopting a partisan ballot system and removed outdated language regarding town size. The bipartisan amendment makes clarifications to the bill's original language and establishes a process for adopting an unofficial ballot system (which had not been previously codified). Vote 10-7.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. While well-intentioned, this bill, as originally drafted, created unintended confusion in RSA 669:11-13. The minority believed that an amendment would eliminate these unintended consequences and confusion, so voted Inexpedient to Legislate in the executive session held on March 11. Following that executive session, the minority and majority worked together to craft an amendment that addressed the minority's concerns. That amendment was adopted at an executive session on March 18 following a reconsideration motion, but there was a procedural error in its adoption. Consequently, the authors of the amendment will present a floor amendment that the minority endorses and recommends that the bill be passed as Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Rep. Berry offered floor amendment (1354h).

Floor Amendment (1354h)

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

1 Unofficial Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:11 to read as follows:

669:11 Unofficial Ballot System. If a town has not voted at a previous town meeting to adopt an official ballot system as provided in RSA 669:12 or 669:13 [~~or if a town has voted to rescind such adoption~~], such town shall elect its officers by means of the unofficial ballot system as provided in RSA 669:54-669:60. A majority vote shall be required to elect using unofficial ballots.

2 New Section; Adoption of an Unofficial Ballot System. Amend RSA 669 by inserting after section 11 the following new section:

669:11-a Adoption of an Unofficial Ballot System. If a town, having either a partisan ballot system or a non-partisan ballot system, wishes to adopt an unofficial ballot system, then using the existing official ballot system, adoption of the unofficial ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting on of the unofficial ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall an unofficial ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the unofficial ballot system shall be deemed to an article relating to the adoption have been adopted by said town. The unofficial ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is adopted.

3 Partisan Official Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:12 to read as follows:

669:12 Partisan Official Ballot System. Any town may vote to adopt the partisan official ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting[, and may rescind such action in like manner] **using the procedure in RSA 669:13. In any town in which either the unofficial or the non-partisan ballot system is in effect, adoption of the partisan ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting an article relating to the adoption of the partisan ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall the partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the partisan ballot system shall be deemed to have been adopted by said town.** The partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the partisan ballot system.

4 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:13 to read as follows:

669:13 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. A town may vote to adopt the non-partisan official ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting[, and may rescind such action in like manner] **using the procedure in this section.** In any town in which **either the unofficial or the partisan ballot system is in effect,** [and which has a population, according to most recent federal census, of 4,500 or more,] adoption of the non-partisan ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting an article relating to the adoption of the non-partisan ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall the non-partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the non-partisan ballot system shall be deemed to have been adopted by said town. In all towns, the non-partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the non-partisan ballot system.

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

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1354h).

Rep. Berry spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (1354h) 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 385-FN, reestablishing voter identification exceptions. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Robert Wherry for the Majority of Election Law. This bill seeks to reverse a bill that was signed into law in 2024, HB 1569. The new law put in place reasonable requirements for identity and proof of US citizenship during registration and voting. It is common sense to have the identity of the voter proven and the voter qualifications established in a meaningful and verifiable way. New Hampshire has an obligation to know who is voting to ensure that elections are safe and secure, and this obligation is not overly burdensome to the voter. With the number of undocumented immigrants allowed into the country over the last few years, there is a widespread impetus that our election processes verify US citizenship and the identity of the registrant or voter. This bill is not necessary since the current law is reasonable and not unduly burdensome. Accordingly, this bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Connie Lane for the Minority of Election Law. This bill repeals the now infamous HB 1569 (2024), which was adopted last year and is being challenged as unconstitutional in the New Hampshire Federal District Court, costing New Hampshire taxpayers anticipated multi-million dollars in attorney fees. HB 1569 (2024) upended the voting process in New Hampshire, enacting one of the most restrictive voting laws in the US. No state has successfully done what HB 1569 (2024) does by requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote without an affidavit option. Federal courts have weighed in on this issue previously, determining that a similar Kansas law, which imposed a proof of citizenship requirement for state and federal elections, violated both the US Constitution and National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The court found that the state's interests did not outweigh the disenfranchisement of 31,000 citizens of the state. The same will be found true here at the end of the current lawsuit. Despite the proven accuracy, reliability, and security of New Hampshire's elections, HB 1569 (2024) introduced fundamental changes to the state's election law that make it materially harder, if not impossible, for thousands of New Hampshire citizens to exercise their right to vote — changes that violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the US Constitution. The documentary proof of citizenship required under HB 1569 (2024) is a birth certificate that shows your current name, a passport, or naturalization papers.

Not all qualified individuals possess these types of documents or keep them readily available, and obtaining them can be expensive and time-consuming. It can cost up to \$100 to obtain a birth certificate, up to \$600 to obtain citizenship papers and \$150 to get a passport. All three can take months to obtain. The average New Hampshire citizen does not have enough savings to cover \$400 of unexpected fees. HB 1569 (2024) was enacted despite broad skepticism about its utility and constitutionality. When introducing the bill to the Senate on April 23, 2024, the prime sponsor admitted that he was not addressing a present problem with voter fraud in New Hampshire. Later that month, Senator Gray expressed doubts about the constitutionality of HB 1569 (2024), stating that he told the bill's sponsor that "I don't think that we can withstand the court challenge the way the bill was written." Secretary of State Scanlan estimated that removing the qualified voter affidavit for citizenship would affect "tens of thousands" of voters who could not otherwise be quickly verified as being previously registered through the centralized voter database. The minority urges the repeal of HB 1569 (2024) before our state spends millions of dollars on attorneys fees to defend its constitutionality, which its own sponsors are on record doubting. Moreover, HB 1569 (2024) is not designed to reduce fraud - it is designed to disenfranchise voters without any evidence of fraud related to fake citizenship documentation. For these reasons, the minority recommends that the motion for this bill be Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Majority committee report was adopted.

HB 357, relative to the department of health and human services' rulemaking authority regarding immunization requirements. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Matt Drew for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The mandating of a new vaccine is a direct exercise in government coercion. As such, it should be under the control of the legislature, not left to the rule-making process. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Gary Woods for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The minority of the committee believes a recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate for this bill is needed as it is not consistent with the basic charge of the legislature to support the general welfare of the citizens of New Hampshire. In general, childhood vaccinations are considered one of the ten great public health achievements in the US. This bill would keep some of the current vaccine requirements but allows the vaccine requirement for some of the most virulent diseases (varicella (chicken pox), Hepatitis B, Hemophilus influenza B (Hib)) to expire in June of 2026. This bill would also remove modification of the list of required vaccines from the rulemaking process and transfer this to the legislature, making the response to any emergency lengthy, cumbersome and not timely. If adopted, New Hampshire would be the only state in the nation not requiring varicella or Hib and only one of three not requiring Hepatitis B vaccine. For these reasons, the minority does not support this bill.

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

Rep. Woods spoke against.

Rep. Drew spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 195 - NAYS 174

YEAS - 195

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

Comtois, Barbara
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

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
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
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
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 174**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

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
Sykes, George

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Murphy, Nancy
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Foss, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Petrigno, Peter
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 Murphy, Mary
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 McGhee, Kat
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Pearson, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
 Grote, Jaci
 Knab, Allison
 Maggiore, Jim
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Cahill, Michael
 Malloy, Dennis
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Ward, Gerald

Donnelly, Tanya
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Sytek, John
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Miller, Seth
 Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Schmidt, Peter
 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 358, relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Linda McGrath for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The original bill that provided that a parent or legal guardian may claim an exemption from childhood immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief by providing a signed statement did not intend for a specific government form to be created. This bill simply removes the statutory reference to a form used for such purpose. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Gary Woods for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Members of the minority believe a recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate for this bill is appropriate. If the exemption is requested, it should be on the existing standard form which is typically on a single 8x11 sheet (not just a scrap of paper) and contain appropriate information. The information needed is minimal and no more complex than the requirement for a student on a day trip. In this case, the information as to which vaccine and the appropriate dates are needed for data collection. This data in turn is crucial should an outbreak arise so all student families, including those choosing not to vaccinate, can be accurately notified so as to undertake appropriate medical decisions. This minimal but accurate data is common sense and a real informational service to families of both the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

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

Rep. Woods spoke against.

Rep. McGrath spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 206 - NAYS 169**YEAS - 206****BELKNAP**

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

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

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
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
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
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
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 169
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

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

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
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 377-FN, relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers.
MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Lisa Mazur for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of this committee finds that the current evidence does not support the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors due to the substantial risks and lack of proven long-term benefits. In recent years, seven countries across Europe and many states across the USA have taken significant steps to restrict or halt the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors. Their decisions were driven by comprehensive reviews of the available evidence, which revealed profound concerns about the long-term impact of these medical interventions on young people. As amended, this bill requires minors to wait until 18, just like they have to do when getting tattoos, going to tanning salons and buying scratch tickets. It does allow for a “weaning off” period as well. Evidence from desistance studies suggests that a significant percentage of children with gender dysphoria resolve their distress without medical intervention when allowed to go through natural puberty. Minors deserve protection from experimental medical interventions that could cause lasting harm. The bill prioritizes their long-term well-being over short-term solutions that may seem compassionate but carry significant risks. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. There are four main problems with this bill: 1) It is discriminatory by singling out care for trans kids, unfairly targeting a very small minority (less than 1%) of minors from getting the care that they, their parents, and medical providers believe they need. It does not ban the use of hormone therapies which are used for many other purposes and are safe and effective, it only bans their use for gender dysphoria. Puberty blockers delay puberty to allow kids more time to figure things out with their therapists and their effects are reversible. 2) It denies parental rights, because the bill denies parents of trans kids the ability to make informed decisions with their medical doctors and counselors about what is best for their children. 3) It criminalizes the free speech of medical providers to provide any gender dysphoria therapy whatsoever. 4) In addition to the restraint on free speech, it is unwarranted government intrusion into patient provider relationships. We had many young and older trans adults, and trans teenagers and their families from New Hampshire who testified that being allowed to transition changed their lives for the better, improving mental and physical health. We also had medical providers and educators from New Hampshire who came to testify in strong opposition to the bill. We had few that testified in support of the bill and most of them were from out-of-state. One notable proponent described going through “a trans phase” and his father put a stop to it. This only reinforces that parents do know their children and the process works. It does not mean that all trans children are “just going through a phase.” This bill makes an exemption for minors born with “a medically verifiable disorder of sex development” which includes physical manifestations such as ambiguous genitalia. For such conditions parents are often advised by medical providers to correct with hormonal treatments or surgery. Often the only reason for this medical treatment is to affirm a sexual identity, one way or another. But who are we to say that gender dysphoria, observed by parents “since my child could talk” (as we heard several parents testify) is not also real and should not be allowed to be treated? This bill essentially tells trans kids that they are not real and do not exist. It punishes a very small vulnerable minority of children rather than admit that we just don’t understand. The cruelty of not allowing puberty blockers until children are 18 years of age is that trans children will not be able to escape developing secondary sexual characteristics they are hoping to avoid and will live with those for the rest of their lives. The minority is concerned about the despair the minors denied treatment by this bill will experience. Denying one distinct class of minors their right to appropriate medical treatment and one distinct class of parents their right to make medical decisions in the best interests of their minor children is not only discriminatory but also exceptionally cruel.

Majority Amendment (1083h)

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

2 New Chapter; Prohibiting Medical Procedures and Treatments Intended to Alter a Minor’s Gender or Puberty. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 332-M the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 332-N

**PROHIBITING MEDICAL PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS INTENDED TO
ALTER A MINOR’S GENDER OR PUBERTY**

332-N:1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- I. “Biological sex” shall mean the male and female biological sexes.
- II. “Minor” means a person under 18 years of age.
- III. “Person” includes any of the following:
 - (a) Any individual.

(b) Any agent, employee, official, or contractor of any legal entity.

(c) Any agent, employee, official, or contractor of a school district or the state or any of its political subdivisions or agencies.

332-N:2 Prohibitions for Health Care Providers.

I. Except as provided in paragraphs II and III, a person shall not knowingly perform or offer to perform on a minor, or administer or offer to administer to a minor, a medical procedure, including but not limited to a puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormone medication, if the performance or administration of the procedure or medication is for the purpose of altering or attempting to alter the appearance of or affirm the minor's perception of his or her gender or sex, if that perception is inconsistent with the minor's biological sex as defined in this chapter:

(a) Enabling a minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor's biological sex; or

(b) Treating purported discomfort or distress from a discordance between the minor's biological sex and asserted identity.

II. Paragraph I shall not apply to a procedure undertaken to treat a minor born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development as defined in RSA 332-M:2, II.

III. Paragraph I shall not apply to a health care provider who, having prescribed a course of treatment to a minor prior to the effective date of this section that includes the delivery or administration of puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormone medications, determines and documents in the minor's medical record that immediate termination of the minor's use of the puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormone medications or drugs would cause harm to the minor, and institutes a systematic reduction or tapering of puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormone medications or drugs that shall conclude prior to January 1, 2026.

IV. A violation of this section is a class B felony.

3 Prospective Repeal. RSA 332-N:2, III, relative to systematic reduction and tapering of puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormone medications, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the performance of a medical procedure or the prescription or issuance of medication, upon or to a minor child, that is intended to alter the minor child's gender or delay puberty. This bill also provides for a limited period in which a health care provider may systematically reduce or taper puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormone medications or drugs to avoid harm to a minor already receiving treatment.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 350 members having voted in the affirmative, and 4 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. Weber offered floor amendment (1316h).

Floor Amendment (1316h)

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

2 New Chapter; Prohibiting Medical Procedures and Treatments Intended to Alter a Minor's Gender or Puberty. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 332-M the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 332-N

**PROHIBITING MEDICAL PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS INTENDED TO
ALTER A MINOR'S GENDER OR PUBERTY**

332-N:1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

I. "Minor" means a person under 18 years of age.

II. "Person" includes any of the following:

(a) Any individual.

(b) Any agent, employee, official, or contractor of any legal entity.

(c) Any agent, employee, official, or contractor of a school district or the state or any of its political subdivisions or agencies.

III. "Sex" means the biological state of being male or female, based on the individual's sex organs, chromosomes, and endogenous hormone profiles.

332-N:2 Prohibitions for Health Care Providers.

I. Except as provided in paragraph II, no person shall engage in, counsel, make a referral for, or cause any of the following practices to be performed upon a minor if the practice is performed for the purpose of altering or attempting to alter the appearance of or affirm the minor's perception of his or her gender or sex, if that perception is inconsistent with the minor's biological sex as defined in this chapter:

(a) Prescribing, dispensing, administering, or otherwise supplying puberty blocking medication to stop or delay normal puberty.

(b) Prescribing, dispensing, administering, or otherwise supplying supraphysiologic doses of testosterone or other androgens to females.

(c) Prescribing, dispensing, administering, or otherwise supplying supraphysiologic doses of estrogen to males.

II. Paragraph I of this section shall not apply to a procedure undertaken to treat a minor born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development as defined in RSA 332-M:2, II.

III. A violation of this section is a class B felony.

332-N:3 Circumstances for Continued Treatment. Patients younger than 18 years of age may continue to be treated with a prescription consistent with those referenced under RSA 332-N:2 if such treatment was commenced before, and is still active on, the effective date of this act.

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

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1316h).

Rep. Lucas spoke in favor.

Rep. Layon spoke against.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 168 - NAYS 203

YEAS - 168 BELKNAP

Nagel, David 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	Stavis, Laurel	Stringham, Jerry
Sykes, George			

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra	Ammon, Keith	Beauchemin, Paige	Bergeron, Dan
Booras, Efstathia	Bouchard, Donald	Budathoki, Suraj	Chourasia, Manoj
Chretien, Suzanne	Cornell, Patricia	Darby, Will	Dargie, Paul
DiSilvestro, Linda	Elberger, Susan	Davis, Fred	Foss, Lily
Georges, Mary	Grill, Jessica	Grund, Stephanie	Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Hartnett, Tim	Hegner, Karen	Herbert, Christopher	Jack, Martin
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
Murphy, Nancy	Petrigno, Peter	Plamondon, Marc	Preece, David
Newman, Ray	Raymond, Heather	Rombeau, Catherine	Rung, Rosemarie
Ryan, Linda	Newman, Sue	Salvi, Santosh	Seibert, Christine
Sofikitis, Catherine	Spier, Carry	Staub, Kathy	Swanson, Dale
Telerski, Laura	Tellez, Trinidad	Vail, Suzanne	Veilleux, Daniel
Dolan, William	Thomas, Wendy	Wilhelm, Matthew	

MERRIMACK

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy	Bridle, Nicholas	de Vries, Erica	Edgar, Michael
Grote, Jaci	Haskins, Linda	Murray, Kate	Knab, Allison

Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 203

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

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
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa

Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Levesque, Cassandra
Walker, David

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and floor amendment (1316h) failed.

Rep. Ammon voted Yea and intended to vote Nay.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

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

MOTION TO LIMIT DEBATE

Rep. Cole moved the previous question.

The question being adoption of the motion to limit debate.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 177 - NAYS 194

YEAS - 177

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Comtois, Barbara
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Smith, Jonathan

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

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Ladd, Rick

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Love, David
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 194**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

Ploszaj, Tom

St. Clair, Charlie

Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
McAleer, Chris

Cordelli, Glenn
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

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
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

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

Barton, Joseph
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Berezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Alexander, Joe
Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Paquette, Kathleen
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Dupont, Pierre
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Giasson, Henry
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tim
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Seaworth, Brian
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Muns, Chris
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Ball, Lorie
Grote, Jaci
Kuttab, Katelyn
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Tudor, Paul

Bridle, Nicholas
Haskins, Linda
Litchfield, Melissa
Malloy, Dennis
McGrath, Linda
Porcelli, Susan
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Meuse, David
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

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

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

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

Farrington, Samuel
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion failed.

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

Reps. LaMontagne, Wade, Alissandra Murray, Roesener, Selig, Beauchemin, Foss, Raymond and Lloyd spoke against.

Rep. Mazur spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 197 - NAYS 167**YEAS - 197****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
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
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted

Boyd, Bill
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda

Barbour, Liz
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine

Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

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, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 167 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
Sykes, George

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxx, Loren

LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Bridle, Nicholas
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vandecasteele, Susan

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
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.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Weber moved that the debate on **HB 377-FN**, relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 377-FN

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the adoption of the amendment. Are you ready for the question? A division has been requested. Members take your seats. The question is on the adoption of amendment (1083h). Rep. Weber is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know this amendment makes an exceedingly harmful bill a teensy tiny bit less harmful because instead of terminating medical care that has been continued in some cases for years with the passage of a law that says you can no longer receive your treatment, the amendment allows up to the end of this year for physicians to taper off the treatment that they prescribed and parents agreed to for minors, would I now press green for the amendment?

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the adoption of amendment (1083h). This is a division vote. If you are in favor; press the green button. If you are opposed, press the red. Voting stations will be open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? That was worth it. The House will attend to the state of the vote. 350 in favor, 4 against, the amendment is adopted. The bill is on second reading and open to further amendment. Rep. Weber moves floor amendment (1316h) found in your seat pockets. Rep. Lucas is recognized to speak to the amendment. Before everybody gets on their way out there to find snacks and coffee, this is one on one, and I'd be shocked if there wasn't a division or roll call. Seriously, we did a division on the last one, there probably going to all be something. So, let's not go too far. Lunch gets further and further away while we wait. Sorry, Rep. Lucas, go ahead.

Representative Lucas: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment (1316h) so that patients younger than 18 years of age may continue to be treated through their minority, that is their 18th birthday. Consistent with those referenced under RSA 332-N:2, if such treatment was commenced before, and is still active on the effective date. Abruptly withdrawing treatment for gender dysphoria, particularly puberty blockers and hormone therapy, can lead to a range of physical and psychological consequences, including the return of dysphoria symptoms and potential health complications and increased mental health

challenges. Stopping hormone therapy can lead to reversal of physical changes accomplished during treatment, cause withdrawal symptoms and cause a resurgence of distress and discomfort associated with gender dysphoria, thereby exacerbating existing mental health issues and potentially lead to new ones. Withdrawal can lead to difficulties in family, peer and friend relationships resulting in social rejection, consequent negative sense of wellbeing and poor self esteem increases the risk in self harm and suicide. This bill, HB 377 for which an amendment (1316h) is addressed, sends the message that not only does New Hampshire refuse to acknowledge the importance of treatment for the diagnosis of childhood gender dysphoria, it would deprive patients who have spent years on a journey of self knowledge and definition, social adaptation, individual and family therapy. From accessing medical therapy when it is time biologically and psychologically not according to the calendar. HB 377 would deny parents and their children the right to proceed with medical therapy if that is what they decide is best in consultation with their caregivers. HB 377 would prioritize New Hampshire government intervention over the patient/physician relationship. There is a small element of humanity that can be added to an otherwise cruel and restrictive bill. Vote for floor amendment (1316h) by pressing the green button to give families of transgender children an opportunity to continue care so that they remain fully treated in the Granite State. Vote for amendment (1316h) so that these loving and devoted families can take an iota of hope from today's proceedings. Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Layon is recognized to speak against the amendment.

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise in opposition to this amendment. While at first blush it may seem compassionate, it is not. Puberty blockers or chemical castration as it is referred to when used in adults and hormonal therapy have increased risks the longer you take them. These risks include weak bones, heart problems, blood clots, reproductive issues, neurological issues, cancer and more. I'll focus on bones. Brittle bones are life threatening. One out of every three adults over the age of 50 who break their hip will be dead within 12 months. I always thought that was the elderly, but that's over 50. Puberty is the time when we build our bones, and these medications interrupt that process. Studies show that 1/3 of kids on these drugs will suffer devastating bone density loss that puts them at the bottom 2% of bone density for their age group. As somebody who almost died after breaking my femur at age 29, I'm a little sensitive to that risk. But there is good news. Children who are treated with these drugs for precocious puberty, suffer serious bone loss during treatment. The same kind of bone loss. But stopping these drugs during the natural puberty window allows most kids to build normal bone strength lowering their lifetime risk of breaking a bone and dying from that. This amendment would undermine informed consent by creating a rush to start these risky drugs. These drugs are not perfectly safe. Anybody who says that is misleading parents, misleading kids and misleading all of us. The amendment adopted by the committee provides for a common sense weaning off period through the new year. This amendment is not needed so please vote red and I ask for a roll call vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the adoption of amendment (1316h). Rep. Layon has requested a roll call vote. Is that sufficiently seconded? Yeah, this will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is on the adoption of amendment (1316h). Rep. Weber is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that the overwhelming testimony of parents of trans minors and adults who are now trans who were once minors who were trans is that these treatments are life affirming and life saving. And if I have heard loud and clear from members of this body that we ought to trust parents to adequately research and determine the treatment and medical decisions for their children. And if I know that to deny one distinct class of children a treatment that they need is discriminatory and cruel, would I now press the red button? Green. Green button. My apologies.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Mazur is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Mazur: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I know the definition of biological sex was altered in this amendment. And if I know these puberty blocker drugs, and cross sex hormones are not safe and not approved by the FDA for blocking healthy puberty. And if I know this amendment keeps vulnerable children on these harmful gender transition medications. And finally, if I know the amendment we just passed previously allows for a weaning off period with a deadline, would I please press the red button so that we can proceed with the original bill as amended? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the adoption of floor amendment (1316h). This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor; press the green button. If you are opposed; press the red. 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. 168 in the affirmative; 203 in the negative, the amendment fails.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us now is ought to pass as amended. For what reason does the member rise?

Representative Cole: To make a motion.

Speaker Packard: State your motion.

Representative Cole: Mister Speaker, I move the previous question.

Speaker Packard: The motion is to move the previous question. Rep. Weber has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote.

Representative Weber: Mister Speaker, I understand that the previous question has been moved. Would you explain to the body exactly what that means in terms of our procedures going forward, so we all understand it?

Speaker Packard: If the motion is adopted, we proceed immediately to the final question.

Representative Weber: So, the effect is that the voices of those who have signed up to speak will be effectively stifled?

Speaker Packard: Yes.

Representative Weber: So, would I be correct in understanding that if one wanted to allow members their right to speak, they ought to be voting against this motion?

Speaker Packard: The motion is to move the previous question. This is a roll call vote. The Chair recognizes Rep. Berry for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Berry: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that we just heard two awesome debates about this subject and I know there's 12 more coming, but I also know, Mister Speaker, that I would like to pass this legislation, but not have to sit through 12 debates. And, Mister Speaker, if I know the member just raising the question about previous question, used previous question last term, would I now vote green so we can act on the question?

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Wade for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Wade: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that this bill will cause significant harm to New Hampshire families and would remove a parent's right to have the final say in healthcare decisions for their child and that this care is recognized by every major medical association as the best care for trans children. And I know that my life was saved by the very care that this bill will seek to take away. And if I know that we should not vote to close debate and stifle speech on a bill with such deep impacts on New Hampshire families without hearing arguments from both sides, would I now press the red button?

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is to move the previous question. This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor; you'll press the green button. If you are opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Has everybody present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 177 voting Yea; 194 voting Nay, the motion fails. Now before us is the motion of ought to pass as amended. The Chair recognizes Rep. LaMontagne.

Representative LaMontagne: I rise in opposition to HB 377 because it discriminates by banning medical care for just trans kids and unfairly targets a very small number of minors from getting the care that they, their parents and their medical providers believe they need. Despite what some proponents of this bill are telling you, these drugs are used safely and effectively for other reasons and their effects are reversible. Under this legislation, these hormones would be allowed to treat a boy who is developing breasts, that is for a boy to gender affirm his boyhood, but not for a trans boy who wants to delay breast development. He is denied this very same treatment. Because this bill is clearly discriminatory, the passage of this bill will certainly result in many lawsuits that the state will need to defend, a fact that was completely ignored in the fiscal note. This bill specifically denies parents of trans kids the ability to make informed decisions with their medical doctors and counselors about what is best for their children. This body just passed the parental bill of rights. That includes the right to make healthcare decisions. So, I call on all of you that voted for the parental bill of rights, do you believe that parents know best or do you not? We had many trans teenagers and their families, young and old, trans adults that come and testified that being allowed to transition changed their lives for the better. As far as parents, one man really stood out to me. He said, I didn't even know what trans was, but I know my kid and I believe her. We had one notable young man who came to support the bill from out of state, by the way. He described how he went through a trans phase and his father put a stop to it, in his words. That only reinforced to me that parents do know best, and the process works. It does not mean that all trans kids are just going through a phase. The vast majority of trans kids tell their parents almost from the time they can talk that I am a boy or vice versa. This is why therapy for these children starts early and takes years for parents to sort out before any hormone treatment is prescribed. But this bill would ban this process altogether, even banning counseling and referrals. I am not a trans activist. There is a member of my own caucus who will probably get up and tell you that we are all just lemmings following this agenda and that he's going to buck the trend. But this is not about trans or not trans. This is a matter of civil rights. I am doing what my party always does. We stand up for all of our civil rights. I used to feel uncomfortable with some parts of trans care, but my views have come around. I learned more about transgender care first through private conversations with my best friend who is an OB-GYN and had some trans kids for patients. She explained how important puberty blockers are to give kids experiencing this dysphoria more time to figure things out without going through the trauma. That's how it feels to these kids. The trauma of starting to develop breasts or facial hair. I've always come to see the cruelty in this bill of not allowing puberty blockers until children are 18 years of age. If denied this care, trans children will not be able to escape developing secondary sexual characteristics that they are hoping to avoid. If they go forward as adults, they will have to live with these characteristics for the rest of their lives. Puberty blockers are temporary and reversible, but puberty is not. This bill makes an exemption for minors who are born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development, which includes physical manifestations such as ambiguous genitalia. I think we all

accept that intersex people, or what we used to call hermaphrodites, do exist. They have been documented as far back as ancient Greece. In recent centuries for such conditions, parents were often advised by their doctors to alter the genitalia shortly after birth. The reason for this was to affirm sexual identity one way or another. But in recent years, it's been more common practice to delay treatment and let the child develop as they will and include counseling for parents and children all along the way and then provide treatment that makes the most sense for that individual. I think most of us would agree with that process, but what this legislation does is accept that rare conditions such as being intersexed. Rare conditions I meant to say, such as being intersex are real, but it tells trans children and their parents that what they experience is not real and that they do not exist. It denies the careful process of individualized counseling and progressive cautious treatment that we allow for others. But who are we to say that gender dysphoria is not real? Do you deny the existence of micro bacteria because you can't see it with the naked eye? So many parents tell us that they didn't believe true gender dysphoria was real either until this occurred in their own family. Like intersex conditions, true gender dysphoria has existed but has been denied and ignored leaving trans people invisible in their own misery. The way we treat small numbers of people who are different, people about whom we have uncomfortable feelings, has changed over time and other ways as well. In the middle ages, we used to put people with mental illness on boats and ship them off, the ship of fools. We used to lock up children with Down Syndrome and now we let them live with their parents. People used to be imprisoned for being gay and people born with unusual contradictory secondary sexual characteristics were offered livelihoods such as side shows in a circus. I say all this because we've come a long way in the way we treat other human beings who are different. Medical treatment for gender dysphoria is no different than that process. Legislation like this is truly regressive. This bill punishes a very small minority of children rather than admit that we just don't understand you. Proponents of this bill will tell you that it's meant to protect children, but they ignore the overwhelming testimony in opposition to this bill to focus on the 1% of the 1% who regret transition. None of us wants anyone to see regret in transition as an adult, but with all other medical care, we address these concerns within the medical community and with oversight boards, not by politicians banning an entire body of comprehensive medical care for certain people only. What do we call people who pick on the most vulnerable among us? In a speech last week, there was a reference to a nanny state. This legislation would make New Hampshire a bully state. Please don't roll back progress on becoming a more kind, thoughtful and humane society and how we treat other human beings. None of us are above the law and none of us are beneath it either. So, vote no on HB 377.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Wade.

Representative Wade: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 377, not as a Democrat, not as a talking point, but as someone whose life was saved by the very care this bill seeks to take away. I'm sure that for many of you, this bill is something abstract. Just one more in a long line of bills that we all have to get through today. You will vote on it and move on with your lives. We cannot. The families of New Hampshire cannot. I'm asking you to stop and think about the real consequences for families here in the Granite State. There are only two people in this entire body that can speak directly from personal experience on this issue. Myself and my colleague from Concord. I, myself, am the only person in this entire body who can speak to what it is like to start hormone therapy as a minor. I cannot even begin to tell you how much my life turned around when I was finally able to start hormone therapy. I wouldn't be standing here today without it. It took months of effort convincing my parents, but when I was finally able to start hormone therapy, my mental health improved drastically. I only wish I could have started it sooner. Last week, we all agreed that parents should have the final say when it comes to health care decisions, but here we are trying to prevent parents from helping their children when they are desperate, desperate to receive lifesaving care. Calling the lived experiences of thousands of Granite Staters and decades of medical research just anecdotes is not nuance, it's willful ignorance. When people in this body say that we need nuance discussions and compromises, I agree. The problem is that my position is I'd like to have access to health care, equal treatment and to mind my own business. Trans people has existed for centuries and will continue to, but this bill is targeted and without nuance as it gets. Imagine receiving lifesaving care, then having someone with no understanding or experience try to rip that away from you because they think they know better. Do you know what the regret rate for hip replacement is, 4.8%? Do you want to know what the regret rate is for hormone therapy is, less than 1%? But we aren't trying to ban hip replacements, are we? I could use any number of surgeries that you could call irreversible that have much higher regret rates. The only reason these treatments in particular are being targeted is because the trans community has been unwillingly brought into the cross hairs of politics. I will not compromise the rights of Granite Staters on a manufactured issue. On that note, there are actually so few detransitioners here in New Hampshire that two of them had to be brought in from out of state to testify during the committee hearing. Throughout the public testimony on this bill, those people laughed while children were bravely testifying to defend their right to receive health care. As I got involved in politics this past year, I got to know the mother of a trans child. You will hear more about her story shortly. When her child came out to her as transgender, and she saw that their health care was under attack, she knew she had to step up and say something. Before I was a state rep, I held her hand as she cried during a public hearing

last year while we listened to people say horrible things about trans people, including her own child. She lived in New Hampshire most of her life, but because of the passage of HB 619 last year, she had to uproot her family to move away from the state she loved in order to get the health care her child needed. We should not let New Hampshire be a state where people have to flee in order to receive lifesaving and life changing care. Her story is not hypothetical. It is the real and actual consequences of what happens if we continue to go down this path. I said it last week and I will say it again. The public does not support this bill. 106 signed up to support it, 1,659 opposed it. If we are not here to listen to the people of New Hampshire when they are begging us not to do this, what are we here for? I am proud that the Democratic Party believes people deserves equal rights and access to health care and that empathy, not the targeting of those different from us, is part of our core values. I'm here today asking Republicans to join us in that. Don't take away health care from people desperate to receive it. Before you vote, I urge you to seriously think about the harm that passing this bill will cause and join me in voting against HB 377 today. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Alissandra Murray.

Representative Alissandra Murray: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 377, and I will be speaking here representing my dear friend, Michelle Foley. Two years ago this month, I sat in this room to testify for a mom from my town that I hadn't yet met face to face. I testified in opposition to HB 619 that day. At the time, I didn't know that six months later I would be back to testify in opposition to the amended bill for my own child. Being a parent of six is something I have never taken for granted. I have grown to appreciate and understand that I will not have all the answers, that I can never make judgments of another parent decision without being in their shoes and that I will never be fully prepared for what is coming next. That point was emphatically made over the past two years in our family's life. One thing I have always known is that I will always do whatever it takes to do what is best for my children, no matter what the obstacles are. Being a Granite Stater for 45 years, I never expected for the obstacle to be the state I was raising my family in. When my now 18-year-old daughter came to me when she was 16 and told me that one of her best friends had stopped her from taking her life that very afternoon, I didn't know exactly what was causing her to feel so distraught and depressed that she would end her own life. She had been in therapy for several months and we had taken measures to keep her safe, like having me stay home with her while she was home schooled due to chronic illness. In less than a month after that attempt, she came to me and asked if she was too old to start hormone replacement therapy. As a medical professional, I knew I needed to find medical care as soon as possible. After my first time telling my story at the State House, a representative approached me to explain the purpose and importance of these bills. She emphasized that they are there to provide safety for children that may have parents that are less informed and resourceful than myself yet consequently taking away the rights of every parent to make important and essential medical decisions for their children. While some of you may not agree that this is the reason for proposed bills such as HB 377, I've heard many of you speak to the importance of parental rights just last week. The importance of being able to find and obtain the medically necessary care for my own family is one of the most important aspects of being a mother. With the plans clearly laid out in last year's legislative session, I knew as a mom we could no longer live in the Granite State and continue to have my daughter live free from legislators making decisions about her health care and about what was best for her future. But unlike the presented points of providing safety for those who may not have support of parents, not all parents have the resources or the ability to uproot their whole family from their home to keep them safe from the harm that a bill that may or may not intend to cause. Plainly voting yes for HB 377 is taking away the right for a parent to care for their child that they may have brought into this world and cared for from the moment they were conceived. In contrast, a vote for the rights of parents to continue to make the decisions and support their children with love and the medical care they need to thrive is the right and responsible choice. This is the story of my friend, Michelle, who moved out of state just a couple of months ago in order to be able to continue to receive care for her child that was already receiving care in this state. She saw what was happening here last year and made the right decision for her family and like she said, not every family can make that decision. You will be either voting to force families out of their home state or to forcibly detransition kids who are on these hormones, which if they are so supposedly so dangerous and experimental then why is it okay to use for all these other conditions? Why is that okay, but in this one case, it's not? That's discrimination, quite literally.

Speaker Packard: Does the member yield to questions? The member does not yield. The Chair recognizes Rep. Roesener.

Representative Roesener: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 377. Deeply honored to share this story. Luke Boisvert, a 13-year-old trans boy from Nashua, New Hampshire opposes HB 377. Due to a medical condition called Turner syndrome, Luke may not appear his age to some. Turner syndrome is a condition where part of the DNA from his X chromosome is missing, meaning his body cannot go through puberty naturally. As a result, he needs hormone treatment to experience any puberty. Luke prefers to take testosterone as it aligns with his desire to look, sound and live his life as a boy as he is most happy. Luke has been out as transgender since 2021 though he has felt this way for much longer. Growing up he never enjoyed girly things and always dressed in masculine clothes, engaged in activities deemed masculine. He related to

masculine characters and often dressed up as them. His sister jokingly said he was an old man trapped in a little girls body. While these behaviors absolutely do not define a person as transgender, looking back Luke realizes he was just a young boy who didn't know how to express that he was one. This ban cannot be put in place because it would result in families like Luke's having to choose between stopping his testosterone keeping him in a prepubescent body for the rest of his life with dangerous implications or it would force his family to completely reconstruct his health care treatment that is otherwise keeping him healthful and happy only due to the threat of criminal penalty that would place him in a body that doesn't reflect who he is or who he ever will be. Luke Boisvert is a brave 13-year-old transgender boy from Nashua, New Hampshire. It is a privilege to amplify his voice in this Chamber and to stand in solidarity with him and so many others in our state. His story is a powerful reminder of what truly is at stake with HB 377. This bill is not just about policy, it is about real people, real lives and the fundamental right to access care that allows us to live our lives as true and as fully as we can. Health care is highly individualized and nuanced. Rarely can we ever find the language in a law that will not obstruct real necessary care when we place bans. No one should be forced into a body that feels foreign to them, and no one should have to fight for the medical care that affirms their identity and wellbeing, especially not as children. I urge this body to listen to Luke, to us, to recognize the humanity in our stories and to reject HB 377 as a bill trying to solve an issue that does not exist. We have a responsibility to protect the dignity, health and the futures of the transgender youth in our state. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Selig.

Representative Selig: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Today I rise in opposition of HB 377 and to speak on behalf of a mother in our community. Jennifer, who is a mom from Nashua, much like I'm a mom from Durham. Jennifer testified on this bill as well. She said I'm a mother of three children. My youngest is trans male. I've created an environment in my home where my children can be open and honest with who they are. When my son was nine, he told me he was actually a boy. He had been born female, but he socially transitioned to male, and I saw his whole world open up. He always hated school, but he began to engage and find friends. When his haircut and wardrobe changed, he finally seemed comfortable in his own skin. We went to court to change his name to reflect his gender. The school thankfully supported his social transition and called him by his/he/him pronouns and new name. As a mother, I grieve for the loss of my daughter, but I also celebrated the newly gained son. My newly gained son. Over the next four years I have watched my son's journey of discovery. He's very confident and aware of who he is. My son has a unique situation as where his body does not produce any sex hormones. We did not have to pursue puberty blockers, but if he needed them, he would have had them. In May, he is scheduled to start testosterone. This was not an easy decision. He's had countless meetings with his primary care practitioner and endocrinologist. He's had months and months of counseling. He is a well rounded and happy kid. This bill seeks to destroy my family's values, my role as a mother to support my child and it inappropriately inserts the government into my child's health care. His body, his medications, his sense of self are not things to be regulated or banned. I know with 100% certainty that he is a boy and that having secondary male sex characteristics is the right choice for him. I know this because he has done his research and knows what feels right in his body. I know this because his health care team is supportive of his treatment. In 2025, I never thought I'd have to remind the legislature that my child's health care is not up to you. You don't get to decide. You don't get to legislate private decisions. This legislative body has no right to dictate the kind of schooling my child gets, the hobbies he participates in, the religion he practices and certainly and without a doubt you don't get to decide his private medical choices. New Hampshire is better than this. I am my son's mother, and I believe he deserves the autonomy to decide what medical treatment he receives with my guidance, of course. In speaking also as a mother in addition to sharing Jennifer's comments, I want to say at no time should anyone be dictating my children's medical decisions. It's up to me to know if my child needs that ankle surgery her orthopedist prescribed. It's up to me to know if my child should be put on hormones because she had really bad periods or because she had really bad acne. It is up to me to make medical decisions for my child and not the legislature.

Speaker Packard: Will the member yield to question? The member does not yield. The Chair recognizes Rep. Mehegan. The Chair recognizes Rep. Beauchemin.

Representative Beauchemin: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 377. I'd like to share a story about someone like me, a New Hampshire mother, who supports and protects her children unconditionally. This story is from Sara Tirrell from Plymouth. My name is Sara Tirrell, and I am a lifelong resident of New Hampshire. I am a proud mother of a 16-year-old transgender daughter. Like every parent, my top priority is keeping my child safe, healthy and thriving. But unlike many parents, I also have to spend countless hours fighting for my daughter's basic human rights. Last week, I sat in the gallery and listened as you discussed the importance of a parental bill of rights. While I disagree with the intentions behind that bill, I agree with the sentiment that parents have the right to make decisions about their children's medical care. So, I struggled to understand how just days later many of you are now advocating to take away that very right. Today, my daughter is a strong, healthy and happy 16-year-old. She has worked incredibly hard to get to this point, supported by family, friends, therapists, medical professionals and a community that loves her. She knows exactly who she is, and she is living her best life. How can any of you presume to know

her better than I do? How can anyone presume to know her better than the trained professionals who have been helping her every step of the way? This is not just about politics, this is about our children's lives, their futures and their wellbeing. The suicide rates among transgendered youth are high for a reason. Your vote today will either save lives or jeopardize them. I ask you not to vote along party lines, but to listen to the real people, the people who are affected by your decisions. People like my daughter and family. Please choose compassion, empathy and the preservation of life. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Foss.

Representative Foss: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 377 and I'm here to share a story from Rosie Emerick, a mom who is worried for her family. My name is Rosie Emerick, and I am the parent of an 8-year-old trans child. I want to say that I am tired and scared. I'm tired of having to come to the State House every week and sit in a room for hours and listen to people who have never really taken the time to get to know a trans child or adult, make accusations about what kind of parent I am, what type of person my child or another other trans person is and what is best for them. I am scared that the state I love and have grown up in will not be a safe place for my family anymore. I am scared that my child won't be able to easily get the medical care they need. I am scared to let my child use the bathroom in public. I am scared for my child and all of the amazing children and adults whose lives will be made unnecessarily hard. My child's journey is theirs and theirs alone. Contrary to the testimony I read online, I did not force my child into this. Why would I? Why would I subject them to this? They didn't choose this. I didn't choose this. Nobody else compelled or influenced them into this. What I did is listen and pay attention. I listened to what they started telling me from the time they first started speaking sentences and I continue to listen every day. If they said, mom I was wrong and I want to go back, I would be the first one to affirm that too. I love my children with everything in me and it is me and my child in collaboration with their trained medical providers with years of professional experience who should be making their medical decisions. I am here today because I am doing everything in my power to build my child a world where they know I will always fight for them. I will always listen and love them when they tell me who they are. Despite all of this hardship right now, my trans child has given our family a wonderful gift. We are all more comfortable in our skins, more confident in the ways in which we don't meet the impossible standards of femininity or masculinity. We are more understanding and compassionate. We are more willing to seek to understand. We are fiercer and more likely to stand with those being marginalized and mostly we have more love because we have created an amazing community and family for ourselves. If you were truly looking to understand the painstaking journey of parenting a trans child, I recommend *One day I'll grow Up and Be a Beautiful Woman*, a mother's story by Abi Maxwell. She tells the story of her trans child's early journey right here in New Hampshire. As myself, adding that the book is so popular that it has a 12-person waiting list for the e-book from the New Hampshire State Library. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognized Rep. Raymond.

Representative Raymond: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 377. I am here to share the story from Lauren Cole Johnson, an educator and a mother of a trans child here in New Hampshire. As an educator of high schoolers, as a parent and as a resident of New Hampshire for more than two decades, I am distraught and saddened to continue to encounter horrendous legislation emerging from this body in response to unfounded fear. HB 377 is based on inaccurate assumptions by folks who know little how gender affirming care works and the positive such care can have. I speak with compassion and love for my family members and for the LBGTQIA community. To quote an inspiring young person I heard testify in regard to hateful bills that would harm her sibling, "I am not going to answer questions because there should not be any questions about what I say here. This bill does nothing to help children. It does direct harm to children." The title of HB 377 is "vulnerable child compassion and protection act." Compassion is defined as a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. The proposed act does not invoke deep sympathy for children, nor does it alleviate the suffering of said children. In fact, this act promotes the criminalization of trained medical professionals whose years of training is backed by decades of scientific research. In criminalizing professionals, this bill also does direct harm to their patients. The word protection means care and guardianship. Who are you trying to protect? This bill does nothing to protect children. I strongly urge you to vote against HB 377 and vote yes for compassion. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Lloyd.

Representative Lloyd: Thank you, Mister Speaker. As we know, HB 377 will affect individual lives of Granite Staters. I rise today in opposition to HB 377 and I'm here giving a voice to Stephanie Cawley, a transgender woman from Conway who wishes she had access to this gender affirming care that others have. This is Stephanie's story. This bill will strip the rights of parents and their transgender children to access in the medical care they need. It also ignores recommendations from all major medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, The Endocrine Society, American Medical Association, American Psychological Association and supported by the scientific peer reviewed literature and the standards of care established by the Worldwide Professional Association for Transgender Health. According to a study in 2022 by Osen et

al., trans kids are almost always right about being trans with 98% maintaining their identity as transgender over time. She further states, I knew I was transgender at 4 years old in 1959 when the option to transition didn't exist. As a result, I suffered mostly irreversible effects of endogenous male puberty and had to undergo expensive and painful transition therapy to include psychological counseling, laser hair removal, electrolysis, 3 surgeries and hormonal therapy. This legislation wants to take us back to a time where transgender kids and their parents no longer have access to scientifically supported health care. What is gender affirming health care? It starts with a conversation between a parent and a child. Typically, these conversations take place many times before the parents agree to talk with their pediatrician or therapist. After multiple sessions of therapy, a plan is developed by parents, doctors and therapists with the child to begin social transitioning. This involves changes in names, pronouns, clothing and social relations. It involves schools, churches and other groups and you should note that this stage does not involve medical surgeries. Once a child hits 10 or stage 2 puberty, then and only then are puberty blockers considered and initiated assuming social transition is going well and everyone, parents and the child, doctors and therapist are in agreement with the plan. These puberty blockers, which have been used for 40 years, and are still being used for premature puberty, called precocious puberty, have a very good safety record. HB 377 would outlaw these puberty blockers for transgender kids but allow them for cisgender kids. That is the very definition of discrimination. The usage of puberty blockers buys time for everyone to make sure the transition is right for the child. This transition takes several years depending on when it is initiated, which allows the child, parents, doctors and therapist to carefully and safely make sure that this is the right path for them. Surgery is almost never done before the age of 18 except in medically necessary situations. Multiple studies have shown that transgender kids who are denied gender affirming health care are at greater risk for adverse psychological affects, including anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and substance abuse. All of which, myself, have suffered from as a transgender young person because I couldn't access gender affirming health care in my time. In the US transgender survey done in 2022, 98% of respondents report their lives were greatly improved following their transitions. The small percentage of people who are not happy with their transition are often due to the lack of support from friends and family or poor medical treatment and few may decide that gender transition is just not for them. I urge to reject this unnecessary discriminatory and invasive governmental overreach that restricts the rights of parents, their transgender children and health care professionals. It's backed up by decades of scientific research. Those were Stephanie's words. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Mazur.

Representative Mazur: Thank you, everyone. Thank you, Mister Speaker. I said it during the hearings, and I'll say it again, I know this is an emotional subject. I want to begin with an undeniable truth. Children cannot fully comprehend the lifelong consequences of altering their bodies with powerful medications. Yet, today, children as young as 8 or 9 are being prescribed puberty blockers, sometimes after just a few hours of consultation. Gender dysphoria is real and it's painful and those struggling deserve compassion, but rushing minors into irreversible medical interventions is not the answer. These treatments are often presented as safe and reversible, yet evidence-based studies from multiple countries, including the UK, Finland, Sweden and Canada show little to no long-term support for their effectiveness. In fact, the UK systematic review led to several countries putting a ban on gender transitioning medication for children. These studies also show that these medications do not prevent or lessen depression or suicide. This is not a question of parental rights. It is about protecting children from harm. The majority of kids with gender dysphoria do grow out of it by adulthood. Fact. Interestingly, this year some House Democrats filed legislation that prohibited the sale of over-the-counter weight loss and muscle building supplements to minors and imposed penalties on retail establishments that sold the supplements to minors. How are these supplements considered dangerous, but taking harmful gender transition medications that can cause genital atrophy and stop critical puberty related developments, affecting bone growth, brain development and fertility be considered? How is that okay? Puberty blockers like Lupron were developed for prostate cancer and endometriosis, not for children. Studies show that the vast majority of kids placed on puberty blockers go on to take cross-sex hormones making them lifelong medical patients. These drugs, as I said in my previous PI have not been approved by the FDA for blocking healthy puberty. We must ensure that young people receive the psychological care they need while safeguarding them from these harmful and forever life altering treatments taking away their health, their choices, their fertility and their futures is not progressive. It is harmful and regressive. Protecting children isn't regressive, it's responsible. Children deserve protection not experimental medical procedures pushed by ideology rather than sound science. Please press the green button to pass this very important bill. Thanks for hanging in there.

Speaker Packard: Rep. Granger has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The motion before us is the majority committee report of ought to pass as amended on HB 377. This is a roll call vote. The Chair recognizes Rep. Weber for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I have heard over and over again that we should support the rights of parents and that parents should be trusted to make decisions in the best

interests of their children. And if I know that denying one distinct class of minors their right to appropriate medical treatment and one distinct class of parents their right to make medical decisions in the best interests of their minor children is not only discriminatory, but unspeakably cruel, would I now press the red button to defeat the ought to pass? Thank you, my colleagues.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Layon for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that when the risk of thalidomide came to light, the medical community stopped that on their own because back then we still believed in science and evidence-based medicine. And if I know that parents can't give informed consent if they aren't told of the risks of drugs and if they are told that the only alternative to treatment is a dead child because that is coercion and not consent. And if I know that these side effects for these drugs are serious enough that sometimes the risk is too high to give these drugs to people with cancer, yet we are turning some of these children into lifelong medical patients, which enriches big pharma. And if I know that counseling offered to children in New Hampshire who are questioning their gender identity by law is required to affirm them. The law requires that they affirm that changed gender identity and it cannot accommodate any questions as to whether that child is not persisting with that gender identity making that counseling invalid. And if I know that we should be tearing down stereotypes, would I press the green button to tell kids they don't need drugs to fit a stereotype?

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of ought to pass as amended. This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor; you'll press the green button. If you are opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 197 voting Yea; 167 voting Nay, the committee report is adopted.

The House recessed at 12:35 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR PART II CONT'D

HB 548-FN, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark McLean for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill, as amended, extends the direct pay model currently available for primary care to the operation of health care facilities. The bill would open the door to the possible creation of a sector within the health care marketplace that is completely price transparent and potentially attractive to uninsured or self-insured patients. The bill would help bring competition to the health sector and might expand access by attracting providers desiring to operate in an environment free of the heavy administrative burden created by the all-payer model. Because the uptake rate of direct primary care has been modest, it is believed that the bill will have no significant impact on the state's critical access hospitals, but that it will provide an opportunity for new modes of health care delivery to be explored. Vote 10-8.

Rep. William Palmer for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would exempt direct-pay health care facilities from certain licensing requirements. The amendment improves the bill somewhat by excluding nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities. Even as amended, the concern is that for-profit entities could still siphon off those who can pay adequately for services and leave rehab and other facilities in financial difficulty. The terms "membership based" and "direct payment" are not defined, leaving ambiguity about what sorts of facilities might take advantage of the bill. The bill, which apparently intends to increase access, does not offer a clear path to that goal. It could, in fact, decrease access to care for those less able to pay.

Majority Amendment (1964h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; License or Registration Required; Moratorium; Exception for Membership-Based and Direct Payment Facilities. Amend RSA 151:2, VI(a)(1) to read as follows:

(1) No new license shall be issued for, and there shall be no increase in licensed capacity of, any nursing home, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or rehabilitation facility, including rehabilitation hospitals and facilities offering comprehensive rehabilitation services. This moratorium shall not apply to:

(A) Any facility that is not a nursing home or skilled nursing facility, that operates on a membership-based business model or exclusively provides services to persons who make direct payment for services;

(B) Any rehabilitation facility whose sole purpose is to treat individuals for substance use disorder or mental health issues; or [to]

(C) Any continuing care facility for which a certificate of authority has been issued by the insurance commissioner pursuant to RSA 420-D:2.

Amend RSA 151:2-f, II as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Subparagraph I(a) shall not apply to intermediate care facilities or rehabilitation facilities, including rehabilitation hospitals and facilities offering comprehensive rehabilitation services facilities, that operate on a membership-based business model or exclusively provide services to persons who make direct payment for services. For the purposes of this paragraph, a direct payment is one that is paid directly by the patient and is not reimbursed or otherwise paid by a third party.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill exempts direct-pay health care facilities from certain licensing requirements and policies in RSA 151:2-f as well as the moratorium on licensing and bed capacity in RSA 151:2, VI(a) provided that the facility is not a nursing home or skilled nursing facility. The bill also establishes a patient's bill of right for direct-pay facilities and directs the department of health and human services to study direct-pay models.

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; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 200 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 200

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

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
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell

Franz, Linda
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrels, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Seaworth, Brian

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devold, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Sargent, Gregory
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 157**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
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci

Bridle, Nicholas
Haskins, Linda

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison

Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
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 559, relative to staffing requirements in emergency medical transport vehicles. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Wayne MacDonald for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee, in its deliberations on the bill, decided that staffing shortages are a real concern and that this change in the statute could help to address that problem. The committee heard from a cosponsor of the bill, who has practical experience with the issue and knows the challenges of medical transport firsthand. This legislation provides that “not more than one emergency medical care provider shall be required to provide care to a patient during transport” It does not limit the circumstances to only one. In many cases, however, one is enough. In others, perhaps not. The medical professionals, closest to the scene, are enabled to make this important decision. This flexibility could be especially helpful in more rural areas, where staffing can be especially acute. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Janet Lucas for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would allow for a single emergent care provider to attend a patient during the process of emergency transport. The minority finds, after consultation with qualified professionals, that this bill may result in a situation in which one person is put in the impossible position of performing unaided cardiopulmonary resuscitation of a patient who is rapidly declining. In addition, by reducing the number of mandatory trained attendants, this bill may actually contribute to staffing burnout rather than correct it.

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

Rep. Lucas spoke against.

Rep. Rhodes spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 216 members having voted in the affirmative, and 149 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

Rep. Girard recused himself and did not participate in the vote.

HB 679, relative to immunization requirements. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Kofalt for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The bill stipulates that any vaccines that are mandated by the state under RSA 141-C:20-a must have undergone clinical trials that prove its efficacy in preventing the transmission of a disease. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Trinidad Tellez for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill introduces an impossible standard. The bill prohibits all childhood immunization requirements for any vaccine that has not been shown in clinical trials to prevent all transmission of any disease. This ill-advised bill is not based on science. Vaccines work by imitating an infection to engage the body’s natural defenses and stimulating the immune system. Vaccines are not created, nor tested, to prevent transmission, rather to decrease disease severity and prevalence. The impact of this bill will be to eliminate entirely the requirement of most of the currently required childhood vaccines. Realistically, pharmaceutical companies will not go back and re-do clinical trials with this endpoint. Important vaccine requirements are already fewer in New Hampshire than in other states. All parents currently have the option to decline vaccines. Our state’s children stay healthy and safe because of the herd-immunity provided by the high vaccination rates in New Hampshire, and the decreased transmission rates from lower burden of infection. While parents will still have the option to choose to vaccinate their children, this bill will definitely result in less uptake of childhood immunizations. New Hampshire will then follow other states in dealing with outbreaks of preventable illnesses, many of which have devastating and long-lasting consequences.

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

Rep. Drew spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 204 - NAYS 165**YEAS - 204
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
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
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
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
Spillsbury, Walter

NAYS - 165**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
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 712-FN, limiting breast surgeries for minors. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Lisa Mazur for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of this committee agrees that this legislation strikes a necessary balance between safeguarding minors from premature, elective procedures and ensuring that those with legitimate medical needs can access care. The Journal of Sexual Medicine just published a new study this month. Of over 100,000 patients, they found that those who underwent transition surgery had significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and substance use disorder versus matched controls without surgery. This study found that “gender-affirming surgery” is associated with increased risk of mental health issues. Already, hospitals and medical facilities across the world and our country, including Boston, are curtailing and ending minors’ access to these harmful procedures. Children will never, ever be able to come back from these life-altering surgeries that remove perfectly healthy body parts. This bill would protect the well-being of young individuals while allowing room for appropriate medical discretion. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Janet Lucas for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. As a threshold note, breast surgery as a treatment for gender dysphoria is extremely rare or non-existent in New Hampshire. However, providers and counselors need to be able to discuss options and make referrals in cases where that is appropriate. This bill completely eliminates access to breast surgery as a treatment for gender dysphoria in minors. In so doing, it violates the rights of certain patients and their parents by arbitrary disqualification. This bill also has the potential for unintended consequences. Because this bill sets out a specific and limited list of exceptions, the bill would inevitably infringe upon care plans for patients whose diagnoses and surgical needs have nothing to do with this bill. Additionally, this bill allows for government intrusion into the patient-provider relationship and presents a punitive format to the provider who is making a decision on whether to practice in the state of New Hampshire. The effect of the bill is to deny one distinct class of minors their right to appropriate medical treatment or referral, and one distinct class of parents their right to make medical decisions in the best interest of their minor children.

Majority Amendment (1138h)

Amend RSA 329:53, II(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) The procedure is needed to remove malignant tissue and an appropriate margin, and lymph nodes as indicated;

Amend RSA 329:53, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. Any person who negligently or willfully violates, or assists in the violation of the provisions of this section, may be subject to liability for damages as provided by law.

Amend RSA 332-M:2, III-a as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III-a. “Gender surgery” includes genital gender reassignment surgery, transgender chest surgery as defined in RSA 329:52, VI, facial feminization or masculinization surgery, and/or removal of the reproductive organs for the purposes of gender identity including hysterectomy, oophorectomy, salpingo-oophorectomy, and/or orchiectomy.

Amend RSA 332-M:3, II(e) as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(e) Breast surgery subject to the conditions of RSA 329:53, II.

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.

Reps. Lucas, Roesener, Alissandra Murray, Wade, Damon and Miller spoke against.

Rep. Mazur spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 200 - NAYS 165

YEAS - 200

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peebles, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
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
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 165
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
 Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Oppel, Thomas
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Fogg, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Bridle, Nicholas
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vandecasteele, Susan

de Vries, Erica
 Murray, Kate
 Maggiore, Jim
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
 Knab, Allison
 Malloy, Dennis
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Miller, Seth
 Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Schmidt, Peter
 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.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that the debate on **HB 712-FN**, limiting breast surgeries for minors, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 712-FN

Speaker Packard: The motion before us now is ought to pass as amended. The Chair recognizes Rep. Lucas.
Representative Lucas: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB 712 as amended. It is a bill that would eliminate access to breast surgery as a treatment for gender dysphoria before the age of 18. In so doing, it violates the rights of certain patients and their parents by arbitrary disqualification. A gender dysphoric individual younger than age 18 who has made the long journey with the support of family and caregivers having had prolonged and detailed counselling and medical therapy at age 17, perhaps may understandably wish to undergo breast surgery near home and post operative recovery at home before heading off to college or to a new job. This is a transitional time when preoperative appointments and preparations and surgery can be scheduled with minimal disruption of life plans. This bill as amended has the potential for unintended consequences. It attempts to define permissible breast surgeries in cisgendered minors and in a few lines, it proposes to delineate those surgeries to which surgical textbooks devote thou-

sands of pages. There is no mention of which surgeries can or should be done by a general surgeon with five years of residency, training or by specialists who have had additional multi-year fellowships. Because this bill sets out a specific and limited list of exceptions, the bill would inevitably infringe upon care plans for patients whose diagnosis have nothing to do with gender dysphoria. In addition, this bill allows for government intrusion into the patient provider relationship and presents a punitive format to the provider who may be deciding whether to practice in the State of New Hampshire. What are these caregivers to make of this? Will they take one look at a New Hampshire practice opening and move on? Will New Hampshire's medical schools and residencies lose applicants to programs in more fair-minded states as the Granite State becomes known as the state of obstruction? The effect of this bill is denying one distinct class of minors their right to appropriate treatment or referral and one distinct class of parents their right to make medical decisions in the best for their children. No group in New Hampshire has the right to tell parents they don't know what is best for their children. It's time for legislators to stop dictating to health care professionals how to provide care, perform surgery and practice medicine. Everyone is free to refuse care for themselves and their children. No one has the right to refuse that care for anyone else. Focus on common sense. Press the red button to vote no on HB 712. Thank you, Mister Speaker, and I request a roll call vote.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Roesener.

Representative Roesener: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I decided to get a view from the other side of the room today. So, I'm here to stand in opposition to this bill and I have another story for you. I'm the only story this time so hold onto your seat. I rarely tell my personal story, but I think due to the hard work this office calls for, we need to approach each other with an open heart and honest dialogue. Some aspects of my story are difficult to hear and to share, but I hope that we can do this together. My experience with gender dysphoria began early though it took years to understand what I was feeling. As a child I knew I was different. I preferred race cars to Barbies. I hated dresses and the color pink. I really liked things like bugs and gross things and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. I preferred to roughhouse with the boys and never really played house with the girls. My interest definitely set me apart, but I never felt isolated. I had many friends, mostly boys, and I felt comfortable in those connections. It never occurred to me that these friendships or my preferences might be linked to my gender identity. Despite being confident in my interests and identity, I struggled with a deep overwhelming self hatred. I knew being a girl didn't limit me, and I still had this quiet awareness that something wasn't quite right. I was taught that girls could like things boys could like and do anything boys could do, but it still didn't seem to quell the questions that I had about myself or rather how I felt about myself. But I never questioned it either because I was told that I was a girl. I imagined and often wished that I had been born a boy, imagining how much more comfortable my life would have been, but being a girl was an unchangeable fact. For years I was trapped in a reality where my feelings didn't make any sense. During puberty, my disconnect between my sense of self and my body deepened. I tried to communicate this discomfort to the adults around me, but I was told what I was feeling was simply a part of growing up. I was told that girls often experience discomfort with the changes in their body. Of course, girls can like or dislike any of these things, but I knew my feelings ran deeper or rather it was something very different. I couldn't find the right words to explain the profound unease that I felt. So, my depression and anxiety deepened. I was told I was just hormonal or genetically predisposed to mental illness which I guess wasn't wrong but wasn't the core of it. I was assured that though I hated myself, I was a beautiful young woman, but these reassurances did not comfort me but rather deepened my mental health crisis. Talking about self harm and suicidal ideation is difficult, but it is crucial to have these conversations. Research has shown that speaking openly about suicide or asking someone if they are struggling with ideation does not increase the likelihood of a tragic outcome. In fact, discussing these difficult topics can help save lives when it is done right. I began to self harm to cope with the overwhelming frustration and discomfort I felt with my body. I imagined taking drastic actions that would force medical intervention hoping to remove parts of myself I could no longer bear. That might have been my path if I had not learned about what top surgery was through the stories online of transgendered individuals sharing their ends gender. Although I didn't understand or accept my own identity, the concept of top surgery gave me a reason to hold back from harming myself in that way. I told myself that maybe that I could see that happen to myself one day and that harming myself would destroy my chance of pursuing that in the future. This did not resolve the disgust I felt every day. I still felt trapped. I didn't want to live anymore. I couldn't make sense of anything that was happening to me, and I didn't understand why my life was so disjointed or why I could not navigate the world as seamlessly as others seemed to. My misery seemed endless, and I couldn't fathom how others could imagine a future for themselves, let alone how they had the strength to face another day feeling so disgusting. I'm here today because I got lucky. My story is part of a larger reality. Young trans people, especially when it comes to gender affirming care, are often dismissed, disrespected and denied. The fear of rejection around access to care is overwhelming. Instead of support, we face laws that deny our self-affirming and lifesaving treatments. Voices that speak over us in a system that refuses to see us as who we are. I stand before you today in this esteemed body in this historic House advocating for my community. I stand here because I almost

didn't, and it was thanks to the intervention of amazing doctors that I get to continue to speak to you today. Talking about how receiving gender affirming surgery transformed my life is challenging. It was something that is such an intrinsic part of me now that I rarely ever reflect on it anymore. The moment my recovery began, I simply melted into a new normal. There wasn't a period of adjustment. It was just as if life had begun. I lost the many burdens I was carrying, the constant back pain, the shortness of breath, the rashes and blisters to my skin as I concealed who I was. I can breathe now. I can look in the mirror and feel at peace, maybe a little self conscious sometimes like I should go to the gym, but I no longer am haunted by thoughts of self harm. My life didn't become perfect, and I was no longer trapped in a body that held me back. Denying this care ignores clear, peer reviewed evidence that it improves mental health, reduces suicide rates and helps trans youths live healthier, happier lives. When people ask me why not just wait, it cuts deep. I attempted my life at the pain of this waiting. Gender dysphoria isn't just something that can just be put on hold or delayed, it's a relentless and overwhelming force that grows more unbearable the longer it is ignored or dismissed. It is soul crushing. Some lawmakers have said to me, I've experienced depression myself so I can empathize, but the care you are describing seems too extreme. I genuinely appreciate their attempts to relate, however gender dysphoria is not the same as depression. It cannot be fully treated or resolved with antidepressants or therapy alone. Gender dysphoria requires specialized care that addresses the root of each individual, not just the emotional distress it can cause. Yet the very care that can help alleviate this gender dysphoria is the one that we are talking about criminalizing. I am the only person in this body of over 400 people who can speak from experience. I know this perspective may be new for many of you and so that's why I speak today. The public deserves decisions that are informed, thoughtful and rooted in understanding. What isn't new is how good government works. We live in a country founded on personal freedoms where we value to protect liberty and rights. When it comes to the choices of others, you don't have to like it, you don't have to agree with it, you don't have to understand it, but that doesn't mean you have to take it away from someone else because of your personal beliefs. We believe in live and let live. We believe in live free or die. I had to wait until I was an adult to pursue my top surgery, not because I wanted to but because I didn't have enough support or resources to have that option as a teenager. My life up to this point was not easy. It was not healthy, and it was not safe. No person should have to go through that. I stand in full throated opposition to this bill. If this bill passes, we are limiting the opportunities for young people to thrive. Instead of supporting them in navigating their identities with care and the resources they need, we will be forcing them onto a hard road, or worse, no road at all. I would never recommend the lengths that I had to go through to get where I am today. There is a better way. Medical intervention for the exceptional cases who absolutely need it is the better way. This should include absolutely the input of many professionals who know what they are talking about. Nobody is handing top surgery out like candy. I urge you to believe trans people know who they are better than a politician knows them. I urge you to trust that parents know their children better than a politician knows them. I urge you to acknowledge that doctors know their patients' needs better than a politician knows them and I urge you to vote no on this bill today. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Alissandra Murray.

Representative Alissandra Murray: Thank you, Mister Speaker. The bottom line for me is I do not believe the legislature should be making health care decisions for any individual and especially for children who are involving their doctors and parents in these decisions already. I want to start by sharing my own experiences with trying to access gender affirming care. I was raised in a conservative Christian household homeschooled from beginning to end. I had no non-religious friends, no access to the Internet and was cut off from the few gay family members I did have and yet I knew by the time I was 6 years old that I wasn't straight, and I knew by the time I was nine that I wasn't a girl. At the time I didn't even know the words transgender or bisexual or non-binary, I just knew I was different. Around 20 years old, I discovered the trans and non-binary community and felt like I finally had the language to understand myself. I also found out that top surgery wasn't just an option for trans men, but it was also an option that many non-binary people pursued. I instantly was excited by the prospect, but I decided to take my time to figure out if this was the right decision for me. I had been raised to dress a certain way and regularly made to feel like I was a sinful and promiscuous person just for wearing jeans and a t-shirt. I knew that this could be the reason for my discomfort in my own body and so I made the decision to wait. Long story short, I'm now 30 years old and I'm more than sure that I do want to pursue top surgery. At this point I've been considering top surgery for the past decade, but I have faced barrier after barrier in actually getting that care. Only two surgeons in the entire state are covered by my insurance policy and for different logistical reasons I'm not able to go to either of them, so my only option is to pursue out of network care. Considering these surgeries cost thousands of dollars and will likely put me out of work for weeks, I have been at a standstill for years where I'm literally unable to get the health care that I need that my doctor knows I need, and this is my experience as a 30-year-old. Now imagine how much harder it is to access these surgeries as a minor. All of this is to say that not only are these surgeries uncommon but they're actually inaccessible to many people with gender dysphoria, especially since trans individuals are more likely to experience poverty and less likely to have health insurance coverage. You must intentionally seek this care out and you must be able to afford it and those are two huge hurdles. Gender affirming surgeries

are rare in minors, especially in New Hampshire. Approximately 2 to 300 top surgeries are performed on minors across the entire country and these surgeries are much less common than cosmetic breast procedures performed on teenagers who are not transgender. Around 3,200 girls ages 18 to 19 received cosmetic breast implants in 2020 according to the American Society of plastic surgeons and another 4,700 teenagers ages 13 to 19 had breast reductions. A Harvard study conducted just last year found that 97% of chest surgeries on minors are performed on cisgender boys, surgeries done to remove excess fat from their chests. This is called gynecomastia, otherwise known as gender affirming care. Data has demonstrably proven that gender affirming surgeries not only have a low rate of regret but also one of the lowest rates of regret amongst all surgeries. A total of 27 studies conducted by the American Society of plastic surgeons polling 7,928 transgender patients who underwent any type of gender affirming surgery concluded that the prevalence of regret after gender assignment surgery was less than 1%. In clearer terms, 99.7% of trans individuals were satisfied with the results of their surgery. Meanwhile up to 30% of individuals who undergo knee surgery experience regret. Up to 25% of people regret getting heart surgery, 30% report regret after prostatectomy and 19.5% express regret after bariatric surgery, yet all of these procedures are still legal, as they should be. The reality is that top surgery is already difficult to access for multiple reasons. Despite what some of my colleagues might say, gatekeeping and combative attitudes in health care are a very real barrier to gender affirming care. Often trans people have to spend years proving who they are in order to access that treatment. The financial, social and mental burdens as causes actually increases the chance of detransition. The number of people who do not continue with transition varies depending on where in the world they live and is subject to a number of factors, including societal acceptance of transgender people and access to health care. These are factors that are not addressed in this legislation. We cannot legislate health care based on varying circumstances, and we should not change our laws because .4% of 1% of the population regret decisions that they chose to make. No one is forcing anyone to get these treatments against their consent, but this legislation does force people to put off the treatment that they do want, treatment that has been deemed medically necessary and we as a legislative body have no right to stand in the way of that. I wanted to end by saying that this testimony is very similar to the one I gave at the public hearing on this bill. After that hearing, one of the committee members went on social media and called me a biological man after I gave a speech about wanting top surgery. Do you know what that tells me? That there's no genuine effort to listen and learn from the people who are actually impacted by these bills. I have been open and willing to talk to anyone who wants but we can't have an honest and nuanced conversation if you aren't willing to listen and we can't have an honest nuanced conversation if you avoid talking to me in the first place and we can't have an honest and nuance conversation if your first starting point is to take my rights away.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Wade.

Representative Wade: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I'm here to share a bit about my own story of bottom surgery in the hope that you may understand why banning various top surgeries in New Hampshire is reckless and unnecessary. Even before starting hormone therapy, I knew that one day I would want to get bottom surgery. After being on hormone therapy for about a year, I started seriously looking into my options for surgeons. I researched for months to find one with a good rating, tried pricing out how much it would cost with my insurance plan and was looking forward to finally being comfortable in my own skin. I had recently started college and planned out the timing of how I would give myself enough time to recover, but the problem was I also had to plan out my career at the same time. For an engineer, internships are everything when it comes to job prospects, but summer would be the best time to pursue surgery, and I wasn't sure if winter break would be long enough for me to recover safely. One thing led to another, and I managed to land an internship I just couldn't pass up. The summer after that it was a research assistantship and another internship a year later. What I had originally hoped to get surgery at 19 ended up taking many many more years to actually complete. It was only after I graduated college that I could finally get the timing right between graduating and my full-time job. I only turned 18 after starting college and I saw it as an opportunity to reinvent myself transitioning medically, socially and legally. Many other trans people do the exact same thing. For someone who started hormone therapy earlier it would be much easier for them to be able to get surgery at 17 in the summer before college where they can rest and recover at home with their families. Only in the case where it has been deemed medically necessary by a doctor and approved by the parents. I don't know about you, but I'm not a doctor and we all know what happened to the only physician on Health and Human Services who stood up for medical science over party politics. There was another thing that stood out to me in my search for a surgeon. There were none even remotely close to me that met my needs. I ended up having to fly all the way to Washington DC to get bottom surgery. When your surgeon is that far away, post-operative care is incredibly difficult. Banning these surgeries will drive out anyone who actually knows what they're doing from the state. And the fact that arguments were made that we can't ban cat declawing because it's very rare and gets between the patient provider relationship, which in this case was an actual cat, tells me that it implies cats deserve more bodily autonomy than trans people. You cannot call these surgeries experimental or harmful while simultaneously allowing everyone else to get them except for trans people. This ban is discriminatory, unnecessary and I urge you to vote against HB 712 today. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Damon.

Representative Damon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 712 and I'm here representing Diana George, a mother from Hancock and speaking with her words. My husband Jason George and I are the parents of a 23-year-old assigned female at birth transgender son. Our son came out to my husband and I as being male at age 17 just before his sophomore year of high school. As you can imagine as a parent, hearing this from their child who you had been raising as a girl for 15 years, news like this is initially shocking, frightening and confusing. Rather than dismiss my child's feelings and courage, which I know now would have been a devastating mistake, my husband and I sought help for our child through the health care community. These health care professionals had determined through evidence-based guidelines evaluation and medication that my son was transgender and that the best course of treatment was to allow him to transition from female to male socially and medically via hormones and chest reconstruction surgery. As a registered nurse, I am also versed in reading and evaluating evidence-based scientific and medical research, which I have done extensively regarding gender dysphoria and gender identity since my son came out as being transgender. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is an international and interdisciplinary health care association who sets the standards of care for transgender health care. The professional organizations who are in support of WPATH standards of care include the following, the American Medical Association, the Endocrine Society, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, the National Association of Social Workers, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the World Health Organization. In New Hampshire, for a child to begin any hormonal treatment for gender dysphoria, the child must be assessed by a licensed therapist who specializes in working with transgender youth. The therapist must evaluate the child to determine if the child is persistent, consistent and insistent about their gender dysphoria and gender identity. If after months of therapy and living socially as their preferred gender and the child remains persistent, consistent and insistent, the child may be allowed to begin hormone treatment under the care of a pediatric endocrinologist. Hormone blockers are completely reversible. Cross hormones such as testosterone and estrogen are not allowed to begin until the child has met the above-mentioned criteria under a licensed therapist care and in most cases has reached the age of at least 14 years. If a teenager has already begun puberty and gender dysphoria has set in, a transgender teenager may decide that to feel more comfortable in their body, they need to undergo gender affirming surgery. This may involve chest reconstruction. This was the case with my son. At age 16, after having been on testosterone for a year, my son asked my husband and I if he could have what the transgender community refers to as top surgery. There was a lot of careful thought put into this decision. Initially to assuage my son's gender dysphoria about his breasts I bought him chest binders. These are an undergarment similar to a sports bra for which trans males and some non-binary people choose to wear to hide their breasts. Chest binders are very tight and restrictive. They are also hot and can be uncomfortable to wear in the warm months. My son wore breast binders for a while but eventually found them to be too restrictive, difficult to don and take off and not really alleviating his gender dysphoria because as a trans male he did not feel he should have female breasts. At this stage in my son's transition, after consulting with his health care team, my husband and I made the deeply personal and difficult decision to allow our son to undergo top surgery. My son is now 23 years old and is an amazing happy and talented adult. He does not regret having undergone his surgery. He knew who he was then, and he knows who he is now. A child does not choose to be transgender. Being transgender opens the door for incessant ridicule, misunderstanding, rejection and bullying. Multiple studies have shown that when a transgender child is allowed to transition and accepted by their family, peers and society, they will go on to thrive and lead healthy and happy lives. When a child comes out, and as transgender parents, we must make the most heart-wrenching and difficult decisions about our child's health and future. There is an enormous amount of thought, consideration, fear and worry about making the most deeply personal and difficult decision to allow your child to transition. I can tell you today that it has been the best decision my husband and I have ever made regarding my son's health and well-being, and I vehemently oppose HB 712. I am honored to speak those words of Diana George, and I ask you all to find it in your heart to let the parents and the health care professionals be the people who make these decisions. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Miller.

Representative Miller: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today in opposition to HB 712 and to further amplify the voices and the lived experience that we heard during our testimony of the residents and constituents of New Hampshire, to that end, I will share the story of Reverend Sam Holland. My name is Reverend Sam Holland, and I am the chairperson of the Justice and Witness Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. The United Church of Christ is a large Christian denomination in New Hampshire representing rural, suburban and urban settings, people of all income levels and people of all and no political affiliations. I was elected by this politically diverse church to serve in my role. I am non-binary. While I was assigned female at birth, I have never felt either male or female. To affirm my full personhood, I had top surgery in New Hampshire in early 2024 just after my 37th birthday. Having top surgery has been one

of the best health decisions of my life. Some of the most scarring memories of my adolescence were dealing with my chest. I never wanted my chest to grow as a child, as a teen and into adulthood. I longed for a chest like boys and men around me throughout my life, but I knew I was in the middle, non-binary. As the world changed, and I started to meet non-binary people who had had top surgery I realized that with treatment my body could match my full personhood. This misalignment between my chest and my true self caused both mental and physical pain including physical chest pain and issues related to nutrition. As a full adult it took over 18 months to get top surgery. I had a counselor and therapist specializing in gender for more than one year before even seeing a surgeon. The total cost of the surgery with insurance was between \$3,000 and \$7,000. Without insurance it would have been around \$100,000. I do not know what the final amount I paid was because I saw every payment I made as necessary. Further, I had the love in support of friends, family and faith communities in New Hampshire and throughout the country. I felt physically better when I woke up from my surgery. To this day I am glad I made this health decision for myself and really for my family too. With regret rates being 1% or less it would be absurd for our state to legislate the banning of this important procedure. I have excellent health insurance and made this health decision with health professionals. I would not have wanted politicians creating barriers to what I needed and I certainly would not want that for any youth in New Hampshire. Trans youth and adults are both at risk at this moment, for each legislative action is not just about how people can or cannot access health care, it is about the message we send to people who are already bullied and excluded. Please oppose HB 712 and do not create a double standard around this health matter. Speaking for myself, I echo these words. Let us look to the lived experiences of our residents. The testimony that they overwhelmingly provided in committee and online. These are our constituents. These are the people we are here to protect, not the outsiders who have instigated this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Mazur.

Representative Mazur: Thank you, Mister Speaker. This bill is grounded in a crucial question, do children change their minds? If the answer is yes and research and personal testimonies suggest it is, then we must act now to protect them from life-altering irreversible medical procedures. Young girls and teenagers lack the maturity to fully understand the permanence of removing their breasts. Their brains are still developing. Their emotions are in flux and their identities are still forming, yet some are being led to believe that major irreversible surgeries are the solution to their struggles without fully comprehending what they are giving up. The devastating consequences of allowing these breast surgeries on young women are already unfolding. Just last year an autistic woman in New Hampshire, who did change her mind, filed a lawsuit against her former endocrinologist and other medical providers saying she was misled into inappropriate gender affirming surgeries and treatments when she was younger that left her in pain and have ruined her life. Under a health provider's care, they performed a double mastectomy and removed all of her other reproductive organs. According to the lawsuit, "she cannot get back the life that was stolen from her. She will never be able to conceive and bear a child. Even if she could conceive a child, she will never be able to breastfeed her child." She lives in daily pain from the effects of removing her perfectly healthy breasts. The reality is hospitals across the country including in Boston are now limiting or ending minors access to these surgeries. Why? Because the evidence is clear. The Journal of Sexual Medicine recently studied over 100,000 patients and found that those who underwent these types of gender transition surgeries had significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and substance abuse compared to those who did not. We must acknowledge the serious risks involved. Breast removal is not just a cosmetic change, it is a life-altering surgery that comes with physical and psychological consequences. There is no going back. The scars, both emotional and physical, can never ever be undone. If these surgeries don't improve mental health outcomes why, why are we rushing to push young girls, little girls, down this irreversible path? Why are we allowing doctors to perform these surgeries on little kids? This legislation ensures that minors are safeguarded from premature elective procedures, while still allowing, which this bill does, appropriate medical discretion for legitimate needs. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure because protecting children should never ever be a partisan issue. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is ought to pass as amended on HB 712. Rep. Granger has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The motion before us is the majority committee report of ought to pass as amended. This is a roll call vote. The Chair recognizes Rep. Weber for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that limiting breast surgeries to a specific list of acceptable procedures for specific conditions only has dangerous and unintended consequences for everybody else who might need a surgery for a different condition. If I know that the example of this is that the amendment that you just passed was drafted after I asked if this bill, as originally submitted, would have prohibited somebody who needed it from getting the lumpectomy and the lymph node removal, that there was the routine care for me after my cancer diagnosis last fall. And if I know that I want to affirm the right of every Granite Stater to appropriate medical treatment and the rights of parents and medical providers to direct that treatment, would I now push the red button to defeat this poorly drafted and discriminatory legislation?

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Rep. Layon for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that this bill when drafted and included breast tissue always intended to include lumpectomy and I still believe it includes lumpectomy, but in order to accommodate our colleague from Walpole, we drafted this amendment to satisfy her concerns. And if I know that WPATH, the medical organization which has been cited as one of the standards, actually removed the section on ethics and replaced it with UNIX so I don't really trust their judgment so much anymore. And if I know that this bill has exceptions for abnormally large breasts in both boys and girls, cancer, infection and other tissue damage, which is quite broad reaching but limits the surgery to everyone under 18, including both teenage girls who want to look like the magazine models and get implants and for children who are concerned about this because they don't fit the stereotype that they think they should belong to. And if I know that we heard from a woman who worked at a leading pediatric gender clinic who started questioning the orthodoxy when she had a patient call her a month after she had surgery to remove her breasts crying and asking to get them back and the surgeon would not even take her call so her regret could not be included in statistics.

Speaker Packard: The House will be in order. The member will suspend. I've given pretty good latitude to both sides of the aisle today on PIs. Member may continue.

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Thank you, Mister Speaker. And if I know that I've also helped a new mom struggling with an infant because her breast removal left her with her milk ducts trapped with no exit and the physical pain from holding her infant was almost as great as the psychological pain knowing that that breast removal had removed that opportunity to comfort her child, would I then press the green button to say that all kids need to wait until 18 to enlarge, reduce or remove their breasts? Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of ought to pass as amended on House Bill 712. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor you'll press the green button, if you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 200 voting Yea; 165 voting Nay, the committee report is adopted.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 584-FN, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dennis Mannion for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill simply states that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction in New Hampshire. The bill also removes a reference to medical schools recognized by the World Health Organization and replaces it with a reference to the World Directory of Medical Schools. The amendment specifically exempts the reference to the World Health Organization's world directory of foreign pharmacy schools from the bill so it can still be used. This bill also creates a cause of action against counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school administrative units, or quasi-public entities or any employee, trustee, or director of such when acting in the scope of such person's elected or appointed capacity, who enforces policies, mandates, orders, requirements, edicts, or directives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum. The amendment also narrows the language upon which liability may be predicated from "relying on claims" to "enforcing mandates" of the designated organizations. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Marjorie Smith for the Minority of Judiciary. The organizations this bill identifies have never and will never issue an enforceable mandate on the State of New Hampshire and local and state entities, or any other state, nor would an action of any of the organizations identified have any force of law. If that were all, we could agree to the bill as feel-good, but meaningless, legislation. However, the state, its local subdivisions, and other private and public institutions in New Hampshire take appropriate pride in basing decisions on due diligence in which they evaluate the broadest possible range of well researched information, assessing the credibility of the source, experience in other jurisdictions, and other valid measurement tools. Adoption of this bill would have a chilling effect on the decision-making process of public and private entities across the state. New Hampshire honors many diverse approaches to problem solving, this bill is not in that tradition.

Majority Amendment (0990h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 New Section; Claims Arising from Government Entities Enforcing Mandates of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or the World Economic Forum. Amend RSA 541-B by inserting after section 21-a the following new section:

541-B:21-b Claims Arising from the Government Entities Enforcing Mandates of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or the World Economic Forum.

I. Without otherwise limiting or defining the sovereign immunity of the state and its agencies, this chapter shall apply to all claims against any counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school

administrative units, or quasi-public entities or any employee, trustee, or director of such when acting in the scope of such person's elected or appointed capacity, who enforces policies, mandates, orders, requirements, edicts, or directives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or the World Economic Forum.

II. The limitations on awards provided in RSA 541-B:14 shall not be increased by the proceeds from any insurance policy procured by a nonprofit entity, or any employee of such entity, included under RSA 541-B:21-b, I.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following and renumbering the original section 4 to read as 5:

4 Definitions; Foreign Pharmacy Graduate. Amend RSA 318:1, VI-c to read as follows:

VI-c. "Foreign pharmacy graduate" is a pharmacist whose undergraduate pharmacy degree was conferred outside the United States by a pharmacy school, **notwithstanding RSA 541-B:21-b**, listed in the World Directory of Schools of Pharmacy published by the World Health Organization.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Provides that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction in New Hampshire.

II. Removes a reference to medical schools recognized by the World Health Organization and replaces it with a reference to the World Directory of Medical Schools.

III. Creates a cause of action against counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school administrative units, or quasi-public entities who create and enforce policies based on the claims of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum.

IV. Provides that in a claim against the state or a local government agency for enforcing policies or directives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or the World Economic Forum, the limits of awards under RSA 541-B shall apply and shall not be increased by the proceeds of an insurance policy held by such entity.

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. Marjorie Smith spoke against.

Rep. Dennis Mannion spoke in favor.

Rep. Polozov requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 198 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 198

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
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
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen

Morton, Jonathan
 Panek, Sandra
 Post, Lisa
 Schneller, John
 Sirois, Shane
 Mannion, Tom
 Wherry, Robert

Noble, Kristin
 Paquette, Kathleen
 Presa, Adam
 Scully, Kevin
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Ulery, Jordan

Notter, Jeanine
 Pauer, Diane
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Seidel, Sheila
 Tenczar, Jeffrey
 Warden, Mark

Ohm, Bill
 Peeples, Raymond
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Mannion, Tim
 Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Cambrils, Jose
 Mehegan, Peter
 Plante, Raymond
 See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
 McGuire, Dan
 Moffett, Michael
 Polozov, Yury
 Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
 Devoid, Ricky
 Morse, Bryan
 Boyd, Stephen
 Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
 Hill, Gregory
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Seaworth, Brian
 Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Vandecasteele, Susan

Bennett, Cindy
 Mannion, Dennis
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
 Thomas, Douglas
 Dunn, Ron
 Guzowski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Perez, Kristine
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Edwards, Jess
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Nelson, Jodi
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Summers, James
 Tudor, Paul
 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
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 162

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Oppel, Thomas
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue

Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh

Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad

Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

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

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

Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

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

Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
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.

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE

Rep. McFarlane moved that **HB 614-FN**, relative to litigation alleging constitutional rights violations, be removed from the table.

Rep. McFarlane requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 76 - NAYS 287

YEAS - 76

BELKNAP

Comtois, Barbara

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Ploszaj, Tom

Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Belcher, Mike

Cordelli, Glenn

Smith, Jonathan

Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis

COOS

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared

Beaulier, Calvin
McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex
Sellers, John

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Drew, Matt
Kofalt, Jim
Pauer, Diane
Seibert, Christine
Mannion, Tim

Ammon, Keith
Dumont, Dillon
Mazur, Lisa
Peeples, Raymond
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Giasson, Henry
Noble, Kristin
Reinfurt, Sherri
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Kelley, Diane
Kenny, Catherine
Notter, Jeanine
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

McGuire, Dan
Pitaro, Matthew
Thibault, James

Devoid, Ricky
Plante, Raymond

Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri

Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Kuttab, Katelyn
McGrath, Linda
Perez, Kristine
Soti, Julius

Bernardy, JD
Litchfield, Melissa
Nadeau, Brian
Read, Ellen
Wilson, Vicki

Drago, Mike
Love, David
Osborne, Jason
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt

Ford, Mary
McDonnell, Valerie
Brown, Pam
Selby, Donald

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Granger, Michael

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Farrington, Samuel
Turcotte, Len

NAYS - 287**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
St. Clair, Charlie

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Qualey, James

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tierney, James

Durkin, Sean
Valerino, Brian

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Raymond, Heather
Ryan, Linda
Seidel, Sheila
Staub, Kathy
Ulery, Jordan
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Bouchard, Donald
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
DiSilvestro, Linda
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Labrie, Brian
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Preece, David
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Sheehan, Vanessa
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Dupont, Pierre
Foss, Lily
Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Carol
Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew

Aures, Cyril
Cambrils, Jose
Ebel, Karen
Hill, Gregory

Aylward, Deborah
Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Lane, Connie

Bricchi, Tracy
Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryll
Luneau, David

Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

MacKay, James
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
See, Alvin
Wood, Clayton

Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Sytek, John
Turer, Eric
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Meuse, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vallone, Mark
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Edgar, Michael
Guthrie, Joseph
Janigian, John
Knab, Allison
Lundgren, David
Pearson, Mark
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Porcelli, Susan
Scherr, Buzz
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weinstein, Toni

Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Murray, Kate
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Muns, Chris
Potucek, John
Simpson, Alexis
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Hall, Robley
Stone, John
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

and the motion failed.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 620-FN, relative to the exercise of the freedom of religion. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: The free exercise of religion is basic, and no government should have the authority to take it away. In 1993, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to restore the “compelling interest” test under federal law for statutes that substantially burden religious freedom. However, a later US Supreme Court decision held that the federal statute could not be applied to state laws that negatively impact religion, thus creating a need for a state statute to address this problem. Twenty-eight states have enacted similar laws, and New Hampshire is one of ten states that have a favorable state court decision to require the “compelling interest” test. (See *State v. Mack*, 2020). This bill would codify existing judicial protection in state statute as a protection against any future changes in New Hampshire jurisprudence or federal statute. The bill also allows for civil remedies.

Rep. Katy Peternel

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill is legislation to put certain protections for religious liberty in state statute. This legislation is unnecessary and due to some language issues, may cause complications in already settled law in New Hampshire. Our Supreme Court has already defined in *State v. Mack* exactly what this bill wishes to cover. It is already part of our law. If a later New Hampshire Supreme Court decision would alter that, it would govern our law as opposed to a state statute if contrary. Additionally, federal law also covers much, if not all of what this legislation seeks to enable. If that were not enough, the New Hampshire Constitution in Part 1, Article 5 guarantees each New Hampshire citizen the right to worship God according to their conscience, without limitation, except as to disturbing the peace of others in their practice of their religion. This bill adds no rights nor any additional protections. However, it contains several problematic parts, in that it contains no definition of religion or religious belief and there is no provision regarding laws of general applicability, as discussed by the US Supreme Court in the *Smith* and *Flores* cases. The defects in this bill suggest possible future litigation on a statute that provides no value added.

Rep. Paul Berch

Rep. Lynn moved Ought to Pass.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Guzowski moved that **HB 620-FN**, relative to the exercise of the freedom of religion, be laid on the table. Rep. Farrington requested a roll call; not sufficiently seconded.

On a division vote, with 290 members having voted in the affirmative, and 72 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 666-FN, relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for the Majority of Judiciary. The majority of the Judiciary Committee believes this bill, as amended, adds much needed protections to an individual's privacy. The bill would restrict public libraries and staff from disclosing an individual's personal library card or user data information. Additionally, it would impose a civil penalty on the staff who discloses someone's private library card information to the public. During the public hearing, the Judiciary Committee heard testimony that libraries are receiving legal advice that it is legal to disclose someone's private library card and user information. This bill would update the statute to make it clear to everyone that library cards are personal and there is no public interest in knowing who does or does not have a library card. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Marjorie Smith for the Minority of Judiciary. As they explained to the committee, problems that some legislators experienced in their town's public library caused them to bring to the Judiciary Committee multiple bills to address their concerns. While the courts ruled against them on at least one matter, and a majority of the town's voters did not agree to their concerns, nonetheless the committee supported two of the bills that came before us. The majority of the committee also supported this bill, but the minority believes that the language of this bill exceeds responsible standards. The bill, as amended, states that, "any library or library staff member who discloses any individual's library card or membership without a court order or explicit consent of the individual in question shall be in violation of this section and subject to a civil penalty of \$1000, made payable from the violator to the aggrieved individual. Furthermore, the violator shall issue an apology to the aggrieved individual. The apology shall be notarized and sent via certified mail to the aggrieved individual." In many towns, libraries are staffed by volunteer or part-time employees who are committed to helping the citizens of their town have access to one of the most important town resources - the town library. It is possible that an employee or volunteer might inadvertently make an error in disclosing information that is confidential. The minority does not condone such a breach, but if the punishment is to fit the crime, then a penalty of \$1,000 seems excessive and inappropriate. If the alleged violation involves 10 or 20 or 100 individuals, then the \$1,000 penalty would be multiplied accordingly. The minority does not believe that any New Hampshire law should appear to be based on revenge or retribution.

Majority Amendment (0332h)

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

1 Statewide Library Development System; Library User Records; Confidentiality. Amend RSA 201-D:11, I and II to read as follows:

I. Library records which contain the names or other personal identifying information regarding the users of public or other than public libraries shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as provided in paragraph II. Such records include, but are not limited to, library, **library cards, library membership status**, information system, and archival records related to the circulation and use of library materials or services, including records of materials that have been viewed or stored in electronic form.

II. Records described in paragraph I may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of such libraries and shall be disclosed upon request by, or consent of, the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by statute.

2 New Paragraph; Library User Records; Confidentiality. Amend RSA 201-D:11 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Any library or library staff member who discloses an individual's library card or membership status without a court order or explicit consent of the individual in question shall be in violation of this section and subject to a civil penalty of \$1000, made payable from the violator to the aggrieved individual whose information was released without their consent or a court order. Furthermore, the violator shall issue an apology to the aggrieved individual. The apology shall be notarized and sent via certified mail to the aggrieved individual.

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. Alexander offered floor amendment (1307h).

Floor Amendment (1307h)

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

1 Statewide Library Development System; Library User Records; Confidentiality. Amend RSA 201-D:11, I and II to read as follows:

I. Library records which contain the names or other personal identifying information regarding the users of public or other than public libraries shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as provided in paragraph II. Such records include, but are not limited to, library, **library cards, library membership status**, information system, and archival records related to the circulation and use of library materials or services, including records of materials that have been viewed or stored in electronic form.

II. Records described in paragraph I may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of such libraries and shall be disclosed upon request by, or consent of, the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by statute. ***Nothing in this section shall exclude a school from notifying parents about educational materials being borrowed by or taught to their children.***

2 New Paragraph; Library User Records; Confidentiality. Amend RSA 201-D:11 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Any library or library staff member who **knowingly or recklessly** discloses an individual's library card or membership status without a court order or explicit consent of the individual **or where otherwise required by statute** [in-question] shall be in violation of this section and subject to a civil penalty of \$1000, made payable from the violator to the aggrieved individual whose information was released without their consent or a court order. Furthermore, the violator shall issue an apology to the aggrieved individual. The apology shall be notarized and sent via certified mail to the aggrieved individual.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1307h).

Rep. Alexander spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (1307h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Manos spoke against.

Rep. Alexander spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 189 - NAYS 172**YEAS - 189****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
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
Rhodes, Jennifer

Karasinski, Sly
Thackston, Dick

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam

Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

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

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

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
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

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 172

BELKNAP

Ploszaj, Tom

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Qualey, James

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

Berezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
PANEK, Sandra
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Paquette, Kathleen
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Mehegan, Peter
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Richards, Beth
See, Alvin
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Litchfield, Melissa
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Porcelli, Susan
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Donnelly, Tanya
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

Reps. Baldwin and Manohar did not vote and wished to be recorded against.

Reps. Ball and Bridle did not vote and wished to be recorded in favor.

HB 687-FN, relative to class action settlements and consent decrees. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill provides that no portion of a class action settlement or judgment shall be paid to anyone other than members of the class or for the payment of attorneys' fees. It also provides that any monies collected under the settlement or judgment that cannot be distributed as just stated will escheat to the state and cannot be diverted to other purposes pursuant to the cy pres doctrine. This doctrine allows courts to apply monies that have been specified to be used for one charitable purpose to another purpose if the court determines that the original intended purpose cannot be achieved. Lastly, the bill provides that in awarding class action attorneys' fees the court should utilize the Laffey Matrix unless the court determines to use another method. The Laffey Matrix is a process developed and utilized by courts in the Washington, DC area for awarding attorneys' fees based on the imputation of certain hourly rates of compensation for attorneys, paralegals, and others involved in the litigation based on their level of experience, the complexity of the case, and other factors. The majority of the committee feels that this bill is necessary to prevent the situation, which has occurred with some regularity in recent years, whereby class action settlement monies which properly belong to members of the class are diverted to ideologically focused charitable causes based on the desires of the attorneys and the court and without significant input from the majority of the injured parties. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Paul Berch for the Minority of Judiciary. This bill seeks to govern practice in New Hampshire Courts as to settlements in state class action suits. New Hampshire has no statute regarding class action suits but does have a Superior Court Civil Rule. Not widely used, the minority has been able to find only a handful of state class actions, comprising suits against the state to enforce voting rights, rights of the mentally ill and disabled and similar civil rights litigation. None, to the knowledge of the minority, have involved leftover money that needs to be distributed. The purpose and application of this part of the bill is unclear. In federal courts, including the First Circuit governing New Hampshire, there are cases of leftover settlement money, and the prevailing rule in federal courts is that it either gets further distributed to the known and available claimants or distributed by the courts "as close as possible" to a charity that reflects the values of the victim. This is because settlement money belongs to the victims, not the state. As to attorneys' fees, the bill sets the so-called Laffey Matrix as the default method, with an escape hatch that the court can do what it feels is just. The Laffey Matrix has never been adopted in either New Hampshire state court nor the First Circuit and has largely been rejected nationwide. The New Hampshire courts already review proposed attorneys fees at part of the settlement process – the Fairness Hearing – to determine that they are reasonable and proportionate to the outcome achieved and it is designed to prevent excessive fees that could diminish the compensation available to class members. That is already the law and practice in New Hampshire, and this bill just confuses that. Since there are apparently no problems in the application of current law and this bill would only add potential confusion to a simple and fair process, the minority recommends Inexpedient to Legislate.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.
Rep. Lynn spoke in favor.
Rep. Berch spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 198 - NAYS 165**YEAS - 198****BELKNAP**

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

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
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

**NAYS - 165
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Cordelli, Glenn

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

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

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
McFarlane, Donald
Spahr, Terry

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Drew, Matt
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
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 200, relative to the procedure for overriding a local tax cap. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. The bill, as amended, modifies the method of overriding a local tax cap adopted under RSA 32:5-b. Current statute enables the voters of a town, village district, or school district to adopt a local tax cap by a 3/5 majority vote and further allows the legislative body to override the tax cap by a simple majority vote. Therefore, at present, a tax cap serves simply to limit the total appropriations proposed by the governing body or official budget committee and presented to the voters at an annual meeting. The bill modifies the current method of overriding a local tax cap to require a 3/5 majority vote, by ballot, to approve any appropriation that would exceed the tax cap. This is the same override method currently used in the school district budget cap under RSA 32:5-e. By requiring a 3/5 majority vote instead of a simple majority to override the tax cap, this ensures that any approved appropriations above the tax cap are well supported by local taxpayers. Furthermore, it is logical that a local tax cap that was adopted by a 3/5 majority vote shall require the same vote threshold for the tax cap to be overridden. Additionally, the bill aligns the override procedure for a town, village district, or school district tax cap with the supermajority override vote threshold for a city and municipal charter tax cap under RSA 49-C:33, providing consistency in the application of the tax cap override provision across political subdivisions. Importantly, this bill upholds local control by providing flexibility in spending while at the same time maintaining fiscal responsibility for towns, village districts, or school districts that have adopted a local tax cap. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Stephanie Grund for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. When there is a new provision of law, like this one, the voters have traditionally been required to ask the voters if they want to enable this new law. This bill does not require this and overrides the current process. This bill calls out that "School districts shall place the warrant article for the SAU budget at the beginning of the warrant, immediately after any warrant articles proposing bonds or notes." (When a committee member asked for clarification because most SAU's do not have a separate SAU warrant article on their ballot, there was no clear explanation given.) Currently, SAU's have a choice under RSA 194-C:3 to separate the SAU budget. However, the committee was not given all of the information. HB 564 currently in the Education Policy and Administration Committee is changing RSA 194-C:9-a by requiring SAU budgets to be on a separate warrant article. These two bills should have been combined into one bill and heard by one committee in order for the full understanding of the language to be considered. The minority believes this bill is removing local choice by deceptively separating RSA language changes in different committees.

Majority Amendment (0573h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Municipal Budget Law; Method to Override Local Tax Cap. RSA 32:5-b, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

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

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

(b) School districts shall place the warrant article for the SAU budget at the beginning of school district warrant, immediately after any warrant articles proposing bonds or notes. For school districts using a traditional meeting and when the outcome of the SAU budget vote is pending on balloting from the other school districts in the SAU, the higher of the school district's assigned portion of the proposed SAU budget or the school district's assigned portion of the adjusted SAU budget shall be assumed as raised and appropriated for the purpose of determining when the override provisions under paragraph III apply.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 191 members having voted in the affirmative, and 156 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. Grund spoke against.

Rep. Pauer spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 195 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.

HB 284-FN, requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. John MacDonald for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. The majority of the committee believes this bill is a very simple, common-sense, and needed piece of legislation on behalf of all voters. The majority believes that it is important to provide and share all available information to voters as it relates to the estimated tax impact to both proposed warrant articles and the budget. This bill would require the municipality to include the following printed statement at the end of each warrant article and budget "if this warrant article passes, there will be an estimated tax impact of \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property evaluation." Vote 10-8. Rep. Dylan Germana for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. As amended, this bill needlessly clutters the ballot and requires "projections" of future years tax impacts on municipal budgets and warrant articles. There is no way of knowing what the impact on future years will be, so whatever number put down will be a guess that could be misleading the public. It feels to the minority the ultimate goal of this bill is to spread misinformation and scare people based on "projections" to vote down critical budgets and warrant articles.

Majority Amendment (0571h)

Amend the bill by replacing sections 2 and 3 with the following:

2 Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; Budget Preparation; Warrant Article Tax Summaries. RSA 32:5, V-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V-b.(a) A town shall require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. Such notation shall be phrased as follows:

"If this warrant article passes, there will be an estimated tax impact of \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation."

Any special warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts, or containing lease agreements with or without non-appropriation clauses, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact each year for the first 5 years, or each year if the tax impact is less than 5 years. Such notation shall be phrased as follows:

"If this warrant article passes, there will be an estimated tax impact of \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation (year 1), \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation (year 2), \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation (year 3), \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation (year 4), \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation (year 5)."

In multi-town districts, the notation shall be included for each town by prefixing the notation with the name of each town. The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body.

(b) The town shall also require that a total tax impact summary statement be placed at the end of the warrant article. If the town has adopted use of the official ballot under RSA 40:13 or a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D, the total tax impact summary shall also be included on the official ballot before the first warrant article question. The total tax impact summary statement shall describe the estimated tax impact if all proposed articles having a tax impact were to pass. Such notation shall be phrased as follows:

"If all warrant articles with a tax impact pass, there will be an estimated tax impact of \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property valuation."

In multi-town districts, the notation shall be included for each town by prefixing the notation with the name of each town. The determination of the total estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body.

3 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.

Rep. Dylan Germana spoke against.

Rep. Bernardy spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 198 - NAYS 160

YEAS - 198

BELKNAP

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

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
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

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
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
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
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
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 160**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita	Paige, David	McAleer, Chris	Woodcock, Stephen
------------------	--------------	----------------	-------------------

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick	Berch, Paul	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
Lucas, Janet	Muirhead, Russell	Oppel, Thomas	Rockmore, Ellen
Spahr, Terry	Stavis, Laurel	Stringham, Jerry	Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

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

MERRIMACK

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

STRAFFORD

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian	Cloutier, John	Damon, Hope	Girard, Dale
Palmer, William			

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

HB 372-L, relative to lease agreements of equipment for building or facility improvements. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. Under current law, towns, village districts, and school districts can propose a warrant article for a multi-year lease or lease-purchase of equipment at an annual or special meeting, under the Municipal Budget Law (RSA 32) and the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33). As multi-year expenditures, such leases are passed by a 3/5 majority ballot vote of the legislative body at an annual or special meeting. Additionally, RSA 33:7-e, Lease Agreements of Equipment, provides for a special case of a lease or lease-purchase agreement for equipment containing a non-appropriation clause, commonly referred to as an escape clause, allowing for the lease agreement to be terminated early

without penalty by returning the equipment. These types of lease agreements allow for leasing of non-fixed equipment, such as police cruisers, fire trucks, and department of public works equipment as these capital items can be easily returned to the vendor in future years without penalty should the governing body choose not to continue the lease or should funding be unavailable to continue the lease. Under RSA 33:7-e, a lease agreement of equipment with an escape clause is approved by a simple majority vote. Moreover, RSA 33:7-e also currently states that “building or facility improvements related to the installation, purpose, or operation of such equipment shall be deemed to constitute equipment” and can also be leased under the same lease agreement with an escape clause. Any building or facility improvements allowed in a lease agreement were intended to be small incidental costs to hook up the piece of equipment. However, this provision is being used by towns and school districts to lease fixed, non-returnable equipment such as boilers, elevators, HVAC equipment, LED lighting, etc. Further, this provision is also being used to fund extensive building renovations to include framing, drywall, paint, flooring, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, windows, doors, etc. all of which, once installed, become permanent fixtures. Testimony provided during the hearing cited two dozen cases statewide in which a lease agreement with an escape clause was used to fund significant building renovations ranging from \$295,000 to \$25.2 million with lease terms up to 20 years. Clearly, such renovation projects cannot be practically “escaped” as it is highly impractical for a governing body to return “leased” building materials and installed fixtured equipment used in a renovation. Undoubtedly, an expensive lease agreement with an escape clause makes no sense. Moreover, this practice of leasing versus bonding renovations also greatly increases costs to taxpayers, as interest rates for lease agreements are typically much higher than bond interest rates for the same term due to the flexibility of the escape clause and the ability to terminate the lease early. For the \$25.2 million lease, taxpayers will be paying \$6 million more in interest payments than if a simple bond had been used. Importantly, this bill addresses the misuse of RSA 33:7-e by modifying the statute so that leases containing building renovations and equipment that become fixtures do not qualify under RSA 33:7-e. Appropriately, the bill requires the same 3/5 majority vote approval to either lease or bond equipment that becomes a fixture as well as any associated building renovations or improvements associated with the installed equipment. A simple majority vote threshold to approve such lease agreements is inappropriate when taxpayers must pay significantly more in comparison to a bond. Most notably, the leasing of building renovations and fixtured equipment, as well as energy performance contracts (RSA 21-I:19-d), are still permitted under RSA 32 and RSA 33 and are approved by a 3/5 majority vote under this bill. Lastly, under this bill, RSA 33:7-e still supports lease agreements of non-fixtured equipment such as vehicles, which can be easily returned, and these leases are approved by a simple majority vote. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Dylan Germana for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. This bill states that all building or facility improvements for municipalities and school districts that become fixtures shall not be financed through lease agreements. This is a function that is not abused but used responsibly and in tandem with bonds to best fund projects and regular maintenance. Using leases also allows for maintaining lower bond rates. School districts also use leases for energy performance contracts which can help save money. This bill was vetoed by the Governor last year as he called it bad for business.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Stavis moved that **HB 372-L**, relative to lease agreements of equipment for building or facility improvements, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 196 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 373-L, relative to the management and regulation of town real property. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. The bill, with amendment, clarifies statutory language in RSA 41:11a, Town Property, and provides flexibility for towns to enter into long term leases of unused municipal property. Towns across the state are misinterpreting and misapplying RSA 41:11a which has led to a great deal of confusion as well as an inconsistent application of the law across the state. For example, a number of towns are requiring that their legislative bodies vote every five years to re-authorize their select boards the ability to continue to lease unused, town property under lease agreements with terms longer than five years, otherwise the lease shall terminate. This bill, with amendment, clarifies the statute in order to avoid misinterpretation and prevent the resulting patchwork of application across the state. The bill also adds two additional authorities to RSA 41:11a for leases under this section. First, if the proposed lease is for more than one year but no greater than five years, then the legislative body may vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into the proposed lease for a specific, unused municipal property by a simple, majority vote. This provision is especially useful if the optional blanket “five-year” authority has not been granted by the legislative body via the enabling statute provision. Second, and more importantly, if the proposed lease

is for more than five years, then the legislative body may vote by a 3/5 majority ballot vote, at an annual or special meeting, to grant the selectmen the authority to rent or lease a specific, unused municipal property for a period exceeding five years and up to 99 years. As with other long-term financial commitments incurred by a political subdivision which raise and appropriate taxpayer dollars over many years such as bonds and long-term equipment leases, it is reasonable to require a 3/5 majority vote in order to ensure that any such long-term commitment, in which municipal property may be tied up, is supported by a super-majority of the legislative body. Unfortunately, the applicability clause which grandfathered any lease in effect before the effective date of the act was inadvertently omitted in drafting the committee amendment to the bill, therefore, a floor amendment will be offered to correct this oversight. In conclusion, this bill with amendment clarifies and expands the options that voters can grant to selectmen in order to better facilitate utilization of unused municipal property as appropriate and generate revenue in an effort to reduce local property taxes. Vote 10-8 Rep. Stephanie Grund for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. At a time when municipalities and school districts are looking for avenues to reduce the increasing burden to taxpayers, the minority of the committee believes this bill makes it more difficult. This bill increases the requirement to pass lease agreements to a 3/5 majority instead of a simple majority as the law currently states. The committee was given 12 examples of leases of which 10 were revenue generating and over half of those generating thousands of dollars each year for the respective towns. We should not be advocating for further restrictions when it comes to generating revenue and reducing the burden to taxpayers. Also, the amendment changes the wording to may from shall making the law ambiguous. The amendment states that the legislative body "may vote" instead of "shall vote." The majority was more concerned about ensuring the 3/5 voting requirement made it into the bill rather than including the statutory language that ensures this law will be followed. Finally, there is not a grandfathering clause for leases currently in place that were voted on by a simple majority. The minority of the committee believes this bill presents multiple concerns in ambiguous language, effect on current leases, and not aiding our municipalities and school districts to reduce the burden to taxpayers.

Majority Amendment (0836h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Choices and Duties of Town Officers; Selectmen; Town Property. Amend RSA 41:11-a, II, to read as follows:

II. The authority under paragraph I shall include the power to rent or lease such property during periods not needed for public use, ~~[provided, however, that any rental or lease agreement for a period of more than one year shall not be valid unless ratified by vote of the town.]~~ **subject to the following provisions:**

(a) If the proposed lease is for one year or less, then the selectmen may lease the property without further action by the legislative body;

(b) If the proposed lease is for more than one year but no greater than 5 years, then the legislative body may vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into the proposed lease for a specific municipal property by majority vote; or

(c) If the proposed lease is for more than 5 years, then the legislative body may vote by a 3/5 majority at an annual or special meeting to grant the selectmen the authority to rent or lease a specific municipal property for an amount of time specified in the question, not to exceed 99 years. Voting on the question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed on the official ballot used to elect officers, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. Polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by the moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the question.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires selectmen to attain an approval vote to rent or lease a specified real property owned by the town for a period of more than one year and up to 5 years.

II. Requires selectmen to attain a 3/5 majority ballot vote to rent or lease a specified real property owned by the town for a period of more than 5 years and up to 99 years.

III. Provides that selectmen can enter into leases of any real property owned by the town for up to one year without action by the legislative body, and that selectmen may be granted universal authority by an approval vote of the legislative body to enter into leases of any real property owned by the town for up to 5 years.

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. Pauer offered floor amendment (1289h).

Floor Amendment (1289h)

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

1 Choices and Duties of Town Officers; Selectmen; Town Property. Amend RSA 41:11-a, II and III to read as follows:

II. The authority under paragraph I shall include the power to rent or lease such property during periods not needed for public use, ~~[provided, however, that any rental or lease agreement for a period of more than one year shall not be valid unless ratified by vote of the town.]~~ ***subject to the following provisions:***

(a) If the proposed lease is for one year or less, then the selectmen may lease the property without further action by the legislative body;

(b) If the proposed lease is for more than one year, then the legislative body shall vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into the proposed lease for a specific municipal property up to 99 years by majority vote. This vote to authorize a proposed lease of a specific municipal property, when the lease is for up to 5 years, is not required when the selectmen have been provided the universal lease authorization by the legislative body pursuant to paragraph III.

III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, the legislative body may vote to authorize the board of selectmen to rent or lease ***any*** municipal property for a term of up to 5 years without further vote or ratification of the town. Once adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the legislative body at any duly warned meeting provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect.

2 Applicability. RSA 41:11-a, II and III, as amended by section 1, shall not affect any leases in effect prior to the effective date of this act.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires selectmen to obtain an approval vote to rent or lease a specified real property owned by the town for a period of more than one year and up to 99 years.

II. Provides that selectmen can enter into leases of any real property owned by the town for up to one year without action by the legislative body, and that selectmen may be granted universal authority by an approval vote of the legislative body to enter into leases of any real property owned by the town for up to 5 years.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1289h).

Floor amendment (1289h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Grund spoke against.

Rep. Pauer spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 190 members having voted in the affirmative, and 167 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 374, relative to clarifying references under local tax cap and budget laws. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. The bill, as amended, is house-keeping legislation for 2024 SB 383, to clarify the local tax cap and its adoption pursuant to RSA 32:5-b and 32:5-c and the new school district budget cap and its adoption pursuant to RSA 32:5-e and 32:5-f. Statutory language is updated to correct paragraph and definition references in several RSAs, to provide more clear definitions of school attendance and town population including important statutory references, as well as, to clarify the definition of "last year's base" and "this year's base" pertaining to local tax caps. The bill also adds missing statutory wording for the question to adopt a local tax cap using the inflation and attendance method for school districts or the population method for towns. Additionally, for both the local tax cap and school district budget cap, the annual date of the inflation index is changed from January 1 to October 1 to ensure that the reported figure for the inflation index is available for the annual budgeting season. Lastly, the updated language in the bill clarifies that an adjustment to an existing local tax cap or school district budget cap may be made by a vote of the legislative body without requiring that the cap be first rescinded and subsequently re-adopted with the proposed change. Importantly, these statutory modifications ensure clarity and consistency in both the adoption and application of local tax caps and school district budget caps across the state. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Jim Maggiore for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. In 2024, SB 383 was introduced to amend local tax cap law in RSA 32:5 and several relevant subsections. The bill required amending in the Senate and was voted Ought to Pass with Amendment and was sent to the House Municipal and County Government committee where it required further amendments before passing the committee by a 10-8 vote. SB 383 was ultimately signed into law and went into effect in September and October of 2024. This bill, HB

374, was introduced in 2025 to amend the very same local tax cap laws in RSA 32:5 and several relevant subsections that went into effect a mere five and six months prior in SB 383. The minority of the committee believes this bill is unnecessary because the existing law has only been in effect for 6 months. The minority also believes the language in the amendment restricts the rights of residents. The bill, as amended, permits the governing body to use the inflation index from either the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics or the Municipal Cost Index published by American City and County in the wording of the official ballot question to adopt the tax cap. However, the amendment prohibits the legislative body from amending the question, therefore the public cannot choose at their own town meeting which index they believe the town should use in calculating the tax cap. This is a restriction of the public's right to amend warrant articles at their town meetings. Once a local tax cap is adopted, any changes to the tax cap require a 3/5 supermajority voting in favor of the change. This means that if a community discovers a flaw or error in their tax cap, they could be saddled with the flaw or error if the 3/5 supermajority could not be reached to make the correction. For these reasons, the minority oppose the Ought to Pass with Amendment motion.

Majority Amendment (0572h)

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

AN ACT relative to local tax cap and budget laws.

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

1 Preparation of Budgets; Local Tax Cap. RSA 32:5-b, I, I-b, and II are repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I. In a town or district that has adopted this section, the estimated amount of local taxes to be raised for the fiscal year shall include the operating budget and all other warrant articles with a tax impact, certified by the governing body or the budget committee and posted on the warrant for the annual meeting pursuant to RSA 32:5. The estimated amount of local taxes to be raised for the fiscal year shall not exceed the local taxes raised for the prior year, as shown on the same budget and adjusted as provided in paragraph I-a and II, by more than the tax cap authorized when this section was adopted.

I-a. If the local taxes raised for the prior year were reduced by any fund balance brought forward from previous years, the amount of such reduction shall be added back and included in the amount to which the tax cap is applied under paragraph I.

I-b.(a) In a town or district that has adopted this paragraph, a tax cap limiting the base amount to be raised by property taxes to last year's base shall be adjusted to account for inflation and change in population for towns or village districts, or attendance for school districts, according to the following formula: This year's base = (Last year's base) x (1 + CPI) x (This year's population or attendance / Last year's population or attendance).

(b) In this paragraph:

(1) "Attendance" shall mean the average daily membership in residence (ADMR) of the school district, pursuant to RSA 198:38 I-a. "This year's attendance" shall be the annual ADMR reported to the department of education as of October 1 preceding the date of the budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5 I. "Last year's attendance" shall be the annual ADMR reported to the department of education as of October 1 of the year prior to the annual ADMR reported for "This year's attendance".

(2) "Base amount" or "base" shall mean the local taxes raised for the year. "This year's base" shall be the "base" proposed at the annual budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5 I. "Last year's base" shall be the "base" of the year prior to the "base" reported for "This year's base".

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

(4) "Population" shall mean the annual population figures for the town or district calculated by the department of business and economic affairs, office of planning and development pursuant to RSA 78-A:25, I. "This year's population" shall be the "Population" preceding the date of the budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5 I. "Last year's population" shall be the "Population" of the year prior to the "Population" reported for "This year's population".

II. The tax cap shall be either a fixed dollar amount, a fixed percentage, or a multiplication factor applied to the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district for the prior fiscal year as reported to the department of revenue administration as provided in paragraph I-b, subject to adjustment as provided in paragraph I-a.

2 Preparation of Budgets; Adoption of Local Tax Cap; Phrasing of Question. Amend RSA 32:5-c, IV to read as follows:

IV. [The] ***For a tax cap using a fixed dollar amount or a fixed percentage, the*** wording of the question shall be:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year’s actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than _____ (insert either a fixed dollar amount or a fixed percentage)?”

For a tax cap using multiplication factor per RSA 32:5-b, I-b, the wording of the question shall be:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes (this year’s base), that is higher than the prior fiscal year’s actual amount of local taxes raised (last year’s base), adjusted for inflation using the inflation index _____ (insert index) and the change in _____ (insert population or attendance), in accordance with RSA 32:5-b, I-b?”

3 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law; Adoption of Local Tax Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-c, V to read as follows:

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

4 New Paragraph; Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law; Adoption of Local Tax Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-c by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

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

5 Towns, Cities, Villages Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; School District Budget Cap. RSA 32:5-e is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

32:5-e School District Budget Cap. Upon adoption under RSA 32:5-f, the following shall apply:

I. In a school district that has adopted this section, the total amount raised and appropriated for the fiscal year, including the operating budget and all other warrant articles with a tax impact, as shown on the budget certified by the school board or the budget committee and posted with the warrant for the annual meeting pursuant to RSA 32:5, shall not exceed the current per pupil cost, as defined herein, times the average daily membership in residence (ADMR), pursuant to RSA 198:38, I-a, of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year as reported to the department of education times (1+ IF), where IF is an amount for an annual increase for inflation. The first year after the budget cap is adopted, the current per pupil cost shall be the per pupil cost adopted in the warrant article per RSA 32:5-f, IV. In subsequent years, the current per pupil cost shall be the previous year’s current per pupil cost times (1+IFP), where IFP is the previous year’s IF.

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

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

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

(b)(1) School districts shall place the warrant article for the SAU budget at the beginning of school district warrant, immediately after any warrant articles proposing bonds or notes.

(2) For school districts using a traditional meeting and when the outcome of the SAU budget vote is pending on balloting from the other school districts, the higher of the school district’s assigned portion of the

proposed SAU budget or the school district's assigned portion of the adjusted SAU budget shall be assumed as raised and appropriated for the purpose of determining when the override provisions under paragraph III apply.

6 Towns, Cities, Villages Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; Adoption of School District Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-f, IV and V to read as follows:

IV. ***If, under RSA 32:5-e, II, a fixed percentage is used for the annual increase for inflation, the*** [The] wording of the question shall be: "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-e, and implement a budget cap whereby the school board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than ____ dollars per pupil cost times the average daily membership in residence of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year plus a ____ percent annual increase for inflation. Requires a 3/5ths majority of the school district." Alternatively, if an annual inflation index is used, the wording of the question shall be: "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-e, and implement a budget cap whereby the school board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than ____ dollars per pupil cost times the average daily membership in residence of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year plus an annual increase for inflation using (the index) published by (the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics or American City and County) as of [January] **October** 1. Requires a 3/5ths majority of the school district."

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

7 New Paragraph; Towns, Cities, Villages Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Municipal Budget Law; Preparation of Budgets; Adoption of School District Budget Cap. Amend RSA 32:5-f by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

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

8 Applicability. RSAs 32:5-b, I-II, 32:5-c, IV-V-a, 32:5-e, I, II, and IV, and 32:5-f, IV-V-a, as amended by sections 1 through 7 of this act, shall apply to local tax caps and school district budget caps adopted prior to the effective date of this act and shall not require local amendment or re-adoption by a town or district.

9 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.

Rep. Maggiore spoke against.

Rep. Pauer spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 195 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 195

BELKNAP

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

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
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
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
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
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 159
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

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
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

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

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy	Caplan, Tony	Colby, Eleana	Kelly, Eileen
Ebel, Karen	Gallager, Eric	Gibbs, Merryl	Hicks, Matthew
Lane, Connie	Luneau, David	Hall, Muriel	MacKay, James
Newsom, James	Payeur, Stephanie	Richards, Beth	Sargent, Gregory
Schamberg, Thomas	Snodgrass, Jim	Soucy, Timothy	Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

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

STRAFFORD

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian	Cloutier, John	Damon, Hope	Girard, Dale
Palmer, William			

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

HB 413, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. This bill extends the existing five-year grandfathering for subdivision plats to seven years and increases the preliminary step achieving active and substantial development from two years to three years. The grandfathering includes exemptions to any changes in subdivision regulations, site plan review regulations, impact fee ordinances, and zoning ordinances, except those that protect public health standards. It also changes the building code and fire code appeals process, limiting the jurisdiction of the local building code board of appeals to hearing decisions made under local amendments to those codes. Further, the bill provides that decisions of the building code review board regarding decisions of the fire marshal and local building code board of appeals may be appealed to superior court or the housing appeals board. Section 6 of the bill corrects an oversight in statute and will allow both appointed and elected zoning boards of adjustment to act as the local building code board of appeals. Notably, under the bill, existing subdivision approvals granted on or after July 1, 2023 will be granted the extension to start the project and will also be grandfathered from any zoning changes. If this bill were to be enacted into law, it would not constitute a retroactive law since such projects would have been approved no more than two years from the proposed effective date of the legislation. This bill, as presented, would be a positive step in addressing the housing shortage in New Hampshire, by reducing risk to developers and encouraging them to take on larger housing projects with the flexibility of slightly extended time lines. Vote 11-7.

Rep. Jim Maggiore for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. This bill is substantially the same as HB 1215 from 2024 which died in committee of conference. The bill significantly alters RSA 674:39, by extending the time period a subdivision plat or site plan is exempt from subsequent changes in subdivision regulations, site plan regulations, impact fee ordinances, and zoning ordinances. Currently, recorded plats and plans are exempt for a period of five years, if “active and substantial development” began within 24 months of the approval. The bill would change this period to seven years and extend the “active and substantial

development” period to three years. The minority of the committee did not receive evidence that increasing the exemption will increase housing development. On the contrary, the minority believes extending the time to complete a project could add significantly to the costs for both materials and labor. Additionally, this bill would also alter the local appeal process in RSA 674:34 for building and fire codes when the zoning board of adjustment or the select board serves as the local building code of appeals. When the appeal is of a locally adopted amendment to either the building or fire code, the appeal would stay with the zoning board of adjustment and maintain local control of local issues. However, when the appeal is of the state the appeal would go to the state building code board of appeals usurping local control. Perhaps the most problematic new statutory language extends the seven-year period and three-year exemption to any approval granted on or after July 1, 2023. The New Hampshire Constitution prohibits retroactive laws, meaning laws that apply to actions or events that occurred before the law’s enactment, as stated in Article 23 of the Bill of Rights. This article explicitly states that “Retrospective laws are highly injurious, oppressive, and unjust. No such laws, therefore, should be made, either for the decision of civil causes, or the punishment of offenses.”

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

Rep. Fracht spoke against.

Rep. John MacDonald spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 185 members having voted in the affirmative, and 167 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 432, relative to recovery houses. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tom Dolan for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. The committee considered this bill after convening a subcommittee of five members. The subcommittee voted 4-1 to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate to the full committee. While it was generally recognized that more recovery house beds are needed in the state, this legislation is flawed for several reasons. First, safety measures would be sacrificed for the residents of the houses. Sprinklers, exit signs, and smoke alarms may not be used for vulnerable recovery house residents. Meeting ADA requirements are not required. Second, the importance of local control is disregarded as local planning and zoning board approval/review is not required. Third, the planners indicate a dramatic change in funded beds to change from approximately 1,300 beds to 15,000 beds. This increase would take place without local community approval. Vote 11-7.

Rep. Dylan Germana for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. This bill attempts to find a solution for the housing, homelessness and drug crisis that we have here in New Hampshire. The minority of the committee can admit that without an amendment, this bill isn’t perfect and cuts out local control. However, in a time when we have 1,300 beds for the most vulnerable people in our community who are left out on the streets and it is estimated that we need over 15,000 beds throughout the state, we need to do better than Inexpedient to Legislate legislation that could help accomplish that with a little bit of work.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 432**, relative to recovery houses, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 475-L, relative to the reductions from the default budget for official ballot town meetings. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. Default budgets are currently required for towns, village districts, and school districts that have adopted the official ballot referenda form of town meeting under RSA 40:13, commonly referred to as SB 2. The legislative intent of a default operating budget is to provide an alternative operating budget to voters free of excess and unnecessary appropriations providing a minimal level of spending in order to maintain existing operations and services. Unfortunately, the current statutory language in RSA 40:13 IX(b) has been found to be vague and inexact. As a result, default budgets improperly include excess spending and unnecessary appropriations. The bill, with amendment, addresses these important issues. First, the bill requires that the default budget shall include “obligations previously incurred by law” or “required by law” and eliminates appropriations made “by preference.” Second, the bill clarifies that all salaries and benefits for vacant positions that remain open and unfilled for more than a year shall not be included in the default budget. Testimony provided during the bill hearing indicated that recurrently budget line items for numerous open positions remain in default budgets and are, therefore, raised and appropriated year after year. Due to the fact these positions continue to be unfilled, the governing body will then spend these excess funds for other purposes by transferring these appropriations to other line items in the “bottom-line” budget under RSA 32. Third, the bill ensures that default budget line items for positions filled by new hires before the budget hearing reflect the actual salary and benefits of these positions for the next fiscal year. Fourth, the

bill provides that any budget line item in the operating budget authorized for the previous year from which a transfer was made for any one-time expenditure shall be reduced by the amount of the transfer in the default budget. Importantly, this update will ensure that all one-time expenditures are removed, and are not included in the default budget. In summary, the bill with amendment makes important statutory clarifications pertaining to the accounting methods for budget line items in the calculation of the default budget, ensuring that default budgets do not include excess expenditures for the same level of service as the previous year, thereby avoiding the unnecessary over-taxation of hard-working Granite Staters. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Eleana Colby for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. The minority of the committee believes this bill imposes an unreasonable expectation on towns and school districts, demanding they predict the exact timing of essential staff turnover in relation to their fiscal years. Municipalities cannot foresee when police officers, firefighters, or educators will apply for or accept positions. Moreover, school districts cannot anticipate when a child with unique needs might move into their area. Legally, public schools must provide services to these children, regardless of their budget constraints. This often requires hiring experienced and specialized personnel on short notice. By preventing local administrators and town officials from accurately accounting for open positions in their budgets, this legislation threatens to compromise vital services. Concerns have been raised by the minority about the claims suggesting that unspent funds for open positions are being mismanaged to balance budgets. Municipalities must retain the flexibility to allocate these funds from open positions to cover necessary expenses, such as supplementing costly overtime lines for police, fire, and public works, or to outside contracts for critical services due to employee recruitment and retention struggles plaguing police and fire departments. Residents and students depend on many vital services provided at the municipal level, and the inability to afford them due to this legislation would be detrimental to communities throughout New Hampshire.

Majority Amendment (0600h)

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

1 Use of Official Ballot; Definition of Default Budget. RSA 40:13, IX(b) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(b) "Default budget" as used in this subdivision means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred by law or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget, by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget, by salaries and benefits of positions that were vacant before the previous year's budget was approved and have remained vacant, and reflecting the actual salary and benefits of filled positions as of the public hearing for the proposed budget excluding any increases subsequent to the authorization of the previous year's operating budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget, and eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under recruitment unless vacant before the previous year's approved budget was approved, as determined by the governing body of the local political subdivision, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted. Any budget line item in the operating budget authorized for the previous year from which a transfer was made for any one-time expenditures shall be reduced by the amount of the transfer in the default budget. In calculating the default budget amount, the governing body, or the budget committee if the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted, shall follow the statutory formula which may result in a higher or lower amount than the proposed operating budget.

2 Use of Official Ballot; Default Budget Disclosure; One-Time Expenditures. Amend RSA 40:13, XI(a)(3) to read as follows:

(3) One-time expenditures, *including reductions to line items for transfers made for one-time expenditures*, as defined under subparagraph IX(b); and

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

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. Colby spoke against.

Rep. Dunn spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 195 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 195

BELKNAP

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

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
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
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
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, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 159**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, LucyBerch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, JodiFox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, TerriGermana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, JerryBaldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, GeorgeBolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, EllenCormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, MatthewBoyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, DanielBeauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, WendyBergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah**MERRIMACK**Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, GaryCaplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, JimColby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Soucy, TimothyKelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Foote, Charles
Khan, Aboul
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, GeraldBridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Nelson, Jodi
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Tonide Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, EricEdgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, WayneBixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Wade, AliceBurton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wall, JanetSmith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter**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 613, relative to enabling local political subdivisions to vote and set a reduced default budget option. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Diane Pauer for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. This bill is enabling legislation providing towns, village districts, and school districts that have adopted the official ballot referenda under RSA 40:13, commonly referred to as SB 2, an optional provision enabling them the ability to adopt a reduced default budget. The bill provides that a legislative body may adopt, by a 3/5 majority vote, a reduced default budget option which is defined as the default budget reduced by an adopted fixed percentage, R, from 1% to 10%. Once this provision has been adopted, each year the official ballot for the balloting session on town election day will contain two (2) consecutive warrant articles for the operating budget. The first of these articles appearing on the warrant shall be the proposed operating budget determined by the voters at the deliberative session. If the warrant article for the proposed operating budget is defeated, then the subsequent warrant

article shall provide voters with the option to adopt either the default budget or the reduced default budget. If a majority of voters vote “No” on both of these consecutive operating budget warrant articles, then the adopted operating budget shall be the default budget reduced by R percent. The bill also provides that once the optional reduced default budget provision has been adopted by the legislative body, a change to the reduced default budget percentage, R, shall be approved by a 3/5 majority vote of the legislative body without requiring that the reduced default budget provision be first rescinded and subsequently re-adopted with the proposed change. Notably, as with most enabling legislation, there is a provision to rescind the reduced default budget option entirely by a 3/5 majority vote. Importantly, this enabling statute provides an optional local budgetary tool for voters to help to address the monotonically increasing default budgets, which have been found to increase at a rate that is unsustainable for taxpayers across the Granite State. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Julie Gilman for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. This bill provides for a second method for adopting default budgets. The minority’s opinion is that when presented with both questions, voters will be confused by the choice. The method presented, if adopted, would reduce the default by 1% to 10% of the proposed default. The legislative body is prohibited from amending the percentage, a method of disenfranchisement of democratic rights. Further, the provision may be adopted or rescinded every year adding to the difficulty in understanding the method of default budget calculations. There is also concern that a percentage cut to the default may be in conflict with the actual current definition of default budgets. The bill also requires a 3/5 affirmative vote calculated by only those voting on the question to pass. The current definition of default budget approval, by up or down vote, goes unchanged but this bill makes a special calculation for the second option default budget. The minority of the committee questions that the purpose behind this bill is to decrease budgets every year and forces a race to the bottom. Cutting a community’s ability to provide services of some percent, year after year by default, will see thriving communities die.

Majority Amendment (0795h)

Amend RSA 40:14-d as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

40:14-d Method of Adopting Reduced Default Budget Option.

I. The provisions of RSA 40:14-c may be adopted by any local political subdivision whose legislative body has adopted RSA 40:13. A 3/5 majority of those voting on the question shall be required to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-c. Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority.

II. The question shall be placed on the warrant of the annual or special meeting by the governing body, or by petition under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3, RSA 197:2, or RSA 197:6.

III. A public hearing shall be held by the local governing body on the question at least 15 days, but not more than 30 days, before the question is to be voted on. In multi-town districts, a public hearing shall be held in each town embraced by the district, none of which shall be held on the same day. Notice of the hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places in the town and at least 2 public places in each town of multi-town districts, and published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days prior to the date of the hearing.

IV. The wording of the question shall be: “Shall we adopt an annual option for a default budget, reduced by (R) percent, instead of the default budget, when the proposed operating budget is defeated, per RSA 40:14-c? A 3/5 majority of those voting on the question shall be required.” Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority. R shall be a number between 1 and 10, inclusive. The question shall not be subject to amendment by the legislative body.

V. Voting on the question shall be by official ballot. If a 3/5 majority of those voting on the question vote “yes,” RSA 40:14-c shall apply beginning the following fiscal year and for all subsequent years until changed as provided in paragraph VI or rescinded as provided in paragraph VII.

VI. Any local political subdivision which has adopted RSA 40:14-c may consider adoption of a new reduced default budget option in the manner described in paragraphs I through V. If the adoption of a new reduced default budget option fails, the existing reduced default budget option shall continue to apply.

VII. Any local political subdivision that has adopted RSA 40:14-c may consider rescinding its action in the manner described in paragraphs I-V. The wording of the question shall be: “Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:14-c, known as the reduced default budget option, so that there will no longer be any option for a reduced default budget. A 3/5 majority of those voting on the question shall be required.” A 3/5 majority of those voting on the question shall be required to rescind the provisions of this section, except in the case of repeal by charter enactment under RSA 49-D.

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. Grund spoke against.

Rep. Harvey-Bolia spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 197 - NAYS 158**YEAS - 197
BELKNAP**

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

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
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
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Valerino, Brian

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
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 - 158**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

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
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Bryer, Scott
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

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

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 568, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the Majority of Resources, Recreation and Development. The concerns surrounding this bill are not wide spread, according to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. While ensuring adequate water supply and quality is crucial, these proposed changes appear to create unnecessary regulatory burdens on smaller-scale water users. By exempting community water systems and large groundwater withdrawals regulated under RSA 485 and RSA 485-C, the changes proposed by this bill inadvertently target individual property owners and smaller developments. Moreover, the proposed changes would impose additional costly tests and financial burdens on applicants, as they could be required to pay for abutter notifications and cover local administrative or investigative expenses. This could create barriers for property owners seeking to develop their land and hinder overall growth in the state. Considering these concerns, the majority of the committee believes it would be prudent to vote Inexpedient to Legislate on the proposed bill and explore alternative ways to address water supply issues without unduly impacting our constituents or stifling development in New Hampshire. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Linda Ryan for the Minority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would enable but not require town planning boards to request a water supply study in accordance with local regulations to ensure water adequacy as housing density increases. This allows towns to ensure there is a sufficient water quantity to support existing, proposed, and reasonably anticipated future land development and to ensure protection of water dependent natural resources. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has previously developed draft ordinances around hydrology studies, but this bill will clarify that they can be adopted by towns. The minority of the committee supports these protections of existing homeowners, as development can impact existing residents' water quantity.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 568**, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 460-FN, relative to utility investments in distributed energy resources. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill addresses many topics presently being adjudicated at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), including tariffs, metering, data sharing, consolidated billing, and load estimation and settlement processes. It is therefore premature to make changes based on technical issues still being worked out, especially as some of them could involve cost shifting. Avoided cost credits for transmission and distribution remain unknown at this time. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Kat McGhee for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill adds specific language into the statute concerning the factors to be considered by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) when reviewing and approving utility investments in distributed energy resources. The minority wants to clarify the items in the value stack that the PUC should consider when reviewing these projects. These factors are common to rate-cases, and we still believe there is a benefit to placing this language in statute to bring clarity to rate case criteria.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 460-FN**, relative to utility investments in distributed energy resources, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 210 members having voted in the affirmative, and 141 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 537, relative to electric rates approved by the public utilities commission for residential condominium property. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would require that public utilities charge the same electric rates for certain condominium associations as they do for residential units, and it amends provisions related to rural electric cooperatives and condominium use for commercial enterprises. Since condos are inherently commercial, the committee did not feel this bill accurately reflects nor fixes any issue. A similar bill, HB 539, was thought to potentially consider this issue, but was also found to not adequately fix it. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Thomas Cormen for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill, along with HB 539 and HB 680, was intended to solve a specific problem related to condominiums. The committee voted Inexpedient to Legislate on HB 539 and HB 680, an amendment to HB 537 was proposed to roll the solutions within all three

bills into one. The problem to be solved relates to residential condominium units, typically paired, that share a single electric meter for a well pump or septic system, especially when not all units share such meters. Although the uses of these meters are entirely for residential use, these meters are billed to the homeowner's association (HOA). And because the HOA is, by statute, a commercial enterprise, these meters are billed at commercial electric rates, which are higher than residential rates. Considering that the uses of these meters are entirely for residential purposes in residential units, applying commercial rates is unfair. A compounding problem is that because these meters are billed to the HOA, the cost to the HOA is spread over all unit owners, even those with individual meters. The amendment solves both problems, first by requiring residential rates specifically for shared electric meters that serve only well pumps and septic systems for residential units, and second by allowing the HOA to bill the owners of units with shared meters directly, with the cost for each meter divided equally between the units it serves. During the executive session, the majority of the committee opined that a non-legislative solution would suffice: have the customer of record for each shared meter be an individual unit owner within the condominium, perhaps one of the unit owners sharing the meter or perhaps the president of the HOA. The minority of the committee disagrees with this approach. Unless a formal agreement is signed between the individual unit owners, which is unlikely, if a unit owner is negligent in paying their share of the bill, then the unit owner of record has no legal recourse to collect. Unnecessary animosity between neighbors would result. If, instead, the bill for the shared meter goes to the HOA, as the amendment would require, then because each unit owner has signed an agreement to pay HOA assessments, unit owners with shared meters would have a legal obligation to pay their share. For these reasons, the minority of the committee opposes the Inexpedient to Legislate motion and urges Ought to Pass with amendment.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 537**, relative to electric rates approved by the public utilities commission for residential condominium property, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 212 members having voted in the affirmative, and 140 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 690-FN, directing the department of energy to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. James Summers for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategic decisions affecting ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy. This bill would finally find the result of the cost and the benefits of being a member of the regional six-state ISO-New England. (a) What are the current functions of ISO-New England? What function could New Hampshire itself not replace? (b) What has happened when other utilities have left their Regional Transmission Organization? How do vertical utilities interact with their Regional Transmission Organization? (c) What capabilities would the state of New Hampshire and its utilities need to develop? (d) What are the benefits of leaving ISO-New England? Are there long-term costs associated with market outcomes that may be avoided? Are there direct costs associated with participating in ISO-New England that may be avoided? (e) What costs would be associated with leaving ISO-New England? Would there be duplicative functions, exit fees, or operational costs? (f) Would there be reliability impacts, negative or positive, associated with leaving? (g) Would there be costs associated with ISO-New England that could not be avoided, even if New Hampshire were to leave? (h) What are the benefits of participating in ISO-New England? What opportunities exist to improve outcomes? (i) How can a regional market balance varying policy goals? Where do ISO-New England markets currently shift costs, and how can those cost shifts be limited? (j) What state laws or Public Utilities Commission orders conflict with leaving ISO New England? How would they need to be modified to allow New Hampshire to leave? (k) Would any changes need to be made to the ISO-New England tariff to allow New Hampshire to leave? (l) When operating independently of ISO-New England, what restrictions would be placed on the state by the Federal Power Act or principles of federalism? What powers are beyond the state's purview? (m) What alternative regulatory structures could the state explore that would better allow it to serve reliable, affordable electricity to its citizens? Vote 10-8.

Rep. Wendy Thomas for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is an unnecessary and costly exercise that risks destabilizing New Hampshire's energy future. ISO-New England provides critical grid management, market efficiency, and reliability that New Hampshire alone cannot replicate without incurring significant expenses. Withdrawing from the regional system could lead to higher electricity costs, increased vulnerability to outages, and burdensome infrastructure investments. The state would also face legal and regulatory hurdles, making the process complex and uncertain. Instead of diverting resources into a speculative investigation, lawmakers should focus on working within ISO-New England to advocate for policies that benefit ratepayers while maintaining the reliability and affordability of electricity.

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

Rep. Summers spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 200 - NAYS 155

YEAS - 200

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
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
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
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, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 155
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

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
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
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 402, relative to liability as taxable income of education freedom account payments. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for the Majority of Ways and Means. This bill proposes to repeal RSA 194-F:2 paragraph VI which states that funds deposited in an education freedom account (EFA) do not constitute taxable income. Testimony was heard from a business owner who said that if this provision was removed, he would hesitate to donate money to employees who had children in the program. Each family can make the determination of whether or not the EFA is taxable to them after consulting with their tax advisor about their unique situation. A tax preparer who testified stated that he did not believe it has been an issue yet due to the current EFA restriction of the program to low-income families who typically pay little or no taxes. EFA scholarships are currently limited to families at 350% of the poverty level which is similar to federal means testing to qualify for the welfare program Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which may vary up to 318% of the federal poverty level. Also, the committee heard testimony from a tax preparer that the bill, as it is currently written, might result in unintended consequences. Vote 11-8.

Rep. Susan Almy for the Minority of Ways and Means. When Bill Ardinger talks, folks ought to listen. Our state's foremost tax attorney told the Ways and Means Committee that he had noticed a problematic statement in the original education freedom account law, section RSA 194-F:2 that reads: "VI. Funds deposited in an EFA shall not constitute taxable income to the parent or the EFA student." He did not speak up because the original law restricted the beneficiaries of the program to persons too poor to attract the attention of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He spoke up now because the program has been expanded to 350% of poverty and is being considered to expand to everyone. RSA 194-F:2, VI is incorrect as stands. Attorney Ardinger brought us a list of the 15 types of expenses which the Children's Scholarship Fund says are eligible for reimbursement, five of which are in his lawyerly caution "likely taxable" by the IRS auditors, two are "likely not taxable," and eight of which are "probably taxable." The higher up the income span the EFAs reach, the more families will be investigated by the IRS for breaking with federal tax law and required to pay back the money and fines. A comment in the on-line data for this bill stated, with respect to the IRS, that "everyone knows that the EFAs are not taxable." For the sake of the public and the program, we need to re-word RSA 194-F:2, VI to read "VI. Funds deposited in an EFA shall not constitute taxable income to the parent or the EFA student by the state of New Hampshire, but may be subject to federal taxation." This language and section 1 will warn users and provide the IRS form that will help them decide if they would be in violation of federal law by making certain expenditures without reporting them on their tax forms.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 402**, relative to liability as taxable income of education freedom account payments, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 202 members having voted in the affirmative, and 149 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D**HB 483-FN**, relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James Tierney for the Majority of Ways and Means. This is a very short bill that would only allow "scholarship organizations" to operate that are incorporated in New Hampshire. Currently, the only scholarship organization operating in New Hampshire is incorporated in New York. If this bill were passed, it would effectively remove The Children's Scholarship Fund which is incorporated in the State of New York from managing the Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) of the State of New Hampshire. With this one bill, the Education Freedom Accounts would be terminated unless a new management charitable organization incorporated in New Hampshire was willing and capable of overseeing and managing the EFA program stepped forward. Vote 11-8.

Rep. Dennis Malloy for the Minority of Ways and Means. This bill would require the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) of New York which manages the Education Freedom Accounts to be incorporated in New Hampshire just like the arrangement in other states. The minority believes that such a large program should be fully audited to make sure that we know how our tax dollars are being spent. A small audit found errors that have been corrected, and a broader audit is needed. Finally, we need transparency about the 10% fee charged by CSF for administration of the program and the New Hampshire organization should file its own tax form.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 483-FN**, relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 198 members having voted in the affirmative, and 153 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR - PART II CONT'D

HB 530-FN, increasing the amount of revenue transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the affordable housing fund. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for the Majority of Ways and Means. It is the majority opinion that this bill would jeopardize the Education Trust Fund's ability to meet the state's obligations to fund an adequate education and might result in reductions to other state-provided services due to a reduction in the general fund. The majority feels that enough funding is already being provided through a combination of transfers and tax incentives to stimulate affordable housing construction in the state, including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF), and the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) Tax Credit Program. New Hampshire also provides the Construction Lending Program and GNMA/FNMA (Ginnie Mae/Fannie Mae) loans. The Real Estate Transfer Tax Fund already transfers \$5 million to the Affordable Housing Fund. This bill seeks to double the amount to \$10 million which would result in a reduction of \$3,350,000 from the general fund and \$1,650,000 from the Education Trust Fund. The state is currently appealing education-related lawsuits which might result in settlements that will come in part from the Education Trust Fund. It would be ill advised to reduce the Education Trust Fund for any purpose at this time and before we know the outcome of these lawsuits. Furthermore, this bill does not address the most significant impediments home builders are facing, as stated by the President of the New Hampshire Homebuilders Association at their recent annual event, which are excessive and uncoordinated regulations from both the federal and state governments. The president claimed these regulations add 25% to the cost of an average single-family home. This bill will harm funding of education and other state government services without solving the affordable housing problem. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Thomas Oppel for the Minority of Ways and Means. New Hampshire faces a housing crisis, not least acknowledged by this House's creation of a standing Committee on Housing this year. While there are myriad causes for this crisis, it should be obvious that additional funding is required to build or rehabilitate housing that is affordable to working and middle-class families at or below the median income in our state. This bill adds \$5 million to the state's affordable housing fund by doubling the distribution from the real estate transfer tax, an essential first step toward addressing our housing crisis.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 530-FN**, increasing the amount of revenue transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the affordable housing fund, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 517-FN, repealing the Granite State paid family leave plan. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The amended version of this bill repeals only the marketing requirements of the Granite State paid family leave plan, not the program itself. This amendment will save taxpayers approximately \$1.5 million annually by eliminating state-funded marketing for what is fundamentally a private insurance product. Now that the program is established, it is appropriate for the insurance carrier to assume marketing responsibilities in the future. The committee believes this represents sound fiscal management while preserving the core benefits of the paid family leave program for New Hampshire citizens. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0649h)

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

AN ACT repealing certain outreach and marketing requirements under the Granite State paid family leave plan.

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

1 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 21-I:108, II, relative to outreach and marketing of the Granite state paid family leave plan.

II. RSA 282-B:6, II relative to outreach and marketing of the Granite state paid family leave plan.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the requirement that the state engage in certain outreach and marketing activities to increase awareness of the Granite State paid family leave plan.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Heath Howard moved that **HB 517-FN**, repealing certain outreach and marketing requirements under the Granite State paid family leave plan, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 155 members having voted in the affirmative, and 193 in the negative, the motion failed.

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. Hunt spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 316 - NAYS 32

YEAS - 316

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

Belcher, Mike
Hamblen, Joseph
Pernel, Katy

Cordelli, Glenn
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Thackston, Dick

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Murphy, Denis
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
McFarlane, Donald
Sellers, John

Baldwin, Heather
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Louis, Darrell
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Bouchard, Donald
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Kofalt, Jim
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Preece, David
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Seidel, Sheila
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Ulery, Jordan
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Cole, Brian
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Hartnett, Tim
Kenny, Catherine
Labrie, Brian
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Pank, Sandra
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Staub, Kathy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Vail, Suzanne
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Daniels, Gary
Elberger, Susan
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Hegner, Karen
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Swanson, Dale
Mannion, Tim
Veilleux, Daniel

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Drew, Matt
Erf, Keith
Georges, Mary
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Ryan, Linda
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Telerski, Laura
Mannion, Tom
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose

Aures, Cyril
Caplan, Tony

Aylward, Deborah
Colby, Eleana

McGuire, Carol
McGuire, Dan

Devoid, Ricky
Hill, Gregory
MacKay, James
Newsom, James
Polozov, Yury
Schamberg, Thomas
Walsh, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Mehegan, Peter
Payeur, Stephanie
Richards, Beth
Seaworth, Brian
Thibault, James

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Moffett, Michael
Pitaro, Matthew
Boyd, Stephen
See, Alvin
Wallner, Mary Jane

Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Morse, Bryan
Plante, Raymond
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sorensen, Carrie
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Knab, Allison
Layon, Erica
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
McGrath, Linda
Milz, David
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Scherr, Buzz
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Grote, Jaci
Murray, Kate
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Muns, Chris
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Edgar, Michael
Guzofski, James
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Pearson, Mark
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Simpson, Alexis
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Kaczynski, Thomas
Potenza, Kelley
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Farrington, Samuel
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Hall, Robley
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael
Spilsbury, Walter

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 32

BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan

Parshall, Lucius

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Darby, Will
Grill, Jessica
Raymond, Heather

Alexander, Joe
Dargie, Paul
Foxy, Loren
Seibert, Christine

Beauchemin, Paige
DiSilvestro, Linda
Lloyd, Christal
Sofikitis, Catherine

Bergeron, Dan
Foss, Lily
McGhee, Kat

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy

Gallager, Eric

Schultz, Kris

Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica

Haskins, Linda

Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bixby, Peter
Malone, Amy

Smith, Geoffrey
Miller, Seth

Howard, Heath
Wade, Alice

LaMontagne, Jessica

and the committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.
Rep. Horrigan voted Yea and intended to vote Nay.

HB 251-FN, allowing the ownership of certain squirrels and raccoons. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kevin Scully for Environment and Agriculture. The committee is sympathetic to the intent of this bill, an attempt to save squirrels and raccoons that can't be returned to the wild, after being rehabilitated by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, by allowing them to be kept as pets. The committee listened to all testimony and felt the experts from our Fish and Game Department made a compelling argument that these animals, despite any injuries, remain wild. The bill also sought to allow people who move into our state to be allowed to keep their pet gray squirrel or pet raccoon if they are coming from a state that allows such pets. We saw that the Fish and Game statute RSA 207:14 allows for a permitting process for people bringing wildlife into New Hampshire, so it is possible for people coming into the state with their wild animal to apply for a permit. We also heard testimony that gray squirrels and raccoons pose a heightened risk, particularly since there is no trustworthy rabies vaccine regimen has been developed for this species of wildlife. Vote 12-2.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Judy Aron moved that **HB 251-FN**, allowing the ownership of certain squirrels and raccoons, be laid on the table.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 226 - NAYS 115

YEAS - 226

BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

McAleer, Chris

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
O'Rorke, Terri

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold

Durkin, Sean

Tierney, James

Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Ladd, Rick
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Creighton, James
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Gorski, Ted
Hartnett, Tim
Kenny, Catherine
Labrie, Brian
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Scully, Kevin
Staub, Kathy
Ulery, Jordan

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Daniels, Gary
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Hegner, Karen
Kesselring, Steven
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Seidel, Sheila
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Miles, Julie
Paquette, Kathleen
Preece, David
Rice, Kimberly
Salvi, Santosh
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel

Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Mooney, Maureen
Pauer, Diane
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Schneller, John
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen

Colby, Eleana
Gallager, Eric

Devoid, Ricky
Gibbs, Merrill

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie

Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Grote, Jaci
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Muns, Chris
Porcelli, Susan
Simpson, Alexis
Tripp, Richard
Ward, Gerald

Bernardy, JD
de Vries, Erica
Edgar, Michael
Guzofski, James
Murray, Kate
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Sorensen, Carrie
Tudor, Paul
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Lynn, Bob
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Osborne, Jason
Pearson, Stephen
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Scherr, Buzz
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Hall, Robley
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Schmidt, Peter

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 115

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen

Bean, Harry

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Brown, Richard

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan
Thackston, Dick

Murphy, Denis

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Fellows, Sallie
McFarlane, Donald

Beaulier, Calvin
Fracht, David

Berezhny, Lex
Franz, Linda

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Giasson, Henry
Leishman, Peter
Notter, Jeanine
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Alexander, Joe
Colcombe, Riché
Drew, Matt
Grill, Jessica
Murphy, Mary
Ohm, Bill
Ryan, Linda
Slottje, Jeremy
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Peeples, Raymond
Seibert, Christine
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Corcoran, Travis
Dupont, Pierre
Lascelles, Richard
Noble, Kristin
Post, Lisa
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tim

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Carol
MacKay, James
Plante, Raymond
Seaworth, Brian

Aures, Cyril
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Bricchi, Tracy
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Schultz, Kris
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Kuttab, Katelyn
Manos, Zoe
Nadeau, Brian
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Walsh, Lilli
McDonnell, Valerie
Perez, Kristine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe

Bryer, Scott
Litchfield, Melissa
McGrath, Linda
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Soti, Julius
Turer, Eric

Katsakiores, Phyllis
Love, David
McMahon, Charles
Read, Ellen
Spillane, James
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Farrington, Samuel
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Rollins, Skip

and the motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION

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

LATE SESSION**Third Reading and Final Passage**

HB 361, prohibiting mandatory mask policies in schools.

HB 431, establishing a commission to study the costs of special education.

HB 446, relative to parental notice for non-academic surveys in public schools.

HB 557, relative to the information that appears on the school budget ballot.

HB 699, relative to special education definitions.

HB 741-FN, allowing parents to send their children to any school district they choose.

HB 749-FN, requiring instruction on communism in public high schools.

HB 768, allowing public schools to contract with any approved private school.

HB 217, relative to absentee ballots.

HB 274, relative to the verification of voter rolls annually.

HB 356, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections.

HB 367, changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

HB 357, relative to the department of health and human services' rulemaking authority regarding immunization requirements.

HB 358, relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief.

HB 377-FN, relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers.

HB 548-FN, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model.

HB 559, relative to staffing requirements in emergency medical transport vehicles.

HB 679, relative to immunization requirements.

HB 712-FN, limiting breast surgeries for minors.

HB 584-FN, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty.

HB 666-FN, relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters.

HB 687-FN, relative to class action settlements and consent decrees.

HB 200, relative to the procedure for overriding a local tax cap.

HB 284-FN, requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles.

HB 373-L, relative to the management and regulation of town real property.

HB 374, relative to local tax cap and budget laws.

HB 413, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits.

HB 475-L, relative to the reductions from the default budget for official ballot town meetings.

HB 613, relative to enabling local political subdivisions to vote and set a reduced default budget option.

HB 690-FN, directing the department of energy to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy.

HB 517-FN, repealing certain outreach and marketing requirements under the Granite State paid family leave plan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Georges requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding faith and unity and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that the remarks made by Rep. Georges during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Georges: Thank you, Mister Speaker. First of all, I thank God for me to be here. I think this all the time. God wanted me to be here. There is a quote from a Bishop in Africa, Ubuntu. If I am because you are. If you are because I am. If we are here because for the people. If the people are because we are here. I thank the representative who spoke yesterday. I think that was like my introduction. I want to speak on a reflection of faith and unity. Dear colleagues, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the presence of a minister who leads us in prayer at the beginning of each session. This important practice reflects our shared belief in a higher power, even though many of us come from different faith backgrounds. Ultimately, most recognize that our common bond lies in our belief in a God of love who stands against all forms of evil that harm humanity. I want to share a personal experience that has profoundly shaped my understanding of compassion and acceptance. In 2012, while I was reflecting during a quiet moment in my truck on Elm Street across from the transgender club, I felt a strong spiritual message urging me to shift my perspective. Initially, I found myself judgmental towards the transgender community and prayed against what I perceived as wrong. However, I heard a deep and resonant voice within me say, "You must stop and pray for love, for I am love, and I love them as I love everyone. Each of them is my child." This experience opened my heart to the importance of love and acceptance rather than judgment. Many of us are gathered here as individuals of faith, committed to serving our community, and it is crucial that we do so without inflicting harm or division among ourselves or the people we serve. As we navigate our roles, let us strive to give unto God what belongs to God and fulfill our duties to one another with respect and kindness. It is essential to remember that each of us will eventually stand before God and we will be accountable for our actions and intentions. I am a woman of God. I am a woman of prayer. I'm not talking here as a Democrat. I'm not talking here as an Independent. I am a black woman but I'm not talking about this because me making judgment, but I just want to let you know my spirit let me speak because when I hear all the time when the minister comes here, I always pray with him, and I feel the way he always prays with a deeper presence of God. I believe God is love and he sent us here to do the work because I know you don't like me. That doesn't matter for me. This is what I can tell you. You can see me and not say hi to me. I don't care. One thing I know, God loves me. Thank you for allowing me to share this perspective. I hope it inspires thoughtful reflection on our responsibilities to one another and the values that guide us. Thank you. May God bless you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Pam Brown requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding correcting the record 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 6:15 p.m.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:

Rep. Cole on the Committee on Ways and Means.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:

Rep. Thackston on the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

SENATE MESSAGE CONCURRENCE

HB 78, requiring a person to have a domicile in the district from which they serve as county commissioner.
HB 153-FN, establishing a committee to study adding statewide resources to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty.

RESOLUTION

Rep. Daniels offered the following: RESOLVED, that in accordance with the list in the possession of the Clerk, Senate Bills numbered 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 112, 118, 119, 121, 124, 130, 133, 134, 138, 140, 141, 143, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 153, 154, 156, 157, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 178, 179, 180, 182, 184, 185, 186, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200, 201, 202, 204, 206, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 215, 217, 218, 221, 222, 225, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 235, 236, 241, 243, 245, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 254, 257, 258, 262, 263, 266, 267, 268, 269, 271, 272, 273, 278, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 287, 291, 292, 294, 295, 297, 299, 300 and 302, and Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution numbered 8 shall be by this resolution read a first and second time by the therein listed titles and referred to the therein designated committees.
 Motion was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS

First, second reading and referral

SB 12, relative to adding eligibility for a disability placard for certain veterans. (Transportation)
SB 13-FN, invalidating out-of-state driver's licenses issued to undocumented immigrants. (Transportation)
SB 14-FN, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)
SB 15-FN, relative to establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)
SB 16, requiring municipalities to post a copy of election return forms on their websites and in public locations. (Election Law)
SB 18, permitting the commissioner of health and human services to authorize additional beds for a pediatric intermediate care facility under certain circumstances. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)
SB 19, relative to hotel and motel operations. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)
SB 22-FN, relative to disclosure of criminal history and criminal records to the child care licensing unit of the department of health and human services. (Children and Family Law)
SB 23-FN, expanding the crime of endangering the welfare of a child. (Children and Family Law)
SB 24, allowing students under age 21 to taste wine in educational settings. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)
SB 25, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)
SB 26, relative to the definition of deposits as they pertain to land sales and escrow of deposits. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)
SB 27-FN, relative to dwellings over water. (Resources, Recreation and Development)
SB 28, relative to workers' compensation claims involving emergency responders with acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. (Labor and Industrial and Rehabilitative Services)
SB 29, relative to membership, jurisdiction, and reports of the health care workplace safety commission and relative to health care facility reporting requirements under the workplace violence prevention program. (Executive Departments and Administration)
SB 30, proclaiming the Virginia opossum the state marsupial of New Hampshire. (Executive Departments and Administration)
SB 31-FN, establishing an apprentice guide license. (Fish and Game and Marine Resources)
SB 32, relative to the fish and game commission. (Fish and Game and Marine Resources)
SB 33-FN, relative to the regulation of public school materials. (Education Policy and Administration)
SB 34, relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program. (Education Policy and Administration)
SB 36, relative to the collection and reporting of abortion statistics by health care providers and medical facilities. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)
SB 37, relative to residential care and health facility licensing. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)
SB 40, relative to safe boater education certificates. (Transportation)
SB 41-FN, changing the reckless driving minimum penalties. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)
SB 42, relative to notice of death affidavits. (Municipal and County Government)
SB 43, removing articles of clothing from the definition of electioneering. (Election Law)

SB 44, relative to hand counts of ballots in elections. (Election Law)

SB 45, clarifying the placement of advertising signs on state-owned property. (Election Law)

SB 47, requiring certain health insurance policies of a birth mother to provide coverage for a newly born child from the moment of birth. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 49-FN, establishing the crime of and penalties for unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 50, establishing a committee to study the regulation of private animal boarding facilities. (Environment and Agriculture)

SB 51, relative to decal fees and the statewide public boat access program. (Ways and Means)

SB 52, relative to default provisions in New Hampshire trusts. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 54-FN, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 57, establishing a study committee to analyze reducing the number of school administrative units. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 58-FN, relative to venue in criminal prosecutions of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 60-FN, relative to advanced deposit account wagering. (Ways and Means)

SB 61-FN, relative to prescriptions for state prisoners paid for by the department of corrections. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 62, relative to law enforcement participation in a federal immigration program. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 63-FN, relative to funding for the division of travel and tourism. (Ways and Means)

SB 65-FN, relative to stormwater management for solar arrays. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 67-FN, relative to workers' compensation and resolution of payment disputes. (Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services)

SB 68, adding a member to the governor's commission on disability. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 69-L, relative to acceptance of or rejection of charitable contributions, gifts, or donations by local school boards. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 71-FN, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 72-FN, establishing a parents' bill of rights in education. (Children and Family Law)

SB 73-FN, relative to the operation of bingo games. (Ways and Means)

SB 74-FN, relative to real property annual reporting requirements of state departments for permitting programs. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 77-FN, providing children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases the identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters. (Children and Family Law)

SB 78, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period. (Municipal and County Government)

SB 79-FN, enabling the use of self-pour automated systems by liquor commission licensees. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 80-FN, consolidating licensing, auditing, and enforcement responsibilities for wholesale and retail e-cigarettes sales under the liquor commission. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 83-FN, establishing an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf property tax exemption reimbursement fund, authorizing video lottery terminals, renaming the lottery commission, and creating a voluntary statewide self-exclusion database. (Ways and Means)

SB 84-FN, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing. (Housing)

SB 85, relative to chartered bank lending limits. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 87-FN, relative to one day liquor license requirements and making salons and barber shops eligible for on-premise licenses. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 89, enabling non-citizens who are legally authorized to work in the United States to deliver alcohol. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 91-FN, allowing one-time special appraisals of residences located in commercial zones. (Housing)

SB 92-FN, relative to the collection of birth worksheet information. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 93-FN, relative to licensed nurse assistant (LNA) licensure application materials. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 94, prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 95, relative to youth recreation camp cabins and the state building and fire codes. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 96, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 97-FN, relative to intra-district public school transfers. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 98-FN, extending the donations to regional career and technical education center programs. (Education Funding)

SB 99-FN, relative to regional career and technical education agreements. (Education Funding)

SB 100-FN, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 102-FN, making informational materials regarding type 1 diabetes available on the department of education website. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 103-FN-L, relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns. (Election Law)

SB 105, enabling towns to adopt budget caps. (Municipal and County Government)

SB 106-FN, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 107-FN, enabling the state treasurer to invest certain fish and game funds. (Ways and Means)

SB 108-FN, relative to the department of energy. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 110-FN, relative to terrain permitting. (Environment and Agriculture)

SB 112-FN, relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 118-FN, relative to the personal needs allowance of residents of nursing homes; making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility staff; and establishing the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 119-FN, relative to Medicaid pharmaceutical services. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 121-FN, requiring notice to the insurance department of the discontinuance of certain types of insurance, including Medicare Advantage Plans. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 124-FN, relative to continuing care retirement communities. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 130-FN, establishing a commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services in the state of New Hampshire. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 133-FN, relative to the designation of emergency medical services performed by ambulance service providers as essential services. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 134-FN, relative to work requirements under the state Medicaid program. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 138, relative to record requests by health care providers and establishing a committee to study access to medical records in the state of New Hampshire. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 140-FN, establishing a domestic violence fatality review committee. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 141-FN, extending the time to petition for a new trial in certain cases. (Judiciary)

SB 143, relative to the impaired driver care management program and recovery residences. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 145-FN, establishing an evidence shipping pilot program and providing an appropriation therefor. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 146-FN, relative to medical examiner's certificates and medical certification of the death record. (Judiciary)

SB 147-FN, relative to licenses to sell pari-mutuel pools on simulcast horse races. (Ways and Means)

SB 148-FN, prohibiting those convicted of murder from financially profiting from the death of the victim. (Judiciary)

SB 149-FN, relative to the crime of aggravated driving while intoxicated. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 150-FN, defining electric vehicle charging station and charging a fee for annual testing by the division of weights and measures. (Transportation)

SB 151-FN, relative to accessible parking permit verification and fraud prevention. (Transportation)

SB 153-FN, relative to expedited driveway permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater. (Public Works and Highways)

SB 154-FN, relative to authorized organizations issuing multi-use decal plates. (Transportation)

SB 156, allowing the division of motor vehicles to contract with a third-party vendor to facilitate the secure transfer of title applications and information. (Transportation)

SB 157-FN, relative to inspection and registration of certain fleet vehicles and necessary amendments and administrative rules regarding the state implementation plan. (Transportation)

SB 160-FN, relative to the administration of raffles. (Ways and Means)

SB 161, making technical corrections to statutes governing out-of-state placements for children. (Children and Family Law)

SB 162-FN, relative to restrictions on acquisition of ownership, controlling, and occupancy interests in real property by certain foreign principals on or around certain military installations, and criminal penalties and civil forfeiture procedures for illegal acquisition. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 163, prohibiting local moratoria and limitations on building permits. (Housing)

SB 164-FN, relative to homeowners and prohibiting certain types of service agreements. (Housing)

SB 165, relative to the audit requirements for consumer cooperative associations. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 166, relative to notice required prior to sale of a manufactured housing unit located in a resident-owned community. (Housing)

SB 169, requiring employers to provide certain information regarding cost sharing to employees receiving workers' compensation benefits. (Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services)

SB 170, relative to development and related requirements in cities, towns, and municipalities. (Housing)

SB 171, relative to required pay for remote work. (Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services)

SB 172, banning certain contract provisions from being enforced against advanced practice registered nurses. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 173, relative to residential property subject to housing covenants under the low income housing tax credit program. (Housing)

SB 174, prohibiting planning boards from considering the number of bedrooms a given unit or development has during the hearing and approval process. (Housing)

SB 178, relative to the department of health and human services laboratory services for testing of water supplies. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 179-FN, relative to the state council on housing stability. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 180-FN, designating Coos county as a distressed place-based economy. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 182, relative to the maternal mortality review committee. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 184, recognizing the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 185-FN, relative to office of professional licensure and certification investigations. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 186, relative to a portrait in the likeness of Senator Jeb Bradley at the state house. (Legislative Administration)

SB 188-FN, allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections. (Housing)

SB 189, relative to fetal death records. (Judiciary)

SB 190, relative to the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council and the commission on the interdisciplinary primary care workforce. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 192, establishing a committee to study enhanced coordination between county correctional facilities, the department of corrections, and the department of health and human services. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 193-FN, requiring the head of each state agency to submit a strategic plan for program activities. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 194-FN, relative to qualifications for cosmetologists. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 195, relative to the composition and duties of the New Hampshire advisory council on career and technical education. (Education Funding)

SB 196-FN, relative to the exemption from competitive bidding requirements for certain state agency projects. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 197, relative to the medical supervision of the licensed registered nurse employed by the legislative facilities committee. (Legislative Administration)

SB 198, declaring the third week in September to be New Hampshire service dog week. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 200, relative to accepting a portrait of Sylvia Larsen. (Legislative Administration)

SB 201-FN, relative to classified and unclassified positions. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 202, relative to Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia training for first responders. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 204-FN-A, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide meals to students during school hours, reimbursing schools for meals provided to students at no cost, and making an appropriation therefor. (Education Funding)

SB 206-FN, requiring public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of cell phones by students. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 209-FN, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application. (Education Funding)

SB 210, establishing a study committee to study the issue of school bullying. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 211, relative to biological sex in student athletics. (Education Policy and Administration)

SB 212, changing references from “votes” to “ballots” in the laws regarding elections. (Election Law)

SB 213-FN, relative to absentee voting. (Election Law)

SB 215, requiring an unorganized town or unincorporated place to elect town officers for the purpose of conducting elections. (Election Law)

SB 217, relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects. (Municipal and County Government)

SB 218, relative to absentee ballot outer envelopes. (Election Law)

SB 221, relative to the verification of the checklist. (Election Law)

SB 222, relative to moving the state primary date. (Election Law)

SB 225-FN-L, requiring public notice before re-assessment of property values for local tax purposes. (Municipal and County Government)

SB 228-FN, relative to the limitations on community customer generators. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 229-FN, relative to the sale of uninspected bison, red deer, and elk meat. (Environment and Agriculture)

SB 230-FN, relative to electric utility restructuring and investment in distributed energy resources. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 232, clarifying certain net metering terms and conditions. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 233-FN, establishing an energy reliability and large-scale storage task force. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 235, enabling funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire. (Fish and Game and Marine Resources)

SB 236, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy. (Science, Technology and Energy)

SB 241-FN-A, relative to construction of a public pier on Hampton Beach and making an appropriation therefor. (Resources, Recreation and Development)

SB 243-FN, relative to the child care scholarship program. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 245-FN, prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 247, prohibiting network exclusion for pharmacies that refuse to dispense a prescription of the PBM reimbursement that is below the pharmacy’s acquisition cost. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 248, establishing a committee to study palliative and hospice care in New Hampshire. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 249-FN, relative to the uncompensated care and Medicaid fund. (Ways and Means)

SB 250, relative to pharmacist administration of long-acting injectable drugs. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 251, establishing a commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks and the continued development of coordinated responses to public health incidents and emergencies in New Hampshire. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 252, relative to criteria for providing certain medical care through telemedicine. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 254, relative to controlled substance inventories. (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 257, establishing a committee to study state guidelines for Medicaid eligibility determinations. (Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 258-FN, establishing crimes related to the fraudulent use of gift cards. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 262-FN, relative to the penalty for trafficking in persons under 18 years of age. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 263, criminalizing and creating a private right of action for the facilitation, encouragement, offer, solicitation, or recommendation of certain acts or actions through a responsive generative communication to a child. (Judiciary)

SB 266-FN, relative to safety and accountability of drivers under 18 years of age. (Transportation)

SB 267-FN, relative to the penalty for engaging in prostitution as a patron. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 268, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. (Judiciary)

SB 269, removing references to matrimonial age and time waivers in the vital records act. (Children and Family Law)

SB 271, relative to qualifications for issuing veteran license plates to include General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions. (Transportation)

SB 272-FN, relative to electric-vehicle charging station funding. (Transportation)

SB 273-FN, relative to motorist duties when approaching highway emergencies involving a stopped or standing vehicle. (Transportation)

SB 278-FN, including qualifying convictions from other states as grounds for termination of parental rights petitions. (Children and Family Law)

SB 280-FN, requiring a food delivery service to enter into an agreement with a food service establishment or food retail store before offering delivery service from that restaurant. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 281, prohibiting municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. (Housing)

SB 282, relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings. (Housing)

SB 283, relative to the calculation of floor-area-ratios under local building ordinances. (Housing)

SB 284, relative to the required maximum number of residential parking spaces. (Housing)

SB 285, relative to changing the term “physician assistant” to “physician associate.” (Executive Departments and Administration)

SB 287, requiring applicants for absentee ballots to present a copy of their photo identification with their application. (Election Law)

SB 291, relative to the religious use of land property tax exemption. (Ways and Means)

SB 292-FN-A, authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid. (Finance)

SB 294-FN, relative to lab fees for career and technical education courses. (Education Funding)

SB 295-FN, relative to education freedom accounts. (Education Funding)

SB 297-FN, relative to pooled risk management programs. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

SB 299, relative to penalties for contractors violating water pollution and waste disposal regulations. (Resources, Recreation and Development)

SB 300-FN, criminalizing the creation of child intimate visual representations. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

SB 302-FN, requiring background checks for solid waste facility owners. (Environment and Agriculture)

CACR 8, relating to sheriffs. Providing that no person shall hold the office of county sheriff after he or she has attained the age of seventy-five years. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

MOTION TO VACATE

Rep. Steven Smith moved that the House vacate the reference of **SB 164-FN**, relative to homeowners and prohibiting certain types of service agreements, to the Committee on Housing.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker referred **SB 164-FN** to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

MOTION TO VACATE

Rep. Steven Smith moved that the House vacate the reference of **SB 110-FN**, relative to terrain permitting, to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker referred **SB 110-FN** to the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

MOTION TO VACATE

Rep. Ladd moved that the House vacate the reference of **SB 292-FN-A**, authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid, to the Committee on Finance.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker referred **SB 292-FN-A** to the Committee on Education Funding.

RECESS