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HOUSE RECORD

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Concord, N.H.

Thursday, February 5, 2026

No. 3

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 2 (Cont'd)

Thursday, January 8, 2026

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 3

Thursday, February 5, 2026

The House assembled at 10:00 a.m., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer was offered by House Chaplain, Reverend Kevin Twombly, Pastor at Restoration Foursquare Church in Concord.

Almighty God, source of all wisdom, truth, and life, we pause at the beginning of this session to acknowledge our dependence upon You. Thank You for the privilege and responsibility entrusted to those gathered in this chamber. We ask that You grant each representative wisdom beyond themselves; wisdom that listens before it speaks, seeks understanding before judgment, and chooses what is right over easy. Clothe these servants of the people with humility; that power would never eclipse compassion, and conviction would always be joined with grace. Where there is disagreement, give patience. Where there is weariness, renew strength. Where decisions feel heavy, steady their hearts and clarity with courage. May righteousness guide every law debated and every vote cast; not for personal gain or partisan victory, but for the common good of all who call New Hampshire home. Bless the citizens of this state; our families, our workers, our elders, our children, and those whose voices are often unheard. May justice, peace and hope flourish within our communities. As this House conducts its work today, may it be marked by integrity, respect and a sincere desire to serve. Grant favor upon this session, and may all that is done here contribute to the well-being of this state and the future of those who will come after us. We ask all of this with gratitude and hope, trusting that You hear us. Amen.

Rep. Lisa Post, member from Lyndeborough, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Adele Debowski of New Boston.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Buco, Gould, Hill, Lucas, Panek, Popovici-Muller, Sofikitis, Terry and Verville, the day, illness.

Reps. Ankarberg, Coker, Gorski, Robley Hall, Lundgren, Morse, Muirhead, Michael Murphy, Nadeau, Payeur, Trottier, Varney and Wilson, the day, important business.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Piotr Kukula, student at Bedford High School, and Adele Debowski, home schooler from New Boston, Pages for the day.

Tom and Linda Burton, guests of Rep. Layon. Mark and Kendra Debowski, parents of the singer, guests of Rep. Post. Terry Fiorillo, guests of Rep. Sheehan. Joe Yahna, guest of Rep. Paige. Tom Ahlborn-Hsu and Allen Davis, guests of Rep. Ames. The Honorable Mark Clark, former member from Bedford, guest of Rep. Dupont.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Director-General Charles Liao, and Michael Yao-Liang Huang, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, and Maria Walsh, member of the European Parliament for Ireland, guests of the Speaker.

COMMUNICATION

January 30, 2026
Speaker Packard,

It has been a great honor to serve in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Unfortunately, however, work responsibilities have me increasingly on the road and away from home and it has become too difficult to balance the responsibilities of my job with service in the New Hampshire House. Therefore, I regretfully resign from my seat effective January 30, 2026.

With gratitude,
Dylan Germana

RESOLUTION

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

Motion was adopted.

SENATE MESSAGE

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

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

JOINT CONVENTION

(Speaker Packard presiding)

INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF SPECIAL GUESTS

The Clerk introduced and the Sergeant-at-Arms escorted the following: State Treasurer, Monica Mezzapelle. Secretary of State, David M. Scanlan. Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, Patrick E. Donovan, Melissa Countway, and Bryan K. Gould. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Gordon J. MacDonald. Executive Councilors, Joseph D. Kenney, Karen Liot Hill, Janet Stevens, John Stephen and David K. Wheeler.

The Clerk introduced Governor Kelly A. Ayotte.

Governor Ayotte presented her State of the State Address to the Joint Convention.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Well, good morning everyone. Mr. Speaker, Madam President, Mr. Chief Justice, Honorable members of the Supreme Court, Honorable members of the House, Senate, Councilors, my fellow citizens; thank you for being here today. I want you to know how much I have appreciated working with all of you throughout this past year. From the legislature, to the Council, to our Commissioners; I've seen firsthand how all of you are united by the same passion to protect what makes our state so special and how you strive to make it even better for our settled fellow citizens and our future generations. Thank you for the job you are doing for our state, for our neighbors, for our kids, and thank you for continuing to serve. As you've heard me say many times, I think service is pretty important. New Hampshire depends on those who serve their neighbors, their communities, and our state. We don't have public safety if not for our law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, corrections officers and first responders. We don't have education without our teachers and our support staff. We don't have health care without our nurses or our doctors, and we don't have a country without our veterans, Guard, active duty and reserve military. Not to mention our state, county and municipal employees, social workers, community volunteers and the list goes on and on. New Hampshire has a lot going for it, but what I think makes this state truly special is the people of New Hampshire. People like Lieutenant Bill Shea, and Firefighters Jonathan Moore, Cory Poissant, and Nate Keller from Engine Company Five of the Nashua Fire Department who bravely responded to a dangerous gas leak at Greater Nashua Mental Health on Monday, initiating rescue operations under extremely hazardous conditions, facing an explosion and fire, subjecting three of these heroic firefighters to serious injuries. They remain in our prayers. Or people like Ajla Mustafic and Katie Tewksbury, Manchester nursing students, whose quick thinking, teamwork and courage saved the life of a stranger. Edward Parker and Hubert Buchanan who endured captivity as prisoners of war in the armed forces during World War II and Vietnam. It's easy to take them for granted, but we owe so much of what we have to those who have served, so thank you. Thank you to those in this room for serving your fellow citizens to those at home who serve the public in a litany of different ways, you are making a tremendous difference for the state of New Hampshire. Thank you. I stand before you today convinced that the state of the state is strong, that our shared prospects for tomorrow are bright, and proud that our work is making New Hampshire even stronger, even safer and more prosperous than ever before. We are proud of our New Hampshire tradition of being first; from being the first to rebel against British tyranny with the pine tree riot, and the first colony to adopt its own Constitution,

to our first in the nation primary, which by the way, we are never giving up. It's only fitting that today, 250 years since that first Constitution was adopted, New Hampshire continues to lead the nation in so many ways. We are number one for public safety, number one for taxpayer return on investment, number one for economic opportunity, number one for economic freedom, number one for child well-being, number one for home internet connectivity, number one for health care, number one for Medicaid mental health services, we have the lowest tax burden in the nation, and just this past year, we passed Vermont to become the number one state to raise a family. Last month we were named the healthiest state in the nation. In total US News ranks, New Hampshire as the number two state in the nation. Now I don't know what Utah is doing, but I want Utah to know we are coming for you. Getting here was not an accident. Leading is in our blood; it's who we are, and over the past year, we have worked to deliver on the promises we made to make our state even stronger. We came together to get the cell phones out of the classroom and give our kids the chance to be kids and focus on learning every day. We expanded education freedom so that every family can choose the best learning environment for their kids. We took the housing crisis head-on, passing more than a dozen pieces of legislation, overhauling state permitting reform and cutting red tape to speed up construction. We ended our state's disastrous bail reform experiment and we banned sanctuary cities, and so we've not gone the way of our neighboring states. We balanced our budget while protecting those who depend on us. We fully funded the developmental disability waitlist, protected Medicaid eligibility and funded schools at higher levels than ever before. We implemented changes to modernize our operations, increase efficiencies and welcome new suggestions from our state's Commission on Government Efficiency and we kept our promise to protect the state's largest tract of land, the Connecticut Lakes Headwater Forest by negotiating a new strong agreement that puts the north country first and ensures continued logging and access to recreation. It's also important as we talk about what we've done, to talk about what we have not done, and what we didn't do is raise taxes. We are the envy of New England and a beacon for good governance nationwide because we have not succumbed to the lie that more money for government is better. We have succeeded because we have held the line against an income tax, against the sales tax, against an interest in dividends tax, and against a death tax, and instead we have relied on the ingenuity and thoughtfulness of our people to meet the needs we have and to provide for those who depend on us. We are the live free or die state, but when you look at the states around us, we show them what it means to live free and prosper. But make no mistake, we are never more than one election away from giving it up, from going the way of our neighbors, from Massing up New Hampshire. Just look at the neighborhood. I want you to look at what they're doing down in Rhode Island. As we speak, they have a big budget deficit as the end of the Biden-era spending spree comes, rather than do what we did and take a hard look at spending and recalibrate, they are pushing a new millionaires tax to cover their 50% growth in spending since the pandemic, and the last state in the country to enact an income tax, just so happens to be one of our neighbors. And we're going to pick on our friends in Connecticut for a moment here. Since Connecticut enacted an income tax, they've raised it four times, and where does Connecticut stand when it comes to property taxes? Third highest in the nation. So let this be a cautionary tale for the future of New Hampshire. There is no getting around the fact that property taxes in New Hampshire are unsustainable. In my budget address last year, I challenged our local officials to take a hard look at spending and what they are doing rather than increasing local taxes. Our towns and municipalities need to get serious about fiscal responsibility. But even more misguided are those in this room who argue that the solution to high property taxes is to raise other taxes. Let me be clear about this. If your solution to high property taxes is to institute new taxes; new taxes that punish families and businesses, you can kiss the New Hampshire advantage goodbye. The simple fact of government is that government likes to spend your money, and raising taxes only ensures that the government gets more of your hard-earned money. That's it. If we ever accept that argument in New Hampshire, it will be the end of our distinct advantage over our other fellow New England states; an advantage that just in the last year brought six companies up from Massachusetts, and 500 jobs with them. Now you may have seen the news, but little New Hampshire has Massachusetts bragging about retaining a single company. Imagine that conversation. Can you imagine it? Having that conversation 10, 20 years ago? Massachusetts is handing out millions of taxpayer dollars to stop companies from fleeing north, and we are welcoming these companies with open arms, not big giveaways like the Bay State doles out. But even with this success, I know we can do better. Something I've come to realize over this past year is that our unique, New Hampshire strengths could be won't more known and better known outside our state, and as we begin this new year I am focused on showcasing all our state has to offer in a much bigger way. Our Department of Business and Economic Affairs has an incredible story to tell about why life here in New Hampshire is about as good as it gets anywhere and why you should come here raise your family, start your business and you live your life right here in New Hampshire. We need to do a better job of telling that story and think differently about marketing ourselves. To that point, a quick aside, about the Hampton rest area, on I-95, the one I pulled. When I sat down and saw that the building plans were modeled off what we would see along the New Jersey Turnpike, with all national brands and no New Hampshire businesses, I said, "are you crazy?" We have a golden opportunity to put a flag in the ground and show the incredible number of people that go past that area and through that area, exactly what this state is all about, and that's what we're going to do. That's what I mean when I

talk about us thinking differently. Another way I want us to think differently is about how we drive economic development. Economic development is more than marketing ourselves and attracting others here. It's aligning our critical structures of workforce, housing and child care to create the most advantageous environment for businesses to start, grow and succeed. These structures are important individually, but together, they form the basis for what it means to be a good place to locate your company. The number one area we need to succeed to keep our state on the right track is housing. Doing so will help us grow our workforce, attract more businesses and bring more families to New Hampshire. We want our seniors to be able to afford to stay in their homes, or to choose a home that better fits them as they age. We want businesses to be able to recruit and retain the best and brightest to come and work here, and as parents we want our children to stick around and build their future here. Last year was the most ambitious year for housing laws in state history, and I was glad to work with all of you in this room to make that happen. Thank you, I appreciate your work. Together, we passed laws to speed up construction including a new, lean, 60-day permitting process to make sure the state isn't a barrier to progress on the issue, we cut outdated red tape that was standing in the way of new building, we improved the system to finance energy-efficient housing developments, and we expanded opportunities for new types of housings like accessory dwelling units that allow families to stay together or allow a loved one with a developmental disability or an aging parent to stay in place, but to be independent, give young people out of college or out of school a place to start while they're saving for that first down payment. We enabled businesses to be able to convert empty offices to much-needed housing, which helps more people live in the community where they work, revitalizes our downtown and gives us a new tool in our toolbox to help this housing crisis, and just last week, we took our first look at how we're doing when the Bureau of Economic Affairs released housing production data for the past year, and guess what? It was the highest total in 20 years. This is an early sign that momentum is building, but we are going to continue to work on increasing our housing supply. I know there's an appetite to do even more and we will keep thinking creatively to keep New Hampshire growing. We must continue to prioritize our workforce training programs, to ensure that we meet the needs of businesses today and in the future. Our community college system ranks in the top ten in the country, and they do a tremendous job of partnering with local businesses to ensure that we are growing our workforce in critical areas. Last year, we invested in dual and concurrent enrollment programs to help put more individuals on the path to good-paying careers in the trades, in health care and beyond. As we look ahead, we need to make sure that it's easy, and easy as possible to transfer credits within our community college system and make sure that you can transfer credits easily to our university system so that students don't run into added cost and added roadblocks. One of the downward pressures on our families and our workforce is the expanding cost of childcare. I know this burden for so many leads to some very tough conversations around the dinner table where people are talking, parents are talking, about the value of a parent working, versus whether they can afford childcare and comparing the costs. As a state we are looking at ways to ease this burden. The budget we passed last year fully funded the childcare scholarships and also reduced administrative burdens for those scholarships. We are looking at ways to make the program run better and reduce barriers so that we can have new providers that can access those scholarships. We are also getting the private sector and nonprofits at the table to talk about how we can work together to expand childcare in New Hampshire. Just yesterday, I was at a ribbon-cutting at the Merrimack YMCA where they're expanding, they're not only renovating, but they're expanding their childcare facility and their learning programs. It's a wonderful place, and it also happens to be the largest of its kind in the country. It's amazing. Similarly, we see Boys and Girls Clubs across New Hampshire expanding childcare offerings and we must empower other nonprofits and businesses to do the same. I would like to see a tax credit for companies investing in childcare for their workforce to incentivize more businesses to consider helping meet this need for their employees. What makes more sense than having childcare co-located with a business? The quality of life that we enjoy here in the Granite State is one of the intangibles that makes residents proud, it leads curious visitors to ask, "How do you do it?" "What makes it different here?" Last year, we did important work together to keep our state the safest in the nation. We finally ended the failed bail reform experiment that created a revolving door for dangerous criminals, hurt innocent people and in some cases, ended lives far too early like that of Marisol Fuentes-Huaracha. We mourn alongside with the people of Berlin, Marisol's tragic murder. This is a solemn reminder of the importance of advocating for and supporting those affected by domestic violence and the importance of the work we do here to protect the people of the Granite State. We backed our first responders that do such important work, by restoring benefits that had been promised for them for their retirement. We increased penalties for human trafficking, improved protections for crime victims and established a domestic violence fatality review committee that is already working on, first of all, the number one case, Marisol Fuentes, so that we can learn from those prior tragedies and make sure that they never happen again. We renewed our commitment to the delivering justice no matter how long time has passed by strengthening our cold case unit and ensuring that they have the resources necessary to pursue these cases with the urgency and care that they deserve. Keeping New Hampshire the safest state in the nation also means making our roads safer. I'm grateful to Councilor Stephen, Attorney General Formella, Commissioners Quinn and Cass and everyone who served on my highway safety task force last year, and the important recommenda-

tions that they came forward with. One of their top recommendations is to tackle the culture of impaired drivers refusing to submit to a breath alcohol test, which is why I'm calling on the House and Senate to double the administrative license suspension from six months to one year for drivers refusing to take a breath alcohol test. We will keep working together to address the dangers of impaired driving, distracted driving, wrong-way driving and any other issue that puts granite staters at risk. The Heart of our tourism and recreation industry is the beautiful land that we are fortunate to all call home. New Hampshire's outdoors anchors our live free or die spirit. Some feel the call of the mountains, others the ocean, our lakes, our parks, our ski mountains, hiking trails, rock faces, snowmobile and ATV trails, or just the plain old wilderness. You name it? We've got it here in New Hampshire, and I'm hell-bent on protecting the look and feel of our state because I think it is what sets us apart. When I took office, I Promised we would uphold the conservation easement negotiated for the Connecticut Lakes Headwater Forest in 2002 and we delivered on that and more. Our agreement reached last month not only protects but advances the interests of our communities that depend on this vital resource for timber as well as for recreation. I Want to thank Councilor Kenney, I want to thank the Coos County Commissioners and our north country legislators for helping us obtain this important agreement. Thank you. And I want everyone to know we will use every tool at our disposal to make sure that this agreement is followed. Furthermore, I'm renewing my call to the legislature to send me a moratorium on new landfills and a process that takes into account community input when citing these landfills. We cannot let places like Forest Lake in Dalton become a dumping ground for out-of-state trash. Can't let it happen. It's critically important that we protect the natural beauty that draws thousands of visitors to our state, provides ample recreation, and showcases who we are as a people. Which brings me to an area of our lives here in New Hampshire that is not where we want it to be, and that is electric rates. Let's understand why we are here. Our neighbors that govern a lot differently than we do are busy pushing up regional rates with their net zero religion and a lack of pragmatism and focus on the consumer while at the same time, they are battling to block new energy projects that would lower costs for all in the region, projects like the Constitution Pipeline. Here at home, our Public Utilities Commission has been too willing for too long to go along with the wishes of big utilities, boosting their bottom line instead of being focused on keeping rates as low as possible for the residents of this state. The Commission must provide transparency to residents when it comes to their electric bills and put the needs of rate payers first. Looking toward the future of energy in New Hampshire, we can build on the successes of our homegrown power. There are numerous groups, lawmakers, stakeholders that are all looking into the next steps of nuclear. Today, I am directing our Department of Energy to build pathways to foster the next generation of nuclear power right here in New Hampshire. I've asked the Department to bring together stakeholders, lawmakers, and organizations focused on nuclear generation to ensure we have everyone at the table and that we are on the forefront of adopting this new technology. Our most critical duty as a state is to meet the needs of those to whom we have been entrusted. Our education and health care systems provide for the good of all people from all walks of life across the Granite State. They are strong, but my administration wants to make sure that they're even stronger. We are taking challenges on head-first and doing the hard work to ensure that we not only maintain, but improve our performance. And this really starts with our kids. What we are doing to prepare our kids for life and ensure that they're ready to enter the world is critical to our long-term success as a state. Today, we have one of the best education systems in the country. Our schools consistently rank in the top 10. We're seventh in the nation in funding per student. And we have a lot to be proud of when it comes to the strength of our schools. And that is thanks to our teachers and our support staff in all different learning environments from across this state. As many of you know, my husband Joe is a math teacher, so teachers are near and dear to my heart. So I want to take a moment to thank every teacher in this state and all the support staff that help them for what you do on behalf of the students and the children of this state and our future. Thank you so much. Last year we expanded opportunities for families with universal education freedom, giving more kids the opportunity to succeed in the learning environment that works best for them, and we also made historic investments for special education with more funding for these important programs than ever before, and one of the accomplishments that I'm most proud of is that we got the cell phones out of the classroom. I know it's been an adjustment for our students. Even in my household, I've heard an earful from my teenage son because he hears it from his friends. So I'm definitely taking the heat on this as well. I've visited schools to see firsthand how this bell-to-bell ban is working, and here's the exciting news. Teachers told me that even those who are skeptical as students have admitted the lunchroom is louder, kids are talking to each other in the hallway, cyberbullying is down, classroom focus is better, and most important, kids can just be kids. No screens, no Snapchat, no TikTok during the school day. So one of the places I visited was McCarthy Middle School in Nashua, and guess what they're doing? They're checking out library books again and even requesting new titles from their favorite authors. Can you imagine? Reading for fun. I love it. As good as our accomplishments and national rankings are, I think there are still challenges we need to be honest about when it comes to delivering the promise we make to the next generation. Outcomes matter more than anything else, and our math and reading scores need to be much higher. We owe it to our kids. Low reading scores are a challenge here and across the country, and I believe a smart first step for us in addressing this is to dig into our districts that are standouts and ask them, what are they doing dif-

ferently? What can we learn and apply from their example? How can we help all of our schools raise the bar for reading? Which is why I'm instructing Commissioner Davis to undertake a new reading initiative to discover what we can learn from our schools that have the highest number of students reading at grade level and apply these best practices to every school statewide. I grew up in New Hampshire. I went to our public schools and I'm proud of the education we're providing for our kids, but let's face it, the credit really goes to all the parents and all the teachers and all of those who are every day working to make this possible on the front lines of our schools. We are going to make sure that you have the support you need to keep doing it and to do it even better and that our kids have every opportunity to succeed in their lives. When I took office, I promised that I would be a governor for all of New Hampshire and that we would protect our most vulnerable citizens who depend on the state for their needs. With our budget that protects our region-leading Medicaid eligibility levels, provides full funding for developmental disability services, and with our creation of the Go North initiative to provide hundreds of millions in funding for rural health care initiatives, we are delivering on these promises. We funded one of the strongest Medicaid programs in the country despite a difficult budget environment, protecting services and maintaining New Hampshire's eligibility levels, which are tops in New England. We ensured no waitlist for disability services and we are strengthening our mental health system, a lifeline for people at every corner of our state. We also funded uncompensated care for our community mental health centers so that no one is turned away when they're looking for help. We preserved funding for 9-8-8 and fully funded our doorways and recovery-friendly workplace programs, which are giving a hand up to people in treatment and recovery from addiction. Looking ahead, we're focused on making sure we can sustain these critical services, tackle the challenges that arise, and take advantage of new opportunities to keep our state the healthiest state in the nation. I've made no secret about my concerns with the back of the budget cuts that were made to the Department of Health and Human Services, but I am working closely with Commissioner Weaver on how we meet those budget targets responsibly without affecting services. The creation of the Go North initiative and our New England leading fundraisers, fundraising, we received the most money in New England from the Rural Health Transformation Grant. We're very proud of that and this has the potential to be a game changer for the state. I'm thrilled to have Donnalee Lozeau, who graciously put off her retirement, to lead this effort to ensure that health care access in our small towns and rural areas is equal to our more developed areas. Thank you, Donnalee, for taking that on. With this historic level of funding, we will invest in innovative technologies to make care easier to access and to improve patient outcomes. From expanding telehealth in primary care, specialties, and obstetrics, and emphasizing a prevention-first model, we are going to leverage state-of-the-art technology to overcome the barriers to health care delivery in every corner of our state. By focusing on primary care and making investments in local infrastructure, we can transcend traditional clinic care by establishing community access points through schools, libraries, mobile clinics, and we are going to grow our rural health care workforce, investing in recruitment, retention, and training to encourage skilled providers to stay in our most rural areas, especially our North Country. Furthermore, I'm going to ask Director Dee Jurius of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to ensure that outdated licensing rules do not get in the way of using new technologies and growing our workforce. I know that together, we can deliver an even healthier future for all of our families in every part of this state. In conclusion, I love this state. I love its people, its communities, its small towns, its natural beauty, its safe street, and its strong spirit. Together, we are protecting what sets us apart, what beckons people here, and ultimately, what uniquely makes us the Granite State. I want to thank you for your time this morning. May God bless you in your work. May God bless the state of New Hampshire, the greatest state in this country, in the greatest country on earth. Thank you.

Rep. Osborne and Sen. Birdsell moved that the Joint Convention arise.

Motion was adopted.

The Joint Convention adjourned

HOUSE SESSION

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

The House reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

HB 1446, providing that an individual's use of therapeutic cannabis shall not disqualify the individual from the purchase, ownership, or possession of a firearm. Removed by Reps. H. Howard, Wheeler, Butler, Alexander Jr., Nagel, Roesener, Prout, Bailey, Ammon and Giasson.

HB 1436-FN, relative to the classification and protection of personal digital information and cloud-stored files. Removed by Reps. Spillane, Sabourin dit Choinière, Jonathan Smith, Tom Mannion, Sellers, Harrington, See, Dan McGuire, Love and Polozov.

HB 1105, making the term of office for certain Belknap county elected officials 4 years. Removed by Comtois, Sabourin dit Choinière, Ploszaj, St. Clair, Giasson, Miller, Johnson, Scully, Soucy, and Grote.

HB 1160, relative to the county-state finance commission. Removed by Weyler, Dan McGuire, Mooney, Carol McGuire, Seaworth, Rung, Preece, Nalevanko, Harrington, and Bernardy. Consent Calendar was adopted.

HB 1289-FN, criminalizing the use of small unmanned aircraft systems for the purpose of video voyeurism and the invasion of the right to privacy. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee opposes this bill because it attempts to create a dronespecific crime for “video voyeurism” and invasion of privacy even though New Hampshire already criminalizes this conduct regardless of the technology used. Existing statutes, including our “peeping tom” and privacy provisions and trespass principles, already prohibit surreptitious observation and recording of persons in places where they have a reasonable expectation of privacy, whether the offender uses a handheld camera, a cell phone, or a drone. Singling out drones adds redundancy and invites confusion for law enforcement and prosecutors about which overlapping statute to charge, without providing any additional protection for victims. Furthermore, the bill inappropriately ties criminal liability to the operation of a “small unmanned aircraft system” in a policy area where Congress has granted the FAA exclusive authority over airspace and aircraft operations. Federal guidance makes clear that states may address traditional policepower concerns such as privacy and trespass through generally applicable laws, but they may not regulate aviation safety, airspace use, or create a patchwork of dronespecific operational rules. By embedding dronespecific language in the criminal code, this bill blurs that line and risks future pressure to add operational restrictions that could conflict with federal law. Because current New Hampshire statutes already prohibit the underlying voyeuristic and invasive conduct, and because this bill unnecessarily complicates our criminal code while encroaching on an area of federal responsibility, the majority finds that this bill is redundant, potentially confusing, and unwise policy. Vote 11-0.

HB 1365, relative to applications for licenses to carry a loaded pistol or revolver. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matt Sabourin dit Choinière for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill further protects the privacy rights of New Hampshire firearm owners in an application for an optional permit by eliminating extraneous information fields. This is reinforced by the recent constitutional amendment relating to NH citizens privacy. Vote 10-0.

HB 1104, modifying the priority of applications for school building aid grants. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for Education Funding. This bill changes the prioritization order of school building aid grant applications. The same language within this bill is in HB 366, which the House passed earlier this month when retained bills were acted upon. This bill is not needed. Vote 16-0.

HB 1202, relative to dual and concurrent enrollment requirements for courses at institutions within the community college system of New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. This bill allows oversight of dual and concurrent enrollment of high schoolers in the early college program to the Community College System New Hampshire (CCSNH). This bill is a request of the CCSNH. Students enrolled in grades 10, 11, and 12 may enroll in the dual and concurrent enrollment program to receive college credit while in high school. Current law states that a dual and concurrent enrollment course may not exceed four credits. Recognizing that there are an increasing number of licensed nursing assistant (LNA) health field courses and technical courses (the trades) offered for more than four credits per course, CCSNH has requested that identifying the number of credits allowed per course taken by a student be administered and decided through policy decision making at the college level. For example, rather than taking two, four-credit courses, a student may want to enroll in one two-credit course and one six-credit course; however, current statute states a course may not exceed four credits. Enrollment continues to increase in these early college programs for high school students seeking to accelerate their postsecondary journey and save on college costs. Vote 16-0.

HB 1503, allowing the department of education to allocate funds to create a database of maps of public schools for emergency use cases. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. In addition to providing grant funds in support of school security components such as surveillance, access control, and emergency alerting/communications, this bill enhances public school emergency readiness with critical incident mapping technology to allow emergency response personnel and internal teams to operate in a unified understanding of site-specific nomenclature and other place characteristics associated with building infrastructure and grounds. The development of a school critical incident mapping program represents a vital investment in the security of students, educators, and schools. It combines security assessments with facility safety and hazard inventories to create comprehensive maps of school properties, including detailed building layouts and campus surroundings, accessible to first responders during emergencies. All public schools are eligible to participate in the program at no cost to the school. The cost for mapping all public schools in the state approximates \$2.8 million, of which this amount has been set aside in the \$10 million biennium appropriation to the Public School Infrastructure Fund. It is recognized that schools are constantly changing floor plans, and the purpose of rooms used, annual mapping maintenance will occur to capture all such changes. The Public School Infrastructure Fund was established in 2017, and

since that date, the fund has allocated over \$50 million in support of local school security and emergency preparedness. As stated by Governor Christopher Sununu in 2018, “If we can’t put our kids on the school bus and know they are safe, nothing else matters.” Vote 16-0.

HB 1586-FN, allowing the commissioner of the department of education to withhold funds from public schools if such schools are not providing special education services in compliance with state law. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for Education Funding. This bill directs the Education Commissioner to halt all funding to a district public school if it fails to provide special education services for chartered public school students in its district. There are already financial consequences that apply in this situation. RSA 186-C:5 states, the commissioner is authorized to cease payments of state or federal special education funds to the school district or other agency until the Department of Education determines the school district or other agency is in compliance. Interrupting all funds to deal with a particular dispute is overkill. Vote 16-0.

HB 1672-FN, requiring schools to present line-item expenses as part of the school budget process. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Raymond Peeples for Education Funding. This bill requires school districts to prepare a line-item detail expense report detailing how funds are spent. The bill was not clear and the scope too vague to implement. The local budget committee already gets the line-item detail. Due to the bill’s lack of clarity regarding reporting granularity and publication methods, the committee unanimously recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1714-FN, authorizing the state to issue bonds to fund public school expenses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Education Funding. Funding operations by borrowing money is bad policy; the practice of borrowing is bad policy even when capital expenses are involved. Our ability to fund building aid has been, and will continue to be, limited until 2041 due to the state’s need to repay the \$560 million in loans assumed by the state in 2009-2011. This past debt will finally be paid off in 2041. Vote 16-0.

HB 1221, directing the commission to study costs of special education to consider establishing centralized locations throughout the state for certain special education-related services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peggy Balboni for Education Policy and Administration. This bill would direct the Commission to Study Costs of Special Education to consider establishing centralized locations throughout the state for certain special education related services. There was widespread agreement amongst the committee members that the Commission to Study Costs of Special Education, established by SB 57 last year, is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the processes, requirements, services, and costs of special education in the state. There is no need to add an additional exclusionary directive that would violate the rights of students to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE), as required under federal and state law. Vote 15-0.

HB 1270, clarifying the definition of part-time teacher. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for Education Policy and Administration. This bill was requested by the Department of Education to address some technical fixes and clarify the existing law. It fixes a statutory reference and clarifies who determines if a candidate is qualified to teach in a subject area. It also clarifies that part-time teachers must adhere to the professional code of ethics and the professional code of conduct. Vote 18-0.

HB 1307, establishing a statutory commission to study the development of a statewide comprehensive civics curriculum. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This bill proposes a committee to develop comprehensive civics curricula, materials, educator trainings, and more. As a result of 2023 legislation, this was already accomplished by the Commission on New Hampshire Civics which was tasked with developing curriculum exploring the history, heritage, and principles of the New Hampshire Constitution and the government it established. The committee agrees that standards should be updated prior to any further work on civics curriculum. Vote 18-0.

HB 1341, establishing a committee to investigate the department of education’s actions regarding school administrative unit 6. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. It was unclear in the hearing why an investigation into the Department of Education (DOE) was necessary, what the probable cause would be, and no law or rule governing the DOE was identified as requiring involvement in or oversight of local fiscal matters that might theoretically have been transgressed. Further, the bill contains technical errors regarding the manner of issuing subpoenas by the House that conflict with rules. The committee also agrees that actions and accountability are being pursued in the local domain and through other legislation. Vote 18-0.

HB 1373, relative to background check disqualifications for applicants seeking educator credentials. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. This bill adds to the list of offenses used in a background checks for those seeking educator credentials. Negligent homicide, robbery, forgery to include falsifying academic documentation, and domestic and sexual assault would be added to the current statute for criminal history records checks with passage of this legislation. Vote 18-0.

HB 1379, relative to the reporting date for the annual complaint data. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for Education Policy and Administration. Given how difficult it is to contact some offices and personnel in the middle of the summer vacation season, July did not seem the optimal time to submit a report. The change to a September 1 deadline gives time to work on the report and guarantees that it will arrive in a timely manner when an office is fully staffed. Vote 15-0.

HB 1507, requiring schools to provide a minimum amount of time for recess per day. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. Districts already have the ability to implement longer recess times and given that this has the potential to require extra staff, it could lead to an unfunded mandate. The potential to violate teacher contracts exists, as well, with this legislation, as some districts utilize an hours calendar, as opposed to a days calendar, to meet the state-mandated 180 days. Vote 16-2.

HR 43, recognizing the Manchester school district's community partners. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This House Resolution proposes honoring a bevy of private individuals, business, and non-governmental organizations on behalf of the Manchester schools. This is an act that belongs to the local jurisdiction of Manchester. Extending this to the level of state government creates a circumstance with no obvious limiting principle and can be reasonably seen as opening the door to such legislation coming in, yearly, on behalf of each of the many hundreds of schools in the state. No nexus to state government is observed here, and nothing exists in law prohibiting local government or others from accomplishing this. Vote 17-1.

HB 1031, enabling candidates for state office to use campaign funds to pay for security measures. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. As amended, this bill allows candidates for office to use campaign funds for personal security measures such as home video cameras, bodyguards, exterior lighting, and alarm systems. Rather than narrowly defining security expenses, the bill intentionally provides a non-exhaustive list to allow flexibility as security needs evolve and vary by circumstance. It was noted during the hearing that, while not specifically enumerated, this flexibility would include the purchase of firearms for personal security and protection. This approach ensures candidates can take reasonable and appropriate steps to protect themselves and their families in an environment of increasing threats, while avoiding overly rigid statutory limitations. The amendment removed the \$3,000 expenditure cap which was noted during the hearing would be exhausted very quickly for statewide campaigns. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0293h)

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 664:11-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

664:11-a Candidate and State Official Security. Campaign funds may be used to pay for the reasonable costs of security measures for a state candidate, state officeholder, member of their family, and employees of the candidate's campaign or the state officeholder's office, and shall not be considered personal use, so long as the security measures address ongoing dangers or threats that would not exist irrespective of the individual's status or duties as a state candidate or state officeholder. Disbursements for security measures shall be for the usual and normal charge for such goods or services. In this section, "usual and normal charge" means, in the case of goods, the price of those goods in the market in which they are ordinarily purchased, and, in the case of services, the hourly or piecework charge for the services at a commercially reasonable rate prevailing at the time the services were rendered. Such security measures include, but are not limited to:

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This bill enables candidates for state office and state office holders to use campaign funds to pay for security measures.

HB 1382, relative to proof of citizenship for overseas voters voting under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill conflicts with federal law and the sponsor, upon learning this, asked that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. The committee obliged the request. Vote 15-0.

HB 1162, extending the commission on Holocaust and genocide studies. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Susan DeRoy for Executive Departments and Administration. This commission remains important as society grapples with understanding of the horrors of group-on-group genocidal violence since its emergence as a modern construct in the early twentieth century and the ability of perpetrators of genocide to escape accountability by burying the facts and truth along with their victims. Vote 14-0.

HB 1243-FN, relative to contracting and investment decisions by executive branch agencies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for Executive Departments and Administration. This legislation seeks to ensure that all decisions on contracts and investments by state agencies prioritize the direct provision of benefits, services, or goods to New Hampshire citizens however the bill's language introduces significant complexity that would create uncertainty in day-to-day government operations. Phrases such as "solely in the interest of," and "for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits, services, and goods" and prohibitions on considering "interests, policies, or objectives extraneous to or inconsistent with this purpose" are overly broad and open to multiple interpretations. This ambiguity could lead to endless disputes over what qualifies as a "direct benefit" to granite staters, burdening agencies with subjective judgments rather than clear, workable standards. Even the exceptions for federal requirements or multi-state programs are phrased in ways that invite further legal challenges and administrative confusion. Vote 13-1.

HB 1310, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill amends the statute for NH certified appraiser's certification by limiting time under supervision, requiring no disciplinary actions and limiting the time that such supervision to half of the continuing education credits. This is the request of the licensing board. Vote 13-0.

HB 1527-FN, relative to annual notification of benefits to state employees. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Heath Howard for Executive Departments and Administration. Currently the State Employees Association already handles the notification of benefits for state employees and one of the sponsors mentioned during the hearing that this was brought about due to an issue with the Strafford County Sheriff's office. Strafford County has confirmed that they provide an in person briefing and are now working on a digital notification for their employees because of this bill. The committee feels that this legislation is not needed at the current time and that we do not need to mandate the counties follow this process. Vote 15-0.

HB 1747-FN, relative to treatment of perinatal mental health conditions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matt Drew for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The prime sponsor stated that this bill was not ready and requested that it be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Therefore, the committee unanimously recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1006, relative to on-site parking requirements for accessory dwelling units. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The committee on Housing believes this bill is not needed at this time. This bill would add the requirements that municipalities must approve of off-site parking for accessory dwelling units when there is no on-site parking available. The current law states that the property owner of the accessory dwelling unit may demonstrate there are adequate parking options in the vicinity of the property and the municipality must accept those options. The Housing Committee recently passed, and the Governor signed into law, comprehensive parking reform and this bill would roll back this reform and therefore is not needed at this time. Vote 17-0.

HB 1009, relative to municipal parking requirements for residential units. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Housing. This bill would place new statewide limits on municipal parking requirements for certain residential developments. The committee notes that the General Court passed, and the Governor signed, legislation last year addressing municipal authority over residential parking requirements. That law represented a significant policy change and is only now entering early stages of implementation. Because that reform is recent, the committee determined there has not yet been sufficient time to collect data or evaluate its impact on housing development, parking utilization, local infrastructure, or municipal planning practices. The committee believes sound housing policy should be guided by measurable outcomes. Enacting additional statutory changes before the results of the prior legislation are understood would be premature. For these reasons, and in the interest of data-driven governance and responsible policymaking, the committee voted unanimously and on a bipartisan basis to recommend this bill be Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

HB 1011, repealing zoning restrictions on dwelling units. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. This bill is not needed at this time. This bill would repeal the unrelated renter's language (HB 457) passed by the House, Senate, and signed by the Governor in 2025. Under current law, municipalities may not discriminate based on familial status and relation of those living in a unit. The committee heard testimony from the disability right's center that if this law was rolled back then municipalities would open themselves up to discrimination lawsuits should they choose to implement zoning that would restrict access to unrelated people into certain zones. The committee also believes should this bill pass, it may face doom in the other body and the Governor would likely not sign a bill that repeals a bill she signed in July of 2025. Vote 17-0.

HB 1012, repealing accessory dwelling units and detached accessory dwelling units. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Aron for Housing. This bill seeks to repeal changes to RSA 674:71 and RSA 674:72 that were signed into law in the 2025 session that allowed accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and detached accessory

dwelling units in all municipalities. The committee felt that ADUs are one of the most effective ways to increase the housing stock in this time of housing shortages. The committee also felt that if this were left up to the municipalities, most municipalities would not change their zoning ordinances to allow them. The committee also felt that since these changes were just implemented in 2025, there has not been enough time for the new legislation to have any effect. For these reasons the committee recommends this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1016, eliminating the requirement that municipalities allow for manufactured housing development opportunities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. This bill would repeal the 1983 manufactured housing statute that would require municipalities provide for manufactured housing opportunities within their jurisdiction. This statute was expanded in 2024 that states municipalities must provide “reasonable and realistic” opportunities for siting manufactured housing in residential zones and allow for “reasonable and realistic” opportunities to expand existing manufactured housing parks. Under current law, municipalities retain the ability to zone manufactured housing in 50+1% of residential zones allowing them discretion on where they would like to allow manufactured housing. The committee believes that during this housing shortage manufactured housing is a key piece to the puzzle by providing safe, energy efficient, and affordable housing for working class Granite Staters. Vote 17-0.

HB 1625-FN, relative to annual reporting on accessory dwelling unit construction and use. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Brian Cole for Housing. This bill contains no appropriations, yet it requires all 234 municipalities to collect and report detailed information related to accessory dwelling units. It authorizes no new positions or resources to carry out this requirement, effectively imposing an unfunded mandate on local governments. The Department of Business and Economic Affairs has estimated that statewide compliance would cost in upwards of \$500,000, an expense that must be absorbed within the current budget cycle at a time of significant fiscal strain. Additionally, the bill represents an overreach into local municipal governance and establishes an elevated level of state oversight into how private citizens use their homes. This includes intrusive tracking of owner-occupied, tenant-occupied, vacant properties, and potential short-term rental use. Such requirements raise concerns about unnecessary administrative burden and the erosion of local control and property rights. Vote 16-2.

HB 1662-FN, relative to providing loan guarantees for accessory dwelling unit financing. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Dick Thackston for Housing. This bill seeks to create a special type of loan program for accessory dwelling units (ADUs). There are currently numerous federally guaranteed loan programs that can be used in addressing this market segment including but not limited to the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has at least two programs \$203 billion and \$203,000 that can be used to address this need as well as numerous other public and private sources. It appears that the effect of this bill would be to create a dumping ground for high risk loans that no reasonable lender might make. This bill as proposed and if passed would lead to extensive and indeterminate risk being transferred from the retail lending community through the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) directly onto the NH State Treasury without any determinate or measurable offsetting public benefit. Vote 16-2.

HB 1040, establishing a committee to study the laws and procedures governing the filing and registering of quitclaim deeds in the state. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Eric Turer for Judiciary. This bill establishes a committee to study possible legislative protections against property fraud and title theft through the use of quitclaim deeds. The Judiciary Committee heard that this is a real and growing issue, and that our state is falling behind other states in protecting against this threat, which can strip residents of their real property rights and value without their knowledge. A 2025 survey by the National Association of Realtors on the topic found that the northeast states are at greatest risk and noted that many states are moving to implement preventive measures. The NH Attorney General’s office issued a consumer alert on June 1, 2025, warning NH real estate owners to be vigilant about this growing risk. NH currently relies on measures focused mainly on owner responsibility and mitigation of fraudulent filings, while other states have implemented a range of preventive measures against such filings, that NH could consider adopting in some form. There are, however, many stake holders and many options to consider, making a legislative committee the proper option for considering these before any legislative changes are put forward. Vote 15-0.

HB 1156-FN, requiring that probate court notices of acquisitions of real estate through inheritance or similar devise be recorded in a county’s registry of deeds. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for Judiciary. Currently, municipalities do not reliably receive notice when real estate is inherited by a new owner, which can result in incorrect and unpaid property tax bills, improper tax exemptions and credits, and wrongly addressed abutters’ notices, as well as issues involving municipal utility billing, dog licensing, etc. This bill would facilitate notice of such property ownership attained through the probate process. The NH Registry of Deeds Association, NH Association of Realtors, and NH Municipal Association all support this housekeeping bill and no testimony was submitted in opposition. Vote 14-0.

HB 1333-FN, relative to nonconsensual provision of medication intended to terminate a pregnancy and the homicide of a fetus. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Zoe Manos for Judiciary. The committee heard testimony that this bill would harm miscarriage treatment for patients. Seeing too many conceptual and structural issues with the bill, the committee unanimously agreed on the recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 14-0.

HB 1508-FN, permitting one-party consent for audio and video recordings in certain instances. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristine Perez for Judiciary. It is the opinion of the majority of the committee that recording an individual without their consent could easily open the door to multiple inappropriate or harmful uses of such acts. For example, recordings could be used to obtain information that one might otherwise not divulge, to incite an emotional response in an individual in order to solicit a specific reaction, or for future uses by the recorder. The committee did not feel that this bill would adequately balance an individual's right to privacy with the interests of the public and therefore determined that it was not in the best interest of the public. Vote 15-1.

HB 1592-FN, relative to compensation for jurors. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. The majority of the Judiciary Committee believes that this bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. This bill would raise the daily pay rate for jurors. While the idea may have merit, we are not in a budget year, and this is way too much money to put onto a future legislature to fund. Vote 16-0.

HB 1615-FN, permitting consenting adults to enter into contract-based marriage agreements as an alternative to the requirement of a marriage license. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. It is the opinion of the majority of committee that this bill would establish an alternative to the current marriage and divorce laws in effect in New Hampshire. Traditional protections would exist only if negotiated in advance. This assumes that both parties have equal familiarity with the laws governing marriage. The bill would allow only the superior or district court to allow enforcement, and not the family court, unless children are involved, or probate division which currently have responsibility under existing divorce laws, including the equitable division of property. If marriage is successful for both parties there might not be a problem, but if there is, for example, an issue of domestic abuse, this arrangement could force a victim to be locked into an abusive relationship. While current law might not be perfect, the intention is to protect all parties in a marriage. In addition, the fiscal note in the first year is just under \$4 million, and the bill has no provisions for funding or authorization of necessary new positions. Vote 14-2.

HB 1694-FN, relative to the regulation of and protections for personal data obtained by websites and data brokers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. This bill would require the Secretary of State's office to create a database for "data brokers" as defined by the bill that would allow citizens of NH to opt-out of personal data sharing by data brokers. The committee has recently passed a number of personal privacy protection bills to comply with a recently implemented constitutional right to privacy and personal information passed in 2018. Additionally, this bill is not clear regarding whether the attorney general's office must prosecute foreign businesses that do activity in NH and violate the provisions of this bill. Vote 15-0.

HB 1746-FN, subjecting taxpayer funded investigations to the right-to-know law. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. The House Judiciary Committee has a long-held commitment to the principles of right to know. This bill removes protections under RSA 91-A:5 and there is nothing in the bill that says the investigation has to be completed. The Judiciary Committee is sympathetic to the purpose of the bill but believes that further work would be necessary before the bill could be ready for passage. Vote 15-0.

HB 1250-FN, relative to notice, documentation, and job reinstatement requirements under leave of absence for childbirth, postpartum, and pediatric medical appointments. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Brian Sullivan for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The committee agrees unanimously that this bill is unneeded. The statute providing leave for these child birth related medical appointments is new as of 2025. Testimony indicated that stakeholders carefully crafted the language of the bill, and the committee agrees that the statute should be allowed to operate for a period of time before any adjustments to the language be considered. Vote 20-0.

HB 1000, extending the indemnification of legislative security staff members to legislative sergeant-at-arms staff members while acting within the scope of their duties. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for Legislative Administration. As amended, this bill makes clear the goal to indemnify both the House and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms staff for their protective duties in the same way the legislative security staff currently enjoys. The entire committee agreed this is an important bill to pass as soon as possible. The amendment only changes the date when the bill, if passed, becomes effective. The amended time frame is now "upon passage." Vote 11-0.

Amendment (0228h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:
2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 1003, prohibiting the Grafton county attorney from engaging in the private practice of law. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Deborah Aylward for Municipal and County Government. The committee heard testimony that county attorneys serve in a full-time, quasi-judicial and prosecutorial role that demands independence, impartiality, and the avoidance of conflicts of interest, both actual and perceived. This bill addresses concerns that allowing a sitting county attorney to engage in private legal practice may undermine public confidence in the fairness of prosecutorial decision-making, create divided professional loyalties, and complicate ethical compliance under the rules of professional conduct. The committee noted that current New Hampshire law already prohibits county attorneys from engaging in the private practice of law in six of the state's ten counties, and that at least one additional county restricts private practice in criminal matters. This bill therefore does not establish a novel policy but rather extends an existing and well-established standard of professional separation to Grafton County. Testimony from the prime sponsor emphasized that the bill is intended to promote consistency across counties, strengthen ethical safeguards, and ensure that the office of county attorney remains focused exclusively on the public interest. The committee agreed that these objectives are reasonable, narrowly tailored, and aligned with longstanding legislative practice in New Hampshire. Accordingly, the committee finds that this bill advances transparency, uniformity, and public trust in county-level prosecution and recommends that the bill be found Ought to Pass. Vote 14-0.

HB 1035, making the chapter relative to the register of deeds gender neutral. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Walker for Municipal and County Government. This bill although well intended in principle is not efficient to implement. This bill seeks to make the law gender neutral in a single chapter of statute, specifically the chapter governing registers of deeds. The committee determined a better approach, if this is a priority, would be to pursue legislation directing that all pronouns in all chapters of law be changed to be gender neutral. The committee concluded changing one chapter of law at a time is not an efficient approach. Vote 14-0.

HB 1044, relative to the filling of vacancies in the office of a county commissioner. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Diane Pauer for Municipal and County Government. This bill updates and clarifies the statutory process for filling a vacancy in the office of county commissioner. In 2023, the General Court enacted HB 75, which changed the method of electing county commissioners in Strafford County from at-large elections to elections by county commissioner district. However, the vacancy-filling statute was not updated at that time to reflect this new district-based structure. As a result, existing law requires vacancies, except for Hillsborough County, to be filled by the full county delegation, which is inconsistent with the current system in which county commissioners are elected by and represent the voters of their districts. This bill corrects that oversight. It provides that a vacancy will be filled by the county convention representing the district in which the vacancy occurs, thereby preserving the principle of local representation and alignment with the district-based election system. The bill, as amended, further ensures voter participation and accountability by requiring that any unexpired portion of the term be placed on the ballot at the next biennial election, so that voters in the district may elect a commissioner to serve the remainder of the term, addressing situations involving four-year terms. Importantly, the bill, as amended, clarifies the procedure for filling vacancies, removes uncertainty regarding term length and ballot placement, and establishes a consistent and predictable process for counties to follow. In summary, this bill with amendment strengthens transparency, accountability, and local representation in county government by ensuring that vacancies are filled first by the county delegation for the district and, when a vacancy occurs in the first two years of a commissioner's four-year term, ultimately by the district's voters themselves. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0069h)

Amend RSA 661:9,II(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) If a vacancy occurs in the office of a county commissioner, ~~[the members of the county convention, or, if the vacancy occurs in Hillsborough county,]~~ the members of the county convention representing the cities and towns in the commissioner's district, shall fill the vacancy by a majority of the ballots cast until the next biennial election of county officers. If the term *of office filled by the procedure in this subparagraph extends beyond the date of the next biennial election* ~~[is less than the unexpired term]~~, then notwithstanding any provisions of RSA 653:1, VI, the *office of a county commissioner* ~~[district filled pursuant to this paragraph]~~ shall be added to the next biennial election ballot to be ~~[chosen]~~ *elected* by the voters of the county ~~[for a 2-year term]~~ *commissioner's district to serve the remainder of the unexpired term associated with that office.*

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This bill requires a vacancy in the office of county commissioner to be filled by the members of the county convention unless the term of office extends beyond the next biennial election.

HB 1205, prohibiting state and county owned lands from participating in carbon sequestration projects. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to prohibit state- and county-owned lands from participating in carbon sequestration projects. Carbon sequestration involves the capture and long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide. These projects generate tradable permits, commonly known as carbon credits, which represent verified removals of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and are sold to other entities to offset unavoidable emissions. HB 123 (2025) imposes a moratorium on new carbon sequestration contracts for privately owned land parcels exceeding 500 acres, pending the work of a study commission. However, that legislation does not explicitly require review of carbon sequestration contracts involving state- or county-owned lands. The majority of the committee believes that benefit-sharing agreements encumbering public lands raise significant concerns about private entities profiting from public resources without sufficient public benefit, transparency, or meaningful community involvement. Long-term carbon contracts may limit the ability of the state or counties to adapt land management practices—including recreation, forestry, agriculture, and conservation—or to respond to changing economic conditions. Such agreements risk locking public lands into lower-value carbon credit uses at the expense of potentially higher-value or more flexible alternatives. Ceding long-term control of public lands for private financial gain therefore raises fundamental questions about stewardship, public interest, and who ultimately benefits. Vote 13-1.

HB 1242, requiring county convention budget estimates to delineate between funding used for operations of county government and funding used for other state or federal government purposes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill would require county commissioners to submit a detailed budget to local officials and the Secretary of State by December 1 of each year. While the Association of Counties does not oppose the concept of the bill, implementation would be problematic for the counties that operate on a fiscal year rather than a calendar year. As introduced, the bill would require fiscal-year counties to report budget information mid-cycle, which does not provide complete financial accounting. For this reason, the committee voted unanimously in support of Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 1246, relative to planning board members serving on other local boards. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Fracht for Municipal and County Government. This is a narrowly tailored bill that addresses a clear procedural issue in local land-use decision-making. The bill allows individuals to sit on both a planning board and a zoning board of adjustment (ZBA) as either a member or alternate, but restricts the individual from sitting on cases which have, or will likely be heard by both boards. This bill is a companion to HB 92 of the 2025 session which delineates the same restrictions, but from the perspective of a ZBA member. This bill does not prohibit dual service on both planning and zoning boards. It provides a simple, bright-line rule requiring recusal in limited circumstances to avoid conflicts, preserve impartiality, and protect the integrity of the record. That clarity benefits applicants, boards, and municipalities alike, and helps reduce the risk of appeal based on procedural error. Vote 18-0.

HB 1278, allowing municipalities, cities, and towns a grace period to adopt a simple-majority tax cap override procedure in perpetuity. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dylan Germana for Municipal and County Government. This bill aims to allow municipalities which adopted RSA 32:5-b prior to September 13, 2025, when the law was amended by the legislature, a vote to go back to the law as they adopted it at their town meetings just a few months prior to the change in law. Under 2025's HB 200, an override vote requires approval by three-fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$) of the members present and voting, rather than a simple majority. The wording is rather vague and open ended in parts of this bill, and it was felt that it is improper for the legislature to respond to every municipality every time there is a change in law. Vote 16-2.

HB 1296, relative to the conditions for, and procedures for the adoption of, the elderly tax exemption. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to increase the minimum income and asset thresholds for eligibility under New Hampshire's elderly property tax exemption law (RSA 72:39 a and b), which has not seen adjustments in its qualifying criteria since 2003 despite its enactment in 1996. At present, fewer than 8,400 low-income seniors benefit from these exemptions. The majority of the committee supports raising the base income limits from \$13,400 to \$23,300 for single applicants and from \$20,400 to \$35,000 for married couples, as well as increasing the total asset limit from \$35,000 to \$60,900. These changes are viewed as reasonable measures that could enhance the ability of seniors to remain residents of New Hampshire. Although the state stipulates the baseline requirements, local municipalities retain authority to adopt and set higher exemption limits as they see fit. Amendment 2026-0152h provided clarity that the increase in the threshold amount would "only" apply to increase, not to lower, a municipality's exemptions under the statute. Based on these considerations, the committee voted to recommend passage of the bill. Vote 17-1.

Amendment (0152h)

Amend RSA 72:39-b, III as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. A town or city that has previously adopted the provisions of RSA 72:39-a shall not be required to readopt its provisions following publication of updated threshold amounts, which shall only apply to increase but not to lower that municipality's exemptions notwithstanding RSA 72:27-a, IV, unless the municipality chooses to modify or rescind its adoption as set forth in RSA 72:27-a, III.

HB 1324, exempting the land and buildings of Masonic lodges and associations from property taxation. **IN-EXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Diane Pauer for Municipal and County Government. This bill would amend RSA 72:23-h to exempt from local property taxation the land and buildings owned by Masonic lodges and associations incorporated in New Hampshire, except for any portion used for business or commercial purposes. The bill is enabling legislation and would require approval by local voters before taking effect in any municipality. The stated goal is to provide property tax relief to Masonic lodges by treating their real property in a manner similar to certain nonprofit organizations that receive statutory exemptions. Proponents testified that declining membership and revenue, combined with increasing property taxes, have made it difficult for lodges to maintain their facilities and continue charitable and community activities. While the committee respects the historical and civic contributions of Masonic organizations, it had significant concerns about establishing a new property tax exemption for a fraternal organization. Notably, exemptions under RSA 72:23-a through 72:23-k are based primarily on the use of property for religious, educational, or charitable purposes, generally associated with 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities, whereas Masonic lodges are classified as 501(c)(10) fraternal organizations. The committee was not persuaded that Masonic lodges, as a class, should receive a separate categorical exemption regardless of use. Finally, creating a new exemption for a specific fraternal organization could prompt similar requests from other groups, erode the local property tax base, and shift a greater burden onto other municipal taxpayers, particularly in a state that already relies heavily on property taxes as its primary source of local revenue. Vote 14-2.

HB 1344, relative to intermunicipal compacts. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Eleana Colby for Municipal and County Government. This bill would authorize two or more contiguous municipalities to enter into a compact establishing an intermunicipal governing authority for the purpose of jointly providing one or more municipal services. The committee decisively agreed that this bill is redundant, as intermunicipal agreements are already sanctioned by statute under RSA 53-A, a framework that empowers municipalities and counties to enhance their effectiveness through collaboration for mutual benefit, enabling the provision of services and facilities that correspond with the geographic, economic, population, and other factors that shape the needs and development of local communities. Furthermore, committee members highlighted that the bill seeks to create a governing board that would function as a political subdivision of the state. The powers outlined in this bill are duplicative of those established in existing statute, RSA 52:3, which facilitates the formation of village districts as joint service entities governed by boards with full operational authority. These entities are already recognized as political subdivisions. Given the duplicative nature of this bill and its proposal to create an additional layer of government, the committee unanimously recommended it as Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 1400, creating a property tax exemption and credit opt-out mechanism. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes that residents of a municipality may opt out of contributing, through their property taxes, to any or all of a community's property tax exemptions and credits designed to aid the elderly, veterans, disabled veterans, the blind, the deaf, and other categories of residents found to be entitled to tax relief by standards set by the State of New Hampshire and adopted by the legislative body of the municipality. Based on the assumption that only a minority of residents "turn out" at duly noticed meetings where such exemptions and credits are adopted by the legislative body, the bill's sponsor deems those votes to be illegitimate and non-binding. The committee is unaware of any state law that requires a majority of the municipality's citizenry to vote at a public meeting in order for a vote of the legislative body to be legitimate. While this particular bill concerns itself with contributions to duly approved tax exemptions and credits, should its premise hold – then any such duly approved governmental actions could be deemed invalid. Moreover, all residents of NH municipalities have access to taxpayer-funded services such as ambulance, fire, road maintenance, public libraries and the like. There is little distinction between such services and those the legislative body adopts to assist residents who meet stringent eligibility requirements through tax exemptions or credits. Vote 16-0.

HB 1461-FN-LOCAL, encouraging municipalities with sewage systems to extend system service to neighboring communities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to "encourage municipalities with sewage systems to extend system services to neighboring communities." The extension of such systems, as the bill proposes, could be key to solving New Hampshire's housing shortage. According to recent surveys, only 12% of buildable land in the state has access to either, and only 5.6% has access to both. While increasing

these numbers is of critical importance, the committee noted that the bill as presented would be impractical for a number of reasons. Establishing (or extending) sewer and water systems is one of the most costly enterprises any municipality can undertake. And while more municipalities will doubtless need to do so in the future, the only mechanism this bill puts forward to facilitate that goal is to establish an expedited review of such infrastructure projects by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). No NHDES personnel were available at the hearing to testify in support of such expedited review. The bill also contains a section that “compels” municipalities with existing sewer systems that were funded through state or federal loans to extend those systems regardless of “local refusal.” It also conditions that extension on a requirement that no existing ratepayers are to be impacted. Long experience of municipalities already sharing water and sewer infrastructure indicates that ratepayers are always impacted, and that the conditions the bill proposes could never be met. It is also the case that any and all efforts to extend systems within and to other municipalities must be voted on by the legislative body. Despite these technical issues, the committee hopes this effort will go forward in the future once the legal, financial and technical issues existing within this bill are addressed. New Hampshire’s housing crisis will not be solved without a major effort to increase water and sewer infrastructure on buildable land. The committee applauds the sponsor and hopes to see work on a more comprehensive piece of legislation addressing this issue in the future. Vote 18-0.

HB 1468, relative to municipal flood resilience planning and the use of planning grants. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill adds language to RSA 674:2, III(e) (Master Plan: Purpose and Description) that addresses the increasing risk of severe flooding events across the state. It does so by requiring those plans to “identify areas susceptible to flooding, landslides, forest fire, or other hazards,” and asking towns with master plans to assess those risks and adopt measures in their long-term planning documents to mitigate them. RSA 674:2, III(e), like the master planning process it describes, necessarily evolves over time to adapt to present and future conditions. The committee finds this bill to be a good example of such adaptation, and that including an assessment and mitigation section to town master planning is prudent given the recent major flooding and related events in New Hampshire and neighboring states. It is also consistent with legislation passed in recent years to assist municipalities with tools to address flood resilience. Vote 18-0.

HB 1479-FN, repealing the motor vehicle registration permit fee. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Tom Dolan for Municipal and County Government. The language in the bill was confusing and unclear. Unfortunately, the sponsor failed to appear before the committee and therefore clarifying information from the sponsor was unavailable. Vote 18-0.

HB 1494, increasing the maximum amount of the optional veterans’ tax credit, optional combat service tax credit, and optional surviving spouse tax credit. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for Municipal and County Government. The bill increases the statutory maximum allowable amounts for the optional veterans’ tax credit and the optional combat service credit, both of which were last updated in 2018, and the optional surviving spouse credit, which has not been updated since 2003. The CPI-U for the Northeast inflation index was used to adjust the credit amounts for inflation. Specifically: the maximum allowable optional veterans’ tax credit is increased from \$750 to \$1,000; the maximum allowable optional combat service credit is increased from \$500 to \$750; and the maximum allowable optional surviving spouse credit is increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500. The bill preserves the original purpose of these credits, which remain entirely optional under existing statute, providing modest tax relief for veterans, combat service members, and surviving spouses without altering eligibility requirements or creating new obligations. Importantly, the bill maintains local control. Municipalities retain full discretion over whether to adopt or increase these credits. Adoption of any higher maximum must still occur at the local level, requiring approval by the legislative body. The bill does not automatically grant the increased amounts. The committee unanimously supports these reasonable changes, which maintain fairness for taxpayers while providing updated and meaningful relief for veterans, combat service members, and surviving spouses in New Hampshire. Vote 16-0.

HB 1497, relative to replacing members of local land use boards for certain conduct. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would have identified conditions in which an appointed alternate or elected member of a local land use board may be removed from office. Currently, RSA 673:13 Removal of Members, states, “After public hearing, appointed members and alternate members of an appointed local land use board may be removed by the appointing authority upon written findings of inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.” This bill would have expanded the definition of member to include “an elected, appointed, ex-officio, or alternate member of a planning board, zoning board of adjustment, board committee or subcommittee, council, select board, select board committee, or county or district commission.” This proposed bill would be in conflict with RSA 42:1 and RSA 42:1-a. Both current laws describe the manner of dismissing a town official under certain conditions, such as not complying with the oath of office by not upholding the New Hampshire or US Constitutions, or by not discharging public duties consistent with New Hampshire law and regulations. Based on this conflict, the committee voted to recommend the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 1518, permitting remote participation at county delegation meetings. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill adds language to RSA 91-A:2-c, IV that deals with allowing one or more members of a public body to participate remotely in a meeting. The bill's sponsor stated that the single purpose of this bill is to "require county delegates to be able to participate in county meetings remotely." However, RSA 91-A:2 already allows members of public bodies to participate remotely, using technology that allows all members to communicate contemporaneously. The committee notes that what this bill seeks to permit is already stated in current law and therefore the bill is not necessary. Vote 12-2.

HB 1528, relative to methods for rescinding local tax caps. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dylan Germana for Municipal and County Government. This bill attempts to create an opt-out for municipalities that adopted RSA 32:5-b prior to July 1, 2025, the day HB 200 (2025) came into effect. Under HB 200, an override vote requires approval by three-fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$) of the members present and voting, rather than a simple majority. There is confusion on the wording in parts of the bill and it does not provide clarity, rather further muddies the water for a select few communities that this applies to. It was also felt that the legislature does not need to create an opt-out for select municipalities every time a bill is passed and an RSA is modified, and the legislature has already ruled on the process for rescinding local tax caps. Vote 14-2.

HB 1659, relative to local property tax exemptions for veterans with a 100 percent disability rating. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Linda Franz for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to amend RSA 72 by adding a new section of law that enables the legislative body of a city or town to adopt an exemption or credit for qualifying veterans who have a permanent service-connected disability rating of 100% or is rated permanently and totally disabled due to individual unemployability, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This legislation would exempt qualifying veterans from property tax assessed on the owner's "homestead" meaning principal dwelling including the land surrounding it, not to exceed one acre if within a city or densely settled area or 10 acres in any other municipality. This credit would continue to the estate of a qualified deceased owner for the benefit of a surviving spouse who remains unmarried or any dependent child receiving benefits under 38 U.S.C. section 301 et seq. Under current New Hampshire law, there are at least six distinct veterans' tax credits and exemptions that support NH veterans. An owner or beneficiary who elects to claim this credit would not be eligible for any other real property tax exemption for veterans under RSA 72. The bill also states that if a qualifying owner acquires a different homestead within the state, the credit may be claimed for the new homestead. Concerns of the committee include the use of the terms "credit" and "exemption" that have been used interchangeably throughout this bill although they are interpreted differently by the NH Department of Revenue Administration, resulting in some unclear language; the lack of an explanation on how the transfer of the credit when claimed for a different homestead would work with other municipalities; and would be problematic to administer requiring state and municipal software updates thus necessitating a fiscal note. Additionally, if a municipality chooses to adopt the property tax exemption for veterans with a 100% disability rating, this bill could shift a significant portion of local tax burden from one group of taxpayers to another. For these reasons, the committee recommended the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1674, creating a tax exemption for certain lower-income property owners. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would allow, under certain conditions, that a property owner could receive adjustments to the value of their property. The committee heard testimony from a representative from the NH Department of Revenue Administration who identified two issues with the bill. The first being that the bill did not identify the amount of the exception and the second being that there was no application process to request the exception. The prime sponsor was not present during the bill hearing. The committee was unable to ask the prime sponsor questions concerning the rationale or need for this bill. Vote 16-0.

HB 1689, relative to the term of office for county officers in Merrimack county. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Sly Karasinski for Municipal and County Government. This bill amends RSA 653:1 V to include Merrimack County elected officer's terms to increase to four-year terms at the 2028 state general election, and at each subsequent state general election, shall be chosen in the county by the voters for a four-year term, as is currently in Rockingham County and Coos County. Vote 15-1.

HB 1690, relative to impact fees. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Sly Karasinski for Municipal and County Government. This bill sought to amend RSA 674:21, V to include additional safety equipment, emergency public safety equipment, and vehicles as authorized uses of impact fees imposed upon developments in order to help meet the needs occasioned by that development. The committee did not agree with the use of impact fees on short-lived vehicles and equipment, maintaining that such impact fees shall be used for long-term capital improvements to municipal facilities, utilities, and schools. The committee believes this bill is detrimental to the best interest of the communities served. Vote 18-0.

HB 1693-FN, expanding the number of Grafton county commissioners. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would increase the number of Grafton County Commissioners from three to five commissioners, assign each commissioner a district, and provide for the election and length of term to be served, establishing two-year terms. This bill would repeal RSA 662:4, V which allows for three Grafton County Commissioners to be elected. The committee heard testimony regarding the size of Grafton County, failed leadership, lack of representation and accountability. The committee feels that the election process for Grafton County Commissioner can best address any concerns involving the lack of any elected official in the performance of their elected duties. Vote 12-2.

HB 1802-FN-A, relative to training, testing, and certification of local land use board members and making an appropriations therefor. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill would mandate annual training, testing, and certification for all elected and appointed planning board and zoning board of adjustment members; require the creation of a statewide system to track and publicly post member qualifications through the Office of Planning and Development (OPD); and vest enforcement responsibilities with OPD. Under current New Hampshire law, training and testing for planning board members are optional. Members of the committee agree with the bill's sponsors that land use law is complex and that training for planning and zoning board members is beneficial. However, the committee has significant concerns about the bill's approach. State-mandated training represents a top-down model that fails to account for the unique needs, circumstances, and locally adopted rules of individual communities. The bill also lacks any meaningful mechanism to ensure that new or existing members actually become certified. No penalties are imposed for failure to complete certification, other than exclusion from the list of certified members read aloud by the chair at the beginning of each public meeting. Given the ongoing difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers to serve on these boards, publicly distinguishing between "certified" and "non-certified" members may further discourage participation. While OPD could potentially develop a platform for training and certification, it lacks any enforcement authority over local land use board members to require participation or compliance. Additionally, the fiscal note raises serious concerns about feasibility. OPD estimates that a one-time appropriation of \$25,000—intended to support ongoing training development, technology and infrastructure upgrades, administrative staffing, marketing, and research—falls well short of the \$100,000 to \$500,000 necessary to adequately fund such a program. For these reasons, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HR 31, urging New Hampshire counties to establish co-ed sports leagues. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This resolution purports to urge New Hampshire counties to establish co-ed sports leagues. The sponsor's goals of the resolution – pride in community, increase participation in youth sports and adult recreation – are laudable. However, youth and adult recreation programming is generated at the municipal level, not the county level. Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) have a long history of providing data, services, and technical assistance related to the land conservation and protection of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Town and city recreation departments offer a wide variety of seasonal co-ed sports programming. For these reasons, the committee voted unanimously Inexpedient to Legislate on the resolution. Vote 14-0.

HB 1057, relative to the maintenance of private roads held in common ownership. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. Private roads and easements are an absolute necessity to many Granite Staters who rely upon these shared, often unregulated, access roads. Consequently, private road maintenance is governed under RSA 231:81-a I(b) which came into existence back in 2019 after exhaustive stakeholder engagement. Absent a maintenance agreement recorded with the appropriate county Registry of Deeds, the law allows road installation improvements to occur with the written consent of a majority of the owners using the road. The proposed law would change "a majority of owners" to "unanimous consent" which could allow a single owner to prevent necessary maintenance from occurring on the private road. It was the unanimous consensus of the committee that this change in the law would be detrimental to the other road users who rely on a private road to access their property. The change wouldn't improve the current process nor the existing law. Allowing a single property owner to hold up road maintenance and improvements under a "unanimous consent" process would be a costly proposition for all road users. The committee unanimously agreed that the law is working; that there is no need to change it; and that any aggrieved property owner has an available remedy with superior court. Vote 13-0.

HB 1785-FN, requiring mileage-based exit numbers on tier 1 highways. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The committee recognizes the fact that changing the exit numbers on our interstate highways from sequential order to a mileage-based frequency is inevitable. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has previously testified, in years past, that they are prepared to make those changes with minimal impacts to the Granite State motorists. However, from a financial planning perspective, current combined state and federal funding constraints would make this project cost-prohibitive. If

enacted, then the DOT would need to find money to fund this project. The DOT stressed the importance of utilizing the Governor's Advisory Council for Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) process for the Ten-Year Transportation Plan (TYP) to support this project. The GACIT process would promote transparency while ensuring that the appropriate planning and funding is correctly allocated to successfully complete implementation of the new highway signage. Consequently, the committee agreed with the testimony provided by the DOT and supported an Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. Vote 13-1.

HB 1440-FN, relative to properties enrolled in carbon sequestration programs. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Pierre Dupont for Resources, Recreation and Development. The committee, after hearing from landowners and various associations, came to the unanimous conclusion that this bill, though well intentioned, deeply infringed upon landowner's private property rights. Also, the study commission established by HB 123 (2025), which pauses new large scale carbon sequestration agreements for two years, continues to meet and will not conclude its work until November of 2027. Vote 12-0.

HB 1029-FN, relative to the definition of excavation under underground utility damage prevention laws. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kat McGhee for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill made edits to definitional language in the dig safe statute that increase ambiguity and weaken safety protocols that the dig safe program was designed to ensure. The testimony from DigSafe and New Hampshire utilities was consistent and emphatic in their opposition to this bill. The program is working as designed and does not benefit from tinkering with existing language. The committee agreed this is a case of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Vote 14-0.

HB 1128, restricting the use of weather modification technologies to declared emergencies. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Schneller for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill repeals RSA 12-F:1 that included, broadly, weather experimentation with little oversight and study as to the chemicals and compounds that would have prospectively been deployed under an undefined state of emergency. This bill, as amended, narrows the scope of weather modification activities under declared emergency conditions, exclusively to cloud seeding activities after a 90-day review and under oversight of the Department of Environmental Services. Vote 15-1.

Amendment (0266h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Weather Modification; Emergency Cloud Seeding. RSA 12-F:1 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:
I. Cloud seeding may only occur in New Hampshire if the state is determined to be in extreme or exceptional drought as categorized by the United States Drought Monitor for at least 90 days.

II. Prior to engaging in cloud seeding, the entity seeking to conduct the activity shall conduct an environmental review, assessing potential risks and benefits, and ensuring that the activities will not result in harm to the environment, public health, or wildlife. The review shall be submitted to the department of environmental services. The department may reject the activity if the environmental review demonstrates, or the department determines, the activity will result in harm to the environment, public health, or wildlife.

III. At least one month prior to any cloud seeding activities the department of environmental services shall do the following:

(a) Place a public notice in at least 4 newspapers within the state and on the departmental internet website informing the public of the date and type of the proposed cloud seeding activities within the state.

(b) Disclose to the public the chemical compounds and technologies to be used in the proposed activities in the state, including the effects of the program on human health, what wildlife and wildlife habitats may be affected, and the source of funding to perform such activities.

IV. On April 1 of each calendar year, the department of environmental services shall submit a report to the governor, speaker of the house, and senate president detailing any cloud seeding activities that occurred the prior calendar year. If no activities under this chapter occurred in the prior calendar year, a report is not required to be submitted.

2026-0266h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill specifies the circumstances and conditions under which cloud seeding may occur.

HB 1169, relative to notification waiting periods to the underground utility damage prevention laws. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Thomas Cormen for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill sought to loosen three requirements in the DigSafe program, regarding excavation and underground utility lines: reducing the period for the utility to mark underground lines from 72 to 48 hours; removing six state holidays from the time excepted for marking; and increasing the time for excavation from 30 days to one year. The committee heard strong opposition to these changes from DigSafe, the New England Connectivity & Telecommunications Association, Eversource, and Unitil. The Department of Energy also raised significant concerns. Reducing the period to mark lines

would create a hardship for the utility, especially during a time in which there is a surge of requests. Unutil added that they would likely have to add staff to meet the 48hour window, which could lead to increased rates. Removing the six holidays would force the utilities to have crews marking lines on holidays, again leading to increased costs and rates. Because the marks are not permanent, changing the time for excavation from 30 days to one year could result in digging occurring when the original marks have disappeared or have become obscured, so that excavators are “digging blind.” It’s also possible that utility lines shift over the course of a year, so that the marks are no longer accurate. Finally, the proposed changes would go against the prevailing trends in other states, which are to tighten requirements in the name of safety. Furthermore, because many contractors that operate in New Hampshire also operate in other states, the proposed changes could cause confusion. The DigSafe program works well to protect utility lines from damage and the consequent service interruptions, and the committee sees no reason to change it. Vote 14-0.

HB 1618-FN, prohibiting solar radiation modification, weather modification, and other polluting atmospheric interventions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill was brought back from a previous year and sought to make cloud seeding and weather modification activity illegal in New Hampshire. It appropriated no funds to pay for the hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenses it would create for state agencies and country sheriff departments. The prime sponsor was unaware that two other bills had been filed that better accomplished this bill’s purpose and asked the committee to kill the bill. Vote 15-0.

HB 1025, relative to the designation of the chief financial officer as a civilian employee within the department of military affairs and veterans services. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Raymond Plante for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The chief financial officer of the New Hampshire National Guard should be renamed to the chief financial officer of the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in alignment with current naming conventions for the department. This was requested by the office of the Adjutant General and the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. There are no other additions or modifications to RSA 110-B:32-b other than this name change. Vote 14-0.

HB 1101, relative to the membership and governance of the state veterans council. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Raymond Plante for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The State Veterans Council currently consists of four members. The even number of volunteer members makes it difficult for voting in the event of a tie. This bill increases the council membership from four to five which allows for a tie breaking vote. The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services requested this change to clean up the language in RSA 110-B:89 and add that additional fifth member to the council. Vote 14-0.

HB 1152, designating the funds account for donations and bequests received by the department of military affairs and veterans services to be non-lapsing funds. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Raymond Plante for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The current process for donations to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services dictates that funds must be spent within the same fiscal year. This bill allows for those donated funds to be non-lapsing funds that can be carried over to the next fiscal year in the form of non-lapsing funds. This allows for donations and bequests to be properly used to promote the welfare of military service members, veterans, and their families as originally intended without expiration. Vote 14-0.

HB 1172, relative to confidentiality protections for national guard sexual assault prevention and response personnel. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Christal Lloyd for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee unanimously recommends Ought to Pass on this bill. This legislation was created at the request of the department which handles these cases and is a proactive measure. By ensuring that National Guard personnel have better privacy safeguards vis-a-vis civilians, this bill encourages reporting and support-seeking, while reinforcing fairness and trust within the guard. The committee recognizes the importance of this legislation in supporting both victims and response professionals and strongly supports its passage as a proactive step to strengthen confidentiality protections and promote the well-being of those who serve. Vote 14-0.

HB 1441, establishing a commission to study the economic, legal, and sociological aspects of New Hampshire exerting its sovereign state rights. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This bill calls for the formation of a commission to study “state sovereignty” or more specifically to review issues related to New Hampshire’s theoretical secession from the United States. This appears to involve a misnomer, as “state sovereignty” is generally understood under our federal system to involve those powers reserved to the states under the Tenth Amendment: i.e. all legitimate powers not delegated to the federal government. Debate can occur over whether secession might qualify in any way as a power of “state sovereignty,” but because no matter other than secession is to be studied under the proposed commission it would seem to make the title over inclusive, if not erroneous. Further, it is unclear whether the proposed commission of legislators and others would have

the technical expertise required to undertake the sort of study of issues—ranging from energy infrastructure to economic/financial considerations—that would be necessary, given the seriousness of this proposal. Studies of such magnitude and consequence are usually undertaken federally by third party contractors, which, if properly pursued alternatively in New Hampshire, surely require a comprehensive fiscal note. Vote 13-0.

HB 1753-FN, establishing the New Hampshire first for veterans program and authority. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. After introducing the bill, the prime sponsor suggested the committee recommend Interim Study because the bill's exact content is in another amended bill which is moving forward in another committee. Vote 14-0.

HCR 15, urging Congress to pass federal legislation promoting greater media accountability as a way to honor the late conservative activist Charlie Kirk. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution sought to tie the Smith-Mundt federal statute concerning international media applications with perceived poor media coverage concerning the Charlie Kirk assassination. This resolution focuses on Smith-Mundt, as amended, which was a topic of a resolution this House adopted last year. Part of this proposed resolution, calling for "media accountability" re: coverage of the Charlie Kirk assassination, is linked by implication to Smith-Mundt in a manner that is unclear and seemingly unsupported by evidence. Also, the sponsor failed to show up to speak to his measure. Vote 13-0.

HR 27, urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to open an investigation into the United States' response to the USS Liberty incident. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The survivors of the USS Liberty attack have appeared before this committee three times over the last two terms. In every case, they described the incident from their individual perspectives, outlining the details of that day with the same acknowledgment that their vessel was clearly marked, on a calm sea, during a sunny day, and the attack went on for an hour from both sky and sea. Upon their return to port, the survivors were threatened and ordered to remain silent. The official US investigation, which lasted less than a week, determined the attack was mistaken identity, which was contrary to every story this committee heard. As such, we are requesting through a resolution, that Congress reopen the investigation, declassify remaining documents regarding the event, and give the surviving crew members closure they deserve. Vote 13-0.

HR 47, urging the release of all federal documents relating to Jeffrey Epstein. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lily Foss for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. While the committee is united in its commitment to governmental transparency regarding the Epstein files, we must recommend that this resolution be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Since none of the three sponsors appeared before the committee to testify, we were unable to get answers to our questions about the efficacy of the resolution. For example, why is this measure important for New Hampshire? What could this accomplish if the executive branch has already ignored calls from the legislative and judicial branches to release all the files? Why was the decision made to only include declassified documents in the resolution? The committee did not feel informed enough to recommend the resolution be passed by the entire body. Vote 14-0.

HB 1111-FN, relative to driving test accommodations and retest suspension periods. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matthew Pitaro for Transportation. While the transportation committee believes that measurable accommodations for drivers license applicants should be provided by the examiner, the committee has unanimously found that the proposed solution provided in this bill goes beyond the core function and the expertise of the DMV staff. It would be unreasonable to task DMV staff with developing varying testing standards and accommodations based on an applicant's individualized education program (IEP). The manner in which our DMV tests and examines drivers license applicants is working as it should and they do make measurable accommodations where appropriate currently. Operator licenses are issued to qualified New Hampshire residence after demonstrating the necessary knowledge and practical skill in motoring. The reason for obtaining a drivers license, or recognized permission to operate a motor vehicle on New Hampshire road, is safety. The determination as to whether or not an applicant should be issued a license to drive safely on New Hampshire road rightly aligns with the DMV's current examination practices. Vote 16-0.

HB 1190-FN, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Veilleux for Transportation. Presently if an individual turns 21 over a weekend or an extended holiday weekend, their vertical youth license expires, and they are not able to apply for their adult horizontal license until the next business day that DMV is open. Right now, their only option is to re-apply for a youth license which means they either keep the vertical youth license for another five years, or they keep it for only

a few days and re-apply for the adult horizontal license, either scenario is not optimal. This bill allows for a 60-day temporary license which will see them through until they are able to receive the horizontal adult license. Vote 15-0.

HB 1350-FN, relative to antique motor vehicles. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. This bill as amended is a housekeeping bill removing ambiguous and unenforceable language about restoration condition and 'daily usage' and replacing the language with more accurate description of the intent of the law "not maintained for primary transportation use." The amendment also restored the 20 year inclusionary clause for antique fire apparatus. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0151h)

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

1 Antique Motor Vehicle, Farm Tractor, Retired Fire Apparatus, or Motorcycle. Amend RSA 259:4 to read as follows: 259:4 Antique Motor Vehicle, Farm Tractor, Retired Fire Apparatus, or Motorcycle. "Antique motor vehicle, farm tractor, retired fire apparatus, or motorcycle" shall mean any motor vehicle, including a truck regardless of its weight, over 25 years old, and in the case of a retired fire apparatus, over 20 years old, which is maintained for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest, but not for use in commerce. For the purposes of this section, "maintained for use" shall mean a motor vehicle, retired fire apparatus, or motorcycle ~~[in its original condition or restored to original or better condition and not intended for daily use]~~ **not maintained for primary transportation use.**

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

2026-0151h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises the definition of antique motor vehicle to provide that the vehicle is not maintained for primary transportation use.

HB 1354-FN, authorizing the division of motor vehicles to issue license plate decals for amateur radio operators. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for Transportation. This bill is very similar to HB 1483. The major differences being this bill offers a decal to show a radio operator's interest, while HB 1483 offers an actual license plate which can display the radio operators call sign. The feeling is the radio operators will prefer the actual plate rather than the decal. Vote 15-0.

HB 1430-FN, relative to title registration requirements for motorcycles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Seth Miller for Transportation. This is one of several bills regarding title issuance being heard this session. The changes that this bill requested have been incorporated into the others, making this bill unnecessary. Vote 16-0.

HB 1445-FN, requiring the issuance of enhanced drivers licenses and Real ID compliant cards for border crossing and proof of citizenship. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Erik Johnson for Transportation. While the committee recognizes the value of enhanced drivers licenses for our residents, too many unanswered questions remain regarding the cost and demand. Vote 16-0.

HB 1483-FN, creating a motor vehicle license plate for amateur radio operators. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This bill creates a new license plate be made available for ham and amateur radio operators. The committee recognizes amateur radio operators in their critical role supplementing communication during states of emergency and non-standard events. These license plates can help identify radio operators during times of crisis but do not designate any differential treatment under law. This may be helpful in identifying volunteer communication assistance during a time of crisis. The amendment changes the effective date to January 1, 2027 to allow for NH DMV to integrate new license plate technology which is reducing the fiscal note for new license plate programs. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0163h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

HB 1338, restricting abortion providers from the definition of charitable organization for the purposes of games of chance. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for Ways and Means. This is not an "abortion bill" per se. As written and introduced, this bill would prevent a legal charity from participating in gaming. The sponsor and supporters spoke to the essence of the activities of the entity to be barred from participation. This bill, as written, shows that this principle could be applied by others who object to the activities of any other charity depending upon political whims. The law applies regardless of the type of activity in which any legal charity can be involved. Because this bill would set a political precedence in which the state is picking and choosing winners and losers, the committee voted to find the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 14-2.

HB 1546-FN, repealing the business profits tax. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for Ways and Means. This bill would repeal the current Business Profits Tax. No one appeared in support of the bill. Discussion on the bill took place amongst the committee members regarding the essence of taxation and seeking the so-called “sweet spot,” as was discussed on the floor in a previous speech, of reaching the most tax revenue with the least negative cost impact to a business and its customers. Both parties in the committee agreed that the bill as received by the committee was unworkable and that an incremental, deliberate approach to tax reductions or increases to find the “sweet spot” was more effective. Vote 17-0.

HB 1629-FN, repealing the business enterprise tax. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for Ways and Means. This bill would remove the Business Enterprise Tax from our tax code. No one appeared in favor of this bill. Discussion amongst committee members revolved around the nature of taxation and reaching that so-called “sweet spot” of taxes that produces the most tax revenue for needed expenses and the costs to business and its customers are minimized. Vote 17-0.

TO BE WITHDRAWN

HB 1476, permitting third-party payment for point-of-entry treatment system and water line installation to expand access to clean drinking water.

Consent calendar was adopted.

The Speaker referred House Bills 1190 and 1483 to the Committee on Finance.

The Speaker referred House Bill 1350 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REGULAR CALENDAR**MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER**

Rep. Bogert moved that **HB 1193**, naming a 911 call service center in Laconia in honor of Bruce G. Cheney, be made a Special Order to the first order of business.

Motion was adopted.

SPECIAL ORDER

HB 1193, naming a 911 call service center in Laconia in honor of Bruce G. Cheney. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The committee unanimously supported naming the new public safety answering point (PSAP) in Laconia as the Bruce Cheney 911 Service Center. Bruce Cheney began his public service as a member of the United States Marine Corps, where he developed a strong foundation in leadership and discipline. His military experience instilled in him a deep commitment to duty and service, values that would guide his subsequent career. Returning to civilian life, Cheney joined the Laconia Police Department, where he served with distinction for 25 years. He rose through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as Police Chief, a position he held for 13 years from September 1977 through December 1990. During his tenure, he worked closely with state officials to ensure public safety during events such as Laconia Motorcycle Week. After retiring from local law enforcement, Cheney was appointed as the Director of the New Hampshire Division of Emergency Services and Communications. In this role, he was instrumental in developing and overseeing the state’s 911 emergency communications system, enhancing public safety 911 infrastructure across New Hampshire, and contributing to New Hampshire’s preparedness for next-generation 911 services. Cheney served as Director from 1993 through 2016. In 2016, Cheney retired from state service and returned to Laconia, where he became actively involved in local governance. He was elected to the Laconia City Council, representing Ward 1 in 2017. During his time on the council, he has served as a liaison to the Planning Board and Police Commission, contributing his expertise to city planning and public safety initiatives. Cheney’s priorities on the council have included promoting affordable housing, developing the Laconia State School property, and enhancing police and fire/EMS services. He has emphasized the importance of creating housing options for working-class families and has been actively involved in discussions on addressing homelessness in the city. Cheney’s contributions to public safety have been widely recognized: Intrado’s 50 Influential People in 911. Cheney was named among the 50 most influential figures in the emergency communications field by Intrado, highlighting his impact on public safety communications, including his dedication to the persistent pursuit of the improvement of 911 and development of 911 technological systems and solutions; Enhanced 911 Grant Program under his leadership, New Hampshire received a \$642,948.39 grant in 2009 to upgrade the state’s 911 infrastructure, including the implementation of Phase II compliant map interfaces and hardware upgrades for call-taker positions; and, Outstanding Leadership and Appreciation Award. Bruce was recognized for his unwavering dedication, commitment and lifetime of work in the City of Laconia and the State of New Hampshire while serving as the city’s Chief of Police and the State of New Hampshire’s Director of Emergency Services and Communications in 2025. His personal and professional lives reflect a deep commitment to community, life-long public and civic service, and the well-being of his fellow citizens. Bruce Cheney’s extensive experience in law enforcement, emergency services, and local government has made him a respected figure in Laconia and the state. His ongoing contributions continue to shape the city’s development and ensure the safety and prosperity of its residents. Vote 13-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.
 Reps. Bogert and St. Clair spoke in favor.
 Committee report was adopted and ordered to a third reading.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1556-FN, relative to the commission of domestic violence offenses in the presence of a child. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ricky Devoid for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee opposes this bill because it creates enhanced penalties and mandatory minimum sentences for committing domestic violence in the presence of a child, even though New Hampshire law already allows judges to consider the presence and impact on children as an aggravating factor at sentencing. Courts currently have broad discretion to impose substantial sentences in serious domestic violence cases and routinely weigh the harm done to children who witness violence when determining appropriate penalties. By layering a separate penalty structure on top of existing law, this bill risks creating confusion, unequal outcomes, and unintended disparities between otherwise similar cases. There is no clear definition of what constitutes in the presence of a child. It attempts to define it, but it remains vague and actually imposes the harsher sentence even if the child was unaware that any domestic violence occurred. The bill complicates an already intricate set of domestic violence statutes by carving out a new category of offenses based on the presence of a child, which will require additional definitions, proof issues, and litigation, for example, what qualifies as "presence," how proximity and awareness are measured, and how multiple children are treated. Instead of clarifying the law, it risks producing inconsistent results and technical challenges that do not meaningfully enhance protection for victims or children. Because existing statutes already give judges the tools to impose appropriately serious penalties and to recognize the special harm caused when children witness domestic violence, the committee finds this bill to be unnecessary, confusing, and potentially counterproductive. Vote 11-0.

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

HB 1697-FN, exempting certain firearms and firearm accessories manufactured and retained in New Hampshire from federal regulation. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Some dismiss this bill as a mere setup for litigation, but this bill boldly asserts New Hampshire's sovereignty under the 10th Amendment, shielding in-state manufactured firearms and accessories from unconstitutional federal overreach via the commerce clause. Far from wasteful, this legislation protects citizens' second amendment rights, fosters local industry, and upholds federalism, the core duties of the General Court. Additionally there are claims individuals can litigate privately, ignoring that state action provides stronger standing and resources to challenge federal encroachment, as seen in successful state-led suits on issues like immigration and environmental regulations. Similar firearms freedom acts in Montana, Kansas, and others have empowered states without bankrupting them, often deterring federal enforcement through symbolic strength alone. Any attorney general involvement is justified: defending state laws is their role, not an undue burden. This bill marks firearms for in-state use only, preventing export while exempting them from federal rules, promoting self-reliance and economic growth. Baseless fears of cost overlook the greater expense of federal dominance eroding our liberties. Vote 7-6.

Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. As stated by the sponsor of the bill, the apparent sole purpose of this bill is to set up a constitutional challenge to the application of the federal commerce clause. The General Court's power to legislate should not be used to create litigation obligations for the state attorney general's office when other means are available for individuals to engage in litigation without cost to the state.

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

Rep. Scherr spoke against.

Rep. Sabourin dit Choinière spoke in favor.

Rep. Meuse requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 188 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 188

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
 Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
 Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
 Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
 Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
 MacDonald, John
 Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
 Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
 Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
 Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

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
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Rollins, Skip

Grant, George
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Michael

**NAYS - 164
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

COOS

Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Fedolfi, Jim
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Milz, David
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

majority committee report of Ought to Pass was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HB 1793-FN, prohibiting public colleges and universities from regulating the possession or carrying of firearms and non-lethal weapons on campus. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The concerns about campus carry ignore constitutional mandates, real-world data, and the urgent need for self-defense on public university campuses. This bill upholds New Hampshire's second amendment heritage, empowering adults to protect themselves without endangering safety. There are claims that gun bans make campuses safer than surrounding areas, but this overlooks demographics and security measures as primary factors, not bans. The Department of Justice (DOJ) data shows 93% of student violent crimes occur off-campus, beyond these policies. States like Utah, Colorado, and Texas have allowed campus carry for years without violence spikes; a 2019 study

confirms no link to increased crime. Gun-free zones, conversely, invite attacks on the defenseless, as mass shootings target them. On the second amendment, Heller and Bruen affirm self-defense rights at home and in public, demanding restrictions align with history. Adult-dominated universities differ from K-12 schools; courts in Texas and elsewhere uphold campus carry. Blanket bans infringe on these rights unjustly. Some allege campus carry heightens accidents, shootings, and suicides without reducing violence, yet evidence contradicts this. RAND reviews show concealed-carry laws may reduce crime in contexts, with no misuse patterns in Utah since 2004. Armed citizens deter and stop threats, bridging police response gaps. Suicide claims ignore mental health as the root cause, not access. Disarming the law-abiding leaves them vulnerable. Cost fears are exaggerated: Texas universities predicted high expenses but faced minimal increases, with no insurance surges. The bottom line is that the majority believes the current status quo is a violation of the fundamental rights of the citizens of this state. Vote 7-6.

Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The overwhelming majority of the 4,400 colleges and universities in the United States prohibit the carrying of firearms on their campuses. These policies have helped to make our post-secondary education institutions some of the safest places in the country, often experiencing crime rates significantly than those of surrounding communities. Proponents argue that campus carry bans violate the second amendment. While the 2008 Supreme Court ruling in District of Columbia v Heller established that citizens have the right under the second amendment to possess an ordinary type of weapon and use it for lawful, historically established situations such as self-defense in a home; the court also acknowledged the need for reasonable regulations to prohibit the carrying of firearms in “sensitive places,” such as schools and government buildings. In 2022, in NYSRPA v. Bruen, the Supreme Court clarified that the right to carry a firearm extends outside the home, but it also reaffirmed that firearms can still be restricted in certain places, including schools. There is simply no credible evidence to suggest that the presence of students carrying weapons, concealed or otherwise, would reduce violence or the risk of violence on our college campuses. However, there is a substantial risk that allowing firearms to be carried on campus would increase the risk of accidental discharges, intentional shootings, and the lethality of suicide attempts, while doing little or nothing to reduce violence or the risk of violence. New Hampshire state law clearly assigns the university system’s board of trustees with “the management and control of all property and affairs of the University of New Hampshire.” This responsibility includes the duty to maintain the safety of students, staff, and visitors in campus buildings, campus grounds, and campus venues, including Wildcat Stadium and the Whittemore Center. Should this bill be enacted, meeting this responsibility will become exponentially more difficult and more costly due to increased insurance costs and the need to provide enhanced security and hire and train additional security staff.

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

Reps. Meuse and Burton spoke against.

Rep. Farrington spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Meuse requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 188 - NAYS 165

YEAS - 188

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

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

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian

Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

MERRIMACK

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

STRAFFORD

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
Rollins, Skip

Grant, George
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 165 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen

Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Teterski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

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

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Meuse, David
 Simpson, Alexis
 Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Muns, Chris
 Sorensen, Carrie

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim
 McMahon, Charles
 Reynolds, Ned
 Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Malloy, Dennis
 Melvin, Charles
 Scherr, Buzz
 Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted, and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance
 The House recessed at 12:00 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:00 p.m

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

MOTION TO SUSPEND HOUSE RULES

Rep. Simpson moved that House Rules be so far suspended as to allow for the late drafting and introduction of a bill relative to transparency with local communities regarding federal installations.

Rep. Simpson spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 162 - NAYS 187

YEAS - 162 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

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

Harvey, Cathryn
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
 Jones, Philip
 Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

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

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

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

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

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 187**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt

Dumont, Dillon
 Flanagan, Jack
 Giasson, Henry
 Labrie, Brian
 McLean, Mark
 Notter, Jeanine
 Peeples, Raymond
 Prout, Andrew
 Scully, Kevin
 Suiter, John
 Warden, Mark

Dupont, Pierre
 Griffin, Gerald
 Herbert, Christopher
 Lascelles, Richard
 Miles, Julie
 Ohm, Bill
 Post, Lisa
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Tenczar, Jeffrey
 Wherry, Robert

Erf, Keith
 Gagne, Larry
 Kesselring, Steven
 Murphy, Mary
 Morton, Jonathan
 Paquette, Kathleen
 Presa, Adam
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sirois, Shane
 Mannion, Tom

Fedolfi, Jim
 Georges, Mary
 Kofalt, Jim
 Mazur, Lisa
 Noble, Kristin
 Pauer, Diane
 Proulx, Mark
 Schneller, John
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 McGuire, Dan
 Mehegan, Peter
 Polozov, Yuri
 Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
 Devoid, Ricky
 Moffett, Michael
 Boyd, Stephen
 Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
 Gonzalez, Ernesto
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Seaworth, Brian
 Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
 Leavitt, John
 Plante, Raymond
 See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Dolan, Tom
 Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nelson, Jodi
 Porcelli, Susan
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Summers, James
 Tripp, Richard
 MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Potucek, John
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Guzowski, James
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Sytek, John
 Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 DeRoy, Susan
 Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
 Spilsbury, Walter

The motion failed lacking the necessary two-thirds vote.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Janigian, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 1350-FN**, relative to antique motor vehicles.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on **HB 1793-FN**, prohibiting public colleges and universities from regulating the possession or carrying of firearms and non-lethal weapons on campus. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 1793

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Representative Meuse.

Representative Meuse: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have seen this movie before. In 2018, this body rejected a similar bill to allow guns on New Hampshire state college campuses by a 231 to 110 vote. That response came a week after a gunman opened fire at a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 teachers and students dead, and a nation and many people in this legislature in shock. The bill before us today also comes to us on the heels of a tragedy, this time a classroom shooting at Brown University in Providence that took the lives of two students and wounded nine others. What this bill seeks to do is to ban all colleges, universities, and institutes of higher education that receive any amount of funding from the state from restricting the possession or the carrying of firearms on campus. The bill would also allow any person who is aggrieved by a violation of the ban to sue for monetary damages, attorney fees and court costs. Something that we need to understand is that under this bill, it's not just students, faculty and staff who would be able to carry a gun on campus. Random visitors to campus would also be able to carry

firearms. According to the U.S. Secret Service, roughly half of school shooters in the U.S. are students. The remainder have no affiliation with the school or their relationship is unknown. In other words, they are visitors. So less than three months after a middle-aged visitor walked into a classroom at Brown University with a gun in his hand and murder in his heart, we have a bill in front of us that would not only invite random visitors onto our own college campuses to tote firearms, we're also telling them that if campus security tries to enforce a restriction, they can file a lawsuit that will ultimately be paid off by taxpayers. The fact is that this bill is so broadly written, that should be reason enough to reject it, but there's more. During the public hearing, we heard the sponsor and a handful of students who support the bill testify that prohibiting guns on campus is unconstitutional. They also told us that firearms restrictions discriminate against young people who, they reminded us, are old enough to vote, old enough to marry, and old enough to serve in the military. As for the argument that the bill is unconstitutional, we do have the Second Amendment. But we also have laws on our books that ban felons and people subject to protective orders from buying guns. We have another state law on the books that prohibits firearms in courtrooms. While Article 2A of our New Hampshire Bill of Rights, and it shall not be infringed wording, gets most of the attention in a debate like this, Article 3 instructs those of us in government that we have an obligation to balance individual rights with our duty to ensure the protection of others. With this bill, we would be shirking that duty. As for the argument that campus restrictions on firearms amount to discrimination against young people, it's critical to realize that these restrictions apply to everyone on campus regardless of age. In short, they have absolutely nothing to do with who you are and everything to do with where you are. In the Heller Decision, the Supreme Court acknowledged, even as it was expanding gun rights, that there remains a need for reasonable regulations to prohibit the carrying of firearms in sensitive places, such as schools and government buildings. Four years ago, in the Bruen Decision, the court clarified that the right to carry a firearm exists outside the home, but it also reaffirmed that firearms can still be restricted in certain places. Schools remain one of those places, and not a single court ruling has said otherwise. During the public hearing, university security staff testified that in an active shooter response, the need to factor in armed faculty, students, staff, and visitors who might be brandishing or even shooting their weapons adds risk and complexity to any police response. We were also told that it increases the likelihood that a person openly carrying a firearm could be mistaken for a shooter as law enforcement tries to bring a violent incident to an end. As former House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Chairman, David Welch, said when he spoke against a similar bill in 2018, law enforcement coming into a place like a school with half a dozen or a dozen people with guns drawn is not a good scenario. But if this bill passes, it will be a scenario that every higher educational institution in New Hampshire that accepts state money, will have no choice but to prepare for. For our states, public colleges, and universities, this means hiring additional security staff, creating new training programs, and paying costs for general liability insurance that will substantially increase all at taxpayer expense. Meanwhile, research suggests that allowing guns on campus does nothing to increase safety, but what it will do is increase the risk of incidents involving firearms, including accidents, suicides and homicides. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to vote red so another motion may be made.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Representative Burton.

Representative Burton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like you, thanks to the ubiquity of cell phone cameras, I watched in horror the killing in Minneapolis of Renee Good on January 7th and Alex Pretti on January 24th. My PTSD kicking in from my experiences in Vietnam five decades ago, when among my responsibilities was writing the letters home to the men in my unit who had been killed. And it was not the heavy combat we were in in the Mekong Delta, where I was an adjutant company commander with the 9th Infantry Division. It was what I knew about the letters, that many of the 18-year-olds we put in body bags were killed by accidental discharge. They were killed by friendly fire. And these were trained soldiers who died because they were in an area where guns were sometimes misused. Those thoughts I was thinking about, that wouldn't I hate it if the president of the University of New Hampshire had to write a letter home to a family of a student who may have been killed because of mishandled weapons on campus. And the letter would read, "we regret to inform you that your daughter died from a mishandled weapon in Stoke Hall." My reaction would be, how the hell did a pistol get into Stoke Hall at the University of New Hampshire? That's what could happen if we pass this bill into law. Those thoughts returned when I debated the sponsor of House Bill 1793 on WMUR a few weeks ago, when he emphatically asserted that arming students like him and his friends would make our public universities, state colleges, and community colleges safer than they are now guarded by trained law enforcement officers. My answer to that is, in the Seacoast, we have a bridge for sale, I'd be happy to sell it to you, it's coming down, because it makes no sense to me. Those trained officers at UNH and Durham are one of the few dual police stations in the country that are both accredited by CALEA, which is the premier accrediting body for police departments. And I've been involved in that as a member of the town council for 11 years. It's really, really strict, and they review all of the policies and procedures, including firearms. But the negative consequences of turning our institutions into free-fire zones under the banner of campus carry have immediate consequences, even as we hope shots are never fired. The community colleges, in addition

to security officers, might be forced to pay higher insurance premiums and install and maintain safe storage areas for those who wish to store a weapon while using fitness facilities or work in labs. Several of the community colleges have either embedded high schools or daycares on campus, which may have to be shuttered due to conflicting laws and rules related to these places. Free-fire zones have negative consequences, even as we hope shots are never fired. The consequences of this bill for the three residential campuses would be the same; increased cost and less security for students, faculty, staff and visitors in recreation areas, classrooms and any on-campus activities, such as sporting events and cultural events. Thirty-one states, almost two-thirds of the states, ban carrying concealed weapons or give their institutions their choice as to whether to ban them or not. Eleven states permit the carrying of concealed weapons, but often add other requirements. In Texas, for example, the gun owner must have a license to carry, but only in a gun-free zone. In Arkansas, only enhanced concealed carry permit holders may carry concealed weapons. Open carry is forbidden in Arkansas, as is storage in university-owned dormitories and residence halls. And by the way, right now the university's policy is to store the weapons of the students until they need them in 24-hour access. In fact, New Hampshire would become only the third state, with Utah and West Virginia, to have such a liberal firearms law if House Bill 1793 passes. Like Keene and Plymouth, the town of Durham, where I serve on the town council for the last 11 years, is a compact area. Our new 600-student middle school sits right behind fraternity row on Madbury Road. Many kids walk by them and through the campus, coming and going to school. I live a quarter of a mile from T. Hall, in earshot of social events on the campus. I don't want to hear gunshots. The town council in Durham unanimously passed a resolution. I won't read the whole thing, but one paragraph. Quote, "the forced elimination of campus weapons policies at UNH would represent a significant and unnecessary intrusion by the state into the ability of local public safety officials and university leaders to tailor security measures to their particular needs, fiscal layout and risk environment of the Durham campus." At the hearing, as the hearing of HB 1793 concluded a few weeks ago, the chair shrugged and looked at those of us who opposed the bill, saying words to the effect that he felt the pain of those testifying against it, but the second amendment is absolute. No, it's not. The main Article 2 itself has a natural right of obtaining happiness. There's no mention of weapons. Amendment 2A, an add-on to cover the militiamen storing weapons in their homes in colonial periods times, includes the right to bear arms. In other words, our right to be free from violence is of equal power or more than the cited in the amendment. A few years ago during my third term here in this house, when I was asked to be the lead speaker against the same NRA-inspired bill, something very special happened. Some of you may remember it because you were here. I used to sit over there because at that time we all sat together. I thought that was a little healthier, by the way, but I used to sit in the second row over there. When I was asked to be the lead speaker, former Representative David A. Welch, then the highly respected chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, intercepted me as I walked to the podium to speak. He asked me if he could do my speech. Having heard my testimony during the bill's hearing, he knew I was in opposition. So I stepped aside and he strode to that podium. He had no long speech to give opposing the bill. But what he did say swung the vote from OTP to ITL. I'll never forget his powerful words. Quote, "I've learned my granddaughter will attend UNH this fall and I want her to be safe." The bill lost by a wide margin. Please reject House Bill 1793 so all of our children will be safe. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Farrington.

Representative Farrington: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1982, a supermajority of Granite Staters approved Article 2A of our state constitution. That reads that all persons, all persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property, and the state. A few decades later, in 2017, New Hampshire became a constitutional carry state, meaning that you do not need a silly permission slip in order to exercise your right to bear arms. We in New Hampshire have made it clear, self-defense is not a privilege; it is a natural right. And natural rights are not given by government, they are granted by God alone. And so what God gives, and so what God gives, we cannot take away. But right now at every single public university in our state, unelected administrators are stripping college students, professors and visitors of their natural rights. This bill prevents publicly funded universities from contradicting state law. Now if we've learned anything from the tragedy at Brown, it should be that gun-free zones only create soft targets, where victims are left defenseless and hopeless, without the ability to put up a fight against the bad guy. More than 90% of all mass shootings happen in these so-called gun-free zones. What happened at Brown could happen at UNH, and we need to take action right now. In committee, we heard from more than a dozen college students in support of this bill, one of which was a senior at UNH, and he wants the ability to carry a firearm, because right now the university is doing absolutely nothing to protect his safety. Buildings are left wide open so anybody can walk in at any time, and the university won't even guarantee a police presence inside of those buildings. We heard from a female student at Keene State College, and she wants the bill to be passed because she's worried about walking home by herself after her night-time classes. So this is a real issue. More than 400 New Hampshire college students have signed a petition in support of this bill. Now when we hear from the opposition, we hear that college students are too drunk, that they're too immature, and that they're too young to carry a firearm. My question is, how can we allow them to vote then? And how can they go fight in

a foreign war? The university has lobbied hard against this bill. Why? Because it takes away their power. But in their own words, of their own Chief of Police, Steven Lee, college students are too drunk to carry a firearm. What happened a week later? Steven Lee was arrested for drunk driving. You cannot make this up, and that is their best argument against campus carry. The fact of the matter is that college students are adults, deserving of an equal protection of the law as it already stands here in New Hampshire. I hope that you will join me in passing campus carry, because gun rights are human rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: Will the member yield to a question?

Representative Farrington: Of course.

Speaker Packard: Member yields.

Representative Turcotte: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would you believe that Liberty University, one of the more conservative colleges in the country, in Lynchburg, Virginia, not only allows their students to carry, but encourages them to carry?

Representative Farrington: That makes reasonable sense, given that that is in Virginia, and Virginia Tech University, just a few decades ago, had a mass shooting. A professor died in that shooting because he was standing between the shooter and his students. He was a trained firearm instructor, and he was prevented from carrying a firearm. These policies hurt people.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of what it passed in 1793. Representative Meuse has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. It will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The motion before us is Ought to Pass on HB 1793. This is a roll call vote. Chair recognizes Representative Harriott-Gathright for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Harriott-Gathright: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that our higher education campuses are a heightened source of games and competition and a sensitive place for students, and if I know that our courts consistently prohibit the carrying of firearms in schools and in some government buildings, and furthermore, if I know that public safety is in jeopardy, particularly if there's an active shooter on campus, because number one, our law enforcement have no idea who the perpetrator is. So lastly, because multiple persons are playing firearms or displaying firearms, it doesn't help the situation at all for law enforcement. And lastly, I'd like to remind you that our young people, and this is statistically, lack...

Speaker Packard: I'll remind the representative that this is a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Harriott-Gathright: Okay. If I know, all right, if I know that our young people lack reasoning until approximately the age of 27, I ask you to protect our children on campus by voting no.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Rhodes for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Rhodes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know by passing this law, it will do nothing to make it less illegal to commit a mass murder or to terrorize people, and Mr. Speaker, if I know the states that have passed campus carry have done so without any increase or risk of violence, and Mr. Speaker, if I know it is unacceptable to tell legal-aged, willing, and enabled-bodied adults they are prohibited to protect themselves if the need arises because somebody might be afraid to, would I now press the green button with the committee recommendation? The motion before us, majority committee report Ought to Pass on House Bill 1793. 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. If all members present had an opportunity to vote, the House will attend to the state of the vote. 188 voting yea, 165 voting nay, the committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1448, prohibiting the use of the World Economic Forum materials within state curriculum. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill proposes to prohibit curriculum from the World Economic Forum (WEF) from inclusion in NH schools. This is viewed as a positive, as the WEF promotes values contrary to the US and NH Constitutions and republican form of government, including technocracy, the dissolution of national sovereignty, and promotion of totalitarianism. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill attempts to ban any materials from a singular source and directly contradicts the wording in state statute that makes it clear that local school boards are responsible for making curricular and instructional decisions that are best for their students. There are over 200 NH high school students who participate in Model UN, a popular program that utilizes many resources relevant to global issues. Regardless of one's position on the relevance of the World Economic Forum, this bill would prohibit students from accessing some materials necessary to inform a comprehensive debate position and opens the door to further curriculum and instructional censorship.

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

Rep. Belcher spoke in favor.

Rep. Balboni spoke against and requested a roll call.

YEAS 184 - NAYS 167**YEAS - 184
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, TomBogert, Steven
Minor, SheriComtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Peternel, KatyHamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard**CHESHIRE**Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, RichHunt, John
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick**COOS**Durkin, Sean
Tierney, JamesKorzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, JohnBeaulier, Calvin
Ladd, RickBerezhny, Lex
Louis, DarrellBjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, MarkAmmon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wheeler, JonahBoyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, RobertBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, JamesAures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonMcGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, AlvinCambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas**ROCKINGHAM**Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, KennethBennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, SusanBernardy, JD
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, MichaelBryer, Scott
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, ThomasBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, LenDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David**SULLIVAN**Drye, Margaret
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Smith, StevenAron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 167 BELKNAP

Nagel, David St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita Paige, David McAleer, Chris Taylor, Brian
Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick Berch, Paul Harvey, Cathryn Fox, Dru
Faulkner, Barry Gruber, James Jacobs, Samantha Jones, Philip
Germana, Nicholas Newell, Jodi O'Rorke, Terri Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan Baldwin, Heather Bolton, Bill Corman, Thomas
Fellows, Sallie Fracht, David Hakken-Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Jared
Lovett, Peter Oppel, Thomas Rockmore, Ellen Spahr, Terry
Stavis, Laurel Stringham, Jerry Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra Beauchemin, Paige Booras, Efstathia Budathoki, Suraj
Chourasia, Manoj Chretien, Suzanne Cornell, Patricia Darby, Will
Dargie, Paul DiSilvestro, Linda Elberger, Susan Davis, Fred
Foss, Lily Georges, Mary Gregg, Alicia Grill, Jessica
Grund, Stephanie Harriott-Gathright, Linda Hartnett, Tim Hegner, Karen
Herbert, Christopher Jack, Martin Jeudy, Jean Juris, Louis
Kerwin, Erin 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
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 Gallagher, Eric Gibbs, Merryl Lane, Connie
Luneau, David Hall, Muriel Newsom, James Richards, Beth
Roesener, James Sargent, Gregory Schamberg, Thomas Schultz, Kris
Snodgrass, Jim Soucy, Timothy Wallner, Mary Jane Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy Bridle, Nicholas Cahill, Michael de Vries, Erica
Donnelly, Tanya Edgar, Michael Gilman, Julie Grote, Jaci
Guthrie, Joseph Haskins, Linda Murray, Kate Knab, Allison
Paige, Mark Maggioro, Jim Mandelbaum, Jennifer 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 Butler, Billie
England, Myles Smith, Geoffrey Gilmore, Gary Howard, Heath
Horrigan, Timothy Howland, Allan Johnson, Erik LaMontagne, Jessica
Laroche, John Levesque, Cassandra Smith, Marjorie Miller, Seth
Schmidt, Peter Selig, Loren Southworth, Thomas Pearson, Wayne
Wade, Alice Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian Cloutier, John Damon, Hope Girard, Dale
Palmer, William

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

HB 1832-FN, adding students with parents on active military duty to the education freedom accounts priority guidelines. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, proposes to add a new priority group to the Education Freedom Account program for students residing in NH with one

or more parents or guardians who are on active military duty. This priority group would not be subject to the program's enrollment cap, to guarantee choice in education for the children of these servicemen and women who sacrifice so much for our nation and our state. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill is another expansion of the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program which is already universally available to all NH students and \$13 million over budget this year. The fiscal impact of this bill cannot be determined as it is unclear how many additional students would qualify for this additional category priority status and exactly how residency would be determined. The amendment attempts to clarify student residency but is subject to legal interpretation. Currently, there is an LBA (Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant) performance audit of the program underway, and the Education Freedom Account Oversight Committee has yet to meet this year to review new data provided by the Department of Education and the Children's Scholarship Fund. There have been issues raised about the program, including reporting of educational attainment, eligibility for special education differentiated funds, and vendor expenditures. The minority is opposed to all expansion of the EFA program as there is no reliable and continuous accountability and transparency available at this time.

Majority Amendment (0167h)

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

AN ACT adding students with a parent or guardian on active military duty to the education freedom accounts priority guidelines.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Children of Active Duty Military; EFA Priority. Amend RSA 194-F:1, XIII(d) to read as follows:

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

(e) A student residing in New Hampshire with one or more parent or guardian who is on active military duty, regardless of the physical location or place of residence of the active-duty parent or guardian.

2026-0167h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adds students residing in New Hampshire with at least one parent or guardian on active military duty to the priority guidelines list for education freedom accounts.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

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. Belcher spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 189 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 189

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan
Woodcock, Stephen

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

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Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

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Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

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Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian

Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolff, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey

Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Larochelle, John

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 164 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica

Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Warden, Mark

Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wheeler, Jonah

Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

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

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 1081-FN, requiring political committees to certify with the secretary of state whether they have, or anticipate having, less than \$1,000 in receipts or expenditures in an election cycle. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James Qualey for the **Majority** of Election Law. It is the view of the majority of Election Law that the change proposed by this bill is unnecessary because it is redundant. Under the current statute (RSA 664:6) political committees which expended or received over \$1000.00 during an election cycle shall file reports by each reporting deadline. Those which do not exceed the \$1000 threshold are not required to so file. Therefore, political committees which do not file campaign finance reports during an election cycle are already unambiguously certifying, by this act of omission, that they have not received or expended over \$1000.00 during that cycle. This bill would require even those political committees to file a redundant certification thus imposing an unnecessary administrative burden upon them with no increased benefit to the public. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Connie Lane for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill will increase the transparency of political committees by requiring that any political committee that spends or collects less than \$1,000 must certify that fact in the campaign finance system of the Secretary of State by checking a statement to that effect. Currently, it is unclear at the end of the campaign year if the political committee forgot to file reports or did not collect or spend more than a \$1,000. This bill would give an additional layer of transparency.

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

HB 1487-FN, creating an independent commission to propose redistricting maps for the legislature to consider. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James Guzofski for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill establishes an unelected advisory commission to perform the constitutional responsibility of legislative redistricting. The committee found that the New Hampshire Constitution assigns this responsibility to the legislature, and that the bill would shift authority away from elected representatives and, under certain circumstances, to the judicial branch. The majority of the committee further noted that the bill creates a new standing commission with indeterminable long-term fiscal impacts without a demonstrated need to alter the existing redistricting process. For these reasons, the majority of the committee recommends the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Connie Lane for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill establishes an advisory redistricting commission to assist the legislature in creating new districts every 10 years. It will achieve a fairer redistricting process than the one that we now have. It is designed so that the voters draw the lines, not legislators. The purpose of the commission is to make the redistricting process more transparent and impartial by establishing standards for commission members and criteria that must be followed when drawing maps. The NH Constitution gives the legislature the power to redistrict, but does not tell us how we must do it. We can create a new process that places some of the work in the commission without violating the constitution. This bill is modeled on the Colorado commission, which is considered the “gold standard” among the 20 states that have independent commissions. The 3 critical factors in the bill are: 1. the commissions are not evenly split between Democrats and Republicans – they have independent members not affiliated with either party. 2. commissions should have binding authority to implement new district lines independent of state legislators, otherwise, the legislators vote against the commission’s proposal and set up one that is politically driven. 3. Members of the commission should not be current elected officials, recently retired politicians, or political appointees. And, they should not be appointed by political officials. A late summer 2025 poll by NBC News of over 30,000 voters found that Americans’ support for nonpartisan redistricting is high even when their party would be in control of the process. The poll found that 82% of Americans prefer districts drawn by nonpartisan commissions rather than the party in power in each state. We may never be able to remove politics totally from redistricting, but we certainly owe it to our constituents and our constitutional democracy to try.

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

Rep. Guzowski spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 189 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 189

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

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
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Jack, Martin
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John

Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter

Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 164

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

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

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

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

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Knab, Allison
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate was adopted.

HB 1098, relative to municipalities denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**. Rep. Dick Thackston for Housing. This bill as proposed, if passed, would repeal rights recently restored to property owners under SB 281 in 2025. SB 281 as passed on a voice vote restores the rights of property owners to build on class VI roads with adequate protections to the municipality. SB 281 as passed and signed by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2026 and significantly increases the potential for development and building of new housing at a critical time of housing shortage when buildable property is at a premium and an increase in available buildable property will moderate housing costs and increase supply. This bill repeals and replaces RSA 674:41, I(c) as amended with the old highly restrictive anti-development wording. This bill as proposed and if passed would lead to extensive confusion and conflict between property owners and municipalities that have only recently had the opportunity to anticipate the new freedoms granted in the last session. The committee finds this bill in conflict with bipartisan legislation passed overwhelmingly in the last session by voice vote. The committee unanimously supports a motion of Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Alexander moved that **HB 1098**, relative to municipalities denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances, be laid on the table. Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1196-FN, repealing the state housing champion designation and grant program. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**.

Rep. Julie Miles for the **Majority** of Housing. The majority of the committee finds that New Hampshire's housing affordability challenges are best addressed through policies that directly result in housing being built. After review, the majority of the committee determined that the Housing Champion designation and grant program added administrative requirements and ongoing costs, but did not reliably produce affordable or workforce housing at a scale commensurate with its funding. According to the fiscal note, approximately \$3 million has been appropriated to the Housing Champion Program Fund, with remaining obligations extending into future fiscal years. Continuing the program would require ongoing administrative expenditures and future appropriations, placing additional pressure on the General Fund. Over time, this could contribute to higher state spending obligations that ultimately affect taxpayers across New Hampshire. This bill helps affordability by moving the state away from a designation-and-grant program and allowing lawmakers to refocus on changes that actually increase housing supply. An Ought to Pass vote supports efforts to reduce barriers, improve predictability for builders, and support locally driven housing solutions. When more housing is built, pressure on rents and home prices eases without requiring new or expanded state funding programs. Vote 10-8. Rep. David Paige for the **Minority** of Housing. This bill repeals New Hampshire's Housing Champions program at a moment when our state can simply not afford to abandon proven solutions to its housing supply challenges. Housing Champions is the state's most effective vehicle for making targeted investments in municipal infrastructure that directly support housing development. In 2025 alone, grants awarded through the program contributed to 373 deed-restricted workforce housing units and funded infrastructure improvements necessary to unlock more than 1,000 additional homes. These investments translate directly into housing

opportunities for working people. The success of Housing Champions lies in its emphasis on true state-local partnership. Funds are awarded only to municipalities that demonstrate a clear commitment to housing growth by adopting zoning and land-use reforms and by contributing matching funds. Communities that participate aren't just passive recipients of state aid; they have real skin in the game. Contrary to the sponsors' claims, this program is not rooted in political favoritism. Grants are awarded through a strict, transparent scoring rubric designed to ensure that limited funds flow to projects where they will produce measurable housing outcomes. That disciplined, results-driven structure is exactly why Housing Champions should be scaled up, not dismantled. Furthermore, repealing this program pulls the rug out from under the municipalities that stepped up in good faith, changed local policies, committed local resources, and partnered with the state to address our housing shortage. At a bare minimum, the committee should have resolved the serious ambiguity identified in the fiscal note regarding whether this bill would claw back \$12.6 million in already obligated funds. Leaving municipalities uncertain about the security of promised state support is irresponsible and undermines confidence in state partnership.

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

Rep. Hegner spoke against.

Rep. Alexander spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 185 - NAYS 166

YEAS - 185

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

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
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra

DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Guzowski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Pearson, Mark
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Sytek, John
 Vandecasteele, Susan

Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttub, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Markell, Jay
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Dolan, Tom
 Vose, Michael

Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 McGrath, Linda
 Nelson, Jodi
 Porcelli, Susan
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Summers, James
 Tripp, Richard
 MacDonald, Wayne

Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lynn, Bob
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Potucek, John
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 DeRoy, Susan
 Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Girard, Dale
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Smith, Steven

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 166 BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
 Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
 Gruber, James
 Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
 Jones, Philip
 Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Stavis, Laurel

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

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Rockmore, Ellen

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kervin, Erin
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

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

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim
 McDonnell, Valerie

Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Malloy, Dennis
 Meuse, David

Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope

Drye, Margaret

and the majority committee report was adopted and Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

HB 1405-FN, relative to the housing finance authority's affordable housing guarantee program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Calvin Beaulier for the **Majority** of Housing. This bill risks up to \$300 million of taxpayer money to have the state effectively co-sign loans for low-income housing projects that are too risky or uneconomical for private lenders otherwise. This form of corporate welfare would allow private lenders to keep any profit but require the public to cover 4/5 of any loss. Several housing market downturns, such as the subprime mortgage crisis, were facilitated due to government policies that overextended credit and distorted market mechanisms to adequately price risk and interest. Despite the risks to the housing market and taxpayers, comparable federal programs such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 542(c) already exist. The vast majority of housing in our state was privately built and privately funded without government intervention. Meeting New Hampshire's housing needs will require reinvigorating this historic form of housing development instead of subsidies or government-backed market manipulation. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Karen Hegner for the **Minority** of Housing. The minority of the committee recommends Ought to Pass for this bill, the Affordable Housing Guaranteed Loan Program, which would be one step closer in helping to combat the affordable housing crisis we currently face in this state and that our constituents are demanding from us. This bill would establish a loan guarantee program within New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) to provide guarantees for affordable housing projects, covering up to 80% of the principal. It is our opinion that this program will enable lenders to help a significant amount of granite staters that are in desperate need of affordable housing by reducing the risk to them. Affordable housing is not only about building more homes, it has a direct impact on our economic stability and growth. This housing crisis is driving our young people to move out of our state into more affordable states and New Hampshire's businesses will suffer along with our prosperity and longevity. This bill is a solid step forward in addressing one portion of the housing crisis which will enable developers and housing organizations around the state to continue to focus on building/lending money on affordable housing. Home ownership should not only be for the privileged. It is a right that all granite staters deserve to obtain if they so desire, which requires homes of all price points so we all have the opportunity to live the American dream.

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

Rep. Muns spoke in against.

Rep. Beaulier spoke in favor.

Rep. Alexander requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 186 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 186

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 162
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Oppel, Thomas

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Rockmore, Ellen

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Spier, Carry
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Judy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

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

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

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

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1612-FN, relative to the use of price-fixing websites, algorithms, or other software by landlords. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Joe Alexander for the **Majority** of Housing. The majority of the committee believes this bill needs to be found Inexpedient to Legislate. On top of this bill being unclear about what constitutes pricing algorithms and software, this bill would also be redundant. The committee heard testimony that housing providers using a Microsoft excel formula could possibly be construed as “price fixing.” The committee also heard testimony that this bill is not needed as there is already a remedy for those who feel aggrieved by perceived monopolistic tendencies by our housing providers. The majority does not believe this bill would solve anything and would actually open up your mom and pop housing providers to defending a number of complaints regarding price fixing. Adding additional burdens to our housing providers will drive up rental costs and exacerbate our housing shortage. Vote 10-8.

Rep. David Paige for the **Minority** of Housing. Software should not be used to coordinate rents in ways that drive up housing costs for families. A recent analysis by the White House Council of Economic Advisors found that rental price algorithms increase rents by roughly \$70 per month and cost renters nationwide billions of dollars each year. While price fixing has long been illegal, our statutes were written for a different era—before modern algorithms could quietly replicate the same behavior at scale. States such as California, New York, and Connecticut have already updated their antitrust laws in the last year to

respond to this reality, and New Hampshire should not fall behind. Clarifying that these practices are unlawful helps protect renters, promote fairness, and ensure competition works for people, not against them, in today's housing market.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Alexander moved that **HB 1612-FN**, relative to the use of price-fixing websites, algorithms, or other software by landlords., be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 198 members having voted in the affirmative, and 147 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1661-FN, relative to expanding the housing finance authority's community heroes program and makes an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Calvin Beaulier for the **Majority** of Housing. Although the intention of this bill is commendable, it ultimately re-establishes a COVID era government program which subsidizes home buying for "certain essential workers." There are already privately administered programs for similarly situated homebuyers which provide comparable rebates or down payment assistance. Local governments or employers can also offer these incentives when necessary to attract first responders or healthcare workers. The bill does not contain any language regarding means testing and potentially allows administrators in healthcare or education with incomes far in excess of community averages to qualify for taxpayer funded home purchase assistance. Finally, government programs, once established, have a tendency to grow in cost and scope. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Allan Howland for the **Minority** of Housing. Housing costs remain a significant barrier to the hiring of essential workers. This bill addresses this issue by authorizing the New Hampshire Finance Authority to create a community heroes program that would provide \$750,000 in fiscal year 2027 and \$1,500,000 annually in future fiscal years to help police, firefighters, daycare workers, and health care workers finance homeownership. The minority of the committee felt that the success of a previous New Hampshire Housing Finance Program that used \$600,000 to help 184 essential workers buy homes proved the value of this type of program and recommends Ought to Pass.

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

Rep. Soucy spoke against.

Rep. Beaulier spoke in favor.

Rep. Alexander requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 179 - NAYS 166

YEAS - 179

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

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

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim

Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Gagne, Larry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Giasson, Henry
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

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

MERRIMACK

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

STRAFFORD

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 166

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Rockmore, Ellen

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Spahr, Terry

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David

Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
Foote, Charles
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Pearson, Stephen
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate was adopted.

HR 30, finding that planning, zoning, and related regulations have been and should continue to be the responsibility of municipal government. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**. Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The committee does not believe this resolution is needed at this time. This resolution is unconstitutional because it would signal that the legislature does not have the ability to determine municipal planning and zoning. New Hampshire is a “Dillon’s rule state” meaning that local governments may only exercise powers that were specifically granted to them by the state. In 1925, the New Hampshire government passed the Zoning Enabling Act (ZEA) which enables municipalities to control planning and zoning. The 1925 ZEA however, did not grant unlimited power to zone, in fact, it maintained a narrowly tailored list of reasons to zone and plan. The ZEA permitted local governments to zone for “health, safety, or general welfare of the population.” This bill does not have a narrow scope, it argues that local communities have the unlimited power to zone and control their communities. These rights could include local mandates for Sharia Law in certain zones and local bans of known constitutional rights including the right to marry and the right to bear arms. That has and never should be the NH way. The State of New Hampshire and its political subdivisions have always done things working hand-in-hand and a number of bills passed by the Housing Committee address situations in which a local governments may have overstepped. This collaborative approach has and should always remain how we do things in Concord. If the resolution said something along these lines: “planning, zoning, and related regulations have been and should be a collaborative effort between the state and local communities” the Housing Committee recommendation may have been different. For these reasons, we recommend this resolution be Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

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

Rep. Turcotte spoke against.

Rep. Alexander spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 259 members having voted in the affirmative, and 81 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

CACR 13, relating to registers of probate. Providing that the office of register of probate and all references to such office be eliminated. **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Rep. Katelyn Kuttat for Judiciary. This CACR eliminates the office of register of probate and all references to such office from part two articles 71 and 81 in the state constitution. In 2011, the legislature reorganized the district, probate and family division into a new circuit court. This reorganization involved transferring all responsibilities from the elected register of probate position to the clerk of the probate division of the circuit

court. Despite still being elected, the registers have had no duties since then, but continue to receive an annual salary of \$100. A previous CACR measure in 2022, which sought to remove this position, received 62.8% of the vote, falling short of the required 2/3 majority. The current version of the CACR has been revised to more clearly inform voters about what they're voting for. Vote 13-2.

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

On a division vote, with 325 members having voted in the affirmative, and 15 in the negative, the committee report was adopted by the necessary three-fifths vote and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 1123, requiring certain companies to post expected salary ranges on public job listings. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Granger for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill is intended to solve a nuisance where job-seekers are not presented with the expected salary in public job postings. While the majority of the committee can certainly see how this can be obnoxious, legislating this practice out of existence leads to many problems. First off, it leads to scenarios where employers are significantly disadvantaged in negotiations. Free markets require government to not tip the scale in one way or the other. It would also be bad to require the resumes and job applications of potential employees to list the salary requirement. After all, if the state can mandate employers to show their salaries to job-seekers, why shouldn't it mandate job-seekers to show their salary expectations to employers? This leads to the second major objection: the issue of compelled speech. Both the NH and US Constitutions protect freedom of speech. While this is usually understood to mean that people can say things that people would not like them to say, it also protects the right of people to not say that which they do not wish to say. We also recognize this right in reference to self-incrimination; and by that it is not meant that posting salary ranges against one's will is criminal, but to say that the underlying principle is that people should not be forced to speak against their will. Therefore, while the majority of the committee respects the intent of the sponsors, we must recommend this bill as Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 10-9.

Rep. Kris Schultz for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill requires employers to disclose a good-faith salary range, one they are genuinely willing to negotiate within, when posting job openings. It applies only to employers with more than 50 employees in New Hampshire, which exempts small businesses. Covered employers would list a salary range and a general description of benefits and other compensation. The proposal is modeled on Minnesota's pay transparency law, and 16 states have enacted similar laws without issue. The job market has changed significantly and is far more complicated than ever before. Online postings attract large applicant pools, and candidates often endure multiple interview rounds before learning pay at the final stage. New Hampshire law currently does not require upfront disclosure, leading to wasted time for both applicants and employers. This bill improves transparency and efficiency, helps applicants determine whether a job is worth pursuing, and allows employers to focus on candidates aligned with the actual compensation, while preserving flexibility to offer more for exceptional candidates.

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

Rep. Wade spoke against.

Rep. Granger spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 193 members having voted in the affirmative, and 149 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Having voted with the prevailing side, Rep. Perez moved that the House reconsider its action whereby, on a roll call vote of 259-81, the House adopted the motion Inexpedient to Legislate on **HR 30**, finding that planning, zoning, and related regulations have been and should continue to be the responsibility of municipal government.

Rep. Perez requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 72 - NAYS 274

YEAS - 72

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

Comtois, Barbara

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Crawford, Karel

Smith, Jonathan

Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John

Parshall, Lucius

Qualey, James

COOS

Durkin, Sean

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph

Fellows, Sallie

Franz, Linda

Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGHBoyd, Bill
Kelley, Diane
Murphy, Mary
Prout, Andrew
Spier, CarryBoehm, Ralph
Erf, Keith
McGhee, Kat
Schneller, John
Tenczar, JeffreyColcombe, Riché
Grund, Stephanie
Ohm, Bill
Sheehan, Vanessa
Wheeler, JonahCorcoran, Travis
Leishman, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Sirois, Shane**MERRIMACK**

Andrus, Louise

Cambrils, Jose

Colby, Eleana

Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAMBall, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Guzofski, James
Litchfield, Melissa
Nelson, Jodi
Pearson, StephenBernardy, JD
Dunn, Ron
Knab, Allison
Lynn, Bob
Brown, Pam
Dolan, TomBridle, Nicholas
Foote, Charles
Kuttab, Katelyn
Maggiore, Jim
Perez, Kristine
Tudor, PaulBryer, Scott
Gilman, Julie
Miner, Laurence
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Porcelli, Susan**STRAFFORD**DeLemus, Susan
Horrigan, Timothy
Turcotte, LenDeRoy, Susan
Howland, Allan
Walker, DavidGilmore, Gary
Kaczynski, ThomasHarrington, Michael
Selig, Loren**SULLIVAN**

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 274**BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Minor, SheriBogert, Steven
St. Clair, CharlieFreeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Nagel, David

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, StephenBelcher, Mike
McAleer, ChrisPaige, David
Peternel, KatyHamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian**CHESHIRE**Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Thackston, DickBerch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Weber, LucyHarvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, TerriFox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer**COOS**

Korzen, Lori

Morency, Pete

Tierney, James

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTONAlmy, Susan
Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Sellers, JohnBaldwin, Heather
Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
McFarlane, Donald
Spahr, TerryBeaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, JerryBerezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alissandra
Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Daniels, Gary
Drew, Matt
Davis, Fred
Gagne, Larry
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, MarkAlexander, Joe
Booras, Efstathia
Cole, Brian
Darby, Will
Dumont, Dillon
Fedolli, Jim
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kesselring, Steven
Labrie, Brian
Long, Patrick
Manohar, SanjeevAmmon, Keith
Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Dupont, Pierre
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lascelles, Richard
Howard, Molly
Mazur, LisaBarbour, Liz
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
DiSilvestro, Linda
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Kofalt, Jim
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark

Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Preece, David
Reinfurt, Sherri
Ryan, Linda
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Warden, Mark

Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Slottje, Jeremy
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wherry, Robert

Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tom
Dolan, William
Wilhelm, Matthew

Murphy, Nancy
Pauer, Diane
Post, Lisa
Raymond, Heather
Rung, Rosemarie
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Richards, Beth
Schamberg, Thomas
Snodgrass, Jim
Wood, Clayton

Bricchi, Tracy
Devoid, Ricky
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Pitaro, Matthew
Roesener, James
Schultz, Kris
Soucy, Timothy
Woods, Gary

McGuire, Carol
Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
Boyd, Stephen
Seaworth, Brian
Thibault, James

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Leavitt, John
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Sargent, Gregory
See, Alvin
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
de Vries, Erica
Drago, Mike
Grote, Jaci
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Malloy, Dennis
McGrath, Linda
Milz, David
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sorensen, Carrie
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Edgar, Michael
Guthrie, Joseph
Murray, Kate
Love, David
Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Muns, Chris
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Scherr, Buzz
Soti, Julius
Turer, Eric
MacDonald, Wayne

Cahill, Michael
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Raynolds, Ned
Selby, Donald
Spillane, James
Vallone, Mark
Ward, Gerald

Thomas, Douglas
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Haskins, Linda
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Meuse, David
Packard, Sherman
Read, Ellen
Simpson, Alexis
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Burton, Wayne
Farrington, Samuel
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bay, Luz
Butler, Billie
Smith, Geoffrey
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Wade, Alice

Burnham, Claudine
England, Myles
Howard, Heath
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

and the motion failed.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1168, relative to employer documentation requirements. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Brian Labrie for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill is a pragmatic update to our labor laws that ensures the wage claim process is based on accuracy rather than an arbitrary race against the clock. By extending the employer response window from a rushed 10 days to a more realistic 30 days, the bill provides small businesses and local employers the necessary time to conduct thorough internal audits and gather complex payroll documentation before a legal judgment is made. This change doesn't just benefit employers; it protects the integrity of the Department of Labor's process by ensuring that decisions are based on complete facts rather than incomplete, hurried submissions. Ultimately, this bill maintains all existing worker protections while creating a more stable, deliberate environment for resolving financial disputes fairly for everyone involved. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Michael Cahill for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. Expanding the 10 day response for all wage claims goes far beyond the infrequent instance where a claim is made three years later. While these delayed claims pose a problem with retrieval of records, it is not the norm. The New Hampshire

Department of Labor has a process where an extension of up to 30 days is granted when circumstances warrant. There is nothing to prevent an additional extension being considered. It is important to note that in wage claims, the claimant has the burden of proof.

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

Rep. Cahill spoke against.

Rep. Labrie spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 175 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the motion of Ought to Pass was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HB 1352, relative to payment and dispute resolution for medical bills under workers compensation. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Robley Hall for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. While this bill aims to improve dispute resolution and accountability in workers' compensation medical billing, the committee finds that the proposed mediation process could unintentionally delay payments to providers and add complexity without clear benefit. Existing mechanisms already allow for dispute resolution and oversight, and increasing penalties may not address the underlying issues of re-pricing and payment delays. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Mark MacKenzie for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The workers' compensation system is designed to provide injured workers with two primary types of benefits: indemnity benefits for lost wages and medical benefits for healthcare needs. In exchange for this comprehensive support, employers are protected from lawsuits initiated by injured workers. This balance ensures both timely assistance for employees and legal security for employers. The system mandates prompt payment for both lost wages and medical expenses. When a claim is denied or a dispute arises, parties are given the opportunity to resolve the matter before resorting to a Department of Labor hearing. This pre-hearing process is crucial in maintaining efficiency and fairness within the system. During testimony, medical care providers expressed concerns about the significant time and financial resources they invest in attempting to resolve disputes prior to Department of Labor hearings. These efforts highlight the need for improvements in the current process to reduce burdens on providers and facilitate smoother dispute resolution. This legislation aims to address these challenges by tightening reporting requirements, introducing a mediation step, and mandating additional reporting if carriers fail to comply with the law. These measures are intended to enhance transparency, encourage timely compliance, and streamline the resolution of disputes within the workers' compensation system. The minority believes that this bill effectively addresses the identified problems. It provides essential tools for dispute resolution, increases accountability, and is expected to save both time and money for all parties involved. Most importantly, the minority emphasizes that injured workers deserve a system that safeguards their interests, ensures prompt payment of medical bills, and allows access to the healthcare providers of their choice. Therefore, the minority opposes the Inexpedient to Legislate motion in favor of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Rep. Mackenzie spoke against.

Rep. Drago spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 184 members having voted in the affirmative, and 153 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

HB 1485-FN, relative to eligibility and fees for late refund requests of road tolls. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. RSA 260:32 assesses \$0.18 cents per gallon sold for deposit into the state's road toll fund. Not all fuel purchased by the consumer goes onto the road; most specifically, construction equipment. Currently, construction equipment owners and other non-road users have the ability to apply for a refund to recoup that portion of the road toll. Sometimes, these consumers apply late for their refund. Unfortunately, RSA 260:47 provides a late filing process for political subdivisions only. Private entities do not have a late filing process for them to pursue for their refund. With this bill, private entities would now be afforded the same process as political subdivisions to file late for their refund. The committee unanimously agreed with the testimony provided in support of this bill. Furthermore, the committee viewed the bill as pro-business, and believed that this change in the law would provide clarity and parity for our non-road users while streamlining the reimbursement process. Vote 14-0.

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

The motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1088-FN-A, transferring funding for the water well board from the general fund to a special nonlapsing fund. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Nicholas Bridle for Resources, Recreation and Development. The committee heard testimony that this bill is a request of the Department of Environmental Services and is intended to align the Water Well Board's funding structure with its regulatory and fee-based operations. The bill creates a dedicated, nonlapsing fund

supported by fees, fines, and penalties already associated with the program, relieving pressure on the general fund while ensuring stable, predictable funding for board operations. Testimony indicated this change improves transparency, accountability, and long-term program sustainability without increasing overall state spending. Vote 12-0.

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

The motion was adopted and the majority committee report was adopted, and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 1477-FN, relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. Over the last several years, the scourge of cyanobacteria has spread across an increasing number of New Hampshire's lakes, closing beaches, threatening tourism, and keeping people from enjoying the water during the short summer period. The cyanobacterial mitigation loan and grant fund was established to help lake communities reduce blooms causing these closures, but with no sustained funding source, it has run out of money. This bill introduces a \$50 yearly permit for private anchored seasonal platforms, which are currently regulated in statute, with funds split between the navigation safety fund for marine patrol and the cyanobacteria mitigation fund. This brings these floats and inflatables in line with other equipment placed on public waters, such as docks, which require registration. The amendment exempts shellfishers on the seacoast from requiring permits for their rafts. Vote 11-0.

Amendment (0067h)

Amend RSA 270:72-c, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. Seasonal platforms installed on public waters that support a local, state, or federal government agency, an agency's sub-contractors, or a conservation group engaged in the non-recreational activities, *or those engaged in aquaculture, including commercial storage of shellfish* may be installed provided the platform meets the minimum requirements established in RSA 270:72-d *and shall be exempted from paragraph II.*

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

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 284 members having voted in the affirmative, and 47 in the negative, the motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1751-FN, relative to a start park public safety parking surcharge. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Gregory Sargent for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill establishes a 5% public safety surcharge on paid parking only at state park facilities and creates a dedicated, nonlapsing fund to return those revenues quarterly to host municipalities for police, fire, and emergency medical services attributable to park visitation. The committee discussed the bill's limited scope, noting that it does not apply to free parking or park admission, creates no new enforcement or criminal penalties, and is collected through existing Department of Natural and Cultural Resources parking systems. The committee found the measure to be a reasonable shared-responsibility approach that supports local public safety without diverting core park revenues. Vote 14-0.

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

The motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

HR 24, honoring Tadeusz Kościuszko. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee is unanimous in its support for the proposed name change of Little Haystack Mountain on Franconia Ridge to Mt. Kosciuszko in order to recognize the Polish patriot who traveled to America in 1776 where he spent seven years without pay with our Continental Army under George Washington, eventually earning the rank of Brigadier General. Kosciuszko's contributions as Washington's chief engineer were profound, to include creating the defense for the crucial site of West Point. Kosciuszko was later bayoneted in a southern battle but survived. Our Franconia Ridge Trail has been listed as among the top ten hiking experiences in America. The trail covers several other peaks, including Mt. Lafayette, Mt. Lincoln, and Mt. Liberty. The proposed name change was suggested several years ago by an avid Granite State hiker of Polish descent. It was the subject of a bill which went to the Public Works Committee, but which did not move forward because the location is in a National Forest and thus subject to federal, not state control. Supporters hope that if this resolution passes, that our Governor will work with our federal delegation to satisfy all the relevant requirements so that this name change can raise important historical awareness during our nation's Semiquincentennial (250th) birthday celebration, while also honoring the wonderful contributions that so many Polish-Americans have made to our state and country, including many who have served and still serve in this body. Vote 14-0.

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

The motion was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HR 25, recognizing the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and 1990s. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Suraj Budathoki for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. An overwhelming majority of the committee supported this resolution, which affirms New Hampshire's enduring commitment to human rights, democratic values, and accountability by recognizing the Kingdom of Bhutan's responsibility for the torture, persecution, and forceful expulsion of more than 100,000 of its citizens, thousands of whom have since settled in New Hampshire after long periods of hardship and exile. The resolution calls for concrete and credible steps toward justice and reconciliation, grounded in international human rights norms. The companion resolutions have been introduced in Ohio and other states as well. The resolution centers on the human cost of displacement by affirming the fundamental rights of displaced Bhutanese-Americans and urges the release of remaining political prisoners, the restoration of citizenship, voluntary repatriation, and the establishment of a credible truth and reconciliation process. Through this resolution, the New Hampshire House of Representatives underscores that the values the United States champions—human dignity, democracy, freedom of movement, and accountability—must guide its engagement with partners such as the Kingdom of Bhutan. The majority of this committee supports the Ought to Pass motion. Vote 12-1.

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The minority view is that this resolution levies substantial allegations of an extremely serious nature against a foreign nation, the veracity of which may be subject to some dispute, as this body has not done any investigation or fact-finding, and most members have no first-hand experience with the matter. Further, where resolutions generally seek to direct or request relevant federal or state authorities to take certain actions, this resolution seems to press a foreign government to take certain actions. This constitutes nothing less than the New Hampshire House engaging in foreign policy issues and international diplomacy, the type of action which is delegated and reserved to the federal government.

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

Rep. Budathoki offered floor amendment (0351h).

Floor Amendment (0351h)

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

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Amend the resolution by replacing the first phrase after the resolving clause with the following:

That the New Hampshire house of representatives declares that the Royal Government of Bhutan is responsible for the political, cultural, and ethnic oppression of Nepali-speaking Lhotshampas and Sharchops in Bhutan during the late 1980s and early 1990s;

2026-0351h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This resolution recognizes the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and early 1990s. This resolution also urges the Kingdom of Bhutan to release all remaining political prisoners and accept the voluntary return of its displaced citizens.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0351h).

Rep. Seibert spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0351h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Belcher spoke against and yielded to questions.

Rep. Budathoki spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

On a division vote, with 220 members having voted in the affirmative, and 115 in the negative, the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Janigian, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 1196-FN**, repealing the state housing champion designation and grant program.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of

HB 1190-FN, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21.

HB 1485-FN, relative to eligibility and fees for late refund requests of road tolls.

HB 1793-FN, prohibiting public colleges and universities from regulating the possession or carrying of firearms and non-lethal weapons on campus.

HR 45, urging Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority of the committee agrees that centuries of data supports that the islands within the Piscataqua River mouth, including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, are historically New Hampshire land. The seal of our state depicts Badger's Island, which Maine considers part of their territory, which flies in the face of several historical documents. The state archivist even presented evidence dating back to the formation of the state containing clearly marked maps that support the claim that these islands at the mouth of the river are New Hampshire land. This resolution simply asks for federal recognition of this history and to restore the rightful boundaries of our great state. Vote 8-6.

Rep. Christal Lloyd for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The minority of the committee respectfully opposes this resolution, which urges Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the State of New Hampshire. Our opposition is based on several key concerns. First, the resolution asks our congressional delegation to encourage the President of the United States to issue an executive order on this matter. We believe this represents an overreach of use of a House resolution. Additionally, and most importantly, there has been no fiscal study to evaluate the potential costs or liabilities that New Hampshire might assume if it were to take over the roadways, bridges, or other infrastructure in the area. Without a thorough fiscal analysis, the state could face significant and unknown financial obligations related to maintenance and future infrastructure needs. Our state is currently facing significant fiscal challenges, and we feel that this should be more thoroughly studied before requesting our federal delegation move forward with this resolution. Finally, the question of jurisdiction over the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor has already been settled by court decisions. We believe that any change to this status should be revisited at the appropriate judicial level before any legislative effort.

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

Rep. Barton offered floor amendment (0389h).

Floor Amendment (0389h)

Amend the bill by replacing the fourth resolving clause with the following:

That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives, be sent by the clerk of the house of representatives to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation and to the President of the United States. At the discretion of the speaker of the house of representatives, the speaker may prepare and include such correspondence as the speaker deems appropriate to accompany the transmittal of this resolution, describing the nature of the house of representative's request, and may invite members of the house of representatives to voluntarily communicate such requests to members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation and the administration.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0389h).

Rep. Barton spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0389h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Jones spoke against.

Rep. Barton spoke in favor, yielded to questions, and requested a roll call.

YEAS 205 - NAYS 129

YEAS - 205

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Harvey, Cathryn
Nalevanko, Rich

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
Franz, Linda
McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Ladd, Rick
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Judy, Jean
Lascelles, Richard
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Post, Lisa
Prout, Andrew
Ryan, Linda
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Chourasia, Manoj
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Georges, Mary
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Preece, David
Reinfurt, Sherri
Salvi, Santosh
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Schneller, John
Slotte, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Herbert, Christopher
Labrie, Brian
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Edgar, Michael
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bennett, Cindy
Cahill, Michael
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Malloy, Dennis
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Walsh, Lilli
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Farrington, Samuel
Harrington, Michael
Potenza, Kelley
Walker, David

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Schmidt, Peter

DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Cloutier, John
Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

**NAYS - 129
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Hunt, John
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fracht, David
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter

Fellows, Sallie
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Raymond, Heather
Spier, Carry
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Rombeau, Catherine
Staub, Kathy
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Sue
Swanson, Dale
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Newman, Ray
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John

de Vries, Erica
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Ford, Mary
Lynn, Bob
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
England, Myles
LaMontagne, Jessica
Selig, Loren

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Horriggan, Timothy
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 1452-FN, relative to parent-taught driver education as an alternative to traditional driver education programs. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Seth Miller for Transportation. The committee is not comfortable reducing the standards for new driver licensing at this time, especially with our newest and youngest drivers, for whom the value of the formal drivers education program is most valuable. Vote 11-3.

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

Rep. Drye spoke against.

Rep. Miller spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Prout requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 178 - NAYS 155**YEAS - 178****BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David
Woodcock, Stephen

Hamblen, Joseph

MacDonald, John

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Hunt, John
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

COOS

Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Rockmore, Ellen

Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Preece, David
Rice, Kimberly
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Sheehan, Vanessa
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
Creighton, James
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gibbs, Merry
Newsom, James
Boyd, Stephen
Snodgrass, Jim
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Lane, Connie
Pitaro, Matthew
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schamberg, Thomas
Walsh, Thomas

Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Foote, Charles
Haskins, Linda
Lynn, Bob
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Milz, David
Pearson, Stephen
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Janigian, John
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Vandecasteele, Susan

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Osborne, Jason
Simpson, Alexis
MacDonald, Wayne

Edgar, Michael
Harb, Robert
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Walker, David

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

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Smith, Steven

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 155**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Minor, Sheri

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Ryan, Linda
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Dupont, Pierre
Giasson, Henry
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Colby, Eleana
Mehegan, Peter
Seaworth, Brian

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

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Plante, Raymond
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McMahon, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Read, Ellen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guzowski, James
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
McDonnell, Valerie
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McGrath, Linda
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and the committee report was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 1446, providing that an individual's use of therapeutic cannabis shall not disqualify the individual from the purchase, ownership, or possession of a firearm. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Proulx for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee opposes this bill because it would declare that legal use of therapeutic cannabis under New Hampshire law does not disqualify a person from purchasing, owning, or possessing firearms, even though federal law makes it a felony for any "unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance" to possess firearms or ammunition. Marijuana remains a schedule I controlled substance under federal law, with no exception for stateapproved medical use. New Hampshire cannot override or nullify this federal prohibition, so the bill provides no real protection and instead lulls users into believing they can legally buy and keep guns when doing so remains a serious federal crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison, fines, and lifetime firearm disqualification. Passage of this bill would endanger New Hampshire citizens by encouraging therapeutic cannabis patients to complete federal background checks and purchase firearms, only to face federal felony prosecution if their cannabis use comes to light. Federal authorities, including the ATF and U.S. Attorneys, routinely enforce §922(g)(3) against statelegal medical marijuana users, as confirmed in ATF guidance and multiple prosecutions nationwide. A granite state resident who relies on this bill's assurances could forfeit their Second Amendment rights forever upon a federal conviction, while facing asset forfeiture and employment barriers. The bill also undermines federal supremacy and risks provoking federal enforcement scrutiny on New Hampshire. States cannot license what federal law criminalizes, and similar statelevel attempts to protect medical cannabis users from federal firearms prohibitions have failed in court and drawn ATF warnings. Rather than misleading vulnerable citizens into

felonious conduct, the legislature should inform them of the controlling federal reality and avoid creating a state statute that conflicts with national law and invites unnecessary legal challenges. Because this bill offers no practical benefit, fosters a dangerous illusion of state protection against federal law, and exposes New Hampshire therapeutic cannabis users to felony risks and permanent rights loss, the majority finds this bill to be misguided and injurious to the citizens it purports to help. Vote 12-0.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Heath Howard moved that **HB 1446**, providing that an individual's use of therapeutic cannabis shall not disqualify the individual from the purchase, ownership, or possession of a firearm, be laid on the table. On a division vote, with 318 members having voted in the affirmative, and 8 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1436-FN, relative to the classification and protection of personal digital information and cloud-stored files. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. Although a significant group of the committee believes this bill has merit, there are some clear language deficiencies. For example, we agree with the idea that information stored in the cloud should remain personal information; however, the way the bill is drafted leaves it too open and broad. The legislature recently passed a few data privacy laws with input from the business community and other stake holders, and we believe we should let those bills become effective before we make additional changes. There are many on the committee that believe we should investigate this further but at this time we are not ready to pass this language. Vote 11-3.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Spillane moved that **HB 1436-FN**, relative to the classification and protection of personal digital information and cloud-stored files, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 284 members having voted in the affirmative, and 47 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1105, making the term of office for certain Belknap county elected officials 4 years. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dale Girard for Municipal and County Government. The committee supports this change as it aligns Belknap County's election cycle with that of Rockingham and Coos Counties, which have already transitioned to four-year terms for elected county positions. The committee believes that extending the terms of these offices will provide greater continuity and stability within county departments, allowing elected officials sufficient time to implement policies, oversee long-term projects, and maintain consistent leadership. Vote 15-1.

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

Rep. Comtois spoke against.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. St. Clair moved that **HB 1105**, making the term of office for certain Belknap county elected officials 4 years, be laid on the table.

The motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1160, relative to the county-state finance commission. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Linda Franz for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to amend RSA 28-B:1 by updating the name of a division within the Department of Health and Human Services from "elderly and adult services" to "long term supports and services" and to revise and make uniform the two-year terms of certain members appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Governor and Council, and the NH Association of Counties. It would also remove the requirement to include a member of the Municipal and County Government standing committee, instead allowing the Speaker to appoint any member of the House of Representatives as a member of the commission. This bill also seeks to amend RSA 28-B:3 by eliminating obsolete language that refers to services or treatment for children, youth, families, juveniles and minors and replaces it with "long term supports and services." Although there was testimony in support of this bill, neither the prime sponsor nor any of the cosponsors were present at the scheduled hearing. The absence of the sponsor or a designated representative prevented the committee from asking questions to obtain the essential information needed to fully assess and evaluate this legislation and its potential implications. Consequently, the committee recommended the bill be Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 14-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Rep. Weyler spoke against.

On a division vote, with 142 members having voted in the affirmative, and 188 in the negative, the motion failed.
Rep. Weyler moved Ought to Pass.

The motion was adopted and the bill was ordered to a 3rd reading.

RESOLUTION

Rep. Osborne offered the following: RESOLVED, that the House now adjourn from the early session, that the business of the late session be in order at the present time, that the reading of bills be by title only and resolutions by caption only and that all bills ordered to third reading be read a third time by this resolution, and that all titles of bills be the same as adopted, and that they be passed at the present time, and when the House adjourns today it be to meet, Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m..

Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 1365, relative to applications for licenses to carry a loaded pistol or revolver.

HB 1202, relative to dual and concurrent enrollment requirements for courses at institutions within the community college system of New Hampshire.

HB 1503, allowing the department of education to allocate funds to create a database of maps of public schools for emergency use cases.

HB 1270, clarifying the definition of part-time teacher.

HB 1373, relative to background check disqualifications for applicants seeking educator credentials.

HB 1379, relative to the reporting date for the annual complaint data.

HB 1031, enabling candidates for state office to use campaign funds to pay for security measures.

HB 1162, extending the commission on Holocaust and genocide studies.

HB 1310, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers.

HB 1040, establishing a committee to study the laws and procedures governing the filing and registering of quitclaim deeds in the state.

HB 1156-FN, requiring that probate court notices of acquisitions of real estate through inheritance or similar devise be recorded in a county's registry of deeds.

HB 1000, extending the indemnification of legislative security staff members to legislative sergeant-at-arms staff members while acting within the scope of their duties.

HB 1003, prohibiting the Grafton county attorney from engaging in the private practice of law.

HB 1044, relative to the filling of vacancies in the office of a county commissioner.

HB 1205, prohibiting state and county owned lands from participating in carbon sequestration projects.

HB 1246, relative to planning board members serving on other local boards.

HB 1296, relative to the conditions for, and procedures for the adoption of, the elderly tax exemption.

HB 1468, relative to municipal flood resilience planning and the use of planning grants.

HB 1494, increasing the maximum amount of the optional veterans' tax credit, optional combat service tax credit, and optional surviving spouse tax credit.

HB 1689, relative to the term of office for county officers in Merrimack county.

HB 1128, restricting the use of weather modification technologies to declared emergencies.

HB 1025, relative to the designation of the chief financial officer as a civilian employee within the department of military affairs and veterans services.

HB 1101, relative to the membership and governance of the state veterans council.

HB 1152, designating the funds account for donations and bequests received by the department of military affairs and veterans services to be non-lapsing funds.

HB 1172, relative to confidentiality protections for national guard sexual assault prevention and response personnel.

HR 27, urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to open an investigation into the United States' response to the USS Liberty incident.

HB 1193, naming a 911 call service center in Laconia in honor of Bruce G. Cheney.

HB 1697-FN, exempting certain firearms and firearm accessories manufactured and retained in New Hampshire from federal regulation.

HB 1350-FN, relative to antique motor vehicles.

HB 1448, prohibiting the use of the World Economic Forum materials within state curriculum.

HB 1832-FN, adding students with a parent or guardian on active military duty to the education freedom accounts priority guidelines.

CACR 13, relating to registers of probate.

Providing that the office of register of probate and all references to such office be eliminated.

HB 1168, relative to employer documentation requirements.

HR 24, honoring Tadeusz Kościuszko.

HR 25, recognizing the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

HB 1196-FN, repealing the state housing champion designation and grant program.

HB 1190-FN, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21.

HB 1485-FN, relative to eligibility and fees for late refund requests of road tolls.

HB 1793-FN, prohibiting public colleges and universities from regulating the possession or carrying of firearms and non-lethal weapons on campus.

HR 45, urging Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire.

HB 1160, relative to the county-state finance commission.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Beauchemin requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding an apology and addressed the House.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Gregg requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Gaby and Oscar and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Gregg: I know you're all tired, so I appreciate this. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our good friend and colleague, Representative Gaby Grossman and her son, Oscar Grossman. One year ago today, Oscar suffered a devastating fall at his work site for his high school in Exeter, falling 30 feet on his head onto frozen ground. That he survived is nothing short of a miracle. He was life-flighted to Boston, where he began what has been an extraordinary journey of recovery. In this past year, Oscar has come so far. His strength, his determination, his spirit; they have truly been remarkable to witness. His family's unwavering love and the support of this community have carried him through challenges that most of us cannot imagine. Yet we also recognize, with both hope and realism, how far he still must go. The road ahead remains long, and the work of healing continues day by day. There is profound irony in this journey that touches my heart. Representative Grossman has dedicated her service to this state as a tireless advocate for the disability community. She has fought to ensure that our laws protect and support those facing the greatest challenges. She experiences it not just as a legislator, but as a mother, watching her son fight his way back. As friends, we have the privilege and the responsibility to stand beside them. As legislators, we bear witness to their journey and recognize that we have work to do; work to ensure our systems serve families when they need the support the most. But today, on this anniversary, we celebrate the miracle of Oscar's survival, we honor his courage, and we hold the Grossman family, Gabby, Oscar, Oliver, and Eli, in our hearts. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Reps. Layon and Selig requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Holocaust and Genocide recognition and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Kofalt moved that the remarks made by Reps. Layon and Selig during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Group-on-group violence goes back to the beginning of time with struggles over territory, resources and even feuds feeding violence and death. The second industrial revolution, also known as the technological revolution, brought a phase of rapid scientific discovery, standardization, industrialization and mass production from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. Along with many benefits to humanity, it brought standardized, industrialized, mass slaughter to the world in the form of genocide. With the tools, transportation and connection available at the turn of the 20th century, modern genocide emerged. The industrial slaughter of the Armenians, the Armenian genocide, paved the way for future genocides. As written by Abram Sachar, founding president of Brandeis University, the genocide was cited approvingly 25 years later by the Führer who found the Armenian solu-

tion to be an instructive precedent. Adolf Hitler's words are both horrific and informative and are why it is important to ensure that we teach the next generation of the horrors of genocide and holocaust to guard against history repeating yet again. In an Obersalzberg speech, Hitler said, "who today is speaking about the destruction of the Armenians?" He said this to spur his soldiers into genocide, the Holocaust, which representative Selig will speak to now.

Representative Selig: The Holocaust began with its leader illegitimately consolidating power and then using that power to target and dehumanize specific populations by legalizing racist ideology and criminalizing people who did not meet a specific ideal. It led to one of the most well documented genocides, but certainly not the only one. Let's be clear, the dehumanization of any person is immoral no matter how much we may disagree on policy. Our responsibility as legislators, New Hampshire residents, Americans, and human beings is to uplift people and to work to solve problems together without denialism, hate, or discrimination. Only by learning history can we work to prevent atrocities from continuing to happen.

Representative Layon: Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. That means we must never forget. It also means that we must learn from the past and not demonize those with whom we disagree or to view members of a group as just a group without recognizing their individualism and their humanity. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Luneau requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding remembering the Challenger and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Luneau: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members of the House. Last Thursday, January 28th, here in Concord, there were clear skies, bright sun, temperatures in the single digits, nearly the same conditions as it was 40 years ago to the day in Florida. On that day, 1986, Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds into its flight. The spacecraft disintegrated at 46,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Cape Canaveral. Seven astronauts on board, all lives were lost. Dick Scobee, Commander, Michael Smith, Pilot, Ronald McNair, Mission Specialist, Ellison Onizuka, Mission Specialist, Judith Resnik, Mission Specialist, Gregory Jarvis, Payload Specialist, and Christa McAuliffe, a Payload Specialist from Concord and the first teacher in space. Our former colleague, the Honorable Member from Contoocook, Mel Myler, was watching the launch from the observation deck at Cape Canaveral that day, 40 years ago. That day, 40 years ago. And every year since, he has visited Christa's gravesite to remember her, remember her as a public school teacher, and to leave an apple. I joined Mel and his wife, Diane, during their visit last week. While we were there, others came by to remember Christa too, and we shared stories, where we were when it happened, I'm sure you all remember, and what we've learned, after all, from the first teacher in space. And we've learned a lot. Days following the accident, President Reagan appointed a blue-ribbon commission to investigate what caused the Challenger to break apart, and make recommendations to mitigate future disasters, all while recognizing the risk associated with spaceflight cannot be totally eliminated. The commission members included scientists and physicists, Richard Feynman, astronauts and engineers, Neil Armstrong and Sally Ride, and retired Air Force General and renowned test pilot, Chuck Yeager. Over the following months, the commission met more than a dozen times to interview and question people involved with everything from the system assembly to the launch decision. They met with NASA administrators, shuttle designers, assembly technicians, contractors, members of mission control, meteorologists, and engineers responsible for the design and construction of the solid rocket boosters. And from those depositions, those questions arose a common theme. The experts, the engineers and scientists, and meteorologists, all testified that their recommendation was no-go, not to launch. And as indicated in the commission report, they voiced very strong objections to launch that morning. Why? Why did the experts, the engineers, why were they a no-go for launch? Because of facts. The fact it was 18 degrees at midnight and rising to only 26 degrees Fahrenheit at lunchtime. The fact the O-ring seals on the solid rocket boosters had only been tested successfully down to 53 degrees. The fact at lower temperatures, the seals exhibited degraded performance that resulted in media blow-by and would compromise the integrity of the main fuel tank. So why did this happen? The commission report concluded that the design of the O-rings was not satisfactory to meet the requirements. But it also found the recommendation of the engineers, the experts, the recommendation to no-go, to not launch, given the conditions, because the temperatures at the launch site would compromise the performance of the solid rocket booster seals and yield catastrophic results. That no-go opinion of the scientists and experts was overruled by management, a politically rushed decision to get the Space Shuttle Challenger off the launch pad, despite the experts. So what did we learn on this day 40 years ago? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Telerski requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding thanking the first responders in the Nashua explosion. and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Telerski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Monday the city of Nashua suffered a tragedy with a devastating explosion and fire at Greater Nashua Mental Health, a vital provider of care and support for individuals and families throughout our region. After the smell of gas was detected, the building was evacuated and minutes after crews arrived there was a massive explosion resulting in fire. Miraculously, everyone who had been in the building escaped safely. However, three Nashua firefighters were injured, thankfully, with non-life-threatening injuries. I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Nashua Fire Rescue, the Nashua Police Department, emergency medical personnel, as well as to the many neighboring communities, many of whom you represent, who stepped up and responded through mutual aid. Their swift action, coordination, and willingness to assist without hesitation exemplify the strength of our local and regional partnerships and the very best of public service. We hold in our thoughts those who are injured and wish them healing and a full recovery. Moments like this remind us how deeply we rely on one another in times of crisis and how grateful we are for those who answer the call to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Kuttab requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding an apology and addressed the House.

RECESS MOTION

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

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 4:45 p.m.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SENATE MESSAGES**CONCURRENCE**

SB 27-FN, relative to dwellings over water.

SB 36, relative to the collection and reporting of abortion statistics by health care providers and medical facilities.

SB 49-FN, relative to the unlawful operation or use of unmanned aircraft systems.

SB 83-FN, relative to licenses for primary and secondary game operators.

SB 94, repealing municipal amendments to technical requirements of the state building code in certain circumstances.

SB 103-FN-LOCAL, relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns and cities during a general election which includes the election for the office of President of the United States.

SB 134-FN, relative to work requirements under the state Medicaid program.

SB 182, relative to the maternal mortality review committee.

NONCONCURRENCE

SB 15-FN, relative to incorporating hard labor as a sentencing option for capital murder and serious sexual assaults on children, defining hard labor, establishing medical exemptions and penalties for abuse thereof, providing alternative punitive measures for legitimate medical exemptions, and authorizing jury determination of hard labor in qualifying cases.

SB 33-FN, relative to the regulation of public school materials.

SB 34, relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program.

SB 186, preventing portraits depicting persons from being hung in certain places in the statehouse, unless the subject of the portrait has been dead for at least 10 years and provided exemplary and noteworthy services to the citizens of this state.

RECESS

(Representative Read in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 451 and 705
Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:
Rep. Harvey on the Committee on Municipal and County Government.

RECESS