



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

Second Year of the 169th General Court

Calendar and Journal of the 2026 Session

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Vol. 48

Concord, N.H.

Thursday, March 5, 2026

No. 6

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 5 (Cont'd)

Thursday, February 19, 2026

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 6

Thursday, March 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 Guest Chaplain, Father Jason Jalbert, Rector at Saint Joseph's Cathedral in Manchester.

We pray to you, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted and judgment decreed. Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct all state government leaders, and shine forth in all proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of local happiness, the increase of security, integrity and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of liberty. We pray for our local leaders, for the members of this assembly, and all elected officials who are appointed by the people to guard political welfare, that they may be enabled by your powerful protection to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability. We pray for our beloved state and all New Hampshire citizens that we may be united and grow in that peace which the world cannot give. Amen.

Rep. Peter Mehegan, member from Pembroke, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Gianna Cruz of Concord.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Ball, Buco, England, Franz, Packard, Payeur, Suiter, Tenczar, Tierney and Toner, the day, illness.

Reps. Coker, Drew, Gibbs, Gregg, Lovett, Tim Mannion, Minor, Michael Murphy, Nagel, Paquette, St. Clair, Varney and Verville, the day, important business.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Emery McGlone, student at Coe-Brown Academy and Ben Pearson student at Hanover High School, Pages for the day.

The Honorable Brian Chirichello and The Honorable James Webb, former members from Derry, guests of Representative Flanagan, Gunnar, Emory, Laura and Sophia Baldwin, husband and children of Representative Baldwin, Will Clark, guest of Representative Kofalt, Piper and Jenna Hardy, guests of Representative Nancy Murphy, family and friends of fallen service members Tanner Grone, Adam Brooks, Derek Bilodeau, Michael Ouellette, Eric Currier, Brandon Garabrant, Ryan McDermont, and Justin Rollins, guests of Representative Korzen.

COMMUNICATION

March 1, 2026
VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Sherman Packard
Speaker of the House
New Hampshire House of Representatives
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Speaker Packard,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of New Hampshire as a State Representative. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have represented my constituents and to have contributed to the important work of the House.

Unfortunately, I have recently been diagnosed with Polycythemia Vera (PV), a rare, chronic blood cancer. While there is currently no cure for PV, it typically progresses slowly, and with appropriate medical management, many individuals maintain a normal quality of life and lifespan. However, the demands of this condition and its treatment require me to prioritize my health at this time.

For these reasons, I hereby submit my formal resignation as State Representative, effective immediately.

I appreciate your understanding and the support I have received during my time in service. Please let me know if there are any administrative steps I need to complete to facilitate a smooth transition.

Respectfully,

Honorable Sandra Panek
18 Arlene Dr
Pelham, NH 03076
603-305-3429

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

HB 1108-FN, relative to the offense of criminal threatening removed by Reps. McFarlane, McGrath, Beaulier, Tom Mannion, Giasson, Berezhny, Kelley, Dan McGuire, Scully and Popovici-Muller.

HB 1367-FN, establishing a criminal offense of doxing, removed by Reps. Farrington, Barton, Beaulier, Tom Mannion, Wherry, McGrath, Granger, Corcoran, Warden and Plozaj.

HB 1217, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances, removed by Reps. Kofalt, Mazur, Layon, Sabourin dit Choiniere, Farrington, McFarlane, Beaulier, DeVito, Sirois, McGrath and Korzen

HB 1442-FN, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity," removed by Reps. Kofalt, Mazur, Layon, Sabourin dit Choiniere, Farrington, McFarlane, Beaulier, DeVito, Sirois, McGrath and Korzen.

HR44, concerning the protection of public lands, removed by Reps. Ryan, Darby, Vail, Sargent, Knab, Dupont, Harb, Baldwin, Bridle and Manos
Consent Calendar was adopted.

HB 1036, relative to the maximum duration of term alimony. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lori Korzen for Children and Family Law. This bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate because it places an unnecessary, arbitrary cap on the duration of term alimony and limits the ability of judges to make case-specific decisions. Current law already allows courts to set reasonable alimony terms based on the length of the marriage, the financial situation of each party, and other relevant circumstances. The proposed cap, 50 percent of the marriage length or a maximum of eight years, would unfairly restrict courts in long marriages or cases where one spouse has limited earning potential. The existing statute provides the right balance of guidance and judicial discretion, making this bill neither needed nor beneficial. Vote 15-0.

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jay Markell for Children and Family Law. This bill requires courts to enforce alimony orders according to their terms where payments are past due, unless modified by party agreement or pursuant to statute, and requires courts to enforce their orders. Vote 15-0.

HB 1229, relative to waivers of alimony. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jay Markell for Children and Family Law. This bill helps settle divorce cases by providing enforceability of agreements that purport to waive alimony claims subject to certain conditions. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0552h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Term and Reimbursement Alimony. Amend RSA 458:19-a by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

VII. Agreements in which the parties waive any and all rights to past, present, or future alimony, or any portion thereof, shall be given full force and effect unless the agreement is found by a preponderance of the evidence to be invalid due to coercion, deceit, duress, fraud, mutual mistake, material misrepresentation, supervening illegality, or where such enforcement would be unconscionable or the facts and circumstances have changed since the agreement was executed so as to make the agreement unenforceable.

HB 1779-FN, supporting the cultural background of children placed in foster care. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Peter Petrigno for Children and Family Law. We support this legislation in principle and believe its intent to support the cultural background of children placed in foster care has merit. However the fiscal note is a concern and there are some questions as to administrative requirements for training advocacy, and monitoring. The committee intends to form an ad hoc committee to address these concerns and will look to the Foster Care Oversight Subcommittee within the Oversight Commission on Children's Services for input and recommendations. We look to improve the current bill and bring forth new legislation next year. Vote 15-0.

HB 1047-FN, relative to the offense of capital murder. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee, after hearing many hours of testimony and receiving online submissions and e-mails from hundreds of citizens, has concluded that the vast majority of New Hampshire citizens do not want the return of the death penalty under any circumstances. This bill particularly assigns the designation of "capital murder" to the what can best be described as the "assassination" of the governor, state senators, representatives and executive council members. While there currently is no death penalty in New Hampshire, several bills have been submitted to bring it back and several bills have been submitted to make certain crimes "capital offenses." Assuming the death penalty is not brought back, the penalty for the premeditated political assassination of one of the enumerated officials would already be life without parole pursuant RSA 630:a(a), which is the same penalty for capital murder. Thus, the bill is unnecessary. Vote 12-0.

HB 1051, establishing a commission to study the creation of a statewide fingerprinting and background check database in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that there should be a comprehensive review of how licensing, employment, and fingerprinting background checks are conducted. This topic has come before the committee numerous times in recent years, indicating the need for more efficiency in serving the people who require these background checks. Vote 12-0.

Amendment (0711h)

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

AN ACT modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.

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

1 School Bus Driver Criminal History Records Check; Procedures Modified RSA 189:13-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

189:13-b School Bus Driver Criminal History Records Check.

I. The department of education shall complete a criminal history records check on all school bus drivers, school transportation vehicle drivers, school bus monitors, designated volunteers, and contracted service providers as would school administrative units, school districts, and chartered public schools pursuant to RSA 189:13-a. The criminal history record check clearance shall be valid for a period of 5 years.

II.(a) The school bus driver, school transportation vehicle driver, school bus monitor, designated volunteer, or contracted service provider with a school administrative unit, school district, chartered public school, public academy, or non-public special education school shall submit to the department a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the division of state police to conduct a criminal history records check through its state records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to release a report of the individual's criminal history record information, including confidential criminal history record information, to the background check coordinator of the department, as described in RSA 21-N:8-a, I-a.

(b) The department shall establish and implement a secure system for conducting a check of all personnel listed in this section in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) database by utilizing the applicant's social security number.

III. School bus drivers, school transportation vehicle drivers, school bus monitors, and contracted service providers shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law en-

forcement agency or an authorized employee of the department of education. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be taken in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the department may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearance from every city, town, or county where an applicant or candidate has resided in during the past 10 years.

IV.(a) The department shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this section. The department shall destroy all criminal history record information within 60 days of receiving said information.

(b) The department may require individuals to pay the actual costs of the criminal history records check.

V.(a) Any person who has been charged pending disposition for or convicted of any violation or attempted violation of RSA 318-B:2 for possession of a controlled drug with the intent to sell, felony level, within the last 10 years, RSA 630:1; 630:1-a; 630:1-b; 630:2; 630:3, 631:1; 631:2, 631:2-b, 632:1, 632-A:2; 632-A:3; 632-A:4; 633:1; 633:7; 636:1, 638:1, 638:15-a, 639:2; 639:3; 645:1, II or 645:1, III; 645:2; 649-A:3; 649-A:3-a; 649-A:3-b; 649-B:3; or 649-B:4; or any violation or any attempted violation of RSA 650:2 where the act involves a child in material deemed obscene in this state, or under any statute prohibiting the same conduct in another state, territory, or possession of the United States, shall not be granted a clearance, nor shall they be employable or contracted in a public school, public charter school, public academy, or non-public approved special education school within the state of New Hampshire.

(b) A school administrative unit, school district, public school, public charter school, public academy, or non-public approved special education school in the state of New Hampshire shall not employ any individual who has had their educator credential revoked in New Hampshire or any other state.

VI. The department of education shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, governing the rights of educational and contracted personnel and their ability to appeal a denial of a clearance pursuant to a charge pending disposition for or a conviction of any of the offenses under RSA 189:13-b, V.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

2026-0711h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the procedures for school bus driver criminal history records checks by extending its application to volunteers and contractors and specifying requirements for such record checks, including fingerprinting. The bill also directs the department of education to implement a secure system for such record checks and authorizes the department to make rules relative to the rights of personnel in criminal history record checks.

HB 1058, enabling the carrying of a firearm on an OHRV when such OHRV is being operated on private property. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Save the sponsor, no one came to testify in favor this bill. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department testified against the bill for safety reasons. They pointed out that it is currently legal to carry a handgun that is loaded with a round chambered while operating an OHRV. Further, it is also currently legal to carry a loaded long gun while operating an OHRV. What is prohibited, is carrying loaded long gun while operating an OHRV with a round chambered in battery. The reason for this prohibition has nothing to do with Second Amendment rights. It is absolutely about common sense and the safety of others. Vote 12-0.

HB 1091, relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill addresses the penalties imposed for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside. This legislation does not prevent municipalities from adopting or enforcing such ordinances. Rather, it ensures that penalties are proportionate, constitutionally sound, and consistent with principles of fairness and due process. Across New Hampshire, communities are grappling with the visible impacts of housing instability and homelessness. Municipalities retain the authority to manage public spaces and maintain public order. However, escalating criminal penalties for conduct that is often rooted in poverty or lack of housing does little to resolve the underlying issue. In many cases, punitive enforcement can further entrench individuals in cycles of court involvement, fines, and instability. These are outcomes that strain local resources without improving public safety. As amended, this bill clarifies and standardizes the penalty structure for these ordinance violations, reinforcing that enforcement should be measured and civil in nature rather than punitive in a way that creates disproportionate consequences. This approach respects local governance while ensuring penalties remain reasonable and consistent with constitutional protections. The committee recognizes the difficult balance municipalities must strike between maintaining public spaces and responding compassionately and effectively to residents experiencing homelessness. This bill does not eliminate enforcement tools; it simply aligns penalties with common-sense standards of proportionality. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0657h)

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

1 Powers and Duties of Towns; Power to Make Bylaws. Amend RSA 31:39, III to read as follows:

III. Towns may enforce the observance of the bylaws by suitable penalties not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense to enure to such uses as the town may direct, *except that for any ordinance or bylaw prohibiting sleeping or camping outdoors, the town shall provide for a nonmonetary penalty that may be elected in lieu of a financial penalty. Options for nonmonetary penalties include, but are not limited to, community service, enrollment in a program designed to assist the individual with obtaining stable housing, and verification of secured stable housing. The option or options for a nonmonetary penalty shall:*

(a) *Be stated clearly in the ordinance or bylaw language; and*

(b) *Require that the individual who violates the ordinance or bylaw to elect the nonmonetary penalty, and if there are multiple nonmonetary penalties available, which penalty.*

2 New Paragraph; Power of City Councils; Bylaws and Ordinances. Amend RSA 47:17 by inserting after paragraph XX the following new paragraph:

XXI. For any ordinance or bylaw prohibiting sleeping or camping outdoors, the city council shall provide for a nonmonetary penalty that may be elected in lieu of a financial penalty. Options for nonmonetary penalties include, but are not limited to, community service, enrollment in a program designed to assist the individual with obtaining stable housing, and verification of secured stable housing. The option or options for a nonmonetary penalty shall:

(a) Be stated clearly in the ordinance or bylaw language; and

(b) Require that the individual who violates the ordinance or bylaw to elect the nonmonetary penalty, and if there are multiple nonmonetary penalties available, which penalty.

HB 1158-FN, relative to the definition of intimate partner. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The bill introduces a redundant and overly broad classification that threatens the due process rights of New Hampshire citizens. Current law under RSA 173-B is designed to address domestic violence within the context of family, household, or established romantic relationships. By specifically adding “sexual relationship” as a standalone category—separate from “romantic relationship” this bill seeks to bring casual, non-domestic encounters under the umbrella of domestic violence law. The committee found this expansion unnecessary because New Hampshire already provides robust protections for victims of violence or harassment in non-domestic settings through RSA 633:3-a, stalking, and civil restraining orders. Domestic violence orders carry unique, immediate penalties, including the summary loss of Second Amendment rights and inclusion in domestic violence databases, often based on a “preponderance of evidence” rather than the higher standards of criminal court. Broadening the “intimate partner” definition to include any person from a singular or casual sexual encounter effectively transforms casual social friction into a domestic violence event. This creates a “legal trap” where a citizen could face the life-altering consequences of a domestic violence order for a relationship that was never domestic in nature. We believe the current statutes correctly distinguish between domestic abuse and other forms of criminal conduct, and that maintaining this distinction is vital to protecting both victims of domestic violence and the fundamental rights of all Granite Staters. Vote 13-0.

HB 1175-FN, relative to the offense of use of scanning device or reencoder to defraud. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee heard testimony from county attorneys who informed us that this update to the statute is necessary to them to be able to prosecute crimes using the new technology related to the chips embedded in most new payment cards vs just mag strips in the current law. Having heard no opposing testimony or receiving any information that would lead us to believe that implementing this change would not be beneficial. Vote 12-0.

HB 1236-FN, relative to recordings of custodial interrogations. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matt Sabourin dit Choinière for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill requires custodial interrogations to be, at a minimum, audio recorded and precludes admissibility of unrecorded custodial interrogations in criminal or juvenile matters absent a reasonable justification. This is standard guidance nationwide for custodial interrogations, it protects officers as well as defendants. Discouraging both false accusations and coerced false confessions. “Terry” traffic stops, detainments, and vocalizations that occur within law enforcement vehicles and holding cells that are not mirandized are not custodial interrogations and are exempt from this measure. Build into the bill is an exception to the inadmissibility clause that enables statements that were not recorded in mirandized situations to be entered into evidence in a criminal or juvenile delinquency proceeding brought against the person if the court finds that the statements are otherwise admissible under applicable rules of evidence and law enforcement personnel provide a reasonable justification, including a summary and documentation of the surrounding facts and circumstances, explaining the lack of recording. Vote 11-2.

HB 1237, relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill was submitted at the request of the Department of Safety which later requested it be recommended inexpedient to legislate as it is no longer needed. Vote 12-0.

HB 1244-FN, relative to exceptions to the charge of criminal threatening. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While we stand second to none in our defense of the Second Amendment and the right to self-protection, this bill is both unnecessary and legally hazardous for responsible gun owners. New Hampshire is already a “Stand Your Ground” sanctuary where RSA 627:4 provides expansive rights to display a firearm when a citizen reasonably believes their safety is at risk. This bill, however, attempts to expand this to situations involving mere “property damage,” creating a recipe for catastrophic misunderstandings. Consider a common scenario: an individual, distracted or unfamiliar with a parking lot, mistakenly tries to open the door of a vehicle that looks identical to their own. Under this bill, the owner, perceiving a “threat” to their property, might be emboldened to approach with a firearm brandished. The innocent individual, seeing an armed person approaching rapidly, could reasonably believe they are about to be robbed or car jacked and draw their own firearm in self-defense. What began as a simple, non-violent mistake over a car door could instantly escalate into a double-fatality tragedy. Existing law already protects our right to use force when our lives are in danger; extending that right to the parking lot at the mall because someone is “standing too close” to a car is an invitation to blood in the streets over replaceable plastic and metal. By lowering the threshold for displaying deadly force, this bill does not protect property, it merely provides a legal trap that encourages law-abiding citizens to introduce lethal weapons into non-lethal situations, potentially facing felony criminal threatening charges if a jury later determines their reaction was not “objectively reasonable.” We value the Second Amendment too much to see it tarnished by encouraging the irresponsible display of firearms in situations where no person’s life is in danger. Vote 13-0.

HB 1291-FN, criminalizing the use of small unmanned aircraft systems for the purposes of flying over critical infrastructure and events without authorization. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill seeks to criminalize the use of small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) drones, from being flown over critical infrastructures and events without prior authorization. During the public hearing the committee found themselves having more questions than answers regarding whom the operator would seek permission to operate the UAS, what critical infrastructure is defined as, and many others. The committee recognized the need to address the rising use of UAS in the state and has recommended the passage of several pieces of legislation the last biennium. Vote 10-0.

HB 1308-FN, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Along with the committee amendment this legislation will increase penalties for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus, authorizes use of sworn testimony and bus camera footage as evidence, and mandates license suspension for first and repeat offenses, and allows school districts to install and use high definition cameras to identify the operator of the vehicle to issue the imposed penalties for doing so. The committee heard concerning testimony from school bus operators and representatives for the companies that this is a recurring behavior and is proven to be tragic for school age children. School buses are large, yellow, and having flashing lights (along with an extended swing arm with a lighted up stop sign) is an unmistakable signal for drivers to stop. There simply is no excuse to pass one. Law enforcement cannot be everywhere at once. Allowing for the camera footage to be used to help with enforcement will help to protect innocent vulnerable children, identify the vehicle owner, reduce reliance on the drivers giving their attention where it matters most and allow for due process in the event the owner is not the operator at the time of the infraction. Passing a stopped school bus is a conscious decision. By passing this important legislation New Hampshire will make it unequivocally clear that passing a stopped school bus will not be tolerated. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0523h)

Amend RSA 265:54, I-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I-a. Testimony under oath from the school bus driver or other witness that a vehicle failed to stop and remain stopped as required by paragraph I shall be sufficient evidence to prove that the owner of the vehicle was driving and has violated the provisions of paragraph I, unless such evidence is rebutted or contradicted. *The camera footage from the bus may be used as evidence to identify the vehicle owner or operator and shall be made available by subpoena to law enforcement and the county attorney. Any video recording shall be used for the sole purpose of supplementing observations and sworn statements of a school bus driver or operator, including for purposes of identification of vehicles and operators responsible for school bus law violations. The owner of a vehicle cited for a school bus law violation shall also have access to the recording or to a copy of the recording, if requested.*

2026-0523h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill increases penalties for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus, authorizes bus camera footage as identification evidence, and mandates license suspension for first and repeat offenses.

HB 1346-FN, authorizing the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This is a bill that was filed due to concerns that the exact same bill passed last year may not become law due to amendments added in the other body. It was eventually signed by the governor and as a result, this bill is unnecessary. Vote 13-0.

HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill would authorize New Hampshire law enforcement agencies who train and work with cadaver dogs to possess human remains for training purposes. Due to strict laws regarding the proper handling and disposal of human remains, it has become extremely difficult for these animals to be properly trained. This bill would rectify that by authorizing the donation and possession of human remains for this purpose. These animals are a crucial tool for law enforcement for use in disasters and criminal investigations. Vote 13-0.

HB 1361, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill makes a small change related to the return of search warrants. When a search warrant is executed, law enforcement is responsible for making an inventory of all seized property to submit to the court when the warrant is returned as executed. Such inventories must be witnessed by the property owner, the officer making the inventory and under current law, the person who acquired the warrant. This is often not practical. If the officer who acquired the warrant is involved in an arrest, is injured, or is otherwise unavailable to be at the location for the inventory, it can cause a logistical problem for the timely and proper execution of the warrant. This bill would change the current law and allow the officer making the search to conduct and record the inventory in the presence of the property owner and if the property owner is not present, any other officer may witness the inventory. The bill also eliminates the witness requirement for search warrants for electronic materials provided the officer receiving them attests to the accuracy. This may be phone records or internet activity obtained by warrant from a provider. This information is normally received electronically, making a witness impractical and unnecessary. Vote 13-0.

HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Safety to designate an authorized person to receive criminal conviction information during background investigations. This bill is administrative in nature and is intended to ensure continuity, efficiency, and appropriate handling of sensitive records within the department. Background investigations are a critical component of public safety. Whether conducted for employment, licensing, or other statutory purposes, these investigations require timely and secure access to accurate criminal conviction information. By permitting the commissioner to designate a qualified individual to receive such information, This bill provides necessary operational flexibility while maintaining clear lines of authority and accountability. Importantly, the bill does not expand access to criminal history information beyond what is already authorized under law. It simply clarifies who within the department may receive and process that information in the course of official duties. The commissioner remains responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable confidentiality, privacy, and data security requirements. This measure reflects sound administrative governance. It strengthens the department's ability to carry out its statutory responsibilities efficiently while preserving appropriate safeguards around sensitive records. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0712h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Division of Safety; Employee Candidate Background Checks. Amend RSA 21-P:15-c, III to read as follows:

III. To obtain a state records check only, the department shall submit a state criminal history records release form to the division of state police. To obtain both the federal and the state records check, the department shall submit the criminal history records release form and applicant fingerprint card to the division of state police, which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the background investigation, the division of state police shall report any criminal conviction information to the commissioner *or to anyone designated by the commissioner within the department of safety who is authorized by federal authorities to receive criminal conviction information*. The department may submit fingerprint information electronically, in accordance with procedures established by the division of state police. The department shall maintain the confidentiality and security of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this paragraph.

HB 1366-FN, relative to military orders of protection. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill would require New Hampshire law enforcement to notify the military authorities if they become aware of a member of the armed forces violating a military protective order. Too often victims of domestic violence fall into the cracks between the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the civilian criminal justice system. Military protective orders are not enforceable by civilian law enforcement, so sometimes, an offender who is in the service is allowed to escape justice for violating an order because their command never learns of the infraction. This bill would help bridge that gap. This bill was requested by the Department of Defense, who worked with military and civilian law enforcement as well as the courts and victim advocates to get the necessary language correct. The committee heard no evidence or testimony against this bill. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0688h)

Amend RSA 110-B:19-a, II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. If a law enforcement officer or peace officer has probable cause to believe a member of the New Hampshire air national guard or New Hampshire army national guard is in violation of a military protection order, the law enforcement officer or peace officer shall notify the office of the New Hampshire national guard general counsel or their designee that the service member may have violated the military protective order.

HB 1424, relative to services of a summons. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee recommends this bill as inexpedient to legislate because they found a lack of compelling evidence or practical necessity for its enactment. After a thorough review and public hearing, the objectives sought by this bill were unclear and are already being met by current RSA provisions or existing administrative protocols. New Hampshire's criminal justice system relies on clarity and efficiency; introducing a new, redundant layer of regulation, without a clearly identified problem to solve, only serves to create confusion for law enforcement, the judiciary, and the public. Furthermore, the committee noted that the prime sponsor failed to provide specific case studies or data demonstrating that current laws are failing in the areas this bill intended to address. Vote 13-0.

HB 1428, relative to the procedure for complaints submitted to the attorney general's office's criminal justice bureau, public integrity unit. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The bill attempts to mandate a rigid, statutory procedure for what is already an effective and established internal process within the Department of Justice. The Public Integrity Unit (PIU) currently operates under a comprehensive set of guidelines that allow the Attorney General to investigate complaints of criminal misconduct by government and law enforcement officials with the necessary discretion required for sensitive matters. By codifying these internal procedures into state law, this bill creates a dangerous "litigation trap," where a minor administrative or procedural deviation could be used by defendants or political agitators to jeopardize a criminal investigation or file frivolous lawsuits against the state. Furthermore, the bill creates an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that restricts the department's ability to adapt its investigative techniques to evolving criminal tactics. Our current system already provides the oversight and transparency required for public integrity, and forcing these administrative details into the RSA only serves to hand a legal "roadmap" to those who wish to obstruct the pursuit of justice against corrupt officials. We must trust our lead law enforcement agency to maintain its own professional standards rather than micro-managing the mechanics of criminal investigations through the legislature. Vote 13-0.

HB 1510-FN, relative to responsibility for the custody or control of persons ordered to a county correctional facility. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill seeks to mandate an immediate transfer of legal custody and financial responsibility to county departments of corrections that is both impractical and fiscally irresponsible. Currently, legal custody is a coordinated process between arresting agencies and correctional facilities. This bill would force counties to assume legal "custody and control" of a defendant the moment a court order is issued, regardless of whether that individual has actually arrived at the facility or is still being processed by local police. The committee heard compelling testimony from the New Hampshire Association of Counties regarding the "significant yet indeterminable costs" this bill would impose. By shifting legal custody prematurely, the bill would force county taxpayers to absorb massive, unbudgeted expenses, including overtime for hospital watches and medical costs for defendants who have not yet even entered the jail's gates. Furthermore, the bill creates a "custody vacuum" during transport; by stripping other law enforcement agencies of their legal responsibility once an order is signed, it creates a dangerous ambiguity regarding who is liable if a defendant escapes or requires medical intervention while in transit. New Hampshire's current system correctly places responsibility on the agency physically holding the defendant. This bill is an unfunded mandate that prioritizes administrative convenience over public safety and fiscal responsibility, and the committee found no evidence that the current system of shared responsibility is failing. Vote 12-0.

HB 1552-FN, relative to orders of protection. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill introduces an unnecessary and potentially intimidating barrier to individuals seeking emergency protection from domestic violence. While the committee fully supports the principle that all court filings must be truthful, the requirement to sign a specific, highlighted perjury warning at the time of a crisis serves as a psychological deterrent to genuine victims. These individuals are often in a state of high stress or immediate danger; forcing them to navigate explicit criminal warnings just to gain access to the court's protection is a "red tape" measure that could lead a victim to hesitate, with potentially fatal consequences. Furthermore, this bill is legally redundant. Under existing New Hampshire law, all petitions for protective orders under RSA 173-B and RSA 169-C are already signed under oath. Making a false statement in a court filing is already a prosecutable act of perjury or false swearing. Adding a mandatory, redundant warning does not change the legal standard for truthfulness, but it does change the atmosphere of the court clerk's office from one of assistance to one of suspicion. The committee believes that our priority must be to maintain clear, accessible pathways for victims of abuse and that current statutes already provide the necessary tools for prosecutors to address the rare instances of fraudulent filings without discouraging those in legitimate fear for their lives. Vote 11-1.

HB 1651-FN, establishing sexual assault orders of protection and relative to sexual assault survivors' rights. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This critical piece of legislation addresses long-standing gaps in how the state supports survivors of sexual assault, specifically by establishing sexual assault orders of protection and codifying essential rights regarding evidence preservation. The committee believes that survivors deserve both immediate safety and long-term certainty that their evidence will be handled with the highest level of care. The adopted amendment clarifies several key provisions to ensure the law is both compassionate and enforceable. First, the bill establishes a new "sexual assault order of protection," similar to domestic violence restraining orders, which provides a dedicated legal path for victims who may not have a "domestic" or "dating" relationship with their attacker. Second, the amendment strengthens the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights by mandating that sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAECKs) be preserved for the duration of the maximum applicable statute of limitations or 20 years, whichever is shorter. Most importantly, it guarantees survivors the right to be informed of the status and location of their kit and any DNA matches found, provided such disclosure does not compromise an ongoing investigation. By passing this bill with this amendment, we are replacing a patchwork of local policies with a uniform, state-wide standard of dignity and transparency. We are ensuring that time-sensitive evidence is not only collected but tracked and preserved, giving survivors the agency and information they need to seek justice on their own timeline. This bill represents a major victory for public safety and the fundamental rights of New Hampshire citizens. Vote 12-0.

Amendment (0139h)

Amend RSA 632-A:5-a, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Notwithstanding RSA 594:10, any law enforcement officer shall arrest, without a warrant, any person that the officer has probable cause to believe has violated the provisions of this section when the offense occurred within 12 hours, regardless of whether the crime occurred in the presence of the officer.

HB 1696-FN, relative to the issuance of a summons instead of arrest. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill provides law enforcement with a common-sense tool to manage low-level offenses without compromising public safety. Currently, New Hampshire's "arrest-to-charge" culture for minor misdemeanors and violations often results in the unnecessary detention of individuals who pose no flight risk or danger to the community. This bill explicitly authorizes peace officers to issue a written summons in lieu of a physical arrest for misdemeanors and violations when probable cause exists. This shift reduces the administrative burden on local police departments, keeping officers on the street rather than tied up in hours of processing for minor offenses that would likely result in personal recognizance bail regardless. Furthermore, this bill ensures that this flexibility does not come at the expense of accountability. The bill establishes a clear criminal penalty for anyone who fails to appear in court or fails to "remain of good behavior" while released on a summons. By making a failure to appear a separate misdemeanor, the law provides a strong deterrent against skipping court dates. Importantly, the bill provides an affirmative defense for "uncontrollable circumstances," protecting those who face genuine emergencies. The committee did hear concerns that this bill would be a "trap" for defendants who would not know what "of good behavior" means. The committee rejected this theory. This legislation strikes a proper balance: it trusts our professional law enforcement officers to exercise their discretion, respects the liberty of Granite Staters for minor infractions, and ensures that the judicial process remains respected and enforceable. Vote 11-1.

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study private businesses providing special education services and issues relative to local school district reimbursement. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. The title of this bill is somewhat misleading as the Education Funding Committee recognizes that specific billing and costing issues directly related to private for-profit and non-profit

businesses such as the Spaulding Academy and Family Services located in Northfield and other such organizations located throughout NH need resolution regarding who is responsible for paying these high-cost education services. This matter extends much beyond the local school district and a residential business located within the district's enrollment area. Residential placement and learning facilities receive students having a wide range of disability challenges who come from other locations in NH and surrounding states such as Massachusetts. This process involves sending districts, the receiving district in which the residential placement center is located, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Department of Education, and similar out-of-state agencies and districts. The Education Funding Committee has identified a number of contributing factors requiring discussion and recommendation that do require a more thorough study leading to resolution. Vote 18-0.

HB 1514, requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school compliance and financial reports to school and school board authorities. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Education Funding. This bill would require of both the Department of Education and the Department of Revenue Administration that any annual school compliance and financial reports being sent to a district be directed to "every elected school board official, school superintendent, and school business administrator." Recent financial difficulties of Claremont School District revealed that school board members had, in various ways, been deprived of directly seeing obvious clues from these state agencies that the district's finances were in disarray. The bill's purpose is to ensure that the district's administration cannot act as a bottleneck in the flow of critical information important to the school board's governance and oversight roles. Vote 18-0.

HB 1579, establishing a committee to study methods for increasing revenues to enable additional spending on education. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Raymond Peeples for Education Funding. The committee believes this bill should be kept for Interim Study as part of a larger school funding solution. Some on the committee believe the issue is important to funding public schools and reducing the property tax burden. This topic warrants further study. In addition, if the committee can resolve costs associated with education spending, then this committee study may not be needed. Keeping this bill for Interim Study will provide the Education Funding Committee latitude in further considerations. Vote 18-0.

HB 1623-FN, requiring charter schools to have uniform and transparent billing costs and practices for special education services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. A charter school may enroll students from a number of school districts within NH. It is the responsibility of the child's resident district to ensure the provision of special education services in accordance with the child's individualized education program (IEP) and conditions of a free and appropriate public education are followed. For example, if students attending charter school x reside in six different school districts, each district is required to provide IEP service for the students(s) from that district at charter school x. In accordance with statute, the sending district shall provide the child special education support using any or all of the methods listed in RSA 194-B:11, III(b). The resident district may: 1. send staff to the charter school, 2. contract with a service provider, 3. provide the child services as the resident district, 4. provide the service at the charter school, 5. provide the service at the service provider's location, 6. contract with the charter school to provide the service, and 7. the resident district shall be required to pay for transportation costs. The options in providing IEP support are varied, and based upon issues such as distance to and from the charter school and resident district, varying labor costs and negotiated agreements, availability and pricing of contract agreements, and much more, actual costs between districts in support of special education services at a charter school vary significantly. The same issue exists in reimbursing districts for high-cost special education occurrences. Reimbursement from the state to a district is based upon "actual" cost. A standardized state charter school rate would have to take into account RSA 194-B:11 and the district/charter school memorandum of understanding to ensure compliance with RSA 193 and RSA 194-B:3,II(e). Vote 17-0.

HB 1781-FN, relative to child support obligations during postsecondary education. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Pam Brown for Education Funding. This bill extends parental obligations for child support past high school to include the years when an adult child is a full-time student in "college or other post-secondary education," up to age 22. The committee unanimously agreed on the Inexpedient to Legislate motion, with some indicating the bill should be heard in another committee, while others stating adult children should pay their own college costs. Some others on the committee believe additional expertise would be helpful to consider changes to this policy area. Vote 18-0.

HB 1818-FN, enabling grants for school construction to also be used to consolidate structures and facilities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. As introduced, this bill proposed the creation of a fund dedicated to consolidating school facilities that would have been a separate appropriation from school building aid. The amendment deletes all language and costs as related to a new dedicated fund for school consolidation. The narrowly constructed amendment supports the 10-year school facilities plan currently in law. The Department

of Education has requested that each district shall, not may, review and update the district's anticipated school capital improvement plan on a 2-year recurring basis or as needed. The department will then use this information to better plan, prioritize, and project new anticipated capital construction, building consolidation, and renovation expenditures relative to the state building aid program. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0749h)

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

AN ACT requiring the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects.

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

1 Education; School Building Aid; Grant for School Construction. Amend RSA 198:15-a, V to read as follows:

V. The department of education shall develop and maintain a 10-year school facilities plan of potential school building grant projects. Potential projects shall include, but not be limited to, criteria pursuant to RSA 198:15-c, II(b). The 10-year plan is intended to create a method to identify and enhance school facilities in a safe, healthy, and efficient manner while providing adequate learning environments for New Hampshire's students. The 10-year plan shall be updated every biennium to provide the department a summary of projects and school facility capital expenditures that are anticipated for the next 10 years. The plan shall identify new construction, renovation, and emergency projects, and describe the overall condition of projects contained in the plan. In support of the 10-year plan, it is recommended that each district *shall* have in place and provide the department a long-range capital improvement program that identifies school facility goals, provides projected expenditures, and outlines procedures and guidelines to be followed to accomplish goals. Each district [~~is encouraged to~~] *shall* review and update the district's anticipated school facility capital improvement plan on a 2-year recurring basis or as needed. The department shall use this information to better plan, prioritize, and project new anticipated capital construction [and], **building consolidation, and** renovation expenditures relative to the state building aid program. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to this [paragraph] **section**.

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

2026-0794h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects.

CACR 28, relating to morality and piety. Providing that town, parishes, bodies corporate, or religious societies may elect and contract with teachers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This constitutional amendment is brought with an eye towards correcting what is seen as an error in previous amending processes that, it is suggested, violated norms of informed consent in adoption and resulted in taxation authority being claimed by the state that was never affirmatively conferred by the people. While there is a level of sympathy for the problems espoused, the pursuit of this particular CACR does not seem to logically follow, as it is admitted that this amendment would take us back to very early language that would be in direct conflict with other constitutional provisions, thereby introducing perhaps larger problems than it aims to solve, not the least of which being the insertion of the state into the affairs of the church to the detriment of both. It is the opinion of the committee that, if a genuine problem can be identified for which resolution is necessary, and the solution is to be a CACR, the resolution ought to be pursued directly, not indirectly by attempting to revert to a prior state of affairs, and without introducing further readily identifiable problems. Vote 14-1.

HB 1182, modifying the term "one-year certificate of eligibility" to "emergency authorization" relative to persons not possessing an educator credential. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for Education Policy and Administration. The purpose of this bill was to modify the term "one-year certificate of eligibility" to "emergency authorization" relative to persons not possessing an educator credential in RSA 189:39-b. The committee did not see the necessity of this technical change and the Department of Education agreed that it was not necessary. Vote 16-1.

HB 1183-FN, relative to the mathematics requirement for high school graduation. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Patricia Cornell for Education Policy and Administration. The majority of the committee agrees that attaining competency in mathematics during four years of high school is important to ensure career and college readiness, but believes this bill takes away flexibility for fulfilling these graduation requirements. It amends RSA 186:8, VIII by removing the ability for students to earn mathematics credits in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. This bill also conflicts with HB 1661, signed in 2022, which allows for graduation credits when demonstrating proficiency in a CTE course or program that is embedded with content area competencies. This bill could lead to districts having to hire more faculty in an already critical shortage area. It is another unfunded mandate and infringes on local control. College readiness and career readiness in the trades are equally important. Vote 13-2.

HB 1345, requiring schools to establish rules related to the display of flags and designate students at each school to serve as the school's color guard. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Muriel Hall for Education Policy and Administration. Although well intentioned, this bill's mandate of instituting a volunteer color guard in all public and non-public middle, junior high, and secondary schools is not practical. Current federal and state laws already mandate regulations for flag displays on school property. Given individual school schedules and needs, providing civic engagement opportunities for students, such as establishing a volunteer color guard, should be a local decision and not a state mandate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1370, relative to the reporting requirements for the identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for Education Policy and Administration. The committee is in full support of finding methods to address the needs of gifted and talented students. RSA 189:29-b was crafted in 2021 as an effort to accumulate efforts of local districts regarding gifted and talented students in a central location. The measure was an idea to create a file folder of information from school districts to be maintained by the Department of Education as a resource for all districts. Districts were to submit information to the department by August 1 of each year. It was not apparent that districts are responding to email requests for submission of this information. The department could not demonstrate any significant benefit to students or school districts from this unfunded mandate; therefore the committee amended the bill in order to repeal RSA 189:29-b. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0524h)

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

AN ACT repealing the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Repeal. RSA 189:29-b, relative to the identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students, is repealed.

2026-0524h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

HB 1412, relative to the display of flags in schools and compliance with the federal flag code. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Brian Nadeau for Education Policy and Administration. School districts are aware and largely compliant with federal flag codes as well as budgeting for flag replacement. Additionally, monetary and material donations are practiced in all school districts. Therefore, the committee finds this legislation to be unnecessary. Vote 14-2.

HB 1453, relative to student school board members. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This bill proposes expanding the powers and authority granted to student members of school boards, as well as requiring extremely prescriptive processes on schools for elections, disputes, and authorizes discipline for violations. We believe student members, if allowed at all, must remain learning-focused and functionally powerless, as they are minors, and they are incapable of contracting or being held accountable by the public via normal mechanisms. We also believe the mandates placed on schools are excessive and impractical. Vote 16-0.

HB 1548-FN, requiring the department of education to collect and publish data regarding the costs associated with providing special education services to students of public, charter, private, trade, and other K-12 schools or academies. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Megan Murray for Education Policy and Administration. It is the position of the committee, at this time, that it is best to Interim Study this bill, as there is currently an active bicameral, bipartisan, stakeholder commission studying the costs of special education with a final report due out in July 2026. It is possible that given the various and broad charges of that commission, aspects similar to the intent of this bill will come up for study and/or potentially come forward as a finding within the commission. Given that the NH Department of Education is currently reevaluating and reconfiguring its data/reporting system, this bill, while well intentioned, may duplicate efforts already underway. Vote 15-1.

HB 1645, adding a definition for rules relative to innovation schools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for Education Policy and Administration. While the committee believes that the intent of the bill was to prevent innovation schools from obtaining waivers for school safety, the language was confusing regarding the administrative rules. Further research is needed before correcting the language which can be done with new legislation next year. Vote 16-0.

HB 1688, expanding the circumstances where the restraint is permitted in schools and treatment facilities and modifying the definition of seclusion. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. This bill modifies instances when seclusion of a child is permissible from “voluntary” to “involuntary” and removes the criteria that physical restraint of a child be initiated by a “substantial” risk to teacher safety. The committee believes the changes may adversely impact child wellbeing and RSA 126-U is currently sufficient to defend teacher safety. Rather than amend the statute, the committee encourages administration and/or outside organizations to incorporate the “Restraint and Seclusion” law into educator professional development. Such development should reference the technical advisories issued by the Department of Education in September and October of 2023. Finally, the committee does not find it prudent to move forward when the bill’s impact on daycare and residential facilities is unknown. Vote 16-0.

HB 1700, adding a non-voting student member to the state board of education. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This bill proposes adding a student member to the State Board of Education. This is viewed as both impractical and either inappropriate or unnecessary, depending on the age of the student, where minor students have no place on the highest executive education policy committee in the state, and where adult students ought to pursue the normal methods of appointment to the board without any special pathway if they desire to serve. Vote 15-1.

HB 1754-FN, repealing the statewide use of the multi-tiered system of supports for behavioral health and wellness relative to systems of care for children’s mental health. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peggy Balboni for Education Policy and Administration. This bill would repeal the statewide use of the multi-tiered system of supports for behavioral health and wellness, known as MTSS-B, within New Hampshire’s system of care for children’s mental health. The committee heard extensive testimony from education and mental health professionals who consistently described MTSS-B as an essential and effective framework. They explained that it is regularly used to support all students by helping educators identify individual needs early and provide appropriate, targeted interventions for those who are at-risk or who have more significant challenges. MTSS-B strengthens collaboration between schools and community mental health agencies by streamlining intake processes, reducing barriers to services, and improving family engagement. Repealing this framework would harm children by weakening early identification and intervention efforts and by disrupting a coordinated system of care that is currently functioning well. In addition, eliminating MTSS-B would result in the loss of critical data, limiting the ability of the New Hampshire Department of Education to secure federal grant funding. The committee was unanimous in its conclusion that MTSS-B is an effective, evidence-informed approach that helps schools maintain safe, supportive, and productive learning environments for all students. Vote 15-0.

HB 1795-FN, requiring criminal history record checks for the renewal of teaching licenses. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kristin Noble for Education Policy and Administration. This bill would require all educators to submit a criminal history release form to the Department of Education when renewing educator credentials, every 3 years, and at least 60 days prior to their credential expiration date. The bill also adds neglect to the criminal history record check. Vote 15-0.

HB 1806-FN, relative to the list of revoked or suspended educator licenses maintained by the department of education. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. The Department of Education maintains a list of revoked and suspended educator licenses. If an educator is seeking to be removed from that list, there is a process in place to appeal to the State Board of Education. Therefore, the committee agreed that this bill is not necessary. Vote 16-1.

HB 1829-FN, modifying the definition of persistently dangerous schools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for Education Policy and Administration. This bill adds more categories to the definition of persistently dangerous schools. The state is required to submit an annual reporting to the US Department of Education of persistently dangerous schools. One of the new requirements would include an undefined term of poor academic performance along with a listing of targeted support and improvement schools. The targeted support and improvement schools are currently tracked and recorded by the state. Adding new definitions of persistently dangerous schools would require a review process with local education agencies and public comment before they can be included in statute. Vote 15-0.

CACR 30, relating to the public utilities commissioners. Providing that the public utilities commissioners are elected. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. The committee believes this Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution should have been a standard House Bill and thus the committee did not find it prudent to work on it given its filing status. Vote 15-0.

CACR 31, relating to ballot reconciliation. Providing that the state adopt certain provisions and penalties relative to the ballot reconciliation process. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Alvin See for Election Law. This bill proposes to incorporate the contents of a Presidential Executive Order into the New Hampshire Constitution. Executive orders, however, may be short-lived and are subject

to revision, rescission, or supersession. This particular order contains several provisions that would require substantial changes to the administration of elections in New Hampshire, including prohibiting the use of ballot-counting machines and limiting polling locations to no more than 5,000 voters. A federal district court judge in Seattle, Washington, has issued an injunction blocking five provisions of this order. Executive orders are not an appropriate basis for constitutional language. While such orders may inform or inspire legislative proposals, incorporating them directly into the state constitution is not appropriate. Vote 14-0.

HB 1069, enabling municipalities and school districts to hold such elections on the day of the state primary. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill would have created a process by which towns and school districts could choose to hold their local voting day on the same date as the state primary in an effort to increase turnout. While the committee differed on whether this was a good idea or not, the proposal would require substantial additional work and was deemed unfeasible to complete within the limited time remaining in the legislative calendar. Vote 15-0.

HB 1082, enabling municipalities to remove political signs from state-owned property located within the municipality after an election. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. James Qualey for Election Law. This bill proposes to amend RSA 664:17 by adding language authorizing municipalities to remove “any political advertising remaining on any public property, including highway rights-of-way or state-owned property, after the second Friday following the election.” This change disregards the property rights of individuals who own the private property underlying many highway rights-of-way. The bill is otherwise redundant because RSA 664:17 already authorizes city or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel to remove political advertising from any public property without time constraints. It is therefore the view of the Election Law Committee that this bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 14-0.

HB 1106, requiring the public disclosure of the citizenship of a candidate for public office. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Luz Bay for Election Law. This bill creates a new and unconstitutional barrier to candidacy, misapplies existing oath enforcement statutes, and threatens felony prosecution for information many granite staters cannot reasonably know or obtain. By requiring candidates to disclose foreign dual citizenship under RSA 641:1 and RSA 92:2, the bill effectively adds a qualification for office not authorized by Part I, Article 11 of the New Hampshire Constitution, while imposing criminal liability for uncertainty rather than intentional deception. Testimony highlighted that adoptees, naturalized citizens, and individuals with incomplete or inaccessible records would be disproportionately harmed, and no evidence was presented that undisclosed dual citizenship has ever posed a problem in New Hampshire elections. This bill risks stigmatizing foreign heritage, chilling participation in public life, and undermining the state’s longstanding commitment to open, accessible democracy without addressing any demonstrated need. For these reasons, the committee voted unanimously to find the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1187-FN, relative to the time in which candidates for state representative may file their candidacy for a special election. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill guarantees that candidates who are filing for special elections have at least three days to file at their local town clerk. There have been recent situations where only one day was made available and this ends with long and unnecessary trips to file at the Secretary of State’s office. Vote 16-0.

HB 1255-FN, removing the requirement of more evidence than a campaign contribution to demonstrate that a vote, appointment or nomination was a corrupt practice. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. James Qualey for Election Law. This bill would repeal RSA 640:1, thereby removing the requirement that evidence beyond a campaign contribution is necessary to demonstrate that a vote, appointment, or nomination constitutes a corrupt practice. The receipt of campaign contributions by elected officials and candidates for elected office is a lawful activity. Furthermore, voting, making appointments, and submitting nominations are necessary and ethical functions of many elected offices. No information regarding potential public benefits of this bill was presented to the committee. At the scheduled public hearing, no testimony was offered by the sponsor, any co-sponsor, or members of the public. Therefore, it is the view of the Election Law Committee that adopting this statutory change would be contrary to the public interest, and this bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1257, requiring that candidates for state representative and state senator live in the district for which they seek election for at least 2 years. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Alvin See for Election Law. This bill would require candidates for the New Hampshire Senate and House of Representatives to reside in the district they seek to represent for at least two full years prior to the election. The committee believes this constitutes an unnecessary extension of existing residency requirements. Given the early June filing period, candidates already face, in effect, a five-month residency requirement. No compelling testimony was presented to demonstrate that this bill addresses a problem requiring legislative action. Vote 16-0.

HB 1326, relative to special elections. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill forces the Governor to call a special election. The committee felt that the responsibility of requesting a special election should remain with the local government. Vote 14-0.

HB 1381, extending the time of the party filing period. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill extends the time allotted for political parties to file a candidate after the close of the filing period for unfilled seats. The current deadline is three days, which often creates strain for political parties that may not become aware of an unfilled seat until late in the filing period. The committee believes that as many seats as possible should have candidates, and this measure helps achieve that goal. Vote 14-0.

HB 1462, relative to election law complaints. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill raises constitutional concerns regarding the authority and autonomy of the Department of Justice and seemed unnecessary to the committee. Vote 14-1.

HB 1541-FN, requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for Election Law. Over the past several years, the Secretary of State's office has evaluated various secure and durable plastic containers for retaining ballots after an election. An acceptable prototype has been identified, and these containers can be made tamper-evident and uniquely identifiable. They are ergonomically sized and can be easily stacked for storage. The containers will be purchased by the Secretary of State's office using funds available under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Existing cardboard boxes currently used for this purpose will be progressively replaced with these secure containers in accordance with a program established by the Secretary of State's office. This initiative will help voting precincts better comply with federal and state ballot retention requirements. Vote 17-0.

HB 1821-FN, exempting certain information collected from electronic ballot counting devices from right-to-know law restrictions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. James Qualey for Election Law. Among other provisions, this bill would exempt ballot images produced by electronic vote-counting machines from right-to-know law restrictions and require that such images be posted on a public website. It is the view of the Election Law Committee that these provisions present an unacceptable risk to voters' rights to cast ballots in secret, free from intimidation, coercion, or other improper influence by third parties. The bill acknowledges the possibility that personally identifying information may appear on ballot images but includes no safeguards to prevent such information from being used for illegitimate purposes. The committee also believes that public access to ballot images prior to the statutory deadline for requesting a recount could disrupt the election certification process. Therefore, the Election Law Committee recommends that this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1013, prohibiting games in which the object is to capture a pig. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. The original bill banned any games in which the object is to capture a pig. Testimony revealed that these games are very popular at many fairs across the state and they help kids become acquainted with animals. Many of our fairs across the state do a very good job of running these events, and they do make sure that animals are treated humanely. Unfortunately, some contest organizers do not make or follow appropriate rules which protect the well being of contestants and animals. We heard that one contest allowed captured pigs to be kept in plastic feed bags, with holes cut out for the pig's snout, and the pigs were not given adequate water or food after being captured. Instead of banning these contests outright, the committee felt it was appropriate for the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF), in consultation with other fair and agriculture organizations, to come up with a list of best practices which can be incorporated into rules for these events. This would assist contest organizers to adopt rules for their pig capture contests which include humane handling of pigs during release and capture, having adequate supervision of contestants, giving guidance and training to contest organizers, and making provisions for the proper transportation of pigs to be taken home by the winners of the contest. This list of best practices would be completed in time for the 2027 fair season. DAMF was also given authority to make rules such that if fair organizers failed to follow contest rules, contest organizers could be prohibited from holding these contests for a period of time. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0718h)

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

AN ACT relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.

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

1 New Section; Contests Involving Pigs. Amend RSA 644 by inserting after section 8-g the following new section:

644:8-h Contests Involving Pigs.

I. In order to promote an educational, humane, and safe event for contestants, livestock, and viewers, and in consultation with livestock farmers, livestock veterinarians, the state fair association, and the university of New Hampshire cooperative extension, the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food shall identify and publish best handling practices and recommendations for contests involving the capture of pigs. Such practices and recommendations shall be published in advance of the 2027 fair season and shall include:

- (a) Handling of pigs during release and capture.
- (b) Supervision of contestants during the event.
- (c) Guidance for training of individuals supervising or assisting.
- (d) The manner and provisions for the transportation of pigs to be taken home by contestants.

II. The department of agriculture, markets, and food shall also adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to enforcement of best practices ensuring that rules are followed by organizers and participants, including a penalty for violating such best practices which includes a period of time for which a violative contest shall not be in operation.

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

2026-0718h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food to develop best practices and recommendations for games in which the object is to capture a pig and to develop rules for enforcement of such practices.

HB 1018, prohibiting the use of certain second generation anticoagulant rodenticides. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. Our committee heard two bills to restrict the use of anticoagulant rodenticides. Testimony was clear that these rodent poisons cause significant damage to wildlife because the poisons remain in the rodent's body and are then absorbed by predators and carrion eaters that find the dying or dead rodents easy prey. The poisons then cause severe illness or death in the those predators and scavengers, most commonly raptors, owls, fishers, bobcats, foxes, and coyotes. There are also instances of secondary poisoning in pet cats and dogs. This bill would have placed a nearly complete ban on second generation anticoagulant rodenticides, left first generation anticoagulant rodenticides available, and provided a narrow range of exemptions. The other bill, HB 1676 makes anticoagulant rodenticides available to licensed pest control professionals, but removes them from retail sale. Testimony indicated that these rodent poisons are particularly important for pest control in public health contexts like food storage facilities. The committee feels that restricted use is a better solution than an outright ban and recommends this bill as Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 11-3.

HB 1053, establishing a study committee to determine if and how the department of agriculture could receive electronically-submitted pesticide use reports. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. Although the bill reflects a well-intentioned effort, the committee concluded that establishing a study committee at this time is unnecessary. The committee was unanimous in its view that, if circumstances change, and if a pesticide database is established by the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, legislation can always be brought forward in the future to address access and security of the information. Vote 15-0.

HB 1096, establishing a committee to study ways to manage disposal of vapes and e-cigarettes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. The committee unanimously determined that we did not need to establish a study committee to determine the best way to dispose of vapes and e-cigarettes safely. Vapes and e-cigarettes contain the components of lithium ion batteries, which are banned from our landfills, and also may contain nicotine, which is considered a hazardous waste material which warrants special handling. Some units are not able to have these components separated, but some do, and that becomes a problem when dealing with proper disposal. We learned that the Solid Waste Working Group is already studying this issue and trying to devise solutions for the proper disposal of these products when they are used up. Since they are working on this issue and will offer suggested legislation in the future, a legislative study committee is unnecessary. Vote 14-0.

HB 1138, limiting the placement of out-of-state waste going into New Hampshire landfills. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. This bill places a cap on the amount of out-of-state waste placed in existing landfills at 30%, beginning in 2030. For all future landfills, the cap shall be 15%. According to the 2023-2024 Department of Environmental Services Biennial Solid Waste Report, approximately 39% of the waste going into New Hampshire landfills comes from out of state. Restrictions that have been placed on the kinds of materials that surrounding states allowed to be disposed of in their own landfills have resulted in those materials (often rich in PFAS) increasingly ending up in our landfills. For several years, the House has supported similar efforts to stop New Hampshire from being the dumping ground for our neighbors' trash. This bill aims to accomplish this goal while striking a balance between the environment, the state's waste disposal needs, and interstate commerce. Vote 14-1.

HB 1186, relative to the sale and labeling of eggs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This bill, as amended, addresses several regulatory issues that many small egg producers were not aware are already in current law causing them to be in noncompliance. The committee's amendment clarifies these regulatory requirements, protects our small egg producers from unnecessary regulations, and clearly defines what constitutes a large commercial egg producer. These regulatory requirements having to do with the sale and labeling of eggs ensure food safety and consumer protection. The committee is proud to pass this "eggcellent" bill. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0613h)

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

1 Definitions; Sale of Eggs. RSA 428:22-29 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

428:22 Definitions. Terms used in this subdivision shall be interpreted as stated unless the language or context clearly indicates otherwise.

I. "Adulterated" means a shell egg or shell egg packaging that bears or contains an added substance which may render it injurious to human health; consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid or decomposed substance or if it is otherwise spoiled or unfit for use as or contact with human food; has been subject to incubation; has been prepared, packaged or held under unsanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth or otherwise rendered injurious to human health.

II. "Commercial egg producer" means any person who ships and/or sells eggs to a distributor, egg dealer, wholesaler, or retail chain.

III. "Shell egg" means hens' egg.

IV. "Person" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association.

V. "Nest run egg" means shell eggs collected from hen houses, prior to being washed, sized, graded, and packaged for sale.

428:23 Labeling.

I. All egg producers in this state shall follow truth-in-labeling standards.

II. Every producer shall include their business, farm, or personal name, an address or website, and a phone number on any egg carton sold.

III. If a producer uses reused cartons, producers shall inform customers that the eggs inside are not graded and that the size indicated on the carton does not apply to the eggs being sold.

IV. The packaging of all shell eggs sold, delivered or donated to consumers, retailers, food service facilities, dealers, or wholesalers within the state shall identify the producer's name and contact information.

V. All shell eggs sold, delivered or donated to consumers, retailers, food service facilities, dealers, or wholesalers within the state that are labeled or marketed by size via markings on individual shell eggs or packaging shall meet the United States Department of Agriculture standards for size, determination methods and labeling. Shell eggs that are not sized shall not include markings, labeling, be marketed or placed in packaging that implies size.

VI. All eggs sold, delivered or donated to consumers, retailers, food service facilities, dealers, or wholesalers that are labeled or marketed as grades AA, A, or B via markings on individual shell eggs or packaging shall meet the United States Department of Agriculture standards for grades, determination methods and labeling. Shell eggs that are not graded shall not include markings, labeling, be marketed or placed in packaging that implies grade.

428:24 Refrigeration.

I. All shell eggs sold, delivered or donated to consumers, retailers, food service facilities, dealers, or wholesalers shall be held at a maximum ambient temperature of 45°F immediately following packing.

II. All nest run eggs to be sold, delivered or donated to consumers, retailers, food service facilities, dealers, or wholesalers shall be held at a maximum ambient temperature of 55°F immediately after collection.

428:24-a Exemption for Certain Producers. Producers who sell exclusively from their residence, farm store or stand, or to local stores and/or establishment shall label their eggs in accordance with RSA 428:23, but otherwise shall not be subject to RSA 428:22 through RSA 428:24 and RSA 428:25 through RSA 428:29.

428:25 Prohibitions.

I. No person, processor, packer, distributor/wholesaler, retailer or food service facility shall sell, deliver, donate or use shell eggs or packaging that do not meet the requirements of these regulations.

II. No person, processor, packer, distributor/wholesaler, retailer or food service facility shall sell, deliver, donate or use adulterated shell eggs or packaging.

428:26 Rulemaking; Assistants. The commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food shall have general authority to administer this subdivision and shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, for carrying out its provisions. He or she may appoint agents to assist them and fix their salaries within the amount appropriated therefore, subject to the rules of the state personnel commission. He or she shall, in person, or by their deputy or agent, have free access at all reasonable hours to any place, building, or vehicle in which eggs are sold, offered, or exposed for sale, or exchanged or distributed at retail, or wholesale. He or she shall also have power in person or by their deputy or agent to open any package or container and may upon tendering the market price take such container and its contents or sample therefrom.

428:27 Hearings. When the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food learns of any violation of any of the provisions of this subdivision, he or she shall cause notice of such violations, together with the copy of their findings, to be given the person or persons concerned. Persons so notified shall be afforded a hearing under rules adopted by the commissioner under RSA 541-A.

428:28 Penalties.

I. Any person who, acting alone or by their servant or agent, violates any provision of this subdivision or rule adopted under this subdivision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For any subsequent offense, a person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if a natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person.

II. Any person who violates any provision of this subdivision or any rule adopted or order issued under this subdivision shall, in addition, be liable for a civil forfeiture not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation, for each day of a continuing violation, which may be collected in a civil action or in connection with an action for injunctive relief brought by the attorney general.

III. Any person who violates any provision of this subdivision, or any rule or order of the commissioner, shall be subject to the imposition of an administrative fine levied by the commissioner, not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation.

428:29 Stop Sale, Use or Removal Orders. When the commissioner or their authorized agent has reasonable cause to believe eggs are being distributed in violation of this subdivision, or of any rules adopted pursuant to this subdivision, he or she may issue and serve a written "stop sale, use or removal" order upon the owner or custodian of any such eggs. The eggs shall not be sold, used or removed until the provisions of this subdivision have been complied with, and the eggs have been released by the commissioner, or the violation has been otherwise disposed of as provided in this subdivision by a court of competent jurisdiction.

2 Repeal. RSA 428:29-a, relative to stop sale, use, or removal orders regarding the sale of eggs, is repealed.

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

2026-0613h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill recodifies the subdivision relative to the sale of eggs to reflect modern methods of sorting, labeling, and grading eggs. This bill also requires egg producers who sell from their home or farmstand to label their eggs and exempts such egg producers from requirements for sorting, selling and grading eggs.

HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda Haskins for Environment and Agriculture. This bill exempts certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste pursuant to RSA 318-E. The purpose of the bill was to amend RSA 147-B:2, VII(b), 147-C:1, VI(b) and 147-D:1, VI(b) to match RSA 147-A language which had previously been changed. Now all sections of the law are in sync and will eliminate any confusion. This was a housekeeping bill which was requested by the Department of Environmental Services. Vote 14-0.

HB 1282, establishing a commission to advise the department of environmental services on food waste diversion. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kelley Potenza for Environment and Agriculture. While the committee recognizes the importance of food waste diversion and responsible solid waste management, it finds that the creation of a new advisory commission is unnecessary at this time. The General Court recently enacted legislation addressing food waste diversion from landfills and implementation responsibilities within the Department of Environmental Services (DES). Infrastructure to deal with food waste diversion is still being built within our state and so that law has not yet been fully implemented or evaluated for effectiveness. Establishing an additional commission now prior to assessing the outcomes of existing statutory authority would be premature, risks duplicative oversight, and adds unnecessary administrative complexity. The committee believes that DES already has sufficient authority to engage stakeholders and implement the law, and that further legislative action at this time is not needed. Vote 15-0.

HB 1676, limiting consumer access to certain high-risk rodenticides. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Liz Barbour for Environment and Agriculture. This bill restricts the retail sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) to individuals who are licensed or registered with the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF), including certified pest control professionals and registered agricultural operators. SGARs are highly toxic and persistent, and their misuse has contributed to secondary poisoning of non-target wildlife, including birds of prey and other predators that consume contaminated rodents. The committee amendment narrows the bill's scope by excluding non-SGAR rodenticides such as bromethalin and cholecalciferol, as well as zinc phosphide, which is already restricted, ensuring the bill remains targeted to SGARs' unique secondary poisoning risks. The amended bill also closes a key enforcement gap by addressing remote sales. It prohibits the sale of covered SGAR products via internet, catalog, or other remote methods to any purchaser in New Hampshire unless the seller verifies the purchaser's required license or registration status. In addition, online marketplaces

are prohibited from listing covered products for direct-to-consumer sale without license verification. The majority of the committee believes this bill as amended provides a balanced approach that curbs preventable wildlife poisoning and consumer misuse while preserving access to effective rodent control tools for trained professionals and agricultural operators. Vote 13-2.

Amendment (0749h)

Amend RSA 430:59 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

430:59 Applicability. This subdivision shall apply to any pesticide product containing one or more of the following active ingredients: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, difenacoum, warfarin, chlorophacinone, diphacinone, or any additional active ingredient designated by rule of the commissioner under RSA 541-A.

HB 1780, increasing penalties for persons violating laws relative to the sale of seeds, plants, and nursery stock. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This bill originated from discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) last fall. During the hearings, it became clear that many businesses were unintentionally out of compliance because our existing labeling requirements differ from those used in other states. The amended bill resolves these inconsistencies by updating the labeling standards with the support of DAMF, seed suppliers, and other stakeholders. In addition, the bill establishes that no seed may be sold in New Hampshire more than 36 months after its production date. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0750h)

Amend the bill by replacing the title with the following:

AN ACT prohibiting the sale of seed more than 36 months after the production date.

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

1 Resale of Seed. Amend RSA 433:4, II(g) to read as follows:

(g) To use relabeling stickers without having both the calendar month and year the germination test was completed, the sell by date, as stated in RSA 433:2, III(g), RSA 433:2, V(c), and RSA 433:2, VII(a), and the lot number that matches the existing, original lot number. ~~[Relabeling shall not occur more than once.]~~

Seed shall not be sold more than 36 months from the production date.

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

2026-0750h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the sale of seed more than 36 months from the production date.

HB 1052, relative to qualifications for licensure as a LADC, or licensed alcohol and drug counselor. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill sought to resolve license reciprocity issues for an out of state licensed alcohol and drug counselor. The committee raised concerns with implementation of these changes, and therefore recommends the bill for further study. Vote 14-0.

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Wayne MacDonald for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This committee has met regularly and fulfilled all of its responsibilities. It has interested and engaged membership. During the public hearing, the final report for the committee's most recent period was distributed and the report described in detail the work in which the committee had been engaged. The sponsor requested that the committee be renewed for at least another year. Given its diligent work and the importance of the issues upon which it is focused, the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee recommends that this committee continue. Vote 17-1.

HB 1321, relative to the regulation of the provision of elective intravenous therapy. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. While we appreciate the intent, the bill creates inconsistent standards based on location, contains vague definitions, and lacks clear safety and enforcement provisions. We are concerned it could create confusion and unintended consequences for providers operating within existing scope-of-practice laws. For these reasons, we make an Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. Vote 18-0.

HB 1368, establishing a committee to study the availability of and access to primary care providers, especially in rural areas of the state. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Yury Polozov for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This legislation is redundant and premature at this time. New Hampshire has recently been awarded its share in federal Rural Health Transformation Program funding for fiscal year 2026. This substantial investment is specifically designed to strengthen rural health care access, workforce development, quality improvement, and innovations like telehealth and technology, directly addressing primary care provider shortages and availability in rural communities. The state has established the

Governor's Office of New Opportunities & Rural Transformational Health (GO-NORTH) to oversee implementation, incorporating extensive input from over 300 stakeholders, including rural hospitals, providers, community health centers, and Granite Staters. These ongoing, well-resourced efforts provide a far more comprehensive and action-oriented approach than an additional legislative study committee. Vote 18-0.

HB 1372, establishing a commission to study the feasibility of reestablishing a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe mental illness. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs Committee voted unanimously for the motion of Refer for Interim Study to establish a commission to study the feasibility of reopening a state psychiatric hospital for adults with severe mental illness. The commission would review current services, identify gaps, and recommend next steps by November 1, 2026. Serious questions were raised, during the hearing on this bill, as to whether such a facility is necessary. Concerns were expressed by some committee members as to how effective the appointment of yet another commission to address a problem would be. Vote 18-0.

HB 1782-FN, relative to access to rural maternal health care and directing the department of health and human services to develop a rural maternal health care delivery pilot program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Wayne MacDonald for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill was voted as Inexpedient to Legislate at the sponsor's request. Since the bill was introduced, the purpose of the bill has been largely addressed by the Rural Health Transformation Grant and this bill is not needed. Vote 16-0.

HB 1652-FN, relative to expedited permitting and third-party inspections for residential and minor home improvements. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Ellen Read for Housing. While the intention of this bill is unanimously supported, all stakeholders including the sponsor acknowledged that more time was needed to comprehensively address the issue, and all parties have agreed to work on a consensus solution in the fall. Vote 12-0.

CACR 27, relating to the authority to establish courts

Provided that the sole authority lies within the general court. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. The Judiciary Committee believes the testimony presented during the hearing did not adequately lay out the need to present this to the voters at this time. The legislature largely keeps itself independent of the courts except with respect to funding matters and the committee believes there's no need to make any changes. Vote 17-0.

HB 1001, allowing for appointment by county attorneys of investigators with law enforcement powers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dennis Mannion for Judiciary. This bill would allow county attorneys to appoint investigators with full law enforcement powers. This blurs the traditional separation between prosecution and law enforcement by enabling prosecutors to directly initiate and investigate cases, rather than relying solely on police or sheriffs. It also raises concerns about accountability, oversight, and supervision of these investigators. The issues this bill aims to address are already handled effectively by existing county and municipal law enforcement agencies. Vote 18-0.

HB 1116, relative to judicial privilege and relative to the litigation of small claims. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Richard Tripp for Judiciary. This bill contains two unrelated sections. The first section deals with a judge, when asked to testify, refusing to do so due to judicial privilege. There is no general right of a judge to refuse to provide testimony if the judge has information that is relevant, material, and admissible in a case. However, testimony given by the deputy counsel for the Judicial Branch revealed that there are cases which are confidential under statute and which would preclude a judge from revealing information about the case. In addition, there are other circumstances in which a judge may be entitled to assert a privilege to decline to provide confidential information. The second section of the bill proposed to allow service of process in small claims cases to be made by first class mail. A proposed amendment to this section, sought to establish a study committee to examine small claims cases. The committee saw no need to change existing law with respect to judicial privilege regarding testimony and, in light of the Speaker's concern with the ever expanding number of study committees, also saw no need for such a committee at this time to examine small claims cases. Vote 18-0.

HB 1233, relative to the minutes of non-public sessions. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for Judiciary. This bill changes the right-to-know law to only allow withholding minutes or decisions that are covered by the motion to enter nonpublic session. This ensures more transparency so that what happens in nonpublic sessions won't stay hidden like a mystery shadow on the wall. The bill also includes a requirement to record start and end times in the list of nonpublic session minutes that can be accessed under the right-to-know law. Vote 17-1.

HB 1260-FN, relative to marriage registration forms and delayed certificates of marriage. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. The majority of the Judiciary Committee believes this bill should be found ought to pass with amendment. The amendment would update the NH statutes regarding marriage applicants as well as allow marriage applicants to fill out their form before filing it with the town clerk as long as the form is signed in front of the town clerk. This bill came at the request of the town clerk in Milford and the committee agreed it would be a commonsense update to this statute. The in-person signature component would remain in place. Vote 17-1.

Amendment (0693h)

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

1 Definitions; Marriage License. Amend RSA 5-C:1, XXII to read as follows:

XXII. "Marriage license" means the vital record document that is completed by the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** and the clerk of the town or city showing that all legal requirements have been met and the couple is eligible to be married.

2 Marriage Registration Forms. Amend RSA 5-C:41 to read as follows:

5-C:41 Marriage Registration Forms.

I. There shall be 2 forms for the completion of a marriage registration. The marriage application worksheet, which shall be the form that is used to record marriage intentions, shall be completed by the prospective ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** and the clerk of the town or city and shall contain the information needed to complete the marriage license. The marriage license, which shall be the form that is used to record that the marriage ceremony has taken place and to record who solemnized the marriage, shall be completed by the ~~[bride, groom]~~ **marriage applicants**, the officiant, and the clerk of the town or city in accordance with this section and RSA 5-C:42. The marriage license shall be the official copy of the certificate of marriage when the marriage is registered with the division.

II. The marriage application worksheet *may be completed online or offline ahead of time, and* shall be completed by the prospective ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants by signing it** in the office of the clerk of the town or city. *The town or city clerk shall also sign the marriage application worksheet.* The information supplied by ~~[the groom]~~ **both marriage applicants** shall include his *or her* full name; his *or her* usual residence by street and number, city, town or location, county and state; his *or her* birthplace; his *or her* date of birth; his *or her* social security number; his *or her* father's full name; his *or her* father's birthplace; his *or her* mother's maiden name; and his *or her* mother's birthplace. *If applicable, a party shall also provide their surname if different from their current name.* ~~[The information supplied by the bride shall include her full name and maiden surname, if different; her usual residence by street and number, city, town or location, county and state; her birthplace; her date of birth; her social security number; her father's full name; her father's birthplace; her mother's maiden name; and, her mother's birthplace.]~~

II-a.(a) Upon entering into marriage, either party may retain his or her surname prior to the marriage or change his or her surname to the surname of the other party or change the surname to a hyphenated combination of the full surnames of both parties. If a party requests a surname change under this paragraph, that party may also change his or her middle name to his or her surname prior to the marriage. Each party shall indicate on the marriage application worksheet the party's name after marriage.

(b) Provided that the change is not made for a fraudulent criminal or wrongful purpose, the name of each party after marriage as indicated on the marriage application worksheet and marriage license shall become the sole legal name of each party after marriage. If a party indicates a name change other than as described in subparagraph (a), the party shall request approval of the court.

III. The clerk of the town or city shall complete the following statistical and legal information on the marriage application worksheet for both the applicants with information supplied by the applicants: the number which represents the currently intended marriage; if previously married, whether a civil annulment occurred or the marriage ended by death or divorce; the date of civil annulment or that the last marriage ended; whether proof of age of the applicants was demonstrated using identification with photograph; if applicable, the divorce decree; and, if applicable, the death record of the former spouse.

IV. The ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** shall record the following on the marriage application worksheet after the clerk of the town or city completes information on the application worksheet as described in paragraph III: the date and the city or town where the marriage is intended to take place, if known; the name and address of the officiant for the marriage ceremony, if known; the ~~[groom's]~~ **marriage applicants** mailing ~~[address]~~ **addresses** and phone ~~[number]~~ **numbers**; ~~[the bride's mailing address and phone number;]~~ the ~~[grooms]~~ **marriage applicants** ~~[signature]~~ **signatures** and date signed; ~~[the bride's signature and date signed;]~~ and certification that the information provided is correct to the best of his or her knowledge and belief and that he or she is free to marry under the laws of New Hampshire.

V. Once all of the information on the marriage application worksheet has been obtained, the clerk of the town or city shall transfer the information as listed in paragraphs II and III from the marriage application worksheet to the marriage license as well as record the following information on the marriage license: the date that the marriage license is issued, the signature of the clerk, and the name of the city or town of issuance.

VI. Pursuant to RSA 457:26, the date that the marriage license is issued shall be not more than 90 days from the date that marriage intentions were filed.

VII. Upon request of ~~[the groom]~~ **either marriage applicants**, the name of a legal guardian shall be substituted on the marriage license for a natural parent's name, regardless of whether the ~~[groom]~~ **marriage applicant** who makes the request is of legal age at the time when intentions are being filed.

~~[VIII. Upon request of the bride, the name of a legal guardian shall be substituted on the marriage license for a natural parent's name, regardless of whether the bride who makes the request is of legal age at the time when intentions are being filed.]~~

~~[IX.]~~ **VIII.** The substitution of stepparents' names shall not be permitted.

~~[X.]~~ **IX.** Persons entering dates on the marriage license shall use the full or abbreviated name of the month rather than numerals.

~~[XI.]~~ **X.** When listing the birthplace on the marriage license, if the person is known to have been born in the United States, but the state is unknown then "U.S.-Unknown" shall be entered, and, if the person is known to have been born in a foreign country, but the country is unknown, "Foreign Unknown" shall be entered.

~~[XH.]~~ **XI.** If no information is available regarding place of birth, "Unknown" shall be entered.

~~[XHH.]~~ **XII.** The prospective ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** shall review the information on the marriage license for completeness and accuracy prior to signing the marriage license.

~~[XIV.]~~ **XIII.** Repealed.

~~[XV.]~~ **XIV.** The officiant shall record the following on the marriage license after the marriage ceremony has taken place: certification that he or she is duly authorized to solemnize the marriage in accordance with RSA 457; the officiant's status, pursuant to RSA 457:31; the date of the marriage ceremony; the city, town or location and county where the couple were married; certification that the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** were married by the officiant in conformance with RSA 457 and that the information noted is correct to the best of his or her knowledge; the signature of the officiant; the officiant's typed or printed name; the officiant's title and address; and an indication of whether the ceremony was religious or civil.

~~[XVI.]~~ **XV.** The date the marriage license is received by the clerk of the town or city from the officiant shall be recorded on the marriage certificate as the date the marriage registration is filed.

~~[XVII.]~~ **XVI.** The marriage license shall include the signature of the clerk of the town or city and the name of the town or city.

3 Marriage License and Registration. Amend RSA 5-C:42, V to read as follows:

V. If either party or both is a member of the armed forces and is unable to appear in person, the following shall apply: the armed services' legal representative shall prepare the marriage application worksheet; the completed application worksheet shall be signed by the service person; the armed services' legal representative, company commander or other superior officer, shall sign a statement attesting that the information provided is correct; the service person, if unable to appear, shall submit a signed statement authorizing the non-service person to sign for both the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants**; the completed application, and signed release if applicable, shall then be forwarded to the clerk of the town or city who issued the application; when the application worksheet is received by the clerk of the town or city, it shall then be used as an acceptable substitute for the personal appearance of the service person; the license shall then be prepared pursuant to RSA 5-C:41 with the non-service applicant being permitted to sign the license for both the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants**; and the application worksheet received from the service person shall be retained permanently by the clerk of the town or city.

4 Marriage License and Registration. Amend RSA 5-C:42, XIV to read as follows:

XIV. The date of the signing of the worksheet by either ~~[the bride or groom]~~ **marriage applicants**, or the earlier of 2 dates if applicable, shall be used by the clerk of the town or city to indicate when the intention of marriage was received and recorded and the date to be used to establish the beginning of the time period during which the license shall be valid. The marriage license shall be valid pursuant to RSA 457:26 for not more than 90 days from the date the marriage intentions were filed. When 90 days have elapsed from the date the marriage intentions were filed and a completed marriage certificate or a delayed certificate of marriage has not been processed, the clerk of the town or city shall make a notation on the marriage application worksheet stating the marriage presumably did not take place. In the case where the marriage certificate is received within 6 months of the end of the 90-day period, the clerk of the town or city shall remove the notation and issue the certificate. In the case where the marriage certificate is received more than 6 months after the end of the 90-day period, the clerk of the town or city shall follow the procedure for issuing a delayed certificate of marriage.

5 Distribution of the Marriage License. Amend RSA 5-C:43 Distribution of the Marriage License to read as follows:

5-C:43 Distribution of the Marriage License. After the clerk of a town or city has forwarded the completed marriage license to the division, the registrar shall give the original to the prospective ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants**. A marriage license may be mailed to the ~~[bride or groom]~~ **marriage applicants** if mailed via certified mail with return receipt requested and the cost for the certified mail handling shall be paid by the applicants. The ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** shall provide the marriage license to the officiant prior to the marriage ceremony.

6 Officiant Responsibilities. Amend RSA 5-C:49, VI to read as follows:

VI. In accordance with paragraph I, the officiant shall report the fact that a marriage has taken place, even if the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** have a change of mind after the ceremony and ask the officiant not to report the marriage to the clerk of the town or city. The date of the marriage shall be the date that the ceremony took place.

7 Marriage Registration Forms and Procedures; Delayed Certificate of Marriage Filing. Amend RSA 5-C:52 to read as follows:

I. The registration of a marriage after 6 months from the actual date of the marriage shall be accomplished using a regular certificate of marriage, completed in accordance with RSA 5-C:42.

II. Registration of marriage pursuant to paragraph I requires that an application for a delayed certificate of marriage be initiated by the ~~[bride, groom]~~ **marriage applicants**, or their legal representative with the clerk of the town or city where the marriage license was allegedly issued. ***The filing fee for a delayed certificate of marriage shall be \$25 payable to the city or town clerk, to be retained by the city or town.*** To be acceptable for registration by the state registrar, the delayed certificate of marriage shall be supported by a copy of the marriage worksheet application, if available, obtained from the clerk of the town or city where the intentions were filed and at least 2 of the following:

(a) An affidavit from the officiant, if obtainable, stating that he or she had officiated at the wedding in question.

(b) A copy of the marriage certificate signed by the officiant and given to the married couple after the alleged ceremony.

(c) One or more copies of newspaper accounts of the wedding in question.

(d) A copy of a city or town report showing that the marriage in question was listed therein.

(e) A certified copy of a divorce decree dissolving the marriage in question.

(f) Pictures of the wedding ceremony accompanied by a notarized affidavit by, but not limited to, the best man, maid of honor, mother or father of ~~[the bride or groom]~~ **either marriage applicant**, or bridesmaids, testifying to the persons shown in the pictures.

(g) Notarized affidavits from other members of the wedding party including participants and witnesses.

(h) A census bureau report on the applicant's household demonstrating marital status.

III. When evidence as cited in paragraph II is presented to the clerk of the town or city, he or she shall initiate preparation of a new marriage certificate. The marriage certificate shall be a replica of the original when possible, showing all dates and related information, and signatures of the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** shall be obtained by the clerk of the town or city on the new marriage record.

8 Marriage Registration Forms and Procedures; Delayed Certificate of Marriage Procedures. Amend RSA 5-C:53, III to read as follows:

III. The clerk of the town or city shall send the completed form and all original supporting documentation to the division after his or her signature has been affixed. A copy of the completed form shall be retained by the clerk of the town or city and a copy shall be sent to the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants**.

9 Marriage Registration Forms and Procedures; Application for and Preparation of a Certified Copy of a Marriage Certificate. Amend RSA 5-C:57 to read as follows:

5-C:57 Application for and Preparation of a Certified Copy of a Marriage Certificate.

I. The following information shall be provided on an application for certified copy of marriage record, before a certified copy is issued:

(a) ~~[The groom's full name and the bride's full maiden name]~~ ***The full name of both marriage applicants, including any prior surname if different from the current name.***

(b) The date of marriage.

(c) The place of marriage.

(d) The purpose for which the certificate is requested.

(e) The applicant's signature.

(f) The applicant's relationship to the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants**.

(g) The applicant's name, address, and telephone number.

II. The applicant shall demonstrate a direct and tangible interest in the record.

10 False Information on the Marriage Application Worksheet. Amend RSA 5-C:91, I to read as follows:

I. If it becomes known to the clerk of the town or city who has issued a marriage license that false information was given on the worksheet and included on the license, or if the clerk discovers information that is known to be incorrect because of inconsistencies with other records, the clerk shall notify the ~~[bride and groom]~~ **marriage applicants** and, if appropriate, the officiant, by certified mail of the inconsistency and request that they respond in writing within 30 days. The clerk shall also request that they attach to the response letter any information which will assist in correcting the worksheet information; send a copy of the letter to the division; and prepare the appropriate form under RSA 5-C:85 to correct the vital record.

11 Registrar's Duties; Marriage Licenses. Amend RSA 5-C:97, I to read as follows:

I. If the marriage license issued to the prospective ~~[bride and groom]~~**marriage applicants** is not used for any reason, it shall be returned to the clerk of the town or city of issuance.

12 Disclosure of Information to Individuals; Direct and Tangible Interest. Amend RSA 5-C:102, XI to read as follows:

XI. When publishing information regarding vital record events for statistical purposes in city or town reports, the following procedure shall apply. A written request from a resident that a particular vital event be omitted from the city or town report shall always be granted. A written request from a resident registrant that a certain event be published in the city or town report, including the birth of a child to a unwed mother, shall be granted. Items included in a city or town report for birth shall be limited to: the child's name; the name of the father; the name of the mother; the place of birth; and, the date of birth. Items included in a city or town report for death shall be limited to: the name of deceased; the place of death; the name of the father; the maiden name of the mother; and the date of death. Items included in a city or town report for marriage shall be limited to: ~~[the groom's name and place of residence; the bride's name and place of residence]~~ **the marriage applicant's names and place of residence**; and the date of the marriage ceremony.

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

2026-0693h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill permits marriage applicants to complete the marriage application in advance, establishes a fee for filing a delayed marriage certificate, and updates all relevant statutory language in the chapter to be gender neutral.

HB 1276, relative to the liability for death of a companion animal. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristine Perez for Judiciary. Although the committee acknowledges the deep emotional bonds between individuals and their pets, several concerns have led to the recommendation that this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. The bill fails sufficiently to define pet, and fails to clarify which relations, by ownership or otherwise, of the pet would be able to claim non-economic compensation. The bill would expand potential liabilities in the case of veterinary care, leading to higher costs for veterinary care, pet grooming and other pet-related services. Traditionally, animals are classified as property under the law. Altering this classification to recognize pets similarly to human relationships could have far-reaching legal implications, potentially affecting areas such as property rights, liability, and insurance. This could inadvertently impact pet owners, service providers, and the legal system, creating burdens that outweigh the intended benefits of the bill. Vote 18-0.

HB 1283-FN, relative to the use of face recognition technology. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Berch for Judiciary. The Judiciary Committee voted to recommend this bill Inexpedient to Legislate, as the sponsor informed the committee that he felt the bill needed more work. Face recognition technology is being used for multiple purposes and the proper regulation is complex. On the one hand, requiring law enforcement to obtain a search warrant before using facial recognition technology can significantly impede effective investigations by turning a lead-generation tool into a regulated search that requires probable cause before it can even be used. Alternatively, there are legitimate privacy concerns about governmental surveillance, creation of data banks and inhibiting lawful exercise of civil rights. A future middle-ground policy might allow facial recognition for retrospective investigations of serious crimes and for identifying unknown suspects or missing persons, while requiring warrants for real-time tracking, persistent surveillance, or use in monitoring protests or political activity, coupled with accuracy standards, auditing requirements, and public reporting to protect civil liberties without crippling legitimate law enforcement uses. Vote 18-0.

HB 1292-FN, expanding the right to try act to include certain qualifying severe illness and permitting certain regenerative stem cell therapies under the act. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. The majority of the Judiciary Committee believes this bill has a lot of merit, however, there are a number of fixes necessary in order to get the bill to the point where an Ought to Pass motion would be prudent. At this time, the committee does not have the capacity to make those fixes consistent with existing deadlines. So we are looking forward to a true interim study this summer to be able to make the necessary fixes to get this subject matter recommended for future legislation. Vote 17-1.

HB 1564-FN, removing all references of gender identity in New Hampshire statutes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Berch for Judiciary. This bill would remove all references to gender identity from New Hampshire statutes, thereby eliminating existing protections and permitting discrimination on that basis under state law. As drafted, the bill would allow discrimination based on gender identity in employment; by members of the Police Standards and Training Council; within the state's mental health services system; in family assistance programs; in public schools, including the removal of explicit anti-bullying protections; in loan applications and real estate transactions; and in places of public accommodation. These examples are illustrative and not exhaustive. The committee believes the bill would weaken core civil rights protections long embedded in New Hampshire law. It would create significant legal instability and expose the state to

economic and reputational harm. In Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, discrimination in employment based on transgender status constitutes unlawful sex discrimination under federal law. Enactment of this bill would therefore create conflict and confusion between state and federal law, increasing compliance burdens and litigation costs for employers, businesses, school districts, and state government alike. For these reasons, the committee unanimously recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 14-0.

HB 1634, establishing state court remedies for violations of state and federal law by federal employees. **IN-EXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Berch for Judiciary. This bill would allow federal employees to be sued in state court for claims that they violated federal or state law. It raises serious constitutional and practical concerns. Under the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution, federal officials acting within the scope of their federal duties are generally governed by federal law, not state law. The US Supreme Court has long held that states may not interfere with federal operations. The federal government itself is immune from suit absent an express waiver, such as under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). Congress has also provided for substitution of the United States as the defendant in many cases involving federal employees through the Westfall Act. Most such state-court cases would be removed to federal court under the federal officer removal statute, creating duplication, delay, and increased litigation costs without improving accountability. The US Supreme Court has emphasized that federal officers must be able to perform their duties without undue interference from state courts. Existing accountability mechanisms already exist, including inspector general investigations, federal criminal prosecution, civil rights actions under *Bivens*, and suits against the United States under the FTCA. State-court liability regimes would add confusion and risk without materially improving oversight. For these reasons, the bill presents significant federalism, constitutional, and practical governance concerns. Vote 18-0.

HB 1684, establishing a free speech advisory commission. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lorie Ball for Judiciary. This bill proposed to establish a free speech advisory commission. At the request of the prime sponsor, the committee voted to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate. The sponsor indicated that the proposal should not move forward at this time. As a result, the committee did not engage in extended discussion or deliberation on the substance of the legislation. Vote 18-0.

HB 1769-FN, relative to certain prohibitions on abortion referrals by publicly funded medical facilities. **IN-EXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Zoe Manos for Judiciary. The committee is concerned that this bill poses significant First Amendment issues. The committee is also concerned that this bill may impact provider participation in the state's family planning program, which provides birth control, cancer screening, STI testing and treatment and other health services for lower-income women and men. Vote 18-0.

HB 1801-FN, relative to causes of action for wrongful detention, drug forfeiture proceedings, the regulation of law enforcement officers, and the offense of unsworn falsification. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dennis Mannion for Judiciary. This bill contains three unrelated sections: one dealing with wrongful detention by law enforcement; another making major changes to the drug forfeiture law; and a third making it an offense for a law enforcement officer to knowingly provide false information in a report. While the intent of the first and third purposes to enhance law enforcement accountability is well-meaning, it is largely duplicative of existing mechanisms — including federal claims, state tort remedies, internal affairs processes, the conduct review committee, the AG's Public Integrity Unit, and current criminal statutes on falsification (RSA 641:3 and 641:7). And the drug forfeiture provisions are similar to proposals that have been rejected by the legislature before. The proposed changes could create significant unintended consequences. In summary, the bill imposes substantial new administrative and litigation burdens without meaningfully advancing forfeiture proceeding fairness, public safety or officer accountability beyond what current law and oversight already provide. Vote 18-0.

HR 28, requesting the opinion of the justices clarifying the scope of the state's constitutional obligations concerning education. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. This resolution would request an opinion of the justices from the NH Supreme Court clarifying the state's obligations regarding education. Some members of the committee are weary of ever requesting an advisory opinion from the court because, unconstrained by the facts and reality of an actual case, there is an increased risk of faulty reasoning or other mischief in such cases. In any event, because this resolution does not pertain to any specific legislation, but merely requests the court, in essence, to write an essay on education funding, the court almost certainly would decline such a request. Vote 18-0.

HR 29, requesting an opinion of the justices on the scope of part II, article 4 of the New Hampshire constitution, as well as other related articles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. This resolution would request an opinion of the justices from the NH Supreme Court regarding the scope of Part II, Article 4 of the NH Constitution and other related articles. Some members

of the committee are weary of ever requesting an advisory opinion from the court because, unconstrained by the facts and reality of an actual case, there is an increased risk of faulty reasoning or other mischief in such cases. In any event, because this resolution does not pertain to any specific legislation, but merely requests the court, in essence, to write an essay on the referenced constitutional provisions, the court almost certainly would decline such a request. Vote 18-0.

HB 1767-FN, relative to unemployment compensation eligibility and weekly benefit amounts. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill was sent to a subcommittee and needs additional work and time to prepare future legislation. Vote 19-1.

HB 1085, relative to the authority of police commissions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dale Girard for Municipal and County Government. This bill would significantly undermine local control and reallocates authority from independent police commissions to the municipal governing body, concentrating decision-making power and removing the voters' ability to choose an independent governance structure for their police department. It seeks to redefine and limit the authority of police commissions, imposing a restrictive framework that fails to recognize the diverse structures and operational needs of cities and towns across the state. The committee believes the bill advances a one-size-fits-all approach that is neither practical nor appropriate for local governance. Furthermore, the proposed limitations would unnecessarily constrain municipal budgetary flexibility, hindering the ability of local officials to allocate public safety resources in a manner that best serves their communities. Vote 17-0.

HB 1107, enabling municipal budget committees to have alternate members. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Sly Karasinski for Municipal and County Government. This bill sought to Amend RSA 32:14, IV to enable the town or district to allow the election, or appointment by the budget committee, of alternate members-at-large. The majority voted that budget committees do not need alternate members to conduct their business, as the budget is formed during the whole of the process. RSA 32:15 currently defines the process for dealing with absences, and the filling of vacant positions. Vote 16-1.

HB 1118, increasing the limit for moneys remitted to municipal treasurers. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Stephanie Grund for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to increase the amount of funds that shall be remitted to the treasurer at least on a weekly basis or daily whenever such funds total \$3,500 or more. The committee believes that increasing the threshold to \$3,500 from \$500 is reasonable given the amount of monies collected for permits, registrations, and licenses has increased since this RSA was last amended in 2007. When employees have to leave work to deposit funds, it can create inefficiencies in work at town hall that can affect residents. The committee supports the increase in threshold. Vote 17-0.

HB 1135, prohibiting the acquisition of prescriptive rights in private roads through adverse use. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Deborah Aylward for Municipal and County Government. The committee has carefully reviewed this bill, relative to private roads and trails. The bill, as amended, clarifies that the use of a landowner's private roads, ways, driveways, or trails shall not create rights by adverse possession or prescriptive use. The amendment narrows the application of the bill to ensure it does not affect utilities in use prior to January 1, 1948; existing state, county, or municipal prescriptive easements; or claims already fully adjudicated or currently being adjudicated before the effective date of 120 days after passage. The bill applies prospectively. After consideration and discussion, the committee voted unanimously to recommend Ought to Pass with Amendment. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0731h)

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

1 Subdivision Heading Change. Amend the subdivision heading preceding RSA 477:33 to read as follows: ~~[No Prescription Against the Public]~~ ***Adverse Possession and Prescriptive Easements; Limitation***

2 New Section; Private Roads and Trails. Amend RSA 477 by inserting after section 34 the following new section:

477:34-a Private Roads and Trails.

I. The use of a landowner's roads, ways, driveways, or trails, by any person or the public, regardless of duration, shall not create or establish any right, title, interest, or easement by prescription, or adverse possession, implication, or otherwise, nor raise any presumption of a grant thereof.

II. This section shall not apply to:

(a) Any claims for easement by prescription or claims for adverse possession for utilities in use prior to January 1, 1948.

(b) Any existing state, county, or municipal prescriptive easement.

3 Application. This act shall not apply to any claims already fully adjudicated or currently being adjudicated before the effective date of this act.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 120 days after its passage.

HB 1147, relative to the use of capital reserve funds. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill was presented to the committee as a bill that proposes to make certain changes to the requirements for capital reserve funds under RSA 35:15, III(a) that deal with lease agreements. Since the sponsor did not appear to explain the reasoning behind the bill, nor was the sponsor available to answer the committee's questions, the committee voted unanimously that the bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

HB 1151, relative to conservation commission appropriations. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. RSA 36-A:5, I relative to appropriations for conservation commissions currently states that town or cities treasurers may appropriate money as deemed necessary for the purpose of the chapter. Roman II of the chapter specifically cites the authority of town treasurers from RSA 41:29 relative to the law, but is silent to the authority of city treasurers. This bill adds the citation for the authority of city treasurers from RSA 48:16 relative to the law in Roman II. Vote 17-0.

HB 1181-FN, relative to public hearing notice requirements for zoning board of adjustment appeals. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Fracht for Municipal and County Government. This bill eliminates the requirement of RSA 676:7, I(b) that Zoning Boards of Adjustment post hearing notices in newspapers of general circulation five days prior to the hearing date. The bill proposes that hearing notices be posted on a municipality's website or in two public places if the municipality does not have a website. Proponents of the bill stated that people look online for information and many do not read newspapers. They also cited the financial savings to the applicant if they did not have to pay for the cost of a newspaper ad in addition to abutter notification by mail. People not in support of the bill pointed out that access to information is not notification and that publication in a newspaper provided independent, third party, verification that the public was properly noticed. It was also noted that most, if not all, New Hampshire newspapers do not put legal notices behind a paywall in their online versions, so there is no need to subscribe to the publication in order to view these public notices. Vote 17-0.

HB 1214, relative to public libraries. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would allow a municipality's governing body to assume control of the public library. The library trustees would serve solely in an advisory role to the governing body. The bill's sponsor testified that she has a municipality within her district that needed this bill to address issues within the library. Historically, the committee has not passed bills to correct an individual issue within one municipality that would affect all New Hampshire municipalities. The committee believes that the municipality identified by the sponsor has sufficient local control available to address any current issues. The committee received over one thousand online objections against this bill. The committee voted to recommend the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1220, allowing the governing bodies of municipalities, cities, and towns to review and approve school budgets. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Gilman for Municipal and County Government. Towns and schools are distinct governing bodies by New Hampshire law. They are separate elected officials with separate voting bodies. Municipalities and school districts have completely different purposes and necessary line items to propose. Municipalities belonging to cooperative school districts would have local and multiple budgets to review and approve. This bill would add an extreme burden to municipal governing bodies that need to create their own budgets would push the schedule of budget preparation, and public input and public hearings to an extraordinarily rushed timetable for adequate review of each separate proposed budget. Vote 17-0.

HB 1303, authorizing municipalities to adopt zoning ordinances related to the protection, management, or replacement of tree canopy. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dale Girard for Municipal and County Government. This bill would authorize municipalities to adopt zoning ordinances governing tree canopy protection, management, or replacement. The committee determined that granting such authority could significantly restrict the ability of private landowners to responsibly harvest and manage their property, including implementing long-term forest management plans that provide for regrowth. Additionally, this could affect communities by limiting tree canopy clearance through local zoning which could create unintended challenges for maintaining local infrastructure. Vote 17-0.

HB 1309, relative to town meeting warrants. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to add language to RSA 39:2 that speaks to how warrant articles at town meetings are described. In its original version, the bill sought to include words and phrases such as "deception" and "deliberate ambiguity." An amendment to the bill modified that language to retain the intent of the bill while not impugning motive to local officials. The amended language achieves the intent of the bill – to ensure that warrant articles are properly worded – by requiring that they be "stated clearly and without commentary." Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0411h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Time for Holding Town Meetings and Warning Thereof; Warrant. Amend RSA 39:2 to read as follows:

39:2 Warrant. The warrant for any town meeting shall be under the hands of the selectmen, and shall prescribe the place, day and hour of the meeting, and, if there is an election at said meeting, in which an official printed ballot containing more than one name is used, the warrant therefor shall prescribe the time the polls are to open and also an hour before which the polls may not close. A town meeting may vote to keep the polls open to a later hour but may not vote to close the polls at an earlier hour than that prescribed by the selectmen hereunder. The subject matter of all business to be acted upon at the town meeting shall be distinctly stated in the warrant, and ***the intent and effect of each warrant article shall be stated clearly and without commentary or ambiguity.*** Nothing done at any meeting, except the election of any town officer required by law to be made at such meeting, shall be valid unless the subject thereof is so stated. Provided that in a case where the article in the warrant calls for the appropriation of a specific sum of money, the sum of money appropriated thereunder may be decreased or increased by the vote of the town, provided further that in a town under the municipal budget act no increase shall be valid which would violate the provisions of RSA 32:18, except as provided in RSA 32:18-a.

HB 1327, relative to the definition of commercially-zoned land. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes a new definition for “mixed use” and “commercially zoned land” within municipalities. Unfortunately, the sponsor was unavailable to introduce the bill, and no additional sponsors were present to answer questions from committee members. As a result, the committee was unable to thoroughly review the bill, preventing the careful deliberation that all legislation deserves. Vote 17-0.

HB 1351, relative to uniform municipal standards for regulation of home-based businesses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Stephanie Grund for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to allow low-impact home-based businesses by right. Home-based business was defined as any lawful business, profession, occupation, or trade conducted wholly or partly within a dwelling or its accessory structures by the occupants as a secondary use of the residence. Low impact was defined as having limited visibility, employees or customer visits, but remains residential in character. However, the committee was unclear if off-street parking permitted on the lot, a permitted sign not exceeding six square feet, and outdoor storage or display would support not changing the residential character. The committee supports the current ability of local zoning ordinances to remain under local control. Local zoning ordinance typically supports that incompatible uses should be separated. The committee believed there were concerns regarding homeowners associations and other local covenants that would be overwritten by this bill. Also, there were vague definitions for standards of noise and vibration that would be difficult to measure and enforce. Finally, local zoning ordinance typically allows for a resident to apply for a permit for a home-based business. For these reasons, the committee recommendation is Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

HB 1369, relative to the manner of posting the warrant for a special town meeting. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill as presented would allow the warrant for a special town meeting to be posted on the town’s website in lieu of in a newspaper of general circulation. This bill was introduced to remove the current statute that requires towns to post town meetings in newspapers of general circulation. The amendment would require after a week of posting the warrant, require a copy of the warrant to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in said town if one exists, and shall also post the warrant on the town’s website, if the town maintains one. Posting on the town’s website shall be in addition to, and shall not be a substitute for, publication in a newspaper of general circulation. The committee felt that not all communities have a website and not all residents have access or choose to have internet. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0321h)

Amend RSA 39:4 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

39:4 Special Meetings. The selectmen when calling a special town meeting shall, within one week after posting the warrant therefor, cause copy of said warrant to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in said town ***if one exists, and shall also post the warrant on the town’s website, if the town maintains one. Posting on the town’s website shall be in addition to, and shall not be a substitute for, publication in a newspaper of general circulation.***

2026-0321h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the warrant for a special town meeting to be posted on a town’s website in addition to in a newspaper of general circulation.

HB 1385, prohibiting the use of negative property tax rates in certain municipalities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for Municipal and County Government. This bill would prohibit the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) from accepting or setting any negative tax rates for municipalities that have minimal or no public education costs but contain taxable property. Prior to the New Hampshire Supreme Court's decision in *Rand vs. State of New Hampshire*, when a municipality had minimal or zero local education costs—and therefore no lawful purpose on which to expend Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) revenue—the department would set a negative local education rate to offset the portion of SWEPT that was not needed. The effect was to reduce the municipality's SWEPT liability to the amount necessary to cover its local education costs, or to zero when those costs were zero. In *Rand*, the court determined that this practice was unconstitutional. In compliance with that ruling, the DRA ceased setting negative local education rates beginning with the 2025 tax year. As a result, municipalities are now required to assess and collect SWEPT even if they have no local education costs on which to expend those funds. The DRA further testified that, pursuant to *Rand*, it will not allow any negative rate—municipal or otherwise—to offset SWEPT liability. The committee also learned that negative municipal tax rates may occur in limited circumstances unrelated to education funding. This typically happens when a municipality has excess non-property-tax revenues—such as timber tax receipts, payments in lieu of taxes, or the use of unassigned fund balance—that exceed its appropriations. In such cases, a negative municipal rate allows those excess revenues to reduce the overall tax burden to local taxpayers. Importantly, these negative municipal rates do not offset SWEPT, and under current practice cannot do so. In tax year 2025, only two municipalities received negative municipal tax rates, and in both cases the negative rate did not offset more than a portion of the county tax. If this bill were enacted, those municipalities would be prohibited from using excess revenues to reduce property taxes. Instead, they would be required either to increase municipal appropriations unnecessarily or retain surplus funds as unassigned fund balance. The committee concluded that the constitutional issue identified in *Rand* has already been addressed by the DRA's change in practice. This bill would extend beyond the court's mandate and unnecessarily restrict municipalities' ability to manage their prudential affairs, removing a lawful mechanism that allows them to reduce the overall tax burden on their residents. For these reasons, the committee finds the bill to be unnecessary and likely to produce unintended and adverse consequences for local fiscal management. Vote 17-0.

HB 1386, enabling citizens in a municipality to vote to require that a financial audit of the local school district take place. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to provide a petition mechanism for citizens to require their local school board to conduct a forensic audit when there is a deficit in the district's budget. During the hearing, the testimony was directed at one particular school district, yet this bill would institute the petition requirement for school districts statewide. The bill also introduces a new petition threshold of one percent of the registered voters within a school district, when RSA 39:3 clearly states that such petitions require a two percent threshold. Therefore, if passed, the bill would immediately be in conflict with existing law. In addition, a forensic audit is time-intensive, extremely costly, and specifically defined as an effort to uncover fraud, bribery and embezzlement. Forensic audits frequently call for expert witnesses, result in legal challenges, and require other costly procedures that would be shouldered entirely by local taxpayers. In addition, the bill calls for the proposed forensic audit to be completed in 90 days when forensic audits routinely require several weeks to several months to complete. For these reasons, the committee recommendation is Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

HB 1392, removing the ability of the governing body or budget committee to give a written recommendation about a warrant article on the ballot. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Fracht for Municipal and County Government. This bill would amend RSA 32:5, V by removing the requirement that all appropriation warrant articles carry a recommendation by the governing body and budget committee, if one exists. The sponsor of this bill did not appear to explain the purpose of the legislation, and testimony at the hearing and online did not favor the passage of this bill. Vote 17-0.

HB 1394, enabling the municipal officers to place a proposed charter amendment on the ballot that changes the form of government of the municipality. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for Municipal and County Government. This bill would amend RSA 49-B:5 to authorize municipal officers, by a two-thirds vote of their membership, to place directly on the ballot a proposed charter amendment that changes the form of government of the municipality, including adoption of a town council, adoption of a city form, transition between council-manager and mayor-council structures, or other structural realignments of legislative or executive authority. The charter amendment would be adopted upon receiving a majority vote of those voting on the question and would be limited to a single subject. Under current law, municipalities may amend their charters through established procedures, including through charter revision mechanisms that do not necessarily require the formation of a charter commission when the proposal constitutes a revision rather than the creation of an entirely new charter. Accordingly, limited structural changes

between recognized forms of government may already be accomplished under existing statutory authority. The committee finds this language in the bill overly broad and susceptible to interpretations that would permit sweeping structural changes to a municipality's governing framework without the deliberative safeguards currently embedded in statute. New Hampshire's charter framework was designed to balance local flexibility with procedural rigor. The charter commission process serves as a structured, public, and transparent method of evaluating significant governmental restructuring. Allowing municipal officers to bypass that process for broad and undefined structural realignments would diminish those safeguards and concentrate gatekeeping authority in a small governing body rather than in a commission elected for that specific purpose. In conclusion, the committee finds that RSA 49-B already provides municipalities with mechanisms to amend or revise their charters, including for certain structural adjustments, and that this bill would both duplicate existing authority and open the door to bypassing established safeguards for substantial governmental change. For these reasons, the committee deems the bill unnecessary and overly broad. Vote 17-0.

HB 1473-FN, relative to the use of agricultural fairground property. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Gilman for Municipal and County Government. While the intent of this bill is a good, there was no sponsor to present this bill or take questions. Vote 17-0.

HB 1512, allowing municipalities to hold a vote to prevent their residents from receiving education freedom account vouchers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marie Louise Bjelobrk for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to amend RSA 194-F by adding a new section that allows any municipality, city, town or village to hold a referendum on whether its residents can participate in the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program. The EFA program was signed into law in June of 2021 when the state legislature passed it as part of the biennial budget in HB 2. Though it started with modest enrollment, the program funding grew to \$27.7 million annually by 2025. The EFA program allows for state tax dollars to be used as payment for private schooling, home schooling, or other educational expenses when a parent decides to choose an alternate educational path than that provided by their local public school. Parents and guardians were permitted to pursue the most suitable learning environment for their children. Once a parent decides to transfer their child from a public school to an alternate learning environment, their local tax dollars are left behind for a specified time with the public school even though the child is no longer in attendance. This is due to a provision in the current RSA that leaves local monies behind via phase-out grants to each specific public school so school administrators can adjust their budgets over time and ease the transition. The bill's sponsor testified that the EFA program creates an unfunded mandate on local school districts because these schools lose state aid when students leave public school for another method of learning. The public school continues to have "fixed costs" despite a decrease in enrollment. Declining enrollment as a result of this program leads to higher property taxes for remaining residents due to the phase-out grant. The "opt-out" mechanism that this bill provides is stated to "restore local control" by preventing participation in the statewide program. The Director of Policy and Compliance at the Children's Scholarship Fund testified against this bill, stating there could be severe issues regarding equal protection that would arise should this bill pass. The bill would treat similarly situated students differently based solely on municipality and residence. There is also improper delegation of legislative authority giving municipalities the authority to accept or nullify statewide eligibility criteria for the EFA program. Additionally, the use of local referenda to extinguish statutory eligibility for children is problematic, allowing local majorities to block access to a state level benefit for students in that municipality. This bill, while stating it fixes a constitutional problem with the EFA program, actually violates the New Hampshire Constitution on equal protection grounds. Equal protection principles under Part I, Articles 1 and 2 of the NH Constitution emphasize that all persons are born equally free and independent with inherent rights. Article 12 requires reciprocal protection under the law. NH courts have interpreted these provisions as protection against arbitrary discrimination in the application of state laws or benefits. Allowing local "opt-outs" could be seen as creating unequal classes of citizens. Broader legal issues could arise should a student that has already received funds be "opted-out" mid school year, potentially implicating protection provided by Part I, Article 14. Lastly, no other state program permits local governments to revoke universal eligibility. This raises potential legal questions, and potential lawsuits, with regard to state authority and uniformity in education policy protected under Part II, Article 83 of the NH Constitution. Vote 17-0.

HB 1583, permitting municipalities to establish special assessment districts for infrastructure improvements. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Gilman for Municipal and County Government. This bill is basically the same as RSA:162-K, Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts. The committee already approved another bill to remove the TIF requirement of a review committee which will essentially make this bill redundant. While infrastructure is addressed, it does not differentiate between a new area of development and an existing neighborhood in need of new or repaired infrastructure. This would lead to an unfair taxation from one neighborhood to another. Further, the bill does not consider already existing impact fees that may address the concerns of the sponsor. Vote 17-0.

HB 1691, relative to limitations and qualifications for land placed in current use. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marie Louise Bjelobrk for Municipal and County Government. This bill restricts eligibility for current use property tax assessment based on parcel size, zoning, and sustainability criteria, and limits municipal approval percentages. This bill also imposes retroactive tax liability for violations. This bill mandates that no person or entity, including LLC members or shareholders, can enroll more than one lot in the program. Current use statute was first established in 1973. The current RSA permits municipalities, via their assessors or select boards, to have broad discretion to approve current use enrollments under RSA 79-A, based on local needs and interpretations. This bill would reduce local control over land use and property taxation decisions in New Hampshire, resulting in a loss of municipal autonomy with regard to their ability to tailor the program in line with local economic or environmental priorities. This bill delineates strict rules concerning allowable acreage and land maintenance. In semi-rural zones, individual lot size is limited to 40 acres, with any acreage beyond that size paying full market value taxes. In developed, suburban, or high-density zones max lot size is 10 acres if it abuts conservation/watershed land. High density land is required to allow public recreation per RSA 79-A:4, II to qualify as well as sustainability requirements that would be mandated. The prime sponsor and supporters of this bill testified that current use is a tax break for wealthy landowners, cited environmental concerns, and also discussed how property taken out of current use could be made available for much needed housing. Testimony was presented by property owners and organizations in opposition to this bill. This testimony indicated that land in current use does not present a financial burden to municipalities while providing recreation access to visitors and maintaining the open space beauty that has been historically characteristic of New Hampshire. Other testimony reaffirmed that current use assessment is just one method of assessment and not a tax break for wealthy property owners. Additionally, this bill would create a patchwork of tax assessments resulting in disparity across different municipalities. A representative of SPACE (Statewide Program of Action to Conserve the Environment) testified that current use is an essential public policy that “keeps the fabric of the state as it is;” this individual also testified that this bill would dismantle current use law and it’s unknown how many of the 3 million acres owned by 42 thousand different landowners would be eliminated from the current use program if this bill passes. Also, once disqualified from the current use program, all municipalities affected would lose the “change in use tax” assessed, which could result in tens of millions of dollars lost. Land in current use does not require services, and, for a municipality to decide which properties to remove from current use, would be an administrative nightmare. A representative for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests testified that open space has tangible economic benefits through recreation and tourism. He presented the results of a survey of current use landowners, indicating they are not “super wealthy,” revealing that 51% of landowners in this category have household incomes under \$125,000/year. This bill may violate multiple aspects of the NH Constitution. It imposes a retroactive penalty for violations of the new sustainability and operational requirements and could violate Part 1, Article 23 of the NH Constitution, that describes such laws as “highly injurious, oppressive, and unjust.” The unequal taxation based on zoning and ownership restrictions could conflict with Part 2, Article 5 which requires taxes to be “proportional and reasonable.” Reduction in local control and home rule could infringe on Part 1, Article 39 or broader principles of local governance under Part 2, Article 100. These issues alone would invite litigation against the state if this bill were to pass. This bill undermines 50 years of current use policy in an attempt to force private landowners to limit acreage so more land can be made available for housing, without considering the constitutional violations or private property rights. Vote 17-0.

HB 1756-FN, allowing organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Walker for Municipal and County Government. This bill corrects a problem that happened in 2023 and 2024 when many charitable organizations failed to get their annual applications for the charitable exemption in on time causing the hardship of making their property to become taxable. This bill allows charitable organizations to file their application once every five years. Assessors shall be required to field review qualifying properties annually to ensure that the property is still being used for the purpose that it was exempted. Additionally, the charitable exemption application process will be in-line with all the other personal exemptions. Vote 17-0.

HB 113, relative to OHRV operation on certain highways within the town of Windsor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Allison Knab for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill was requested by the Town of Windsor in order to open a section of road in their town for off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) use. An amendment to the bill ensured there would be a public hearing and abutters would be notified before this decision was made. It also permits the town select board to reverse the allowable use after a public hearing, thereby ensuring it would not require further legislation. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0541h)

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

1 New Subparagraph; OHRV Operation on Certain Designated Highways. Amend RSA 215-A:10, IV by inserting after subparagraph (d) the following new subparagraph:

(e) The following sections of state highway may be designated for OHRV use: Windsor Road in Windsor from the Hillsborough town line to the intersection of Black Pond Road; Black Pond Road in Windsor from the intersection of Windsor Road to Miller Road.

(1) This use may be authorized by the town board of selectmen pursuant to RSA 215-A:15, and following a duly noticed public hearing advertised at least 14 days in advance in a public location in the city or town and notification to abutters by verified mail pursuant to RSA 21:53, with the approval of the department of transportation and the department of safety.

(2) The bureau, or its designee, shall sign any approved sections of highway for OHRV use.

(3) Following a duly noticed public hearing, except in the case of an emergency closure, such town board of selectmen may change the allowable usage of said highways by OHRVs by giving notification to the supervisor of the bureau and the department of transportation and removing any signs that no longer apply.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 45 days after its passage.

HB 1019, relative to the composition of the state water well board. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. The original bill added a water treatment professional to the New Hampshire Well Water Board with the goal of regulating water treatment and filtration systems, which are common in the nearly 50% of New Hampshire homes with wells. However, the board's statutory responsibilities are restricted to determining the requirements for water well contractors and well pump installers, as well as setting standards for the construction, maintenance, and abandonment of wells. Therefore, a water treatment professional could not meaningfully contribute to the board's mandates, and the board opposed the bill. During testimony, the NH Department of Environmental Services suggested a separate change to this statute to remove the state geologist from the board since they do not actively contribute to the board's primary objectives, and are readily available to consult with the board whenever necessary. The bill as amended removes the state geologist from the New Hampshire Well Water Board without adding a position for a new water treatment professional. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0547h)

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

1 Water Management and Protection; New Hampshire Water Well Board; Water Well Board. Amend RSA 482-B:3, I to read as follows:

I. There is created a board to be known as the New Hampshire water well board. The water well board shall be administered by the commissioner of environmental services. The board shall consist of [7] **6** members who are residents of the state, appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the council as follows: one member shall be the commissioner, department of environmental services, or designee; ~~one shall be the state geologist;~~ 2 shall be active water well contractors with at least 10 years of experience; one shall be an active pump installer with at least 10 years of experience; one shall be an active technical driller licensed in the state of New Hampshire with at least 10 years of experience; and one shall be a member of the public who has demonstrated concern for and knowledge of water resources management in New Hampshire. Each member shall hold office for a term of 3 years and until a successor is appointed and qualified. No member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term. The governor and council may remove any member of the board for good cause.

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

2026-0547h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes the state geologist from the state water well board.

HB 1095, increasing the maximum weight of a utility terrain vehicle to 3,000 pounds. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill reflects the changes in the utility terrain vehicle (UTV) market, as newer models, particularly those equipped with HVAC systems, often exceed the existing 2,000 pound limit. Updating the weight standard will promote compliance, support responsible recreational use and opens the door for cleaner, quieter electric UTVs. The amendment set forth a weight that was acceptable to stakeholders. Vote 15-1.

Amendment (0687h)

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

AN ACT relative to the maximum weight of utility terrain vehicles.

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

1 Utility Terrain Vehicle; Maximum Weight. Amend RSA 215-A:1, XXIV to read as follows:

XXIV. "Utility terrain vehicle" means any mechanically propelled vehicle which is designed or adapted for travel over surfaces other than maintained roads with one or more tires or tracks equipped with a rollover protection system and/or safety belts, having capacity for passengers or other payloads, not in excess of [2,000] **3,499** pounds unladen dry weight, and not to exceed 65 inches in overall width, excluding side mirrors. For purposes of this chapter, "utility terrain vehicle" shall include but not be limited to side-by-side, ROV, gator, buggy, and OHV and abbreviated as UTV, and all vehicles within this definition shall be classified as off highway recreational vehicles.

2 OHRV Weight On Certain Trails. Amend the introductory language of RSA 215-A:43, IV to read as follows:

IV. No person shall operate an OHRV wider than 50 inches or over 1000 pounds on any state-owned trails, except that no person shall operate an OHRV wider than 65 inches or over [2,000] **3,499** pounds unladen dry weight on:

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

2026-0687h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill increases the maximum weight of certain utility terrain vehicles.

HB 1204, relative to the grading and use of timber grown in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for Resources, Recreation and Development. Timber cut in Quebec can be graded and sold spruce-pine-fir (SPF) for a higher price, despite being materially identical to timber from Northern New Hampshire. This bill establishes that timber harvested above the 44th parallel is of equivalent quality to Quebec timber and therefore receives the same designation. The change is intended to support local loggers and sawmills by allowing fair market treatment of New Hampshire timber. The amendment was a replace-all amendment. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0471h)

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

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

I. The majority of structural timber harvested for building materials in New Hampshire comes from Coos County, and many areas of Coos County extend farther north than portions of Canada, where lumber is graded as spruce pine fir (SPF).

II. Timber graded as SPF from Canada is viewed as stronger and denser under international design standards in part because of cold climate growth conditions; however, New Hampshire's northern climate, soils, and growing conditions are substantially similar and produce the same species of spruce, pine, and fir included in the SPF designation.

III. Architects and engineers typically specify "SPF" lumber in certain residential construction documents. Because "SPF" is an international designation reserved for Canadian graded wood, New Hampshire's native lumber graders cannot certify New Hampshire-grown spruce, pine, and fir as SPF. Instead, the same species must be graded as spruce-pine-fir south (SPFS), which is viewed in the industry as a separate, slightly weaker classification.

IV. This technical distinction disadvantages New Hampshire sawmills, loggers, and the forest products industry, even though New Hampshire-grown wood from the north country is of equal type and quality.

V. It is therefore the policy of the state of New Hampshire to ensure that New Hampshire families and New Hampshire builders can build New Hampshire homes with New Hampshire wood by eliminating the barrier between SPF and SPFS within the state building code.

VI. The general court of New Hampshire finds that wood density should be a latitudinal demarcation rather than an arbitrary designation of density based upon political borders. Viewed as latitude, New Hampshire encompasses 42 degrees, 40 minutes north up to 45 degrees, 18 minutes. Timber harvested to produce building lumber between the latitude of 43 degrees, 45 minutes, 18 seconds north to 45 degrees, 18 minutes north warrants the same density demarcation as Canadian SPF unless otherwise designated by a licensed architect or structural engineer.

2 New Section; Use of Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) and Spruce-Pine-Fir-South (SPFS). Amend RSA 155-A by inserting after section 14 the following new section:

155-A:15 Use of Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) Lumber and Spruce-Pine-Fir-South (SPFS) Lumber.

I. For purposes of the state building code, spruce-pine-fir south (SPFS) lumber harvested and milled in New Hampshire and graded either by a grader permitted under RSA 426:18 or by an American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) accredited agency shall be accepted wherever spruce-pine-fir (SPF) is specified.

II. Structural design and inspection shall use the published SPFS design values for the grade and size provided.

III. Where a code evaluation report, product listing, or manufacturer's installation instructions differentiate allowable loads or limitations by lumber species group, the allowable loads corresponding to the installed species group shall be used. When SPFS lumber is installed, the values for SPFS shall govern. This requirement shall apply, but not be limited to, structural connectors, hangers, fasteners, truss plates, adhesives, and proprietary systems.

IV. Municipalities shall accept either a native lumber certificate pursuant to RSA 426:18 or an ALSC grade stamp as sufficient proof of grade.

V. Nothing herein shall prevent a licensed architect or engineer from specifying higher strength materials if required for safety and structural integrity of a structure. Licensed architects and structural engineers shall also consider and shall provide alternative options of construction utilizing SPFS lumber.

VI. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the use of SPF lumber graded by an ALSC accredited agency.

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

HB 1414, relative to establishing conditions for dog access to state parks. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Allison Knab for Resources, Recreation and Development. This legislation would have allowed people to bring their dogs to all parks in the state. The NH Division of Parks and Recreation oversees regulations related to the presence of dogs on state park properties, and adopted administrative rules in 2025. The division considers the unique aspects of each park property and the benefits, risks, and challenges of allowing dogs on each of these properties. During the hearing, the committee heard that only four parks in the state restrict dogs; two of these are beaches. The committee recognizes that many of our state residents are uncomfortable or afraid around dogs, and we do not feel it is unreasonable to have some parks that restrict dogs completely. Additionally, the legislation would allow for dogs that were "reasonably controlled through other methods" besides a leash; it was unclear what this meant and could easily open the door to conflicts with off-leash dogs. Vote 15-1.

HB 1425-FN, relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill proposes to simplify the permitting process by eliminating the redundant minimum impact expedited permit in favor of the more efficient permit by notification process, reducing confusion and enabling faster processing times. It also modernizes the statute by allowing local advisory committees to waive investigation rights, similar to local conservation commissions, and removing the New Hampshire Rivers Council from the statute, as it is a private organization without jurisdictional authority. Additionally, granting the NH Department of Environmental Services rulemaking authority for adaptive permitting during natural disasters ensures timely, flexible responses to emergencies, protecting public safety and property more effectively. This has a fiscal note for an anticipated indeterminate reduction in expenditures of less than \$10,000, resulting from increased efficiencies directly related to the elimination of redundant processes and forms. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0528h)

Amend RSA 482-A:11, III(b)(2) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(2) The notification by a municipal conservation commission, **or local river management advisory committee where applicable**, of intended investigation shall be assumed unless the ~~[application filed under RSA 482-A:3]~~ **notification** was signed by the conservation commission, or, if one has not been established in the municipality, by the local governing body, **and where applicable, by the local river management advisory committee**, in which case the provisions of subparagraph (a) shall not apply.

HB 1783-FN, relative to benefits issued to certain water-related infrastructure projects. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Pierre Dupont for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill as introduced sought to increase housing density and address the issue of wastewater infrastructure discussed. Testimony from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) raised concerns of implementation and the increase of costs associated with it. Vote 16-0.

HR 22, to name a certain peak after Alan Shepard. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda Ryan for Resources, Recreation and Development. The eighth-grade class of Barrington Middle School worked with the prime sponsor on legislation to memorialize Alan Shepard by naming a mountain in his honor. The suggested peak is located in Bethlehem, has a height of 3,814 feet, and currently has the nickname of the "Peak Above the Nubble." Shepard was born in East Derry in 1923; attended local schools, including Pinkerton Academy; graduated from the United States Naval Academy; and was eventually selected in 1959 by NASA as one of the original seven Mercury astronauts. His career as an astronaut was notable for being the first American in space; for being the oldest astronaut at the time when he returned in 1971, for stepping on to the moon; and for making a one-handed, 370-yard golf shot on the surface of the moon. The students discussed what they had learned about the legislative process, the House, the Senate, the Executive Council, and the Governor's Office, and

the committee was very impressed with their knowledge and presentation. There was some concern that when he was alive Shepard did not want such recognition, but a bill sponsor had reached out to his two daughters, who confirmed their enthusiasm for the recognition and felt their father would be very proud. Vote 15-0.

HB 1290, relative to customer energy storage. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kat McGhee for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is duplicative of HB 1718 and was therefore found to be Inexpedient to Legislate by the committee. Vote 17-0.

HB 1398, establishing a committee to study the resources available for response to air quality incidents across the state. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would establish a committee to study the resources available for responses to air quality incidents. Testimony revealed the focus was on transfer station fires. The NH Department of Environmental Services reported resources are robust and no complaints of unsatisfactory responses to air quality incidents had been received. Further testimony confirmed local fire departments receive training for transfer station fires. There was no lack of resources uncovered or reported and therefore a study was determined as unnecessary. Vote 18-0.

HB 1455, relative to the criteria for reliable energy sources. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for Science, Technology and Energy. The intent of this bill was to bring reliable sources of energy to the granite state. In testimony the sponsor pointed out that the businesses in New Hampshire need energy to produce their products and services. Intermittent sources, such as solar, wind, and hydro are simply not enough for any sort of manufacturing. The sponsor further challenged the committee that if they eliminated everything in their possession that was made with a hydrocarbon, gas, oil, or coal, what would they be left with? This is an issue that we believe should not be dismissed, but the committee all agrees that, based on the testimony from the utilities, this bill could very well raise electricity rates, if passed. Vote 17-0.

HB 1534, relative to utility default service. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Thomas Cormen for Science, Technology and Energy. Because the committee unanimously recommended HB 1733 ought to be passed with amendment which covers the same ground as this bill, this bill is unnecessary. Vote 18-0.

HB 1535, relative to clarifying eligible renewable energy classes under the renewable portfolio standard. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Thomas Cormen for Science, Technology and Energy. This housekeeping bill rewrites the language for geothermal energy, methane gas, and solar thermal energy in RSA 362-F:4, I to clarify that these forms are eligible for both electricity generation and useful thermal energy in class I of the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Vote 17-0.

HB 1577, relative to the disclosure of utility customer data to municipalities for emergency response planning. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill, as amended, permits local emergency planning officials to obtain utility customer data concerning the status of residents needing wellness checks during emergency events. The bill's amendment exempts this data from disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV to protect customer privacy. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0733h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Customer Data in Emergency Situations. Amend RSA 363:38, V(b) to read as follows:

(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a service provider from disclosing a customer's individual data to a third party for system, grid, or operational needs, ***coordination with local emergency management directors***, or the research, development, and implementation of new rate structures and tariffs, demand response, customer assistance, energy management, or energy efficiency programs, provided that the service provider for contracts entered into after January 1, 2017, has required by contract that the third party implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of the information, to protect the personal information from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure, and to prohibit the use of the data for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of the contract without the express consent of the customer. ***Disclosure of a customer's data to local emergency management directors shall be exempt under RSA 91-A:5, IV.***

HB 1685, relative to establishing a technology commission to study making New Hampshire a technology-first state. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Tony Caplan for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill establishes a commission to study ways to enhance New Hampshire residents' access to assistive technologies along with measures to attract businesses in assistive technology to the granite state. Assistive technologies are devices, software, and equipment that enhance the independence and functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. They are used in daily life, work, and education, and improve communication, mobility, and cognitive tasks. The commission will

produce a report with recommended legislation to enhance access and attract businesses in assistive technology in New Hampshire. The amendment changed the title of the bill to include the word “assisted” and slightly reduced the size of the commission to enhance its operation. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0751h)

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

1 New Section; The State and Its Government; Department of Information Technology; Assistive Technology Commission. Amend RSA 21-R by inserting after section 9-a the following new section:

21-R:9-b Assistive Technology Commission.

I. There is established a commission to aid the growth of assistive technology businesses and speed the adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

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

(a) A user of assistive technology, appointed by the governor.

(b) A parent of a user of assistive technology with no relationship to the member under subparagraph (a), appointed by the governor.

(c) One representative from the department of education, appointed by the commissioner of the department of education.

(d) One representative from the bureau of vocational rehabilitation, appointed by the commissioner of the bureau of vocational rehabilitation.

(e) One representative from the bureau of developmental services, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.

(f) One representative from an assistive technology non-profit group in New Hampshire, appointed by the governor.

(g) One representative from a disability non-profit organization, appointed by the governor.

(h) One representative from the New Hampshire house committee on health, human services and elderly affairs, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(i) One representative from the senate committee on health and human services, appointed by the president of the senate.

(j) One representative from an assistive technology or medical technology business located in New Hampshire, appointed by the governor.

(k) One representative from the department of business and economic affairs, appointed by the commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs.

(l) One representative of a veteran’s organization, appointed by the governor.

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

IV. The commission shall:

(a) Study and identify appropriate benchmarks for the increased implementation of assistive technologies for the use of New Hampshire residents in need of the same.

(b) Study and identify appropriate measures for attracting assistive technology businesses to New Hampshire.

(c) Conduct other activities as deemed necessary by the commission, including the formation of subcommittees and naming any appropriate new members to form the same.

V. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held on September 1, 2026. The commission shall meet every 90 days, and hold a final meeting on September 30, 2027. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house committee on health, human services and elderly affairs, the senate committee on health and human services, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before October 1, 2027.

2 Repeal. RSA 21-R:9-b, relative to the assistive technology commission, is repealed.

2026-0751h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

HB 1728-FN, requiring sufficient cybersecurity protections for critical infrastructure and technology projects. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would establish a statutory “standard of care” for operators of critical infrastructure technology systems serving large populations in New Hampshire. The criteria for the “standard of care” contained were measured against undefined “foreseeable risks” which could potentially expose the telecommunications industry to liability and lawsuits. The subject of cybersecurity for our critical infrastructure is extremely important. However, cybersecurity is federally governed by the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014. It was unclear how this bill would achieve greater security or how it could be enacted as written. Vote 18-0.

HB 1733, relative to default electric service procurement and the recovery of competitive market supply costs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill reinforces the criteria in existing law that deals with default service electric rates (DS). The present law states DS rates are designed to minimize customer risk and not unduly harm the development of competitive markets. Presently the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has allowed utilities to obtain a large portion of the supply for DS from the Independent System Operator New England’s (ISO-NE) day ahead and real time energy markets. While this has the potential for lowering rates it also exposes DS customers to the possibility of higher rates as well and hence does not minimize customer risks. Also, having utilities obtain large portions of their needed supply for DS from the ISO-NE markets, puts them in direct competition with competitive suppliers. Additionally, the bill ensures that any reconciliation due to over or under collection by utilities in association with providing DS, shall not be collected via a non-bypassable charge and only through future DS rates. The amendment clarified the period for reconciliation of collections. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0752h)

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

1 Restructuring Policy Principles. Amend RSA 374-F:3, V(e) to read as follows:

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of subparagraphs (b) and (c), as competitive markets develop, the commission may approve alternative means of providing transition or default services which are designed to minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the development of competitive markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating new deferred costs, if the commission determines such means to be in the public interest. *Any such means for residential and small commercial customers shall involve only the use of fixed-price contracts and not involve purchases from the real-time or day-ahead ISO New England markets unless fixed-price contracts of sufficient size cannot be obtained, in which case purchases in these markets may be used to compensate for any deficiency. Any reconciliation for overpayment or underpayment of default service rates needed as the result of a utility procuring supply in the real-time or day-ahead ISO New England markets shall be accomplished only by future changes to the default service rates as approved by the commission. No such reconciliation shall be collected as a non-bypassable charge. Such reconciliations shall be amortized over a period not to exceed 2 consecutive default service rate cycles, beginning with the February 2027 default service rate cycle.*

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

2026-0752h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the public utilities commission to use fixed-price contracts for default services and limits reliance on real-time or day-ahead market purchases.

HB 1736, repealing the authority of the public utilities commission to approve alternative forms of regulation for utilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill sought to remove alternative utility rate-making from statute. The Public Utilities Commission revealed in an order issued on December 31, 2025, its plans to open an investigative docket on this question, making this bill unnecessary. Alternative ratemaking, including performance-based ratemaking, could prove to be useful in the future. Vote 18-0.

HB 1742, relative to the protection of customer-generators from inadvertent enrollment in third-party electricity supply programs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill restores lost net metering credits to a customer-generator who was inadvertently moved to a community aggregation program, most of which do not support net metering. The amendment adjusted some of the time frames in the original bill. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0583h)

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

AN ACT relative to customer-generators inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program.

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

1 New Paragraph; Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph XXIII the following new paragraph:

XXIV.(a) A customer-generator that is inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program adopted and operating under RSA 53-E by error or without the customer-generator's consent, if required, may request that the customer-generator's electric distribution utility re-enroll the customer-generator in the utility's default energy service.

(b) Upon receipt of the customer-generator's petition, the electric distribution utility shall:

(1) Investigate the customer-generator's enrollment status within 20 business days;

(2) If such inadvertent enrollment is confirmed, restore the customer to default service as of the start of the next billing cycle, provided that the final determination is made within 2 business days prior to the start of that billing cycle; and

(3) Retroactively apply net metering credits for exported kilowatt-hours for a period of up to 4 monthly billing cycles prior to the effective re-enrollment date, with such credits based on the applicable net metering tariff in effect during the period of inadvertent dis-enrollment from utility default energy service. Any credits from energy exported more than 3 months prior to the customer notifying the utility shall not be recoverable from the utility.

(c) Retroactive credits issued by the utility under this paragraph shall be recoverable from all customers consistent with recovery of the utility's net metering expenses.

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

2026-0583h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows a customer-generator that is inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program to request that the electric distribution utility re-enroll the customer-generator in the utility's default energy service.

HCR 14, condemning the assassination of Charlie Kirk and reaffirming the state's commitment to freedom of speech and civil discourse. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Christal Lloyd for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. Although some of Charlie Kirk's public statements were thought by some to be provocative or controversial, committee members all agreed that there was value in promoting communication with one another while undertaking difficult conversations. Thus, the bipartisan, unanimous sentiment was that this resolution involves more than just the subject individual himself. Rather, this resolution, as amended, emphasizes our traditional affirmation that political violence, particularly politically motivated assassination, should not be condoned in our state, or any state. This theme resonated with all committee members. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0570h)

Amend the concurrent resolution by replacing the fourth paragraph after the title with the following:

Whereas, any politically motivated assassination represents a grave threat to the principles of civil discourse, democratic engagement, and public safety in our nation; now, therefore, be it

HCR 16, applying for a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Wayne Hemingway for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This concurrent resolution calls for an Article V convention limited to proposing congressional term limits. The committee concluded that New Hampshire would benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of how other states have structured their calls, what model language best protects against unintended outcomes, and how any proposed amendment might interact with existing federal law and electoral systems. Interim Study provides an appropriate means to gather this information without prematurely committing the state to a constitutional process with national implications. HCR 16 is also very similar to HCR 13 for which the committee recommended Ought to Pass. For these reasons, the committee recommends that this resolution be Referred for Interim Study. Vote 17-0.

HR 20, reaffirming the right for persons of all persuasions to keep and bear arms, and urging Congress and the President to cease infringement upon Second Amendment rights and to restore them where infringed. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution identifies the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms" as foundational and inalienable for all persons. The sponsor recognized that certain categories, such as violent criminals and those in commission of a crime are exempted under historical precedent from this proclamation, which cleared up the committees' concerns. The "Right to Keep and Bear Arms" should not be infringed, although it has historically been subjected to serial infringements. We therefore recommend the continued restoration of this right. Vote 16-1.

HB 1200-FN, relative to exemptions from vessel registration and boat fee decal. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This bill reduces the amount of days a vessel can use state waters without a state registration. The amount of days is reduced from 30 to 10 days. Although that sounds like a good idea, there are issues with the bill that makes it not ready for prime time. Marine patrol also acknowledges issues with the bill. The committee believes that more work needs to be done to make this bill ready. Vote 15-0.

HB 1209, relative to child safety at school bus stops. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for Transportation. The committee recognizes the importance of child safety and the intent of the bill, however this bill will cause issues the school district and bus companies will find difficult to overcome. Bus routes will need to expand, pick up and drop off times will lengthen, increased fuel cost, districts may have to add more buses and drivers, which are now a problem for most school districts. Vote 15-0.

HB 1222, relative to prohibiting all obstructions to public crosswalks. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Seth Miller for Transportation. With no sponsors present to explain the purpose and reasoning on this bill, and with the protections currently in law, the committee feels this legislation is unnecessary at this time. Vote 15-0.

HB 1226, relative to restricting the issuance of identification documents by unauthorized individuals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. The amendment replaces the original bill. It clarifies current law by stating that any of these documents authorized by the director shall only be to United States citizens performing official duties under state or federal law. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0759h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Fictitious Drivers' Licenses. RSA 263:12, VI is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

VI. Manufacture, advertise for sale, sell, or possess any fictitious, facsimile, or simulated license to drive a motor vehicle unless specifically authorized by the director to provide such document to an individual who is a United States citizen performing official duties under state and federal law.

2026-0759h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits the ability of the director of the division of motor vehicles to manufacture, advertise for sale, sell, or possess any fictitious, facsimile or simulated license to drive a motor vehicle to individuals who are U.S. citizens performing official duties under state or federal law.

HB 1294-FN, relative to speed regulation on Route 125 in Brentwood. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. This bill would reduce the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph on the portion of Route 125 in the town of Brentwood between the Epping town line and the Kingston town line. While the bill is well intentioned, the committee believes that lowering the speed limit on this stretch of road could lead to unintended consequences and may not achieve the goal of reducing traffic speeds. The Department of Transportation (DOT) testified that driving speeds are influenced more by road design than by the posted speed limit. As a result, reducing the limit could create increased traffic conflicts between drivers who continue to travel at speeds consistent with the road's design and those who comply with the new, lower limit. Additionally, the DOT stated that its scientific study of this roadway did not support lowering the speed limit. Vote 15-0.

HB 1680-FN, relative to intercity bus service and public transportation funding. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. This bill directs the DOT to 'take steps' to increase frequency of service for the Boston Express, one of the two bus companies that provides service from New Hampshire to Boston. The bill does not reference the other bus company that provides this service. The bill does not direct what steps are to be taken or what expansion is to be legislated. Further, the bill carries a \$1,058,500 fiscal note and does not address the company that services the Seacoast area of the state. Finally, the private companies which provide these services to the state are already expanding their services based on the market needs, and the committee believes that should the need increase, that the companies will continue to expand their services without further state funding. Vote 15-0.

HB 1433-FN, creating a child care tax credit for qualifying businesses. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for Ways and Means. The amendment replaces section two of the bill and seeks to clarify and define terminology, as well as specify qualifying expenditures and credit recognition limits to facilitate implementation. A critical shortage of childcare facilities and staffing has resulted in a current estimated 12-month waitlist for openings. This bill seeks to increase availability and supply of childcare by requiring a minimum of 12 or more new "seats" be created directly, or through a third party, that were not available prior to January 1, 2027. The business may claim a credit equal to 50% of its qualifying expenditures against its Business Profits Tax and/or Business Enterprise Tax (or apportioned against each), provided the total credits

granted shall not exceed 50% of the business's total claimed expenditures for the first two years. The credit can be carried forward for four successive years if the allowable amount exceeds the business's tax liability in a given tax year. The aggregate of tax credits issued by the commissioner to all taxpayers claiming the credit shall not exceed \$5 million of any state fiscal year. The applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications received in excess of the \$5 million shall not be eligible for credit in such fiscal year, but may be carried forward to the next succeeding fiscal year or years and shall be given priority. The Department of Revenue Administration shall approve or deny an application for a credit within 60 days of receipt. The department shall deny any application that fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and shall notify the business of its reason for denial. The act shall apply to taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2027. The committee felt that while there are some advantages to constructing childcare centers on company property, most companies will view these as cost centers, not profit centers, and will choose to leverage in-community centers for which childcare is their main business. This bill does not completely solve the childcare workforce shortage, but does improve the situation. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0828h)

Amend RSA 162-V:2 - V:3 as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

162-V:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Child care program" shall have the same meaning as group child day care center under RSA 170-E:2, IV(c).

II. "Creates child care" means making available child care seats in a New Hampshire-licensed child care program by a business entity, either directly or through a third-party, where such child care program was not available prior to January 1, 2027.

III. "Expands child care" means the increase in the number of child care seats in a child care program made available by a business entity, either directly or through a third party, provided that such increase provides 12 or more seats that were not available prior to January 1, 2027.

IV. "Operational expenditures" means the operating expenses of a qualified childcare facility, including employee compensation, expenses for training of employees, utilities, rent, and other ordinary business operating expenses.

162-V:3 Child Care Creation Tax Credit Established.

I. There shall be allowed a child care creation tax credit for eligible businesses, pursuant to this section, for qualifying expenditures made during a taxable year as follows:

(a) Expenditures in acquiring, constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, or expanding property to create child care or expand child care; and

(b) Operational expenditures for the first 2 years of a new child care facility, or for existing facilities, the increased operational expenditures as calculated compared towards the difference between current year's operational expenditures and that of the average yearly expenditures over the period of the 2 years prior. Allowable operational expenditures shall exclude expenditures not directly related to the new or expanded seats, such as the addition of new programs or services.

II. A business may claim a credit equal to 50 percent of its total claimed expenditures in (a) and (b) against its business profits taxes due under RSA 77-A, against its business enterprise taxes due under RSA 77-E, or apportioned against each, provided the total credits granted shall not exceed 50 percent of the businesses' total claimed expenditures under paragraph I(a) and I(b). The credit applied to the business enterprise taxes due under RSA 77-E shall still be considered taxes paid under RSA 77-E.

III. Unused portions of the credit allowed under this section may be carried forward for 4 successive years if the amount allowable as a credit exceeds the businesses' tax liability in a tax year.

IV. A business which operates, or contracts for the operation of, a child care program through a third party for the primary purpose of providing child care services to its employees may apportion the available credit in a manner of its choosing, but shall be required to file a joint application with the department of revenue administration in doing so.

V. The commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to administration of the child care creation tax credit established under this section. Such rules shall include regulations or procedures regarding:

(a) The application procedure for how a business may apply for a tax credit under this section.

(b) The design and content of the form or forms required to be filed with the department under this section. The form or forms required to be filed shall contain, at a minimum:

(1) The business's name, address, and federal taxpayer identification number.

(2) A contact person's name, title, and phone number.

(3) A signed statement that the business has met the eligibility requirements for the child care tax credit, and will comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) Verifying eligible expenses made by a child care program, including requiring a basic schedule of expenses that would be further examined during the audit process.

(d) Verifying with the department of health and human services that a child care program was duly licensed.

(e) Filing and record keeping requirements.

(f) Posting to the department's website an up-to-date total of the amount of credits available.

VI. The aggregate of tax credits issued by the commissioner to all taxpayers claiming the credit shall not exceed \$5,000,000 for any state fiscal year. Applications are to be processed by the commissioner in the order received. Applications received by the department in excess of \$5,000,000 in any state fiscal year shall not be eligible for credit in such fiscal year but may be carried forward to the next succeeding fiscal year or years and shall be given priority in determining the total contributions eligible for credit in such fiscal year.

VII. The department of revenue administration shall approve or deny an application for a credit made under this section within 60 days of receipt. The department shall deny any application that fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and shall notify the business of its reason or reasons for denial.

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Applicability. This act shall apply to taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2027.

HB 1787-FN, modifying the statewide education property tax. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Mary Ford for Ways and Means. Further study of this bill is needed to address the following: (1) establishing SWEPT as a true statewide education property tax; (2) equalization of statewide education property tax levied at a uniform rate; (3) establishing a committee to study the low- and moderate- homeowners tax relief program and (4) establishing a tax relief program for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Vote 16-1.

HB 1800-FN, relative to statewide education property taxes. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Mary Ford for Ways and Means. Further study of this bill is needed to address the following: (1) establishing SWEPT as a true statewide education property tax; (2) creating tax credit(s) against statewide education property tax; (3) adjusting adequacy formula and (4) increasing pool of statewide funds to address disparity in education funding across NH. Vote 16-1.

MOTION TO VACATE

Rep. Noble moved that the House vacate the reference of **SB 457-FN**, relative to the licensing of physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada, to the Committee on Education Policy and Administration.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker referred **SB 457-FN** to the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration.

REGULAR CALENDAR

HB 1225, relative to the definition of adjusted gross income with respect to child support guidelines. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jay Markell for the **Majority** of Children and Family Law. This bill will help make child support payments more equitable as it allows deductions from an obligor's income to help offset the inability of an obligor to deduct child payments from income taxes. Child support payments are not tax free to the obligee. Vote 9-6. Rep. Alicia Gregg for the **Minority** of Children and Family Law. The minority recommends Inexpedient to Legislate for this bill because it creates an unfair double deduction that would reduce financial support to children based on inaccurate reasoning. The New Hampshire child support calculator already deducts federal taxes, Social Security, and Medicare from both parties' gross incomes before calculating support obligations, as confirmed by testimony from New Hampshire Legal Assistance. This bill would allow obligors to take a second deduction for these same taxes, effectively giving them two bites at the apple while reducing support payments by approximately 3.8 to 4 percent, or roughly \$588 annually on a typical order. The sponsor's argument that child support is tax-free to recipients ignores the fact that custodial parents pay taxes on their own earnings while bearing the majority of child-rearing costs, and the claim that this creates equity between employees and self-employed obligors misunderstands how self-employment tax works. The current system already treats both parties fairly by reducing both incomes proportionally, and courts retain discretion to modify support in cases of genuine hardship. No evidence was presented of any systematic problem with the current calculation method, and while there is an amendment passed to clarify the technical language, it does not address the fundamental double-deduction flaw. The minority believes that children's financial needs should take priority over a perceived tax inequity that does not actually exist.

Majority Amendment (0599h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Child Support Guidelines; Definitions; Adjusted Gross Income. Amend RSA 458-C:2, I to read as follows:

I. "Adjusted gross income" means gross income, less:

(a) Court-ordered or administratively ordered support actually paid to others, for adults or children.

(b) **If a self-employed obligor, 50 [Fifty] percent of the actual self-employment [tax] taxes paid.**

(c) Mandatory, not discretionary, retirement contributions.

(d) Actual state income taxes paid.

(e) Amounts actually paid by the obligor for allowable child care expenses or the medical support obligation for the minor children to whom the child support order applies.

(f) If an employee obligor, 100 percent of the federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Social Security program and Medicare taxes withheld from the employees' pay.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Motion was adopted.

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

Rep. Sherr spoke against.

Rep. Markell spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

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YEAS - 185

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Dumais, Russell

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Georges, Mary
Juris, Louis
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devold, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine

Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Vose, Michael

Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
MacDonald, Wayne

Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Dolan, Tom
Weyler, Kenneth

Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

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CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Taylor, Brian

Paige, David
Woodcock, Stephen

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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Lane, Connie
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Luneau, David
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER

Rep. Thomas Walsh moved that **HB 1078-FN**, creating a gold star family and gold star father license plate. be made a Special Order to the next order of business.

Motion was adopted.

HB 1078-FN, creating a gold star family and gold star father license plate. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. The intent of this bill is to create a license plate for Gold Star Fathers and Gold Star immediate family members. Most of the committee was unaware until it was presented to us that there was an existing Gold Star Mother license plate but that there were no equivalent recognitions for fathers or immediate family members. It is clear to the committee on Transportation that fathers and immediate family members bear the same grief, mourning, and tragedy when their child, spouse, or direct sibling made the ultimate sacrifice during military service. Several members of the committee stated "the least we can do is give recognition in this meaningful way." We can never understand the sacrifice and pain that these families have endured having lost a loved one in service to our nation; but we can stand in solidarity with them, share in their mourning, and provide a visible symbol of solidarity and remembrance by creating these license plates for them. Vote 16-0.

The question being the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Reps Arnold Davis, Sykes and Giasson spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Weber moved that the debate on **HB 1078-FN**, creating a gold star family and gold star father license plate. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE HB 1078

Representative Arnold Davis: Good morning, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you, the body, and our Lord to introduce House Bill 1078, known as the Gold Star Father and Gold Star Family License Plate Bill. This legislation represents far more than a license plate. It is a tribute to the families who share in the honor, remembrance, and profound sacrifice of their loved ones who gave their lives in service to our great nation. I would like to recognize the family of Staff Sergeant Tanner Grone, who are with us today in the gallery, and whose advocacy helped set this bill in motion. I also would like to acknowledge the representative from Gorham, New Hampshire, the prime sponsor who could not be here with us today, as well as the other Gold Star families joining us here this morning. I would be remiss not to mention the Gold Star Father and representative of Specialist Justin Rollins as well. We owe you and all Gold Star families a debt of gratitude that cannot be measured. This bill has been a long time coming, and it is long overdue. House Bill 1078 emerged from the Transportation Committee with a unanimous, bipartisan, Ought to Pass recommendation. At this time, I respectfully urge all members to pass this bill with a voice vote to show our guests in the gallery just how much this bill means to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Sykes is recognized.

Representative Sykes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fellow colleagues, I grew up in a family that lived by the code that much has been given to us and much is owed in return. There were six boys of World War II age in my family; uncles and my father. One was not old enough to serve. Of the remaining five, one served in Panama, good for him. One served in the Pacific as a naval aviator, good for him. One served in the tank corps and came back injured. One served in the air corps as an engineering officer on a B-29. They did not find him after his plane crashed until he came home in 1947. One never came home and is buried in England as a pilot. I grew up with family members who felt very strongly that it was wonderful that the mothers got their Gold Star abilities; a flag that they flew. But this is an important thing because the cost to the families is very, very high and very, very well understood. So I would urge you to unanimously support the 16-0 vote of the Transportation Committee to honor the families as well.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Giasson is recognized.

Representative Giasson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I served 24 years in the U.S. Army. I volunteered on the Honor Guard. I've attended many funerals for Gold Star families, lost friends myself. I knew these people for some years and I mourned them. These families knew those people for decades for their whole lives. They nurtured them, nourished them, educated and groomed them into the men and women in uniform. Allowing them to display this license plate will make a statement from this body and from the State of New Hampshire. We can never thank these families for their service or their sacrifice. We can never understand their mourning and we cannot carry their burden. But what we can do and what I believe that we are obligated to do together is as one body say to them, we mourn with you, we remember with you, we stand with you and we recognize you. We honor the sacrifice of your loved ones. So Mr. Speaker, I'm asking that we join together in a verbose voice vote in unison as one body. May the resounding echo of this vote ring in these chambers now and forever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1078. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed, nay. The ayes have it, the committee report's adopted. Please rise for a moment of silence for those who've given their lives in the service of this country.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONTINUED

HB 1048-FN, relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill corrects a long-standing logical inconsistency in New Hampshire's self-defense laws and upholds the constitutional right to bear arms. Currently, a law-abiding citizen in our state can legally carry a loaded firearm, the ultimate tool of lethal force, to protect themselves and their families. Yet, under current antiquated statutes, that same citizen can be charged with a crime for carrying a blackjack, brass knuckles, or a slungshot: tools that offer an intermediate, often less-lethal option for self-defense. The idea that we should ban certain objects because they are "designed to inflict injury" ignores the fundamental reality that self-defense sometimes requires the use of force against a violent aggressor. By repealing this prohibition for adults, this bill allows law-abiding citizens, particularly those who may be physically outmatched or who choose not to carry a firearm, to have access to effective means of protecting themselves. The bill responsibly maintains the prohibition for minors, ensuring these items stay out of the hands of children. Criminals, by definition, do not obey weapons bans; they will carry whatever they wish to a gang fight or a robbery. The current ban only serves to disarm the law-abiding victim. The majority believes in trusting the citizens of New Hampshire to choose the self-defense tools that best fit their needs, rather than relying on arbitrary government lists of banned objects. Vote 7-5.

Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. At a time when violent crime is on the minds of many New Hampshire residents, this unnecessary and dangerous bill would put street fighting weapons that are now illegal to sell or possess into the hands of would-be aggressors on our streets and in our public gathering places. While the bill proposes a prohibition for minors, it proposes repeal of the current prohibition for everyone else. As a representative of the New Hampshire State Police testified, these weapons are clearly intended for no other purpose than to inflict the sort of bodily injuries that can turn a simple altercation into a fatality. Unlike a pipe or a screwdriver, which can have productive uses, this bill would legalize weapons that are intentionally designed to inflict brutal injuries on human beings. Use of these weapons can lead catastrophic injuries, including broken bones, severe wounds, and brain damage. Additionally, they are often associated with criminal activities, such as gang fights or robberies, and their very presence typically leads to more violent confrontations than would have occurred without them. This is not a self-defense bill. It is an attacker-enablement bill.

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

Rep. Rhodes spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 192 - NAYS 154

YEAS - 192

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Dumais, Russell

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian

Corcoran, Travis
 Darby, Will
 Fedolfi, Jim
 Gagne, Larry
 Kesselring, Steven
 Long, Patrick
 Miles, Julie
 Notter, Jeanine
 Post, Lisa
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Ulery, Jordan

Creighton, James
 Dumont, Dillon
 Flanagan, Jack
 Giasson, Henry
 Kofalt, Jim
 Murphy, Mary
 Mooney, Maureen
 Ohm, Bill
 Presa, Adam
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sirois, Shane
 Warden, Mark

Kelley, Diane
 Dupont, Pierre
 Foss, Lily
 Gorski, Ted
 Labrie, Brian
 Mazur, Lisa
 Morton, Jonathan
 Pauer, Diane
 Proulx, Mark
 Schneller, John
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Wheeler, Jonah

Daniels, Gary
 Erf, Keith
 Griffin, Gerald
 Kenny, Catherine
 Lascelles, Richard
 McLean, Mark
 Noble, Kristin
 Peebles, Raymond
 Prout, Andrew
 Scully, Kevin
 Mannion, Tom
 Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Cambilis, Jose
 Hill, Gregory
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Seaworth, Brian
 Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
 McGuire, Dan
 Leavitt, John
 Plante, Raymond
 See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
 Devoid, Ricky
 Mehegan, Peter
 Polozov, Yuri
 Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
 Gonzalez, Ernesto
 Moffett, Michael
 Boyd, Stephen
 Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guzowski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sytek, John
 Vallone, Mark
 Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
 DeRoy, Susan
 Kaczynski, Thomas
 Walker, David

Butler, Billie
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 154

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
 Lucas, Janet
 Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Dargie, Paul
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Gould, Linda
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Davis, Fred
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann

Foxx, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 1238-FN, relative to the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill provides a necessary felony enhancement for individuals who willfully flee from law enforcement and cause serious bodily injury or death. While some characterize this as “impulsive” behavior, the reality is a national crisis where pursuits claim at least 3,336 lives annually, nearly two deaths every day. Most critically, this risk extends to our first responders; nationally, officers account for up to 15% of all pursuit-related injuries, and just this month, three New Hampshire officers were involved in a pursuit-related crash on I-93. With New Hampshire seeing a 42% increase in traffic fatalities over the last decade, our laws must prioritize the lives of law-abiding citizens and officers over the future convenience of those who transform a motor vehicle into a deadly weapon. Misdemeanor penalties are wholly inadequate when a defendant’s conscious choice to flee results in the maiming or death of a neighbor or an officer. Vote 9-4.

Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill turns a misdemeanor into a felony by increasing the penalty for driving away from the police after one has been stopped. Such conduct, often by impulsive young people, is not of the kind where the individual contemplates the penalty before they act. And, it likely tags a younger person with a felony conviction that will stay with them the rest of their life, making it harder to get housing, get a job or get student loans. This bill is unneeded.

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

Rep. Scherr spoke against.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 155 members having voted in the affirmative, and 194 in the negative, the motion failed.

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

Motion was adopted.

HB 1387, repealing limiting liability for certain design features of firearms. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill seeks to repeal limited liability for certain firearm features. In 2025, the legislature passed limited liability with great success. By allowing manufacturers to have limited liability they are able to focus their initiatives more on safer designs and reliability designs rather than designs that can’t control user misuse. Criminal acts are the responsibility of the actor, not the toolmaker, so long as the product functions as intended and complies with the law the manufacturer should not be subject to special interest groups demands. Despite what people think this limited liability al-

laws, it does not exempt the manufacturer from a manufacturer or faulty design. Firearms are constitutionally protected and heavily regulated. Limited liability ensures that law-abiding manufacturers aren't driven out of business through endless litigation aimed at design features that are already legal. Vote 7-5.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Roy moved that **HB 1387**, repealing limiting liability for certain design features of firearms, be laid on the table.

Rep. Meuse requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 189 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 189

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Dumais, Russell

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen

Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
MacDonald, Wayne

Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 159

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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Dolan, Tom
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Motion was adopted.

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1393, relative to the definition of public servant and the offense of official oppression. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority opposes this bill because it dramatically and unnecessarily expands New Hampshire's criminal "official oppression" framework to reach "any federal official acting in, or taking action directly affecting the state of New Hampshire," without any evidence of a gap in current law or a New Hampshire problem it would solve. Existing federal and state criminal statutes already provide robust tools to prosecute misuse of office, election-related misconduct, threats, and coercion by public officials at every level, including federal officers, so this expansion is redundant at best and destabilizing to federal-state relations at worst. The committee received no evidence of New Hampshire cases where misconduct by federal officials went unaddressed because they were outside the existing "public servant" definition or where an election was placed at risk for lack of prosecutorial tools. Federal law already criminalizes a broad range of abuses and threats related to elections and public office, including coercion of political activity, interference with election officials, and threats against federal and state election workers. By redefining "public servant" to include "any federal official acting in, or taking action directly affecting the state of New Hampshire," the bill sweeps in a vast and ill-defined universe of federal employees, from immigration and customs officers to regulators, auditors, and program administrators whose decisions incidentally affect this state. This invites routine policy disputes with federal agencies to be reframed as potential state criminal matters, eroding comity and creating legal uncertainty for federal personnel who are carrying out federal law. Such an approach blurs the line between legitimate accountability and state-level harassment of federal officers, particularly in politically sensitive areas like immigration enforcement. These efforts are often framed as "accountability," but in practice function to obstruct or chill lawful federal enforcement activity. The bill before us follows the same trajectory by extending New Hampshire's criminal "official oppression" framework to "any federal official acting in, or taking action directly affecting the state of New Hampshire," despite the absence of any demonstrated gap in existing accountability tools, and would risk turning policy disagreements with federal authorities into state-level criminal exposure. For these reasons, the majority finds that the bill is unnecessary, over broad, and aligned with a concerning national pattern of using state law to impede or chill federal immigration and other federal enforcement activities, despite no demonstrated need in New Hampshire. Vote 7-4.

Rep. Ray Newman for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. In this bill the change to the definition of a public servant to "any federal official acting in, or taking action directly affecting the state of New Hampshire," expands the definition to include individuals who perform a public function, and not just those in traditional government roles. This broader definition enhances accountability for a wider range of individuals in public roles and provides clearer legal standards for prosecuting official oppression. This enhancement in accountability for a wider range of individuals combined with the clearer legal standards for prosecuting official oppression, will substantially reduce the likelihood of official oppression of an election.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Roy moved that **HB 1393**, relative to the definition of public servant and the offense of official oppression, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 191 members having voted in the affirmative, and 156 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1454-FN, relative to the possession of firearms following a court order requiring surrender of firearms and ammunition. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While the majority shares the minority's commitment to victim safety, we believe this legislation is both redundant and constitutionally problematic within the framework of New Hampshire's existing statutes. Under current law, any individual who fails to relinquish firearms pursuant to a court order is already in contempt of court and in violation of a protective order. These are serious offenses that empower law enforcement to act immediately and allow judges to impose significant penalties. Creating a separate, additional criminal offense for the same underlying act constitutes unnecessary "statutory stacking" that complicates the criminal code without providing a practical increase in safety. Redundancy of Penalties: some argue that all violations are currently addressed by the same penalty; however, judges already possess the discretion to escalate consequences based on the severity of the violation, including the presence of a firearm. This bill provides no new tools to law enforcement that do not already exist under current protective order enforcement protocols. This bill seeks to create a statutory presumption of dangerousness under our bail statutes. The majority finds that such a blanket presumption can inadvertently undermine the fundamental principle of "innocent until proven guilty" and may infringe upon

constitutional due process rights. Bail decisions should remain based on the specific facts of an individual case and the discretion of the judiciary, rather than legislative mandates that bypass individualized assessment. New Hampshire has a long-standing tradition of protecting Second Amendment rights and ensuring that any deprivation of those rights is handled with the highest level of judicial scrutiny. By creating an additional layer of criminalization for an act already covered by existing law, this bill risks over-litigation and potential constitutional challenges that could jeopardize the very protective orders it seeks to enforce. Vote 11-2.

Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Court-ordered firearm surrender exists to prevent imminent harm, and is meaningless without enforcement. Criminalizing the possession of firearms after a lawful surrender order ensures compliance, protects the safety of the victim, and upholds the authority of the courts. While continuing to possess deadly weapons after a protective order has been issued requiring relinquishment of those weapons would constitute a violation of a protective order, all violations are currently addressed by the same penalty. This bill would create an additional criminal offense for possession a firearm after court ordered relinquishment. It also would create a presumption of dangerousness under our bail statute that allows a judge to deny or revoke bail if a defendant is found to be in possession of deadly weapons in violation of a protective order. In a state where half of our homicides are domestic violence-related and half of those are homicides by firearms, this bill sends a strong message that our state means business when it comes to enforcing firearms relinquishment orders and protecting victims of stalking and domestic violence.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Roy moved that **HB 1454-FN**, relative to the possession of firearms following a court order requiring surrender of firearms and ammunition, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 227 members having voted in the affirmative, and 119 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1822-FN, relative to reporting of civil immigration detentions by state, county, and local law enforcement and correctional facilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority opposes this bill because it would require state, county, and local law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities to file periodic reports to the state on individuals detained for civil immigration violations, but only when those detentions involve some state or local role. By design, the bill collects data only where local or county agencies interact with federal immigration enforcement while ignoring the substantial immigration enforcement activity carried out solely by federal officers. As a result, any "transparency" it claims to provide would be inherently misleading, overstating the role of local agencies and understating the independent actions of federal authorities, who cannot be compelled by a state statute to provide matching or contextual information. The bill is also part of a growing pattern in left-leaning states of using state and local reporting and process requirements to burden or discourage cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Around the country, similar measures have been advanced that mandate local reports, public disclosures, or special approval processes whenever local agencies work with ICE or participate in 287(g) agreements, often coupled with political rhetoric aimed at stigmatizing such cooperation. These efforts do not change federal law or federal priorities; instead, they are designed to increase the political and administrative cost of assisting federal officers, and to create a one-sided narrative that frames any local participation as suspect or extraordinary. In practice, this bill would impose new reporting mandates on already stretched law enforcement and correctional agencies without improving public safety or the fair administration of justice. Agencies would be required to compile, verify, and submit specialized immigration-related data that is incomplete by design, while federal authorities, who control the underlying immigration records and enforcement decisions, remain under no obligation to share corresponding information with the state. The result would be a bureaucratic reporting regime that generates politicized talking points rather than accurate, comprehensive information, and that risks discouraging legitimate, lawful cooperation with federal immigration officers in appropriate cases. Because this bill produces a misleading and partial data set, injects state-level political pressure into lawful cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, and aligns with a broader national strategy to use state law to interfere indirectly with federal immigration efforts, the majority finds that this bill is unnecessary, biased in its design, and contrary to the interests of effective law enforcement in New Hampshire. Vote 7-6.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Roy moved that **HB 1822-FN**, relative to reporting of civil immigration detentions by state, county, and local law enforcement and correctional facilities, be laid on the table.

Rep. Telerski requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 193 - NAYS 155**YEAS - 193
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, TomBogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Brown, RichardHamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian**CHESHIRE**Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, RichHunt, John
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick**COOS**Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, MikeDurkin, Sean
King, SethKorzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Ladd, RickBeaulier, Calvin
Louis, DarrellBerezhny, Lex
McFarlane, DonaldBjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, MarkAmmon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wheeler, JonahBoyd, Bill
Booras, Efstathia
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, RobertBarbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonAures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, AlvinAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, ThomasMcGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James**ROCKINGHAM**Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, KennethBernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, VickiBridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vose, MichaelBryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, LenBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley
Walker, DavidDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Schmidt, Peter**SULLIVAN**Drye, Margaret
Aron, JudyGirard, Dale
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 155**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, LucyBerch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, JodiHarvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, TerriFox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, TerryBaldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, LaurelBolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, JerryCormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foss, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, MatthewBeauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, DanielBergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, WilliamBudathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy**MERRIMACK**Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, TimothyCaplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary JaneColby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, GaryKelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, MarkCahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Geraldde Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, ToniEdgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, WayneBixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, AliceBurton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wall, JanetButler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas**SULLIVAN**

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

HB 1495, allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances.
MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Rick Ladd for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill allows school districts to borrow and categorize funds as revenue, so long as they are only used for the same purpose as the anticipated fund source. Reimbursement anticipation note funds come from two sources, RSA 186-C:18 (special education aid) and RSA 198:42 (adequacy education grants). The governing body, after notice and public hearing, may elect to borrow such funds and recognize the proceeds of the borrowing as revenue for property tax rate setting purposes by providing written notification to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration stating the specific amount of borrowing to be recognized as revenue. A reimbursement anticipation note (RAN) is often considered a short-term financial tool used by districts to cover temporary cash flow gaps while waiting for expected revenues from sources such as taxes or grants. If a district decides to borrow funds from projected,

then this bill requires the district to use said funds toward resource elements and services necessary to deliver criteria and key elements associated with adequacy. The same scenario is applicable to funds derived from special education. The primary purpose for adequacy and special education funds is for those services, not for other non-related purposes. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Hope Damon for the **Minority** of Education Funding. The minority finds this bill unnecessary and unrealistic to implement. Given that statute already acknowledges use of differentiated aid funds for all educational needs including operating costs of the district, tying reimbursement anticipation notes (RAN) to specific purposes is inappropriate. This bill could substantially narrow the ability of a district to borrow needed funds.

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

Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 185 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 185

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen

Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 162

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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 1578, adds definitions and reporting requirements relative to education freedom accounts. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill is an unjustifiable attempt to add onerous reporting requirements to the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program, despite the fact that we have much better insight into how the EFA money is spent than we have about how money is spent by public school districts. The bill contains hugely over-broad language that would be impossible to comply with. It also tries to mandate yet another Legislative Budget Assistant audit, despite the current audit not even having been completed yet. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Tracy Bricchi for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill requires the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program administrator to publish reports that detail application information, distributions made by vendors, demographic information, as well as differential aid data. Currently, a compliance audit is being conducted but will not be available until late spring or summer. This bill is not about whether or not this program is a good program, this bill is about reporting. Data is important and this bill will provide it.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Ladd moved that **HB 1578**, adds definitions and reporting requirements relative to education freedom accounts, be laid on the table.

Rep. Damon requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 182 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 182

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven

Comtois, Barbara

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya

Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Lundgren, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 MacDonald, Wayne

Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Weyler, Kenneth

Edwards, Jess
 Guzowski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Wilson, Vicki

Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sytek, John
 Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 162

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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

COOS

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Booras, Efsthathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telserski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Malloy, Dennis

Bridle, Nicholas
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer

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

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David

Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1610, allowing school districts to annually retain year-end unassigned general funds. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill modifies RSA 198:4-b which deals with how school districts appropriate and spend contingency funds and their unassigned fund balance. If appropriated, these funds can give school districts some flexibility to meet unexpected expenses that may arise during the fiscal year. The purpose of the bill is to give local voters more say over whether such funds are appropriated, and to somewhat restrict their use to truly unanticipated situations. As amended, the bill makes it clear that contingency funds (unrestricted general purpose funds) must be appropriated by the legislative body (voters or council) annually, separate from the budget. The more significant change concerns how the unassigned fund balance — money left unspent and retained from the previous year — can be spent. Current law allows these funds to be spent after a public hearing, almost as easily as contingency funds. The amended bill makes school districts treat these funds more like municipalities; they can only be used due to unusual circumstances, and only with permission from the budget committee, if any, and the Education Commissioner. School district unassigned fund balances are limited. The amended bill changes how that limit is calculated to make budgeting easier, but the amounts involved aren't significantly different. Vote 10-7.

Rep. David Luneau for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill undermines local school districts' ability to stabilize tax rates by restricting the use of end-of-year undesignated fund balances for contingency purposes and shifting greater financial risk onto local property taxpayers. By limiting how districts manage fund balances and utilize surplus revenue to reduce the burden on property taxes, the bill takes away a key tool used to smooth year-to-year fluctuations in costs such as special education, transportation, and health insurance. Without that buffer, districts may face sharper tax spikes when unexpected expenses arise. The measure also constrains long-term planning, making it harder to build prudent reserves. Overall, the bill increases volatility, weakens fiscal resilience, and heightens uncertainty for communities trying to maintain predictable and stable property tax rates.

Majority Amendment (0809h)

Amend RSA 198:4-b as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:
198:4-b Contingency Fund.

I. A school district annually, **only** by an article separate from the budget and all other articles in the warrant, or the governing body of a city upon recommendation of the school board, when the operation of the schools is by a department of the city, may establish a contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the school board and published with their report. ***The wording of the question may be: "Pursuant to RSA 198:4-b, I, shall the school district establish a contingency fund of \$____, raised through taxation, to be used by the school board for any unanticipated purpose?"***

II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district by a vote of the legislative body may ***annually*** authorize~~[-indefinitely until specific rescission,]~~ the school district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds~~[-from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years,]~~, provided that the total amount of year-end unassigned general funds does not exceed~~[-in any fiscal year, 5]~~ **3** percent of the current fiscal year's ~~[net assessment under RSA 198:5]~~ ***budget appropriation total. These funds may only be spent due to an unusual circumstance following the procedure specified in RSA 32:11.***

~~[(a) Prior to expending retained general funds, the school board shall hold a prior public hearing on the action to be taken with such funds. Notice of the time, place, and subject of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the relevant municipality at least 7 days before the meeting is held.~~

~~[(b) An annual accounting and report of the activities of the retained general funds shall be presented to the school board of the district and published in the annual report.]~~

III. The legislative body of the city of Manchester, upon recommendation of the school committee, may ***annually*** authorize~~[-indefinitely until specific rescission,]~~ the school district to retain year-end unassigned general funds.

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

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Dan McGuire spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 182 - NAYS 167

YEAS - 182

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 167**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

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

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efsthathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Seaworth, Brian
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Perez, Kristine
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

(Representative Kofalt in the Chair)

HB 1815-FN, relative to education financing. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill provides a constructive response to what the majority views as the Supreme Court's seriously flawed 3-2 decision in the *Con-Val* case. It does this

in several ways. First, it points out that political subdivisions such as school districts are creatures of state government and can only exercise the powers the state grants them. Therefore, the state and its political subdivisions are indivisible for purposes of providing an adequate education. Second, it provides that the state and local school districts function collectively to provide the academic program that constitutes an adequate education, while local districts are granted the flexibility to make decisions regarding collateral matters such as infrastructure, some administrative policies, staffing levels, etc. Third, and most importantly, the bill contains a specific legislative determination that, “How the state and its local governmental entities choose to raise, allocate, and spend financial resources to implement this integrated public education system is a political policy matter reserved to legislative and executive judgment and control.” This determination reflects the common sense legislative judgment that attempting to place sole funding responsibility on the state for funding an “adequate education” while permitting local districts to spend unlimited amounts for educational purposes will, over time, effectively deprive the legislature of one of its core constitutional responsibilities – control over state finances and budgeting. The bill makes no substantive changes to current law regarding the substantive content of the academic program that constitutes an adequate education. Finally, the bill specifies that in computing the adequate education payments for each municipality, the “sum total” of payments made to the municipality under RSA 198:40-a, including both the base adequacy amounts and differentiated aid, must be considered. Although the majority believes, as did the dissent in the *Con-Val* case, that this is how existing law should be read, given the *Con-Val* majority’s contrary view, the majority concludes that the more explicit language contained in this bill is necessary to clarify the legislature’s intent as to how the law should be interpreted in the future. Vote 10-7.

Rep. David Luneau for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill seeks to redefine and radically undermine the state’s commitment to public education. Remarkably, it does this without any reference to the state’s constitutional duty, repeatedly affirmed in multiple NH Supreme Court cases through three decades of litigation, to provide all of New Hampshire’s children with a state-funded opportunity for a constitutionally compliant, high quality, public education system. Nor is there any reference in the bill to the repeatedly adjudicated failures of the state to comply with this constitutional public education duty, nor to the consequences of these repeated failures, manifested by extreme, disparate, and constitutionally disproportionate local property tax burdens and educational outcomes. Instead, the bill strikes out the state’s commitment to ensure for all public schools compliance with “the minimum standards for public school approval.” Then, the bill simply asserts that the question of “[h]ow the state and its local governmental entities choose to raise, allocate, and spend financial resources” to support the state’s public school system is a “political policy matter reserved to legislative and executive judgment and control.” This attempt to transform by legislative enactment a profound constitutional duty into a discretionary, judicially-unenforceable “political policy matter,” if ever litigated, will itself prove to be unconstitutional and unenforceable. Such litigation will be a wasteful diversion. Reports indicate the bill is the product of a study committee convened by the governor, without public hearings or published minutes. The lack of transparency is not surprising. This bill should be rejected.

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

Rep. Lynn spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 188 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 188

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
 Berry, Ross
 Corcoran, Travis
 Dumont, Dillon
 Flanagan, Jack
 Gorski, Ted
 Labrie, Brian
 McLean, Mark
 Noble, Kristin
 Peeples, Raymond
 Proulx, Mark
 Schneller, John
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
 Boehm, Ralph
 Creighton, James
 Dupont, Pierre
 Griffin, Gerald
 Gould, Linda
 Lascelles, Richard
 Miles, Julie
 Notter, Jeanine
 Petrigno, Peter
 Prout, Andrew
 Scully, Kevin
 Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
 Colcombe, Riché
 Kelley, Diane
 Erf, Keith
 Gagne, Larry
 Kenny, Catherine
 Murphy, Mary
 Mooney, Maureen
 Ohm, Bill
 Post, Lisa
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
 Cole, Brian
 Daniels, Gary
 Fedolfi, Jim
 Giasson, Henry
 Kesselring, Steven
 Mazur, Lisa
 Morton, Jonathan
 Pauer, Diane
 Presa, Adam
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sirois, Shane
 Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Cambrils, Jose
 Hill, Gregory
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Seaworth, Brian
 Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
 McGuire, Dan
 Leavitt, John
 Plante, Raymond
 See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
 Devoid, Ricky
 Mehegan, Peter
 Polozov, Yury
 Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
 Gonzalez, Ernesto
 Moffett, Michael
 Boyd, Stephen
 Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Selby, Donald
 Sytek, John
 Vandecasteele, Susan
 Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Guzowski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 Vose, Michael

Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 162**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
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Hartnett, Tim

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hegner, Karen

Booras, Efsthathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher

Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Kerwin, Erin
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Bridle, Nicholas
 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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Having voted with the prevailing side, Rep. Osborne moved that the House reconsider its action whereby, on a roll call vote of 188-162, the House adopted the motion of Ought to Pass on **HB 1815-FN**, relative to education financing. Motion failed.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Edwards moved that the debate on **HB 1815-FN**, relative to education financing be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE HB 1815

Representative Luneau: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the landmark Claremont school funding decision of 1993, the state is required to make an adequate education free and available to every New Hampshire child. Just the other week, the Attorney General filed a complaint with the state Supreme Court to reverse Claremont. That's right, negating more than 30 years of jurisprudence, the benchmark decision that makes the state responsible to provide an adequate education for every child in New Hampshire. We all know the state has never lived up to its responsibility to do this. Granite Staters put a premium on high quality public schools and strong student outcomes; top five in the country. Despite having the lowest state share of school funding in the country, every year people open their wallets to fund the best school budgets they can for their kids and their neighbors kids. Strong statewide outcomes. But it doesn't happen everywhere, and people hope someday the state will step up to the plate and do the right thing and fund our public schools so that every kid can have a strong outcome. So let's be honest, 90% of New Hampshire kids go to public schools. They're not leaving their friends and their teachers to take a voucher. The Department of Education data shows this to be true. Sadly, this bill goes hand in glove with the Attorney General's case to reverse the Claremont decision. It backs the state out of the responsibility to fund public schools, and it leaves property taxpayers holding the bag. So let's see what this bill will actually do. It doesn't lower property taxes, it doesn't increase the share of state funding for public schools, and it doesn't establish a floor or percentage or a minimum state contribution to support your public schools. So, if property taxes are one of the top concerns of your constituents, why prioritize legislation that does nothing to address them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I think voters are going to want to know where we stand on this, so let's go for a roll call.

Speaker Kofalt: Thank you, the chair recognizes Representative Lynn to speak for the committee report.

Representative Lynn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the committee recommendation of ought to pass on House Bill 1815. If one were to listen to our friends across the aisle, one would believe that the only thing we can do in response to the Supreme Court's deeply flawed 3-2 decision in the ConVal case is to be quiet and simply write a check for hundreds of millions of dollars, which would likely require a levying a sales or income tax. And indeed, right on cue, the main proponents of this approach have recently proposed such a solution; a broad-based income tax. But fortunately, we are not so constrained. Although the series of Claremont cases reflect a pattern of increasingly intrusive invasions by the court of legislative prerogatives, the court nonetheless has repeatedly held that it is the job of the legislature to define an adequate education and to determine how it is funded. This bill accomplishes that task by responding to ConVal in several ways. First, Section 1 of the bill makes it clear that in accordance with long historical precedent in New Hampshire, local school boards and school districts are in all respects creatures of the state and can only act as the legislature authorizes. That being the case, the bill provides that we, the legislature, make the determination that providing an adequate education is a shared responsibility that must be achieved through the collective effort of state government and local school authorities. Second, the bill establishes that the state's role in this shared responsibility is to provide funding for the academic program that comprises an adequate education while leaving responsibility for collateral expenses to local communities. Third and most importantly, the bill states explicitly that quote, "how the state and its local governmental entities choose to raise, allocate and spend financial resources to implement this integrated public educational system is a public policy matter reserved to legislative and executive judgment and control." What this is saying to the court in essence is respectfully, the ConVal majority got way over its skis with its ruling and the court really needs to reexamine whether it actually has the authority the ConVal majority claim to have. Section 2 of the bill makes no changes to the 11 core academic areas that comprise the substantive content of an adequate educational program under current law. Lastly, Section 3 of the bill amends RSA 198:40-a, III to make clear that the funds provided to school districts that count towards the cost of an adequate education includes both base adequacy payments and differentiated aid payments. The dissent in ConVal made a compelling argument that the statute as it currently exists already makes it clear that both base and differentiated aid must be considered for adequacy purposes, but the majority disagreed. This bill makes that point clear beyond doubt. In sum, HB 1815 is a sensible and reasonable response to the ConVal case that will allow New Hampshire schools to continue to provide a first-rate education to our students without fundamentally changing our tax structure to emulate most of our New England neighbors, and while preserving the local flexibility that our citizens desire. I urge you to press the green button. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I join in asking for a roll call vote.

Speaker Kofalt: Representative Luneau has asked for a roll call vote. Is that sufficiently seconded? That is officially seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The House will come to order. The Chair recognizes Representative Ames for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Ames: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that the State of New Hampshire has a fundamental, moral and constitutional responsibility to guarantee and deliver to all of New Hampshire's children a free, high quality public education, and if I further know that New Hampshire's extreme dependence on municipal level property taxation for public school funding has resulted in both unconstitutional educational disparities and disproportionate, unreasonable and unconstitutional taxation of local property taxpayers, and finally, if I believe that this bill's attempt, if ever litigated, to transform our constitutional school funding responsibility into a discretionary, judicially unenforceable quote, "political policy matter," that will itself prove to be unconstitutional and unenforceable, then would I not now vote no on the pending OTP motion by pressing the red button?

Speaker Kofalt: The chair recognizes Representative Ladd for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Ladd: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. If I know providing a constitutionally adequate education in New Hampshire is a shared responsibility between local school districts and the state, and not the sole responsibility of the state, and if I believe the Claremont Supreme Court decisions along with recent court findings regarding adequacy were wrongly decided and this bill rightfully reestablishes legislative authority over schools and correctly reinforces that school districts are subdivisions of the state, and lastly, if I know this bill clarifies and establishes that how the state and its local governmental entities choose to raise, allocate and spend financial resources to implement this integrated public education system is a political matter reserved to the legislator and executive judgement and control. Would I then press the green button as a necessary step in undoing wrongful judicial overreach in the past? Thank you.

Speaker Kofalt: The question is on the majority motion of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1815. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. With 188 voting in the affirmative, 162 voting in the negative, the motion passes. What reason is member rise?

Representative Osborne: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, having voted on the prevailing side, I move reconsideration on HB1815 and ask members to vote no.

Speaker Kofalt: That is a proper motion. The motion is for reconsideration on House Bill 1815 on the ought to pass motion. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The no's have it. Motion is defeated.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONTINUED

HR 19, encouraging state colleges and universities to invite more conservative speakers to campus for the purpose of increasing diversity of viewpoints. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Riché Colcombe for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This resolution sends a timely message in defense of free speech and intellectual diversity at New Hampshire's public and private colleges and universities. It condemns political violence and intimidation while encouraging institutions to host more conservative voices alongside others across the ideological spectrum. This resolution seeks a political balance grounded in the objective exchange of ideas, rather than a system that is subjective or shows favoritism toward a single position. By inviting these diverse perspectives, this resolution challenges the growing trend of ideological silos without mandating curriculum, compelling invitations, or infringing on academic freedom. This isn't about seeking special treatment; it is about ensuring New Hampshire's tax-funded institutions remain open to all viewpoints. Ultimately, this resolution preserves New Hampshire's tradition of robust, civil debate, ensuring a well-rounded education that focuses on teaching students how to think, rather than telling them what to think. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Wayne Burton for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This resolution encourages state colleges and universities to invite more conservative speakers to campus. Although the premise contained in the resolution unequivocally condemns political violence and intimidation and encourages faculty and student organizations to engage invited speakers with respectful questioning and debate, the directive emphasizing one set of speakers over another by encouraging the institutions to host "more conservative speakers" violates the very premise the resolution seeks to protect. The state university's policy on free speech states "...we believe that freedom of speech and free expression is fundamental to our identity as an institution of higher learning. We strive to foster an inclusive community that promotes respect, intellectual growth and the exploration of diverse perspectives." Placing a thumb on the scale for one perspective over another, violates the spirit and letter of this policy.

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

Rep. Burton spoke against.

Rep. Colcombe spoke in favor.

Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 191 - NAYS 155

YEAS - 191

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan

Paige, David
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie

Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spillsbury, Walter

NAYS - 155

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

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

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sytek, John

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Milz, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Burton, Wayne
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

Motion was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. McDonnell moved that the debate on **HR 19**, encouraging state colleges and universities to invite more conservative speakers to campus for the purpose of increasing diversity of viewpoints be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE HR 19

Representative Burton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one can oppose the primary theme of HR 19. We live by lines 14 through 18, which unequivocally condemns political violence and intimidation in all forms and affirms that threats, disruption, or force have no place in New Hampshire's civic or academic life. The bill continues and it encourages faculty and student organizations to engage invited speakers with respectful questioning and debate, modeling the habits of free people to hear, test, and answer arguments, not silence them. Who can disagree with that? However, the resolution in lines 19 through 20 violates the very premise of the resolution by emphasizing one set of speakers over another by encouraging the institutions to host, quote, "more conservative speakers," unquote. I could support the resolution in its entirety if it encouraged more speakers from all viewpoints as expressed in UNH's policy on free speech. Quote, "at the University of New Hampshire, we believe that freedom of speech and free expression is fundamental to our identity as an institution of higher learning." A great example of the power of free speech occurred last Monday night when a UNH student and others, in following him, the prime sponsor of HB 1793, the bill prohibiting public colleges from regulating firearms on campus, spoke before the public comments section of the Durham Town Council on which I've served for 12 years. He, like the members of his group, were carrying unconcealed weapons. I want to say from the start, there was no brandishing of the firearms. They had an absolute legal right to be in our town council chambers with weapons. The state law allows that, but we did call a police officer from the town to make sure everyone was safe. The leader of the group, the sponsor of the bill, 1793, came to the microphone and called the council members, including me, "tyrants," quote, unquote. He then asserted his right to bear firearms came from God. No government could limit those rights. That's what he told our town council. Now, the last time I've been called a name was by the late publisher of the Union Leader, Nackey Loeb, who devoted a whole column to me and called me a commy-loving demagogue from Durham, which didn't necessarily hurt me in my home district, but it wasn't a very nice thing to say. Later, that was in 1989, later I spoke to Mrs. Loeb outside the auditorium here. She used to sit in a wheelchair outside the door waiting for us to come out, as you may remember. I thanked her. I said, I almost gave my life for you to be able to make that assertion. And it's reassuring to me that free speech is alive.

Representative Farrington: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

Speaker Kofalt: The member will suspend. For what reason does the member rise?

Representative Farrington: I don't see how attacking the prime sponsor of campus carry is relevant to this house resolution at hand. Thank you.

Speaker Kofalt: So, I understand you introduced this as having relevance to the bill before us. And I would ask you to bring it back around to the resolution that we're debating currently.

Representative Burton: I introduced, or I am opposing the bill because the bill is about freedom of speech in Durham and UNH, and these are UNH students. And I'd like to proceed.

Speaker Kofalt: You may proceed. I'm simply asking that you address the bill that is before it, or the resolution that's before us. So, bring it back around, please.

Representative Burton: Let me wrap it up and make clear. Freedom of speech goes both ways. This bill goes one way. I can support the bill if it went and said everyone should have free speech, not just one political group or another. And that's my point, Mr. Speaker. That's why I'm speaking here now in opposition to the bill as written. If there were an amendment to make it for all points of view, I could vote for that. But to defeat the bill with a language in the bill itself doesn't make sense to me. Thank you very much.

Speaker Kofalt: The Chair recognizes Representative Colcombe to speak for the committee report.

Representative Colcombe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 19 sends a much needed message in support of free speech and intellectual diversity at our colleges and our universities. The tragic assassination of a campus speaker last September has forced us to recognize that political violence is no longer a distant threat, but it's reality, one that attempts to deter speech and intimidate students. Our campuses should be protected space for debates, where the only way to defeat an argument is with a stronger argument, not through intimidation. We heard in the committee that our campuses are already balanced because of things like names on the buildings, but we distinguish between physical symbols and actual academic engagement. A building named after a republican statesman is a wonderful tribute to history, but it's not a substitute for active exchange of opinions in the classroom today. Hosting a political rally on campus or a bus bringing students to the polls is a sign of civic engagement, but it isn't the same thing as academic balance. This resolution isn't about which side has a louder voice at a rally. It's about ensuring that our tax-funded institutions remain open to a wide range of viewpoints, so the students can engage with different perspectives as part of a well-rounded education. Some might question the need for this resolution because it has no enforcement or funding attached to it. However, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly why it's important. We aren't interested in mandating a curriculum or compelling anyone to speak. Our goal is simple. It's to ensure that New Hampshire colleges focus on teaching students how to think rather than what to think. At the end of the day, we want students to be exposed to all sides of the issues so they are better prepared for the world outside of the campus. I respectfully ask that you support the Ought to Pass motion.

Speaker Kofalt: The question is on the majority committee report of ought to pass on House Resolution 19. Are you ready for the question? Representative Luneau has requested a roll call vote. Is that sufficiently seconded? That is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. House will come to order. The chair recognizes Representative Weinstein for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Weinstein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that public higher education faces serious challenges like underfunding, staffing shortages, student mental health needs, and accessibility gaps that the legislature should be focusing on, and if I know that the government should not be in the business of managing or dictating viewpoints on our college campuses, and if I also know that New Hampshire's colleges and universities already value free speech and academic freedom, and they maintain full authority to invite speakers from across the political spectrum, then would I now press the red button to stop this governmental overreach and defeat the OTP? Thank you.

Speaker Kofalt: The chair recognizes Representative Pam Brown for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Pam Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know a man recently lost his life for loving discussion and exercising free speech on a college campus, would I now eagerly press green and unite with my House colleagues to embrace a simple resolution that tells the rest of the United States that New Hampshire welcomes speakers from across the ideological spectrum to our colleges and universities because, quote, "more speech, not less, best serves us?" Thank you.

Speaker Kofalt: The question is on the majority committee motion of Ought to Pass on House Resolution 19. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. With 191 voting in the affirmative, 155 voting in the negative, the motion passes.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Having not objected, and having served notice in accordance with House Rule 25, Rep. Colcombe moved that the House reconsider its action whereby, under unanimous consent, the remarks given by the member from Manchester, Rep. Alissandra Murray be printed in the permanent journal without objection.

Rep. Colcombe spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 171 - NAYS 177**YEAS - 171
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, TomBogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIREMurphy, Denis
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOSDavis, Arnold
Ouellet, MikeDurkin, Sean
King, SethKorzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Ladd, RickBeaulier, Calvin
Louis, DarrellBerezhny, Lex
McFarlane, DonaldBjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, TomAmmon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, JordanBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, MarkBerry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, BrianAures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, ThomasAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, JamesMcGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton**ROCKINGHAM**Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
McGrath, Linda
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vose, MichaelBryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McMahon, Charles
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, WayneMannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, KennethThomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, DavidBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len**SULLIVAN**Drye, Margaret
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 177
BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Morton, Jonathan
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Murphy, Nancy
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
See, Alvin
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

Bernardy, JD
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Meuse, David
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion failed.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1129, authorizing superintendents or their designee to allow limited use of personal laptops and tablets in schools and establishing that such use is exempted under school cell phone use policies. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill authorizes local officials to allow the use of personal electronics by students under certain circumstances. It is feared that this bill poses a cybersecurity and privacy risk to both school networks and students, as introducing non-standardized

equipment brings substantial vulnerabilities. It is also feared that access to content inappropriate to the school environment will be a classroom disruption, as even without online access, the devices may contain such content. Inexpedient to Legislate is necessary to correct some errant rules in effect. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Muriel Hall for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill amends our new cell phone law which currently prohibits the use of all personal communication devices by students from bell-to-bell. This proposed legislation does not affect the banning of cell phones in our schools in any way. When the 25-26 school year began, there was confusion in schools about the use of personal laptops and tablets. In response, the Department of Education released a technical advisory to all public and chartered public schools to provide guidance for implementing the HB 2 (2025) “bell-to-bell” prohibition. It stated that personal electronic communication devices do not include a laptop or Chromebook used exclusively for curricular purposes. This exception for laptops or Chromebooks, which are personal electronic devices, contradicts the “shall prohibit all personal communication device use” language. This bill clarifies and aligns with the technical advisory by leaving the discretion to districts to develop policies which could allow for the authorization of superintendents or their designee to approve the use of personal laptops and tablets for specific educational purposes when under direct teacher supervision. Some schools do not have a 1:1 computing environment. Without this legislation, current law is an unfunded mandate and erodes local control.

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

Rep. Hall spoke against.

Rep. Belcher spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 189 members having voted in the affirmative, and 161 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1256, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill repeals RSA 201-A:10, VII, the ability of the State Librarian to award scholarships to qualified persons to attend a graduate library school accredited by the American Library Association. The committee did not receive any testimony from the State Librarian regarding the necessity for this statute. Scholarships historically associated with the office, are now administered through the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Patricia Cornell for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee does not support the repeal of RSA 201-A:10, VII. The prime sponsor noted that the intent of this bill is two-fold: 1) to take away the authority of the State Librarian to award scholarships for qualified persons to attend graduate schools accredited by the American Library Association (ALA), and more importantly, 2) to target the ALA, asserting that the organization is a political action committee, which it is not. The ALA is a non-profit standards-setting body whose mission is “empowering and advocating for librarians and library workers to ensure equitable access to information for all.” The minority understands that graduates from accredited masters degree programs in library science equip their librarians with expertise in information technology, data management, community literacy, and collections management that the public counts on. In current statute, a number of other entities are authorized to award scholarships; the State Librarian should not be singled out because of an unfounded characterization of the ALA.

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

On a division vote, with 189 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the motion was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HB 1264, increasing the requirements of the education freedom savings account oversight committee and modifying the purpose of the committee. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. The purpose of a legislative oversight committee is to: review aggregate outcomes, evaluate fiscal integrity, and recommend statutory changes, all tasks that the committee is performing. This bill would increase the requirements of the Education Freedom Account (EFA) Oversight Committee by: 1) requiring the review of student data, eligibility requirements and EFA expenditures, 2) mandating video recording and web posting of the meetings, 3) posting all agendas and meetings on the department website, and 4) require the committee to meet monthly. The majority finds these additional requirements to be duplicative and unnecessary. Video recordings of oversight committees are at the will of the chair and in this situation might not be prudent in order protect potentially identifying information for students. The agenda and meeting minutes are posted on the General Court website and are therefore accessible to the public. Reviewing student data and eligibility would be in the purview of an independent audit but not the legislature. Political entities should not have access to sensitive student or family information in the name of oversight. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The Education Freedom Savings Account Oversight Committee was established in 2021 to monitor the implementation of the Education Freedom

Account (EFA) program. To date, this committee has not met on a regular basis nor consistently evaluated relevant program data to make well-informed legislative recommendations. This bill would restore accountability by clarifying the duties of the committee and instituting a recurring review of the Children's Scholarship Fund's implementation of the EFA program. Further, it will ensure public transparency by requiring that all meetings be broadcast live and all agendas, minutes, and reports be posted to the General Court website as well as the Department of Education website. Since the taxpayer cost of the EFA program has ballooned from \$8 million in 2022 to a projected cost of \$52 million this year, the minority feels that these minor changes to the statute will enable this legislative committee to provide more effective public scrutiny of how and where these dollars are being spent.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Noble moved that **HB 1264**, increasing the requirements of the education freedom savings account oversight committee and modifying the purpose of the committee, be laid on the table.

Rep. Damon requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 186 - NAYS 165

YEAS - 186

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence

Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 165

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

GRAFTON

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

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Griffin, Gerald
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

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

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1331, enabling the town of Derry to absorb the Derry cooperative school district. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill was presented by members of the Derry delegation and has no impact on other municipalities. Founded in the 1950s, the Derry Cooperative School District serves grades PreK-8. A town tuition agreement exists with Pinkerton Academy for high school students. The structure is unique, as all other cooperative districts consist of multiple towns. The majority believes Derry voters should dictate whether the Cooperative District continues to operate independently or as a department of the town council. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Stephen Woodcock for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill has nothing to do with improving public education in Derry. It is a second attempt to move the local school department under the auspices of the town to bring the school department budget within the town's tax cap limits. All of the Derry town councilors unanimously oppose this bill, and the town administrator stated that the town had no role in or knowledge of in terms of proposing the bill.

Majority Amendment (0581h)

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

AN ACT enabling the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Subdivision; Derry Cooperative School District Charter. Amend RSA 49-B by inserting after section 15 the following new subdivision:

Derry Cooperative School District Charter

49-B:16 Derry Cooperative School District Charter Amendment. The Derry town council may incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment to give the town council control over the form and procedures for preparation and adoption of the school department budget.

2026-0581h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Woodcock spoke against.

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

YEAS 193 - NAYS 157**YEAS - 193****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
 Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
 Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
 Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
 MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
 Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
 Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
 Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
 Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
 Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
 Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
 Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriis, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Colby, Eleana
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

**NAYS - 157
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
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stavis, Laurel

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

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

Cormen, Thomas
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
 Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Davis, Fred
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Boyd, Bill
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Judy, Jean
 Foss, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Gallagher, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Paige, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Malloy, Dennis
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

Reps. Milz and Foote declared a Conflict of Interest on HB 526-FN and did not participate in the vote.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)**MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER**

Rep. Osborne moved that **CACR 10**, the adoption of tax laws. be made a Special Order to the next order of business. Motion was adopted.

CACR 10, relating to the adoption of tax laws.

Providing that no law shall establish or increase a state imposed tax unless adopted by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. This CACR is a request to send to the voters a proposal to place restrictions on the New Hampshire House on bills raising taxes. Currently, the NH Constitution places restrictions on the House making it the sole source of tax increases. The plain language in our constitution was dismissed by opponents as not being clear. The so-called super-majority requirement in this bill assures that the republic system of government, as laid out in the U.S. Constitution, is followed. This CACR would not be imposed upon the taxpayers, rather, as with all constitutional amendments, it would go before the voters for ratification

and the democratic part of our republic style government would be fulfilled as the people vote to limit spending by the state government. Opposition stated that limiting state spending would result in downshifting of costs to the local property tax payers, although that concept remained elusive to the majority of the committee. Vote 11-8. Rep. Thomas Schamberg for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. The minority believes that this CACR would significantly make it harder to adjust tax policy when needed. The required two-thirds supermajority would override the present simple majority needed for tax-related legislation. The language in this CACR applies to any measure with the purpose or effect of establishing or increasing a tax. This CACR would make it difficult for lawmakers to respond quickly to changing economic conditions, budget shortfalls, or emergencies requiring increased revenue. This CACR, if adopted, would significantly increase procedural hurdles for tax policy decisions in New Hampshire. A supermajority reduces legislative flexibility and shifts power to a small group of legislators to block any proposed tax changes, even if a majority supports the change.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.
Rep. Osborne offered floor amendment (1059h).

Floor Amendment (1059h)

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

RELATING TO: the adoption of tax laws.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VII. Voters’ Guide.

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

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

2026-1059h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution prohibits the state legislature from adopting and the state from collecting any tax on personal income that was not in effect on January 1, 2026.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1059h)

Rep. Simpson spoke against.

Rep. Osborne spoke in favor.

Rep. Giasson requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 193 - NAYS 158**YEAS - 193
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, LisaBogert, Steven
Ploszaj, TomBordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Brown, RichardHamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian**CHESHIRE**Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, RichHunt, John
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick**COOS**Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, MikeDurkin, Sean
King, SethKorzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Ladd, RickBeaulier, Calvin
Louis, DarrellBerezhny, Lex
McFarlane, DonaldBjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, MarkAmmon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, RobertBoyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, TomBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonAures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, AlvinAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, ThomasMcGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James**ROCKINGHAM**Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, WayneBernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, KennethBridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, VickiBryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, DavidBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 158**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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

Floor amendment (1059h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Flanagan requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 194 - NAYS 158**YEAS - 194
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, LisaBogert, Steven
Ploszaj, TomBordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Brown, RichardHamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian**CHESHIRE**Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, RichHunt, John
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick**COOS**Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, MikeDurkin, Sean
King, SethKorzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Ladd, RickBeaulier, Calvin
Louis, DarrellBerezhny, Lex
McFarlane, DonaldBjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, JordanAmmon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Sirois, Shane
Warden, MarkBoyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, RobertBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonAures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, AlvinAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, ThomasMcGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James**ROCKINGHAM**Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, WayneBernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, KennethBridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, VickiBryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, DavidBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVANDrye, Margaret
Aron, JudyGirard, Dale
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter**NAYS - 158****CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, LucyBerch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, JodiHarvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, TerriFox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, TerryBaldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, LaurelBolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, JerryCormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, JonahBeauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, MatthewBergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, WilliamBooras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy**MERRIMACK**Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, TimothyCaplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary JaneColby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, GaryKelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, EricCahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Markde Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, GeraldEdgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, ThomasBixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, WayneBurton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, AliceButler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet**SULLIVAN**

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment failed lacking the necessary three-fifths vote.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATERep. Germana moved that the debate on **CACR 10**, the adoption of tax laws. be printed in the Permanent Journal.**MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS**

Rep. Sweeney moved that personal privilege remarks made by Rep. Read during debate on be printed Permanent Journal.

DEBATE CACR 10

Representative Simpson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-four hours ago, none of us even knew this amendment existed. It appeared online around 4:30 yesterday afternoon, and now we're being asked to vote on it. This isn't a typical floor amendment. It's a complete rewrite of a proposed constitutional amendment, and instead of following the normal legislative process, it was dropped at the last possible minute and rushed to the floor. That's not serious policymaking. It's an obvious political stunt. We've debated income tax constitutional amendments before, in 2019, in 2021, and in 2012, when one was ultimately sent to the voters. In every one of those cases, the legislature did its job. There were public hearings, committee work sessions, subcommittee review, and executive session deliberation. The proposals were vetted before members were asked to vote. None of that happened here; no public hearing, no committee review, no recommendation from Ways and Means, just a brand-new constitutional amendment, presented hours before debate with the expectation that we would rubber stamp it. This takes a completely new approach, attempting to amend Article 18. We have no prior analysis and no understanding of the consequences. This is not how we should amend our Constitution. This approach is short-sighted, irresponsible, and driven by politics. I urge you to vote no.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Osborne is recognized to speak to his amendment.

Representative Osborne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, two days ago, there was a press conference right in front of this building proposing a billion-dollar income tax. They called it the 3-3 plan. I call it the end of the New Hampshire Advantage. Now, I was pleased as punch, of course, to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle immediately reject this plan, but the people pushing this plan, including some other of our colleagues in the hall; they aren't going away. They will be back next session, or the session after that, or the session after that. All it would take would be a simple majority on any given session day to pass an income tax. That's why I'm offering this amendment today, to take advantage of this opportunity of bipartisanship that we've been presented with. This amendment replaces CACR 10 with a new article of constitution called Taxes Based on Personal Income Prohibited. The State of New Hampshire shall not levy, authorize, or collect any tax on personal income not in effect as of January 1, 2026. The general court shall have no power to impose a tax on wages, earned income, personal income, or other income of individuals. A full income tax ban written into the constitution. You'll hear this is unnecessary, that nobody is seriously proposing an income tax, but we just watched them propose one, on camera, in front of the statehouse, with a billion-dollar price tag. This threat is not hypothetical when it's right on the 6 o'clock news. Mr. Speaker, let me take you back in time a little bit to 1991 in Connecticut. Governor Weicker campaigned against an income tax, said, oh no, no, no income tax. And then, not only signed one into law, but had vetoed three budgets, and caused a government shutdown in order to implement it. Temporary, they said. Property tax relief, they said. This tax started at 4.5%. Today, it's up to 6.99%. Mr. Speaker, I bet you'll never guess what happened to property taxes. They didn't go down. In fact, mill rates have gone up 29%. All the meanwhile, residents of Connecticut are fleeing that state, and moving here. Fast forward to the present, in our own state, Governor Candidate Andru Volinsky 3-3 plan promises the same thing Wicker promised. Tax your income, to lower your property tax. It didn't work in Connecticut, it didn't work in any other state that it's been tried, and it won't work here. Today, we have a chance to make sure it never gets tried. If we pass this today, you know, it doesn't become law right away, it goes to the voters, it goes to them to decide in November. We're not imposing anything. We're asking the people of New Hampshire how they feel. I heard earlier this week that we agree across the aisle that the people of New Hampshire do not want an income tax. Well, let's give them a chance to say that themselves. This amendment codifies our New Hampshire advantage into the Constitution where it belongs. No income tax. Not now. Not ever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Giasson requests a roll call. And I think it's sufficiently seconded. Looks like more than 10. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. All right, the question is on the adoption of Amendment (1059h). Representative Simpson is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Simpson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that this amendment, which seeks to insert a brand new article into the New Hampshire Constitution just came into existence yesterday afternoon and hasn't been reviewed by a policy committee, if I know it would be incredibly irresponsible to pass a constitutional amendment onto the voters when the proposed language has not received any vetting whatsoever, if I believe in the process we use to vet legislation here in this House, and I believe that amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution should have more than a 15-hour shelf life before we pass them along, would I now press the red button to oppose the adoption of this amendment? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Sweeney is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this simple amendment would ban income taxes in the State of New Hampshire, and Mr. Speaker, if I know that many of us declare time and time again that we are opposed to all forms of an income tax, would we now not press the green button to let the voters see that we oppose income taxes now and forever? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: The House will be in order, despite the dramatic effect. And I was so happy to see Representative Simpson come up with a half-page, double-spaced thank you so much. The question is on the

adoption of Floor Amendment (1059h), and this is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 193 in the affirmative, 158 in the negative. The amendment is adopted. Now the motion is Ought to Pass with Amendment. Representative Simpson is recognized to speak against.

Representative Simpson: So, I don't know if my colleague is speaking again. This amendment is a replacement amendment, and you have heard what I think. The amendment replaced all of the original CACR and appeared only hours before debate asking legislators to vote without the normal legislative review process. Constitutional amendments should go through hearings, committee work, and analysis, while this proposal had none of that scrutiny. This process is irresponsible and politically motivated, and I urge you to vote no.

Speaker Steven Smith: I had Representative Ulery on the sheet. Are you still up? Representative Ulery waves off. Representative Flanagan has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The motion is Ought to Pass with Amendment on CACR 10. Representative Simpson is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Simpson: Mr. Speaker, if I know that this amendment, which seeks to insert a brand new article into the New Hampshire Constitution, just came into existence yesterday afternoon and has not been reviewed by a policy committee, if I know it would be incredibly irresponsible to pass a constitutional amendment on to the voters when the proposed language has not received any vetting whatsoever, and if I believe in the process that we use to vet legislation here in the New Hampshire House, and I believe that amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution should have more than a 15-hour shelf life before we pass them along, would I now press the red button to oppose the adoption of this CACR?

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Sweeney is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this amended constitutional amendment would only add to the Constitution a prohibition that the House of Representatives shall not adopt a tax on wages, earned income, personal income, or other income of individuals, and Mr. Speaker, if I know that we all declare ourselves to be opposed to income taxes, would I not press the green button and send this anti-income tax constitutional amendment to the voters for their ultimate approval, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Steven Smith: I'm so glad it's almost lunchtime. You all need a break. The question is on the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment on CACR 10. Surprisingly, it's a roll call vote. If you are in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 194 in the affirmative. 158 in the negative. The vote fails to hit the three-fifths of membership threshold. What reason does the member rise?

Representative Read: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege. The last comment made from the well was that everyone in this room had declared that they were against an income tax, and I, for one, have never said I'm against an income tax.

The House recessed at 12:06

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:15

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

HB 1402, relative to credentials for the position of superintendent of schools. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill introduces six pages of qualification and job description mandates on local districts for hiring and assessing superintendents. This proposal would micromanage minutiae of local districts, make the superintendent personally responsible for each student's "emotional safety," and go so far as to make partisan political activism a job requirement, requiring "political support for excellence and equity in education," and "...diversity as an asset of the district..." and "exerting professional influence, improving the broader political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context of education. . ." Thereby, this bill proposes limiting consideration of candidates to only those agreeably partisan and, further, coerces the conscience, speech, and political affiliation of those already employed in a serious transgression of their first amendment rights. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill would codify into statute the New Hampshire credentialing standards for superintendents that are currently set forth in administrative rules. These standards outline the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to carry out the responsibilities of the position as described in RSA 194-C:4. The minority believes that the superintendent's role is both complex and far reaching, with a direct impact on students, school systems, and local communities. Placing these comprehensive qualifications into law would provide greater clarity and stability, while helping school administrative unit school boards establish clear, consistent, baseline expectations for their chief educational leader.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Noble moved that **HB 1402**, relative to credentials for the position of superintendent of schools, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 184 members having voted in the affirmative, and 150 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

MOTION TO SUSPEND HOUSE RULES

Rep. Osborne moved that House Rule 66 be amended to extend the deadline of Last Day to Act on House Bills not in Second Committee from March 12, 2026 to March 19, 2026.

Rep. Osborne spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber spoke against.

On a division vote, with 194 members having voted in the affirmative, and 154 in the negative, the motion failed lacking the necessary two-thirds vote.

(Representative Kofalt in the Chair)**REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D**

HB 1403, relative to credentials for the position of school business administrator. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. Some of the problems of making a list of credentials or qualities needed for a job include leaving something important out of the list, having to revisit the list every time something changes, or simply making the list too long. The six-page list in this bill of credentials, skills, and competencies that a school business administrator must possess is too long. In addition to being hard to find someone who fits all the requirements, such a specific list also leaves out any chance of adapting requirements to local circumstances. Rather than place numerous requirements in statute, a good list of qualifications can easily be found among the online offerings of an organization like New Hampshire Association of School Business Officials (NHASBO). Their lists of workshops, courses, continuing education, and professional development demonstrate what practical day-to-day knowledge a candidate might need, without having to put it in statute. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Muriel Hall for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of this committee believes that credentialing school business administrators validates the extraordinary responsibility of their work. They oversee millions of taxpayer dollars while managing budgets, payroll, facilities, transportation contracts, food services, and compliance with state and federal law. Credentialing demonstrates a commitment to lifelong learning and industry best practices. This bill, as amended, not only reinstates credentialing which was required prior to its repeal in 2023, but it also includes a grandfathering clause for school business administrators who are currently employed.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Drye moved that **HB 1403**, relative to credentials for the position of school business administrator, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 196 members having voted in the affirmative, and 152 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)**REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D**

HB 1573, permitting excused absences for students participating in civic engagement or attending a career or technical education event. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill permits excused absences for students participating in civic or career and technical education (CTE) events. The amended version redefines a "civic event" as one "held by federal, state, or local government bodies." It defines a "career or technical education event" as "any event or activity relating to a career or technical education curriculum or student organization, such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Future Business Leaders of America, SkillsUSA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), or DECA." Schools will be required to excuse up to two of a student's school day absences per academic year for civic or CTE events. This bill recognizes that some educational competitions and events occasionally require time for preparation and/or travel and makes sure that a student can take that time without penalty. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Lee Ann Kluger for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority considers and appreciates the importance of primary source participation in relation to the civic and Career and Technical

Education (CTE) engagement of our students. This bill as amended creates added parameters that would be counter to local control. For example, the bill if implemented, would require school districts to allow for two excused absences every academic year to attend civic or CTE events. According to the bill, schools could also excuse students added days off if considered necessary. School districts should have the ability to implement their own attendance policies that are in the best interest of their students. Also, the listing of events that students could potentially attend highlights a limited category of events which could invite confusion and marginalize other valuable organizations. The minority maintains that Inexpedient to Legislate is the most proper vote to protect local control decision making.

Majority Amendment (0396h)

Amend RSA 193:1-d, II-III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. For the purposes of this section:

(a) A “civic event” shall be defined as any event, activity, hearing, or meeting held by federal, state, or local government bodies.

(b) A “career or technical education event,” or “CTE event,” shall be defined as any event or activity relating to a career or technical education curriculum or student organization, such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Future Business Leaders of America, SkillsUSA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), or DECA.

III. Schools shall be required to excuse 2 of a student’s school day absences per academic year for civic or CTE events.

(a) This paragraph shall not preclude schools from excusing further absences at their own discretion.

(b) Participation in activities related to statutory or executive New Hampshire youth advisory councils, either as a member or a guest, shall supersede this paragraph and shall always be excused.

(c) Students attending multi-day conferences for career and technical student organizations may have absences for such conferences excused with proof of attendance.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Kluger spoke against.

Rep. Drye spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 200 members having voted in the affirmative, and 149 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HB 1635, modifying the requirements of suicide prevention education policies in schools. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Margaret Drye for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill aims to change the current two-hour annual suicide training requirement in schools to once every two years, aligning it with other existing training requirements for schools, similar to the training for child sexual abuse prevention, sexual assault and harassment policy, warning signs of child abuse, and reporting mandates under RSA 189:13-a, XII, which are also required every 2 years. Studies have shown that biennial training is effective, as seen in the similar requirement for life-saving skills such as CPR, which also follows a biennial training schedule. The existing annual training demands have posed challenges for some districts in recruiting volunteers, and this bill aims to maintain the training requirement while ensuring consistency with other mandated trainings. Nothing in this bill precludes a school or district from providing training on an annual basis. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Loren Selig for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee believes that this bill, which seeks to reduce the requirements for suicide prevention education should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. The committee heard from mental health associations, parents of a child who died by suicide, and organizations seeking to reduce suicide that this bill would decrease the amount of training teachers, administrators, and staff receive in suicide indicator awareness and prevention. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in New Hampshire for young people ages 10 to 24. Our youth are struggling, and too many lives are being lost. Suicide is preventable, and early identification, education, and intervention are proven tools. RSA 193-J:2, II, in its current form, saves lives. It ensures that school personnel are trained to recognize warning signs and respond appropriately, creating safer school environments for students. Any proposed changes to RSA 193-J:2, II would weaken its protections and put young people at greater risk.

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

Rep. Selig spoke against.

Rep. Drye spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 183 - NAYS 167**YEAS - 183
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, LisaBogert, Steven
Ploszaj, TomBordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIREMurphy, Denis
Nalevanko, RichHunt, John
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick**COOS**Davis, Arnold
King, SethDurkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Ladd, RickBeaulier, Calvin
Louis, DarrellBerezhny, Lex
McFarlane, DonaldBjelobrk, Marie Louise
Stringham, Jerry**HILLSBOROUGH**Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, RobertBoyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, TomBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, JordanBerry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonAures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, AlvinAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, ThomasMcGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James**ROCKINGHAM**Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, MichaelBernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, WayneBryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, KennethMannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, DavidBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len**SULLIVAN**Drye, Margaret
Aron, JudyGirard, Dale
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 167 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
Lucas, Janet
Sellers, John

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Alexander, Joe
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Porcelli, Susan
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER

Rep. Kofalt moved that **HB 1217**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances be made a Special Order to the next order of business.
Motion was adopted.

BILL REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 1217, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.
REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for Judiciary. Some members of the committee were concerned that this bill presents the same challenges as prior legislation vetoed by current and previous governors. Specifically, they feel the currently proposed broad restrictions require further consideration in order to adequately protect the privacy, safety, and rights of all Granite Staters. They are also concerned with the practicality of enforcement of this proposed legislation. Other members of the committee generally looked favorably upon the bill, but felt that it was duplicative of other legislation the committee has approved this term and sent to the floor. Vote 17-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Referred for Interim Study.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Alissandra Murray moved that **HB 1217**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances, be laid on the table.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 168 - NAYS 180

YEAS - 168

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

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

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

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

Boehm, Ralph
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Milz, David
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Muns, Chris
Roy, Terry
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Porcelli, Susan
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 180**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Referred for Interim Study.

Rep. Kofalt spoke against.

Rep. Alissandra Murray spoke in favor.

Rep. Layon requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 168 - NAYS 180**YEAS - 168****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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Donnelly, Tanya
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

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

Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vandecasteele, Susan

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
DeRoy, Susan
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

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

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

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

SULLIVAN

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

NAYS - 180 BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

CARROLL

Hamblen, Joseph

MacDonald, John

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

CHESHIRE

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

COOS

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

GRAFTON

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

MERRIMACK

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Janigan, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

STRAFFORD

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

SULLIVAN

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

Rep. Layon moved Ought to Pass and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 187 - NAYS 163

YEAS - 187

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 163**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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
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
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Granger moved that the debate on **HB 1635**, modifying the requirements of suicide prevention education policies in schools. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE HB 1635

Representative Selig: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the Ought to Pass motion for House Bill 1635. House Bill 1635 seeks to reduce requirements for suicide prevention education in our schools. Just in case you missed that, House Bill 1635 seeks to reduce requirements for suicide prevention education in our schools. While that may sound technical, the real-world impact is deeply human. It would decrease the amount of training teachers, administrators and school staff receive in recognizing suicide warning signs and knowing how to respond when a child is in crisis. The committee heard powerful testimony on this issue. Mental health associations, suicide prevention organizations and parents who lost their child to suicide all spoke clearly and consistently. Reducing training will cost lives. These were not abstract concerns. These were lived experiences shared by people who know firsthand how critical early identification and intervention can be. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for New Hampshire young people ages 10 to 24. In fact, my district lost a child who was 10 years old to gun inspired suicide when my daughter was in fifth grade. Our schools are struggling. Too many children's lives are being lost. This is not the time to scale back our commitment to prevention. Suicide is preventable and education, awareness and timely intervention are proven tools. RSA 193-J:2, II in its current form saves lives. It ensures school personnel are trained to recognize warning signs and respond appropriately. It helps create safer school environments where students are more likely to be seen, supported and helped before a crisis turns into a tragedy. Any proposed changes to the existing law weaken its protections and put young people at greater risk. We should be strengthening our protection efforts, not rolling them back for the sake of our students, our families and our communities to save children's lives. I urge the body to vote no on HB 1635 so a better, more appropriate motion to protect our youth can be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I request a division vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Drye is recognized to speak for the committee report.

Representative Drye: Thank you Mr. Speaker. When the basketball player collapsed in the school gym this past Saturday, his teammates rushed to start CPR and applied the AED. When EMS arrived, the gentleman was alert and talking. Everything worked the way it was supposed to. And as critical as CPR was to that process, it's a skill that only requires recertification every other year. It's been that way since we started teaching CPR over 50 years ago. This bill seeks to change the current two-hour annual suicide prevention training requirement in schools to once every two years, aligning it with other existing training requirements for schools. Is suicide prevention training valuable? Absolutely. So is sexual harassment reporting and prevention training and that is only required every other year. So is abuse, neglect and mandatory reporting training and that's only offered every other year. So is EpiPen training and restraint inclusion training and section 504 training and homeless liaison training and student discipline and due process training; all required every other year in schools. These important things are all required biannually just like CPR training. This list doesn't even include trainings to be offered as needed such as New Hampshire educators code of conduct or code of ethics training or Title IX investigation training or athletic coach training or reading and interpretation of criminal history and records training. All important but not required annually. Finally, note that nothing in this bill, nothing in this bill prevents a school or district from preventing a district from providing suicide prevention training on an annual basis if it so desires. It just maintains the training requirement while aligning it with other existing training schedules. I ask you to vote House Bill 1635 Ought to Pass. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Who requested the roll call? Representative Weber requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It's sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The House will come to order. The question is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1635. Representative Cornell is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Cornell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10 to 15 year olds, yet this bill seeks to decrease the amount of training presently provided to all school faculty and staff to recognize warning signs and how best to respond, and if I know that numerous suicide prevention groups testified against reducing training times and that online 238 people voted against this bill and only 12 people supported it, and if I know that the loved ones of those lost to suicide in New Hampshire worked tirelessly to help get this original bill passed and that this bill reducing the amount to time is a slap in the face to all of their work, would I now press the red button to stop this bill and keep the prevention trainings in place as one more tool to protect our children?

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Freeman's recognized for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Freeman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that CPR, sexual harassment reporting and prevention training as well as seclusion training, EpiPen training, 504 training, home liaison training, and a multitude of trainings are only required biannually, and if I also know that this does not apply to new hires within a school district and does not prevent any school district or SAU from providing this training on an annual basis, and if I finally know that these annual trainings proved to be demanding and pose challenges for some districts in recruiting volunteers to perform these trainings, then I would encourage my colleagues to press the green button to support the majority recommendation of Ought to Pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1635. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 183 in the affirmative, 167 in the negative. The committee report is adopted.

MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER

Rep. Kofalt moved that **HB 1442-FN**, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity," be made a Special Order to the next order of business.

Motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1442-FN, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity." **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Eric Turer for Judiciary. This bill attempts to define "female" and "male" gender identities, and to apply that definition for the purpose of modifying civil rights protections specifically regarding access to spaces to be designated as separate for females and males. The bill specifically applies the definition with regard to defining the crime of "willful trespass" for males improperly accessing female designated bathrooms, locker rooms, and the housing of inmates in correctional facilities, while also extending that definition to include health care, public assistance, and sports which may reference gender. It further prescribes that schools and municipalities shall designate bathrooms and locker rooms as being male and female specific, except if the municipality designates up to 20% of such facilities as "all gender" by a 3/5 supermajority vote. The bill further allows all other public-access facilities to apply sex specific designations. Various members of the committee identified a range of problems with the proposed bill. The definition of gender based on presence of the SRY gene is noted as requiring impractical genetic testing, for which the bill notes alternatives include the presence or absence of reproductive anatomy and also references the birth certificate "at or near the time of birth" vs the birth certificate of record. None of these potentially ambiguous approaches lends itself to the practical enforcement of such a policy in the community setting. Further, the requirement for communities to vote on policies to preserve gender neutral facilities would be cumbersome and potentially divisive. Lastly, the criminal assertion of a false gender identity references the sex as defined in RSA 21:3, which specifically defines gender neutrality. Additionally, although some members of the committee disagreed with some or all of the foregoing points, these members felt the bill was unnecessary at this time given other bills that the committee approved that address the same subject. Vote 17-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Referred for Interim Study.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Wade moved that **HB 1442-FN**, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity," be laid on the table and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 163 - NAYS 186

YEAS - 163

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick

Berch, Paul

Harvey, Cathryn

Fox, Dru

Faulkner, Barry

Gruber, James

Jacobs, Samantha

Jones, Philip

Germana, Nicholas

Newell, Jodi

O'Rourke, Terri

Parshall, Lucius

Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan

Baldwin, Heather

Bolton, Bill

Cormen, Thomas

Fellows, Sallie

Fracht, David

Hakken-Phillips, Mary

Sullivan, Jared

Lucas, Janet

Muirhead, Russell

Oppel, Thomas

Rockmore, Ellen

Spahr, Terry

Stavis, Laurel

Stringham, Jerry

Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra

Beauchemin, Paige

Bergeron, Dan

Budathoki, Suraj

Chourasia, Manoj

Chretien, Suzanne

Cornell, Patricia

Darby, Will

Dargie, Paul

DiSilvestro, Linda

Elberger, Susan

Davis, Fred

Foss, Lily

Georges, Mary

Grill, Jessica

Grund, Stephanie

Harriott-Gathright, Linda

Hartnett, Tim

Hegner, Karen

Herbert, Christopher

Jack, Martin

Judy, Jean

Juris, Louis

Kerwin, Erin

Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

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

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 186

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Cahill, Michael
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

The question now is adoption of the committee report of Referred for Interim Study.

Rep. Layon spoke against.

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

YEAS 163 - NAYS 182**YEAS - 163****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
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine

Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
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
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 182

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

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Davis, Arnold
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Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

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Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
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Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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Bennett, Cindy
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Selby, Donald
 Sytek, John
 Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Guzowski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 MacDonald, Wayne

Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttat, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Pearson, Mark
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

Rep. Layon moved Ught to Pass and offered floor amendment (1054h).

Floor Amendment (1054h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Statement of Findings. The general court finds that:

I. Historically, society has protected females by reserving certain spaces for their exclusive use and offering certain services only to women and children.

II. The inclusion of gender identity in the Civil Rights Act and the New Hampshire law against discrimination was not intended to remove protections for females.

III. The following statutory changes are to be undertaken by the general court:

(a) Include "female" and "male" in the definitions section of New Hampshire state law, using biology to determine the legal categories of female and male. To address intersex persons, the language references the SRY gene which is required during fetal development to develop male anatomy. To remove the need for genetic testing, those persons who do not meet the legal definition of female will be considered male.

(b) Amend the definition of "gender-identity" to provide clarification on what is considered "improper purpose" for assertion of gender identity. Accessing spaces or services offered only to females on the basis of gender identity shall be defined as an improper purpose.

(c) All inmates shall be housed based upon sex.

Amend RSA 21:3, I-II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. "Female" is defined as an individual with a reproductive system of the type which in normal function produce ova, and specifically defined as an individual who lacks a functional Y chromosome. A functional Y chromosome is a Y chromosome which expressed the SRY gene during fetal development. A person with 46,XX/46,XY and functional ovarian tissue is a female.

II. "Male" is defined as an individual with a reproductive system of the type which in normal function produce sperm. Male shall include any person who does not meet the definition of female.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 3 and 4 with the following:

3 Statutory Construction; Gender Identity Modified. Amend RSA 21:54 to read as follows:

21:54 Gender Identity. "Gender identity" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or [assigned] sex [at birth]. Gender-related identity may be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity, or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held as part of a person's core identity provided, however, that gender-related identity shall not be asserted for any improper purpose. ***Notwithstanding any other laws including but not limited to RSA 193, sections 38 through 40, RSA 354-A, and RSA 354-B, it shall be considered improper purpose to assert that gender identity provides access to any place or service provided or offered exclusively to females or males.***

4 State Commission for Human Rights; Definitions; Gender Identity Modified. Amend RSA 354-A:2, XIV-e to read as follows:

XIV-e. “Gender identity” means a person’s gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or [assigned] sex [at birth]. Gender-related identity may be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity, or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held as part of a person’s core identity provided, however, that gender-related identity shall not be asserted for any improper purpose. ***Notwithstanding any other laws including but not limited to RSA 193, sections 38 through 40, RSA 354-A, and RSA 354-B, it shall be considered improper purpose to assert that gender identity provides access to any place or service provided or offered exclusively to females or males.***

Amend RSA 189:16-b, I-III as inserted by section 5 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. For the purposes of this section:

(a) “Sex” shall mean either female or male as defined by RSA 21:3.

(b) “Multi-user facility” shall mean any bathroom, restroom, or locker room that is accessible to multiple individuals for use at the same time.

(c) “All-gender” shall mean any facility with access not restricted by sex.

II. Adoption or enforcement of a policy pursuant to this section shall not be deemed discrimination under RSA 354-A or any other state law.

Amend RSA 31:103-c, I-III as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. For the purposes of this section:

(a) “Sex” shall mean either female or male as defined by RSA 21:3.

(b) “Multi-user facility” shall mean any bathroom, restroom, or locker room that is accessible to multiple individuals for use at the same time.

(c) “All-gender” shall mean any facility with access not restricted by sex.

II. Adoption or enforcement of a policy pursuant to this section shall not be deemed discrimination under RSA 354-A or any other state law.

Amend RSA 354-A:17-b, I-III as inserted by section 7 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. For the purposes of this section:

(a) “Sex” shall mean either female or male as defined by RSA 21:3.

(b) “Multi-user facility” shall mean any bathroom, restroom, or locker room that is accessible to multiple individuals for use at the same time.

(c) “All-gender” shall mean any facility with access not restricted by sex.

II. Adoption or enforcement of a policy pursuant to this section shall not be deemed discrimination under RSA 354-A or any other state law.

Amend RSA 622:10-a, I(b) as inserted by section 8 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) “Sex” shall mean either female or male as defined by RSA 21:3.

Amend the bill by deleting section 10 and renumbering the original section 11 to read as 10.

2026-1054h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Modifies statutory construction of the term “gender identity”.

II. Requires bathrooms and locker rooms in public schools and municipally owned buildings to be used on the basis of sex.

III. Permits owners and operators of places of public accommodation to restrict the use of bathrooms and locker rooms on the basis of sex.

IV. Requires that inmates in New Hampshire correctional facilities be housed separately on the basis of their sex.

V. Modifies the enforcement of civil rights to provide protections on the basis of gender identity only for certain purposes.

The question now being adoption of floor amendment (1054h).

Rep. Wade spoke against.

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

YEAS 183 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 183

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 162**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
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leapey, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Bridle, Nicholas
 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
 Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and floor amendment (1054h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Wade spoke against.

Rep. Layon in favor.

Rep. Lane requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 181 - NAYS 164**YEAS - 181****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
 Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
 Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
 Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
 Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
 Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
 Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
 Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
 Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
 Thackston, Dick

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Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 164**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
Sullows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
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
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the Ought to Pass with Amendment motion was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

The House recessed at 3:00 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1640, relative to consent for school billing purposes. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Melissa Litchfield for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. Federal law already requires an annual one-time consent to access a child's Medicaid benefits to bill for services under the Medicaid to Schools program. The majority of the committee believes that parental consent should be obtained for any new service that a child receives, in addition to the one-time consent to access benefits. The majority also believes that allowing the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human services to adopt rules relative to special education services, Medicaid, and expanded Medicaid as they pertain to reimbursements to schools is far too broad and not in the best interest of parents and students. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Megan Murray for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. It is the position of the minority of the committee that a single signature, in addition to annual notification, would be less costly than multiple signatures for each new and individual billing code. It would also meet the needs of an annual notification for consent to pursue Medicaid billing as it relates to eligible services under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Noble moved that **HB 1640**, relative to consent for school billing purposes, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 176 members having voted in the affirmative, and 153 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1820-FN, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill is seen as a serious constitutional threat to the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program, as it changes the current paradigm, which the courts refused to strike down and thereby upheld as lawful, by changing oversight and administration of the EFA grants (made to parents) to the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. This fundamental change to the program might legally undermine the nature of these grants, whereby, once made, the funds belong to the parents to be expended towards the education of their children. By changing the paradigm to have these funds distributed directly from the New Hampshire government to certain institutions that parents have decided to send their children to the program might then transgress Article 83 of the New Hampshire Constitution. Further, the bill was advertised as being a cost-saving measure, but the bill itself authorizes more funds to the department than are currently expended in administration of the program. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Patricia Cornell for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority is against the Inexpedient to Legislate motion on this bill that has the NH Department of Education (DOE) administer the Education Freedom Account program, which would make the program more directly accountable to NH residents, lawmakers, and auditors. This bill does not change EFA eligibility and it remains a grant transferred to the student's EFA account. Administration by the DOE would provide oversight, accountability, and transparency, which we all prize. There presently are 10,510 students receiving EFAs at a cost of \$52 million. The administration cost of up 10% would be \$5 million. The minority believes that the \$5 million raised from NH taxpayer dollars should remain in NH. We have trust that the DOE is capable of administering this program.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Noble moved that **HB 1820-FN**, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program, be laid on the table.

Rep. Damon requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 179 - NAYS 157**YEAS - 179****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory

Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

STRAFFORD

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

SULLIVAN

NAYS - 157

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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
Lucas, Janet
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

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
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
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci

Cahill, Michael
Guthrie, Joseph

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda

Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate

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

Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1834-FN, relative to the education freedom account enrollment cap. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill proposes extending the Education Freedom Account cap through the 2026-2027 school year. It is feared that this cap might not be constitutional, as, while courts have been friendly to means-tested exclusion, discrimination without cause and arbitrary limits on public programs have not been treated so kindly by the courts. Ethically, such an arbitrary exclusion policy lacks for a firm foundation. Further, the bill has an error in the implementation timeline, making the bill go into effect after the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, which would have the effect of kicking more than 800 families out of the program, and jeopardizing their education, just after the school year has begun. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Loren Selig for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee believes this bill should be Ought to Pass in order to protect the financial interests of New Hampshire citizens. When this bill was first introduced, the fiscal note wasn't completed yet. The fiscal note which was finished and added on January 12th indicates that this bill would save taxpayers \$6.2 million in 2027, but it's actually much more than that. The fiscal note estimates that under this bill, in which the caps stay at 10,000 students, the number of students in the program in 2027 will be 11,250 because about 1,250 students will have priority status. The fiscal note then states that under current law where the cap automatically increases, the program will grow to 12,500 students next year. But the fiscal note does not take those priority students into account when estimating the cost under current law. The real estimate under current law is 13,750 students next year, because the same 1,250 priority students will have priority status. The actual taxpayer savings under this bill is \$12.4 million, double what the fiscal note indicates. Additionally, the legislature only budgeted enough funds for 9,541 students next year (\$47.8 million in budget; \$5,010 cost per student), so even with this bill, we're still overspending on Education Freedom Account (EFA) funds. Additionally, (1) this bill only affects upper-income families that aren't already in the voucher program; (2) because the priority status is unchanged in this bill, any family new under 350% poverty will still be able to access the voucher program even when the cap is hit; and (3) this bill saves taxpayers over \$12 million by simply keeping the EFA program as is, and not expanding it to an additional 2,500 wealthy households next year.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Noble moved that **HB 1834-FN**, relative to the education freedom account enrollment cap, be laid on the table.

Rep. Cornell requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 180 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 180

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriis, Jose
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 157**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
 Lucas, Janet
 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

Bergeron, Dan
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grill, Jessica
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Teterski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Judy, Jean
 Foss, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Cahill, Michael
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Read, Ellen
 Turer, Eric

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

CACR 14, relating to qualifications for office. Providing that candidates of the office of governor, state senator, and state representative shall be citizens of the United States. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for the **Majority** of Election Law. This Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution would place the requirement of US citizenship for holding state office in the New Hampshire Constitution, ensuring that this fundamental qualification is clearly established in the state's highest law. While current statutes address this requirement, statutes may be amended by future legislatures. Constitutional placement provides permanence, clarity, and uniformity regarding eligibility for public office. The amendment does not alter existing qualifications beyond citizenship, nor does it distinguish between natural-born and naturalized citizens. Rather, it affirms a longstanding principle that those exercising the authority of state government should be citizens of the United States. Vote 10-6.

Rep. Luz Bay for the **Minority** of Election Law. This Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution is unnecessary, duplicative, and potentially harmful. US citizenship for state office is already required under RSA 655:1, and no evidence shows that the statute is unclear, unenforceable, or constitutionally deficient. The amendment risks creating tension between statutory and constitutional language while inviting future efforts to expand eligibility restrictions, including proposals such as a "natural born citizen" requirement that would exclude naturalized citizens. Public testimony overwhelmingly opposed the amendment as addressing a

nonexistent problem and reinforcing fearbased narratives about elections. Because the structural framework of the constitution functions effectively, there is no need to amend it. For these reasons, the minority recommends finding this Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution Inexpedient to Legislate.

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

Rep. Bay spoke against.

Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien spoke in favor.

Rep. Berry requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 182 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 182

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

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

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 157
BELKNAP**

Ploszaj, Tom

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
Lucas, Janet
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
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jeudy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Cahill, Michael
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

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

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

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion of Ought to Pass failed lacking the necessary three-fifths vote.

HB 1500, establishing a commission to study and propose procedures in the event of a state government shutdown. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. New Hampshire has long maintained fiscal discipline through balanced budgets, no income or sales tax, and constitutional requirements for timely appropriations. State government shutdowns have not occurred in recent decades due to responsible budgeting practices and the deep commitment to pass a budget each biennium to avoid a government shutdown. Creating a new commission with broad membership including union representatives and advocacy groups risks unnecessary bureaucracy, potential politicization of fiscal policy, and expenditure of taxpayer resources on redundant study when no imminent shutdown threat exists. Existing statutes and legislative oversight provide sufficient frameworks for continuity of essential operations without mandating a formal commission that could lead to expansive new mandates or spending contingencies. The majority of the committee therefore recommends this bill as inexpedient to legislate to preserve efficient governance and avoid creating unnecessary study panels. Vote 7-6.

Rep. Jaci Grote for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. A minority of the committee, considering the breadth of New Hampshire's state government, felt that a commission to study and propose procedures in the event of a government shutdown a worthy endeavor. The commission would consider the services provided by the state, the state's employment responsibility, the agencies that provide safety and health services, among other everyday important functions. An interim report would be due by November 1, 2026, with a final report by November 1, 2027. Since only the legislature can create a plan that binds agencies, respects labor law, and endures across administrations, this minority felt it was an important matter to study.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Slottje moved that **HB 1500**, establishing a commission to study and propose procedures in the event of a state government shutdown, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 187 members having voted in the affirmative, and 150 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1167, enabling the use of ferrets for hunting. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jonathan Smith for the **Majority** of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill would eliminate the prohibition on possessing a ferret while hunting or while traveling to or from hunting. It does not authorize hunting with ferrets. Bringing your furry friendly ferret along for a car ride or hunt has no more inherent risk to the outdoors than keeping your ferret at your home or in your backyard. Vote 9-6.

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for the **Minority** of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This is a bill that repeals the prohibition is possessing a ferret while hunting or while on the way to and from hunting. The expressed concern was the risk of ferrets spreading diseases and parasites or getting loose and preying on native wildlife. Ferrets are vicious hunters. The Fish and Game Department also opposes the bill. They testified that there has never been a request for the bill. In fact, they questioned in their testimony whether the bill would lead to a pathway for a ferret season. The creation and administration of such a season would be extremely costly for the Fish and Game Department.

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

Rep. Loren Foxx spoke against.

Rep. Barton spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 145 members having voted in the affirmative, and 189 in the negative, the motion failed.

Rep. Harvey moved Inexpedient to Legislate.

Motion was adopted.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Farrington moved that the debate on **HB 1167**, enabling the use of ferrets for hunting, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

OBJECTION

An objection was raised to Rep. Farrington on the motion to print the debate of HB 1167 in the permanent journal.

The question being to print the debate of HB 1167 in the permanent journal.

Motion was adopted.

DEBATE HB 1167

Representative Loren Foxx: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Fish and Game Committee, we get a cross section of very interesting bills and have crazy debates about them. This one, the ferret bill, was nowhere near to close to being on the bingo card of my legislative career, yet here we are. Currently hunters are prohibited from bringing ferrets along in the car when they go hunting. You might wonder why this is. After all, aren't ferrets just cute little furry animals? But, there are several reasons why bringing your pet ferret on a hunting trip might not be such a good idea. First of all, the wildlife population is at risk when non-native ferrets are introduced. I just learned that too. If your pet ferret were to get loose on a hunting trip, there's a chance that it could wreak havoc on local wildlife populations by introducing parasites and diseases for which our native wildlife have no immunities. Second, by rule, right now there is no ferreting season. So it's not legal to let your pet ferret loose, even if they might not want to, to try to prey on another animal. Legal ferreting would open up an entirely different can of worms or a business of ferrets, as it were. Third, ferret safety. A pet ferret who gets loose may get injured underground by its prey or cause an inhumane death by its prey. Not good outcomes for either party. Ferrets can't distinguish among species of animals and the possibility exists that a ferret could unwittingly slay an endangered New England cottontail. For the health of our native wildlife and the safety of the animals involved, I ask you to please put your little ferret claws on the red button and vote to overturn the ought to pass motion so that a better motion may be made. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Why can't they all be like this?

Representative Loren Foxx: And since I'm never up here, I'd like to ask for a division vote, please. Of course you are. And I liked you a minute ago.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Barton is recognized to speak for the committee report.

Representative Barton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have you all know that Dr. Seuss was born on March 2nd, so I'll give a little homage to him. Mr. Speaker, good members, pray, lend your attention. I rise on repeal with modest intention, not to unsettle our forests or land, but to tidy a clause that's grown out of hand. For 90 long years, yes, 9-0, it's true, a curious clause has persisted right through. A relic, a leftover, dusty with age, still sitting there, squatting right there on the page, a law from a time of a different debate when radios crackled and news traveled late, when fears of the wild loomed larger than fact, and ferrets were treated as threats in the act. But listen now closely, let's make it quite plain. This bill does not loosen the wildlife domain. It does not send ferrets to hunt in the field. No marshland surrendered, no burrow unsealed. No rabbits pursued in the tall meadow grass, no hunting permissions silently passed. Game laws remain firm, intact and complete. No ferrets set loose where wild creatures meet. What does it do? Why something quite small, it cleans up a statute, well, that's really all. So that a ferret domesticated, bred, may lawfully go where its owner has led. A service companion, steady and trained, when balance is lost or strength has been drained. A quiet support, calm and discreet, a whiskered small therapist curled up at your feet, or simply a pet, no title assigned, no task to perform, no service defined, no hunting permitted, no wildlife running spree, just lawful and harmless and entirely free. Ninety years lingering, a worry misplaced, a leftover fear from a time we've outpaced. We prune back dead branches so strong limbs may thrive. We clear out old statutes so good laws survive. I speak for the ferrets, small, clever, spry, with bright little masks and a curious eye. They ask not for prey, nor the woodland to roam, just travel beside when their owners roam home. So, members, today, we can tidy the code, lift 90-year cobwebs off statute's old road. No chaos, no crisis, no trouble foreseen. My friends, if you're ready, vote yes, vote green. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: So, that just happened. Alrighty, a division has been requested. This will be a division vote. Members, take your seats. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1167. Representative Harvey is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Harvey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that there was no testimony as to why you should or why you would even want to take your ferret hunting with you, and if I know that there is no ferret season, so any take that that ferret would make would be an illegal take, and if I know ferrets are very vicious hunters, but to them, all rabbits look alike, especially our endangered New Hampshire cottontail, would I now press the red button to leave our fuzzy, furry, friendly pets at home where they can watch TV and be pampered for the rest of their lives as they were meant to be? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Spillane is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Spillane: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief. If I know that this bill, though titled to say hunting with ferrets, has nothing to do with hunting with ferrets, and just means that you're not banned from taking them in your vehicle while you're going to a hunting spot or carrying them in your pocket, and if I know that you can do this with any manner of other pets, it's just the ferret who's been singled out and for some reason made a pariah out of your pet kingdom, then would I press green?

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1167. This is a division vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If you're opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present I had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 145 in the affirmative, 189 in the negative. The motion fails. The House will be in order. Representative Harvey moves Inexpedient to Legislate. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. The ayes have it, and the ferrets are safe.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1317, relative to patient privacy protections. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Mazur for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Although safeguarding patient privacy is essential, this proposal is overly broad and largely duplicates existing protections under laws like the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The prime sponsor has indicated one of their primary concerns is potential actions by the current administration, but state law should not be rewritten based on fear of a particular federal administration. As drafted, the bill could unintentionally disrupt Medicaid funding, public health reporting, and other federally coordinated services — creating confusion and barriers to care without meaningfully strengthening privacy protections. Vote 11-7.

Rep. Lucy Weber for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Privacy has always been of particular concern to Granite Staters — so much so that we passed a constitutional amendment guaranteeing it several years ago. This bill reinforces our constitution and various other sources of patient health care data, state and federal, by creating one simple, overarching statement that includes the full extent of protection for this most personal of data. The very real possibility of discrimination on the basis of a disclosure of such personal information to unauthorized persons requires that we must do all we can to limit the possible risk of such disclosure.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Mazur moved that **HB 1317**, relative to patient privacy protections, be laid on the table and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 183 - NAYS 154**YEAS - 183****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigan, John
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 154**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
Lucas, Janet
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
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison

Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

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

Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1653, relative to emergency medical care provided at freestanding hospital emergency facilities. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matt Drew for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill requires free-standing hospital emergency facilities (FHEFs) to explicitly offer patients a choice of receiving facility on transfer and document that choice. It also requires FHEFs to transfer to the closest suitable hospital instead of their parent facility if the patient is unable to choose, and bars them from contracting with an ambulance service to provide exclusive transport ability between the FHEF and its parent hospital. The majority of the committee believes that this is a transparent attempt to suppress market competition and unfairly alleged that doctors at FHEFs were not performing their duties with regard to patients and informed consent. The proponents of this bill were unable to provide a single documented case where this had occurred, and further were unable to make any arguments that applied solely to FHEFs and not to every ER department in every hospital. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Lucy Weber for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Free-standing emergency facilities are owned by a parent hospital but provide emergency services in an off-site location some miles away from the parent facility. When the patient needs to be transported to a full-service hospital, this bill provides that the patient or their representative must be informed of their right to be transferred to any receiving hospital that has the capability to address the patient's medical needs. There are many reasons why a patient might prefer to be transferred to a hospital other than the free-standing emergency facility's parent hospital: the other hospital might be closer than the parent hospital, or it might be closer to the patient's home, family, and support systems, or it might be the place where the patient's existing specialists might practice and where their existing medical records are located. The bill simply promotes patient choice and self-determination by requiring that every patient or their representative be informed of their right to go to any medically appropriate receiving hospital.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Wayne MacDonald moved that **HB 1653**, relative to emergency medical care provided at freestanding hospital emergency facilities, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 173 members having voted in the affirmative, and 158 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1465-FN, establishing mandatory reporting of civil rights violations committed by members of the judiciary. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. This bill would create mandatory reporting for certain individuals of any civil rights violations committed by members of the judicial branch, and establishes a penalty for failures to comply. The responsibility to report would apply to state or federal employees, could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation and parole costs, as well as county and local governments. Current law and rules already provide for reporting of violations and this bill would provide no additional protections and could hold people responsible over whom the state has no authority. Vote 18-0.

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

Motion was adopted.

HR 38, authorizing and directing the house judiciary committee to investigate whether cause exists for the impeachment of any justice of the New Hampshire supreme court. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for the **Majority** of Judiciary. The majority of the Judiciary Committee believes the testimony given during the public hearing for this House Resolution did not rise to the level of necessity for the House to explore impeachment of any of our NH Supreme Court justices. Vote 12-5.

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for the **Minority** of Judiciary. As amended, this resolution authorizes and directs the House Judiciary Committee to investigate whether there are grounds for impeaching Chief Justice Gordon J. MacDonald and/or any other justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. The investigation would be based on the testimony and evidence that was presented to the committee, and any new information arising from the committee's investigation. A minority of the committee believes there is a sufficient probability that the burden of probable cause for maladministration would be met in an investigation, warranting an investigation into Chief Justice MacDonald and/or any other justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Documented contradictions from justices in testimony, unresolved ethical questions regarding a substantial court employee payout, and governance failures have eroded public confidence in the Supreme Court, necessitating a legislative investigation. The minority believes that this current crisis of confidence must be addressed and that the House needs to resume its constitutional duty and investigate these serious allegations regarding members in the unelected branch of our government, the Judiciary.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Dennis Mannion moved that **HR 38**, authorizing and directing the house judiciary committee to investigate whether cause exists for the impeachment of any justice of the New Hampshire supreme court, be laid on the table. Motion was adopted.

Rep. Lynn declared a Conflict of Interest and did not participate in the vote.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1451, relative to protecting workers from extreme temperature-related injuries and fatalities in the workplace. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jack Flanagan for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill was recommended Inexpedient to Legislate due to the fact that the intent of the bill is already in existing law. The committee agreed that employees should be protected from the elements but for employers with over 15 employees, safety provisions are in place. Vote 12-8.

Rep. Kris Schultz for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill is a workplace extreme temperatures protection standards act which establishes mandatory safety protocols for workers exposed to extreme heat and cold. The bill applies when the temperature heat index or wind chill reaches 80°F and above or 15°F and below. The amendment widens the temperature window to 90°F and above or 0° or below. To achieve these protections, employers must develop site-specific written safety plans, given paid rest breaks in temperature-protected areas and be given water breaks - hydration. Employers must have programs for all employees on identifying symptoms, personal risk factors, and emergency response. The bill authorizes the New Hampshire Commissioner of Labor to create rules for enforcement and protections.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 1451**, relative to protecting workers from extreme temperature-related injuries and fatalities in the workplace, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 178 members having voted in the affirmative, and 152 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1484, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for incremental increases. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Brian Labrie for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill seeks to establish a state-level minimum wage that steps up over the next couple of years. Currently, New Hampshire follows the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour, but this bill proposes a gradual "step-up" schedule starting at \$12.00 on September 1, 2026, and increasing annually until it reaches \$17.00 by January 1, 2029. The bill includes a "greater of" provision, ensuring workers receive whichever is higher between the state and federal rates. The committee agreed it's important that all Granite Staters earn a good living. However it was also felt that this attempt to raise the minimum wage was the wrong path and it was strictly for optics and would serve no economical or beneficial purpose. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Kathy Staub for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The minimum wage in New Hampshire has been \$7.25 since 2009. The bill as amended raises the NH minimum wage to \$12 per hour in 2026, \$14 per hour in 2027, \$15.50 in 2028 and \$17 per hour in 2029. Rising costs of housing, food,

and healthcare have made life more difficult for increasing numbers of Granite Staters. Raising the minimum wage is one tried and true tool we have to put more money into the pockets of New Hampshire's working people and ease their financial struggles. Every other New England state has raised their minimum wage without losing jobs or causing harm to their economy. Over the years raising wages for the lowest earning workers has been used to infuse cash into the economy and stimulate economic growth. Workers who perform essential jobs in retail, food service, and healthcare deserve a living wage and a life with dignity.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 1484**, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for incremental increases, be laid on the table.

Rep. Butler requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 180 - NAYS 153

YEAS - 180

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Malloy, Dennis
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt

Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 153

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

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

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
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
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

CACR 22, relating to the compensation of the legislature. Providing that the present compensation per elected term for legislators is hereby abolished. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan for the **Majority** of Legislative Administration. The majority of the committee believes decoupling legislative pay from the New Hampshire Constitution would begin the process of stripping away our cherished institution of its uniqueness. The committee majority has rarely heard legislator compensation as an issue that is important to voters, and it remains a badge of honor that our legislature is understood to be essentially an all-volunteer citizen legislature that remains a rarity in our times. The majority of the committee feels this first step, if successful, would put the New Hampshire legislature on a path towards fewer, but much higher-salaried, professional legislators just like many other states in our nation. We further believe inviting a new class of professional legislators would sadly create a very high barrier to entry to serve in state-level public office, open only to those with top-notch fundraising skills or the highest levels of socio-economic status with pockets deep enough to self-fund large campaigns. In other words, it would undermine the diversity of participation we currently possess. Lastly, creating a system of fewer, higher-paid legislators would naturally reduce access for our NH residents as well, as each legislator would hold responsibility for a greater number of constituents. Vote 7-4.

Rep. Alice Wade for the **Minority** of Legislative Administration. This bill would remove from the NH Constitution the provision setting a \$200 per term salary for members of the legislature and a \$250 per term salary for the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The amendment does not replace these amounts with any alternative salary figure. As a result, the constitution would no longer prescribe legislative compensation, leaving the matter to be addressed through the legislative and budgetary process, with mileage reimbursement remaining unchanged. The minority of the committee believes that the constitution is not the appropriate place to put budgetary items, and that specific monetary policy should be set by the legislative budget process. This amendment is sponsored by members from both caucuses and is supported by people who believe the legislature should be paid, and those who believe it should not receive any compensation at all. By removing the compensation figures from the constitution, the amendment allows a full and open debate on legislative pay without guaranteeing any policy outcome in advance. For these reasons, the minority of the committee supports overturning the ITL motion, so an ought to pass motion may be made.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Hill moved that **CACR 22**, relating to the compensation of the legislature.

Providing that the present compensation per elected term for legislators is hereby abolished, be laid on the table.

Rep. Wheeler requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 175 - NAYS 153**YEAS - 175****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven

Freeman, Lisa

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Berch, Paul
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Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin
McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise

Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Jack, Martin

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kenny, Catherine

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Grill, Jessica
Kesselring, Steven

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Herbert, Christopher
Kofalt, Jim

Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Ulery, Jordan

Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Warden, Mark

Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Sirois, Shane
Wherry, Robert

Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Newsom, James
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Malloy, Dennis
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Southworth, Thomas

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

STRAFFORD

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

SULLIVAN

NAYS - 153

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Barton, Joseph
Fracht, David
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Kelley, Diane
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tom
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Khan, Aboul
Manos, Zoe
Perez, Kristine
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
McDonnell, Valerie
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

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

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Potenza, Kelley
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Grant, George

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1114, relative to the documentation and preservation of public comment reports by standing legislative committees. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Jeanine Notter for the **Majority** of Legislative Administration. The majority found many fact-based problems with the legislation. First, the legislation asked that all testimony submitted via the online system be printed and included into the official record. We agree, it's a great idea. And that's undoubtedly why that is already the current practice of the legislative staff. Each and every comment and submitted text gets printed out on paper and submitted into the permanent file, a significant undertaking. The second requirement of the bill was much more amazing. The legislation would require for each submitted piece of online testimony, someone from the majority and minority would have to read, analyze the points being made, and draft a report after the fact, indicating why each point in the testimony was either rejected or accepted in the final committee outcome and report. Recently, a Transportation bill garnered thousands of online comments. The time alone required to complete this unmeaningful task for just that one bill should prove to anyone the legislation just isn't feasible. We already save the minutes of hearings and executive sessions, sign-in (blue) sheets, and each piece of in-person and online text. This should suffice, the majority feels, to preserve the legislative record. Legislators, for the most part, respectfully listen to the views of all sides of an issue and we've heard them verbally appreciate the time the public takes to inform us of their views. The majority concedes that, sometimes in-person and/or online testimony does influence our decisions. Additionally, the majority concedes that the other body may see their responsibilities regarding testimony transparency differently and because of their staffing may be able to provide their level of service and record retention in a way that makes sense to them. Regardless, the majority sees no reason or ability to demand only one uniform process. Vote 8-3.

Rep. Alice Wade for the **Minority** of Legislative Administration. This bill seeks to address public concerns about the extent to which public testimony and written comments are documented, preserved, and meaningfully considered during the legislative process. The committee identified several potential approaches to address concerns with transparency and accessibility of public comments and will continue to explore those solutions through changes in information technology and House Rules. The minority of the committee believes that additional work is necessary to adequately address public concerns about transparency and accountability in legislative decision-making. Further study would allow the committee to more fully evaluate internal policy, technical, and procedural solutions before determining the most effective path forward.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Hill moved that **HB 1114**, relative to the documentation and preservation of public comment reports by standing legislative committees, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

HR 42, honoring the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Alice Wade for Legislative Administration. The majority of the Legislative Administration Committee supports passing this resolution to honor the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman, the former Speaker of the

House of Minnesota, who was tragically assassinated in an act of political violence last year. The majority of the committee seeks to send the message that political violence is never the answer. Through this resolution, the New Hampshire House will offer our condolences to the Hortman family for their unimaginable loss. This resolution is sponsored by leadership in both parties. Vote 6-5.

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

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

YEAS 308 - NAYS 11

YEAS - 308

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Paige, David
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Karasinski, Sly
O'Rourke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Mattson, Rita
Parshall, Lucius

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Qualey, James

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tremblay, Marc

Durkin, Sean

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
McFarlane, Donald
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Cole, Brian
Kelley, Diane
DiSilvestro, Linda
Davis, Fred
Giasson, Henry
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Labrie, Brian
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Plamondon, Marc
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Staub, Kathy
Mannion, Tom
Dolan, William
Wilhelm, Matthew

Alexander, Joe
Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Daniels, Gary
Dumont, Dillon
Foss, Lily
Gorski, Ted
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Post, Lisa
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Swanson, Dale
Ulery, Jordan
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Berry, Ross
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Kofalt, Jim
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Peeples, Raymond
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Seibert, Christine
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Barbour, Liz
Boehm, Ralph
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
Dargie, Paul
Erf, Keith
Georges, Mary
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Foxy, Loren
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Mary
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Reinfurt, Sherri
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Veilleux, Daniel
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Cambrils, Jose
Devoid, Ricky
Gonzalez, Ernesto

Aylward, Deborah
Caplan, Tony
Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew

Bricchi, Tracy
Colby, Eleana
Ebel, Karen
Hill, Gregory

McGuire, Carol
McGuire, Dan
Gallager, Eric
Lane, Connie

Leavitt, John
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy
Woods, Gary

Luneau, David
Plante, Raymond
Schultz, Kris
Thibault, James

Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
See, Alvin
Wallner, Mary Jane

Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Snodgrass, Jim
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Grote, Jaci
Janigian, John
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Scherr, Buzz
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weinstein, Toni

Bennett, Cindy
Cahill, Michael
Drago, Mike
Foote, Charles
Guzowski, James
Murray, Kate
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Meuse, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Ford, Mary
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Simpson, Alexis
Sytek, John
Turer, Eric
MacDonald, Wayne
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
Thomas, Douglas
Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Layon, Erica
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sorensen, Carrie
Dolan, Tom
Vallone, Mark
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Burton, Wayne
Farrington, Samuel
Harrington, Michael
Kaczynski, Thomas
Smith, Marjorie
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bay, Luz
Butler, Billie
Gilmore, Gary
Horrigan, Timothy
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Selig, Loren
Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Howland, Allan
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Levesque, Cassandra
Hall, Robley
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 11 BELKNAP

Ploszaj, Tom

King, Seth

Sellers, John

COOS

GRAFTON

HILLSBOROUGH

Flanagan, Jack

Prout, Andrew

Warden, Mark

ROCKINGHAM

Katsakiores, Phyllis

Melvin, Charles

Milz, David

Pearson, Stephen

STRAFFORD

DeLemus, Susan

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

HB 1134, relative to the town meeting form of local governance. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill makes technical and clarifying changes to RSA 40, which governs the conduct of town meetings and the consideration of warrant articles. The bill addresses ambiguities in current law that have caused confusion for moderators, governing bodies, and voters, particularly regarding voting procedures and the accumulation of appropriations under statutory spending limits. Specifically, the bill clarifies that when a warrant article is required by statute to be voted on by ballot, the moderator must conduct a clear yes-no ballot vote. It also provides guidance on how appropriations are accumulated for purposes of tax caps, budget caps, or the 10% expenditure limitation under municipal budget committees. For traditional town meetings, appropriations accumulate in the order

in which articles are taken up. For municipalities using official ballot meetings or operating under a charter, appropriations accumulate first in the order in which articles are approved at the meeting and then in the order in which they appear on the official ballot. These provisions promote consistency, predictability, and transparency in municipal budgeting. This bill also clarifies RSA 40:13 XIII, affirming that approval of some warrant articles are by a 3/5 majority, a long overdue correction. The bill, as amended, incorporates a reference to RSA 40:7, ensuring that all provisions for debate are satisfied before any vote is taken. Importantly, this guarantees that every warrant article receives proper consideration and discussion, preserving the deliberative nature of town meetings while reinforcing voter participation and transparency. In summary, this bill with the amendment strengthens clarity, accountability, and uniformity in town meeting procedures. It ensures that debate requirements are fully met before any vote, supports informed decision-making, and reinforces compliance with statutory provisions. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Eleana Colby for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to determine the order in which total appropriations in warrant articles accumulate for the purposes of determining when a warrant article will trigger an override vote of a local tax or budget cap. To implement the proposed placement order, this bill eliminates the option for an SB2 town to amend warrant articles during the deliberative session. Specifically, the current method whereby contingency language is included to express the legislative body's preference for handling situations where multiple articles pass, but one must be eliminated due to total appropriations exceeding the limits set by a local tax cap or budget cap. Additionally, this bill also eliminates the local voters' ability to address over-appropriation issues in real time at traditional town meetings. Currently, this correction involves reconsidering warrant articles and reducing appropriations for those articles as chosen by the voters. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration already has a practice in place concerning the 10% limitation, as established in RSA 32:18: "The total amount appropriated at any annual meeting shall not exceed by more than 10 percent the total amount recommended by the budget committee for such meeting." Therefore, the minority of the committee concluded that this bill is not only unnecessary but also inadvisable as its language strips local voters of their power to amend warrant articles and prioritize their needs at town meetings and deliberative sessions.

Majority Amendment (0204h)

Amend RSA 40:11, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Every article included in a warrant for a town meeting shall be acted upon before final adjournment of the town meeting, ***which shall include satisfying all provisions for debate pursuant to RSA 40:7.***

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Maggiore moved that **HB 1134**, relative to the town meeting form of local governance, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 154 members having voted in the affirmative, and 167 in the negative, the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Colby spoke against.

Rep. Pauer spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 168 members having voted in the affirmative, and 156 in the negative, the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on **HR 42**, honoring the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE HR 42

Representative Simpson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support HR 42 to honor the life and the legacy of Melissa Hortman, the former Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Her career showed integrity, courage, and a deep commitment to public service. Speaker Hortman spent her life strengthening democratic institutions and serving the people of Minnesota. She worked across differences. She focused on thoughtful policy that improved people's lives. Colleagues from both parties respected her steady leadership and her belief that public service should always place the common good first. On June 14, 2025, Speaker Hortman and her husband were assassinated in a politically motivated attack at their home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. That loss shocked the country. It devastated her family, her colleagues and the community she served. I wish I didn't have to stand here for this reason, but honoring her life also requires us to face the reality that political violence has come too far and too common in our country. Earlier today, we passed a resolution honoring Charlie Kirk. I disagreed with his political views, but disagreement is not a reason for violence. No one should die because of their politics. That

principle has to apply to everyone. This is why recent social media posts from the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire are so disturbing. Those posts use threatening language and called for the killing of political opponents. That kind of rhetoric is dangerous. It crosses a clear line and it threatens democracy. Political debate is part of democracy. Threats of violence are not. Passing HR 42 sends a clear message. We reject political violence. We reject rhetoric that attempts to normalize it. We stand for a democracy where disagreements are resolved through debate, persuasion, and the rule of law, and we honor Melissa Hortman. I'm also thinking about the people watching us. Before serving here, I worked as a chaplain and a campus minister with young people. They watch what leaders say and what leaders tolerate. We have a responsibility to show them that even in disagreement, we treat each other with dignity and respect. That's the example Speaker Hortman set. She believed in the work of democracy. She believed in public service. She believed that disagreement should never turn into hatred or violence. By passing this bipartisan resolution today, we honor her life. We mourn her loss and we affirm that in New Hampshire, we reject political violence and we choose a better path. Thank you, and Mr. Speaker, I ask for a roll call.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Resolution 42. Representative Simpson requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The question is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Resolution 42. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present have an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 308 in the affirmative, 11 in the negative. The resolution is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1227, relative to the calculation of the local tax cap. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. The bill amends RSA 32:5-b, I-a and I-b(a) to require that any new annual debt service approved by voters as part of a bond vote at an annual or special meeting be added to the tax base once repayment begins. It further revises the statutory tax-cap formula so that the previous year's base is first increased by the amount of the new debt service before applying inflation and population or enrollment adjustments. The bill also applies this change automatically to all existing tax caps without any local re-adoption. Under current law, RSA 32:5-b provides that when a municipality or school district has adopted a local tax cap, the tax cap is the previous year's tax base, adjusted by inflation and changes in population or school attendance. The proposed tax effort by the governing body and budget committee, if one exists, must not be higher than the tax cap, which includes the tax effort of any proposed bonds or leases. This bill changes that structure by amending RSA 32:5-b, providing for a tax cap exemption for proposed bonds or leases, so that they may be placed on the warrant and recommended, and not counted in the tax effort required to be compliant with the tax cap. The majority of the committee does not agree with this change. In the majority's view, this bill materially weakens the effect of a local tax cap by permanently expanding the capped base whenever new debt is issued. While framed as a technical adjustment, the practical effect is to create a mechanism that allows the tax cap to be routinely skirted through increased borrowing, even though voters adopted local tax caps specifically to restrain the long-term growth of property taxes. In addition, the majority believes this approach undermines the intended effect of the tax cap, which voters adopt as a firm limit on future tax effort, with only narrow and transparent adjustments as provided by statute. Automatically embedding new debt service into the base, after it was passed by being exempted from the tax cap, changes the nature of the cap and further diminishes the purpose for which communities adopted it. For these reasons, the majority finds that the bill alters current law in a way that erodes taxpayer protections, weakens the integrity of local tax caps, and, therefore, should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 11-7.

Rep. Jim Maggiore for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill changes the calculation of the local tax cap to require that the amount of any new annual debt service approved by the legislative body as part of a bond vote shall only be included against the tax cap calculation once repayment begins. The minority of the committee believes three issues are in play that warrant passage of this bill: legislation passed in 2025 regarding accumulation of budgeted items against a tax cap was silent to repayments of bonded projects, interest rates for bonded projects are set after the warrant article is approved, and the first payment of bond service typically interest only. The minority of the committee believes it is sound fiscal policy to calculate the total repayment obligation, principal and interest, only after repayment begins, typically one to two years after the bond is approved. For these reasons, the minority opposes Inexpedient to Legislate.

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

Rep. Maggiore spoke against.

Rep. Pauer spoke in favor.

Rep. Giasson requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 176 - NAYS 151**YEAS - 176
BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, TomBogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLLAvellani, Lino
MacDonald, JohnBelcher, Mike
Smith, JonathanCrawford, Karel
Brown, RichardHamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian**CHESHIRE**Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, RichHunt, John
Qualey, JamesKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOSDavis, Arnold
King, SethDurkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
Ladd, RickBeaulier, Calvin
Louis, DarrellBerezhny, Lex
McFarlane, DonaldBjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, RobertAmmon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, TomBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, JordanBerry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark**MERRIMACK**Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, ThomasAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, JamesMcGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonCambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin**ROCKINGHAM**Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, WayneBernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, VickiBridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttub, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vallone, MarkBryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, ThomasBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David**SULLIVAN**Drye, Margaret
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 151 CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

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
Lucas, Janet
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
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Luneau, David
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1020, proclaiming Lake Winnepesaukee the official state lake of New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The fifth graders of North Hampton School proposed a wonderful idea to proclaim Lake Winnepesaukee as the official state lake of New Hampshire. However, the majority of the committee identified a broader opportunity to promote education and engagement by encouraging fourth graders across the state to participate in a friendly competition. This initiative would allow students to showcase why their local lake should be named the official state lake. The NH LAKES Association has expressed interest in hosting this competition, providing a valuable opportunity for children statewide to learn about New Hampshire's lakes and how to protect them. The committee ultimately

voted Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill, with no recommendation for Interim Study. They determined that this is not a complex issue requiring legislative involvement and is better suited as an educational endeavor for fourth graders across the state, and to bring back a new bill once the competition is completed. Vote 10-6. Rep. Will Darby for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The committee heard an excellent presentation from North Hampton School fifth grade students on the important recreational, environmental, and economic benefits of Lake Winnepesaukee. The NH Lakes Association also testified in support of the bill stressing the opportunity that recognizing a state lake could have on promoting all lakes in New Hampshire, as well as emphasizing the need to protect these cherished natural resources for future generations. However, with about 1,000 public lakes and great ponds across the state, the committee found it prudent to consider alternatives for choosing which lake should be celebrated as the official state lake of New Hampshire. The minority of the committee believes Interim Study is the most appropriate next step to evaluate options for future legislation towards this goal.

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

HB 1046-FN, enabling a person to carry a firearm on a snowmobile being operated on private property. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Pierre Dupont for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The concerns surrounding this bill are related to the safety of the public. Testimony indicated that handguns can already be carried with a bullet in the chamber. This bill relates to long guns or rifles. Gun safety is always a concern. The amendment to this bill provides for exceptions on private property with owners express or implied permission of the property owner. The bill as amended supports Second Amendment rights of our citizens. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Allison Knab for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This legislation would allow a person to carry a loaded firearm while on a snowmobile on private property, when the user has received express or implied permission from the landowner. This legislation was opposed 9-1 by the bipartisan Fish and Game Commission as it does not adhere to the safe handling of firearms or basic tenets of hunter safety. There was also uncertainty around whether landowners would be protected by landowner liability laws, how implied permission was determined, and if this legislation would lead to more trails being closed to public use because of private owner concerns about liability. Snowmobile operators are already allowed to carry a loaded sidearm or pistol under constitutional carry; they can also have a full magazine in a firearm without a round in the chamber. An amendment to the bill opens the door to hunting from moving vehicles; this violates the notion of fair chase hunting, an honor code of American hunters for more than a century dating back to Teddy Roosevelt.

Amendment (0131h)

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

1 Loaded Firearms; OHRV; Snowmobile. Amend RSA 207:7, II to read as follows:

II. No person shall have or carry, in or on a motor vehicle, OHRV, snowmobile, or aircraft, when moving, a cocked crossbow, a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun, muzzleloader, or air rifle, except a person or a person's agent while in the act of protecting his or her interest in their livestock or crops. Except when crossing or traveling on a public way, such person or the person's agent may carry a loaded rifle or shotgun, muzzleloader, or air rifle while traveling through or between farming or agricultural areas while in the course of protecting his or her interest in their livestock or crops. ***Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the carriage of a firearm on a snowmobile or OHRV when such carriage is not prohibited by RSA 215-C:35 or RSA 215-A:20.***

2 Loaded Firearms; Snowmobiles. Amend RSA 215-C:35 to read as follows:

215-C:35 Loaded Firearms Forbidden. No person shall carry on a snowmobile, or a trailer towed by same, any firearms unless said firearm is unloaded. This section shall not apply to law enforcement officers carrying firearms in the course of duty or to pistols or revolvers carried by any person who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm by a New Hampshire statute. ***This section shall not apply when the snowmobile is being operated on private property where the operator has the express or implied permission or license of the landowner or lawful occupant to be present, provided that such permission does not arise solely by way of a public right-of-way, public trail, or designated snowmobile corridor. For the purposes of this section, "unloaded" shall mean that the firearm is not loaded as defined in RSA 207:1, XIV-a.***

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Knab moved that **HB 1046-FN**, enabling a person to carry a firearm on a snowmobile being operated on private property, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 163 members having voted in the affirmative, and 158 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1141, prohibiting the extraction of groundwater for the purpose of bottling in plastic bottles. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for Resources, Recreation and Development. The amendment 2026-0532h is a non-germane amendment that completely replaces the original bill, redirecting it from prohibiting the extraction of groundwater into plastic water bottles to a much more urgent and actionable fix for New Hampshire's outdated mining permit system. Given that no new water bottling plants are opening in NH, and that NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) explains that since 1998 only one large water plant has received a permit, municipal public water systems will have an impact when selling to beverage manufacturers, and the criteria for determining what type of material is used. Today, plastic water bottles remain the most efficient and reliable way to deliver safe water in emergencies. Supporting the Ought to Pass with Amendment position with the non-germane amendment ensures the legislature changes the permitting and fee authority for mining and prospecting, which is needed because the current system, administered by the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) under outdated statutes, has proven confusing, slow, and prohibitively expensive for applicants, as shown by a mining business in Acworth that took years and roughly \$40,000 to resolve. Transferring primary authority to NHDES, which already manages alteration-of-terrain and related land-use permits, will streamline reviews, align fees with the level of technical oversight required, and provide clearer, more predictable standards for both regulators and businesses. Vote 16-0.

Majority Amendment (0532h)

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

AN ACT relative to permitting and fee authority for mining and prospecting.

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

1 New Paragraph; Definition; Dimension Stone. Amend RSA 485-A:2 by inserting after paragraph III-a the following new paragraph:

III-b. "Dimension stone" means rock that is cut, shaped, or selected for use in blocks, slabs, sheets, or other construction units of specified shapes or sizes and used for external or interior parts of buildings, foundations, curbing, flagging, bridges, or revetments, or for other architectural or engineering purposes. Dimension stone includes quarry blocks from which sections of dimension stone are to be produced. Dimension stone does not include earth as defined in RSA 155-E:1, I.

2 New Paragraphs; Definitions; Mining; Operator. Amend RSA 485-A:2 by inserting after paragraph VII-a the following new paragraphs:

VII-b. "Mining" means all activities performed in the extraction of minerals and that create or make use of one or more components of a mine.

VII-c. "Mineral" means copper, gold, silver, diatomite, feldspar, garnet, lime, thorium, uranium, and any similar solid material or metal substance to be excavated or extracted from natural deposits or formations on or in the earth or in or underneath water, and shall include those solid materials made up of minerals, such as rock and dimension stone, sand, gravel, and construction aggregate to be excavated from natural deposits or formations on or in the earth or in or underneath water, or for quarrying or crushing of rock or bedrock for the purpose of producing construction aggregate.

3 New Section; Exemptions. Amend RSA 485-A by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

485-A:2-a Exemptions. The following shall not be subject to this chapter:

I. Mining activities in existence before August 24, 1979.

II. The crushing of rock for the purpose of producing construction aggregate regulated pursuant to RSA 155-E.

4 New Paragraphs; Definitions; Reclamation; Rock; Septage. Amend RSA 485-A:2 by inserting after paragraph IX-a the following new paragraphs:

IX-b. "Reclamation" means the restoration of the affected site by grading, backfilling, compacting, and landscaping to a comparable natural contour and the reestablishment of a diverse, effective, permanent vegetative cover of the same variety previously occurring in the area which is capable of self-regeneration and plant succession equal to or greater than the land's productive capacity prior to the mining activities.

IX-c. "Rock" means granite, schist, quartzite, and any other solid material consisting of minerals.

IX-d. "Prospect" means to explore for ores, rocks, or minerals performed by a company or professional agent in the business of mineral deposit exploration and development, using mechanized equipment such as a core drill.

5 Water Pollution and Waste Disposal; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 485-A:6, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. The requirements for a permit under RSA 485-A:17, *including requirements for financial assurance and reclamation with applications for mining and prospecting clients.*

6 Terrain Alteration. Amend RSA 485-A:17, I-II(a) to read as follows:

I. Any person proposing to dredge, excavate, place fill, mine, **prospect**, transport forest products or undertake construction in or on the border of the surface waters of the state, and any person proposing to significantly alter the characteristics of the terrain, in such a manner as to impede the natural runoff or create an unnatural runoff, shall be directly responsible to submit to the department detailed plans concerning such proposal and any additional relevant information requested by the department, at least 30 days prior to undertaking any such activity. The operations shall not be undertaken unless and until the applicant receives a permit from the department. The department shall have full authority to establish the terms and conditions under which any permit issued may be exercised, giving due consideration to the circumstances involved and the purposes of this chapter, and to adopt such rules as are reasonably related to the efficient administration of this section, and the purposes of this chapter. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall be construed to modify or limit the duties and authority conferred upon the department under RSA 482 and RSA 482-A.

II.(a) The department shall charge a fee for applications, including project inspections, required under this section. For projects that qualify for a permit by notification allowed by paragraph II-a, the application fee for a permit by notification shall be \$3,125. Except for projects that qualify for a permit by notification allowed by paragraph II-a, the fee for [H]applications encompassing an area of at least [H]150,000 square feet but less than 200,000 square feet shall be \$6,250. An additional fee of \$2,500 shall be assessed for each additional area of up to 100,000 square feet to be disturbed. For any property subject to RSA 483-B:9, the fee for review of plans encompassing an area of at least 50,000 square feet but less than 150,000 square feet shall be \$5,000. For all other projects, the fee shall be [\$500] **\$250** plus [\$0.005] **\$0.04** per square foot of disturbance. No application shall be accepted by the department until the fee required by this paragraph is paid. All fees required under this paragraph shall be paid when plans are submitted for review and shall be deposited in the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III.

(b) The department shall charge a non-refundable fee of \$500 for each request to amend a permit that requires plans to be reviewed.

7 New Paragraphs; Water Pollution and Waste Disposal; Enforcement. Amend RSA 485-A:17 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. In addition to the fees provided for in section II above, the commissioner shall establish a fee based on the volume of minerals, except for excavation of earth as defined in RSA 155-E:1 extracted by mining or prospecting permitted by the department. The fee, as determined by the commissioner, shall be adequate to cover all costs associated with reviewing and acting upon permits issued under this section, monitoring compliance, enforcement and all other costs associated with permits issued under this section. All fees required under this paragraph shall be deposited in the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III.

VII. During the transition period, the following provisions shall apply:

(a) Any applications filed in accordance with RSA 12-E and are pending with the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources as of the date the department's rules become effective shall be processed in accordance with RSA 12-E and rules adopted in accordance with RSA 12-E.

(b) The commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources will consult with the commissioner regarding any terms and conditions of permits issued during the transition period under paragraph (a).

(c) Upon the date the department's rules authorized under this section become effective, all subsequent applications will be filed and processed in accordance with this section and rules promulgated by the department. The provisions of RSA 12-E shall not apply to such applications.

(d) All permits issued during the transition period in accordance with paragraph (a) will be treated as being issued in accordance with this section for purposes of applications for permit modification, monitoring, enforcement and renewal.

8 Department of Environmental Services; Geological Survey. Amend RSA 21-O:12, II to read as follows:

II. Geology shall be under the direction of the state geologist, who shall be the director of the New Hampshire geological survey. The geological survey shall collect data and perform research on the land, mineral, and water resources of the state, and disseminate the findings of such research to the public through maps, reports, and other publications. The state geologist shall ~~consult with the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources relative to the issuance of mining permits under RSA 12-E;~~ assist the directors of the divisions of water and waste management as necessary[;] and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the commissioner. The state geologist and all members of the New Hampshire geological survey shall be staff members of the commissioner's office. The state geologist shall advise the department, and all other branches of state and local government, concerning the geologic character of the state and its implications for both economic and scientific needs in conjunction with all existing and future environmental factors relating to the geology of the state. The state geologist shall maintain liaison with federal and other state geologic agencies and with the state university. The state geologist shall also serve as a voting member of the board of professional geologists.

9 Local Regulation Excavations; Exceptions. Amend RSA 155-E:2-a, I(c) to read as follows:

(c) Excavation from a granite quarry for the purpose of producing dimension stone, if such excavation requires a permit under RSA ~~[12-E]~~**485-A:17**.

10 New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program; Mining Permit. Amend RSA 483:12-a, I to read as follows:

I. Any state agency considering any action affecting any river or segment designated under this chapter shall notify the rivers coordinator and the local river management advisory committee prior to taking any such action. Such agency shall forward to the rivers coordinator and the local river management advisory committee for review and comment copies of all notices of public hearings, or, where a public hearing is not required, a copy of the application for issuance of a permit, certificate, or license within the designated river or corridor under RSA 485-C, RSA 485-A, RSA 483-B, ~~[RSA 12-E]~~, RSA 270:12, RSA 482, RSA 482-A, except notifications for minimum impact activities under RSA 482-A:3, V and XII and for routine roadway maintenance under RSA 482-A:3, XVI on land used for agricultural purposes, RSA 149-M, RSA 430, or RSA 147-A. If an agency is notified by the rivers coordinator that a proposed activity would violate a protection measure under RSA 483:9, 483:9-a, 483:9-aa, or 483:9-b, such agency shall deny the application.

11 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 12-E, relative to mining and reclamation.

II. RSA 6:12, I(b)(107), relative to mining and reclamation dedicated fund.

III. RSA 482-A:3, XI(c), relative to mining permits that exceeds the limits of small motor mineral dredging.

12 Effective Date.

I. Sections 8 through 11 of this act shall take effect 2 years after its passage.

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

2026-0532h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adds definitions for mining-related terms, authorizes rulemaking for permitting, reclamation, and fees based on mineral volume, and establishes a transition period for pending applications under the current law.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 1666-FN, requiring capacity planning in the state 10-year energy strategy. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is unnecessary for multiple reasons. First it addresses capacity and other issues as if they were specific to NH when in fact these are regional issues. As long as NH is part of Independent System Operator New England (ISO-NE) these issues must be addressed on a regional basis as there is no such thing as MA capacity resources or NH capacity resources but only ISO-NE capacity resources. Secondly, these issues are already being addressed on a regional basis through ISO-NE with support from the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) and the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE). NH is a member of NESCOE and the Department of Energy is an active participant in various ISO-NE/NEPOOL meetings where decisions on future capacity needs and demand side measures are discussed and decided for all of New England. Vote 11-7.

Rep. Kat McGhee for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Since the State of New Hampshire has no energy plan that defines what we are doing, what goals we should prioritize, and when those goals might be achieved, the minority feels we are flying blind into a costly energy future. This bill requires the Department of Energy to include a section in the state's energy strategy report, updated every three years, on the electric capacity projected to be needed to meet future anticipated demand. Although the Independent Systems Operator of New England (ISO-NE) does regional capacity planning, most other states have a sense of how much energy they will need to meet future demands and they have designed plans to meet those needs. New Hampshire cannot save ratepayers money if we have no idea what we need to do to address increased capacity at the lowest cost. That requires analysis of data we do not yet collect and a prioritization of efforts to meet those needs without a shock to electric bills. The 10-year energy strategy report is the appropriate place to clarify what priorities the state is pursuing to solve for the actual energy needs of the state. We cannot begin that process until the Department of Energy provides us with a picture of what we know about electricity growth by electricity sector: housing, commercial and industrial, transportation, agricultural, etc. Seeing where our biggest challenges lie is the first step toward crafting sensible policies to meet those needs at the lowest cost to consumers.

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

On a division vote, with 178 members having voted in the affirmative, and 149 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HR 35, urging the prohibition of the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding and weather modification, to preserve the atmosphere of New Hampshire. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**
Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This resolution declares that the NH House opposes any geoengineering and weather modification programs conducted within the state's borders. It requires the Department of Environmental Services to notify numerous federal authorities of the NH House position.

Rep. Tom Ploszaj

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: A House Resolution expresses the opinion, sentiment, or procedural intent of the House. It does not create binding law, and thus it cannot direct an executive department to take any action. This resolution is flawed in that it does direct a department to act. Specifically, it would direct the Department of Environmental Services to provide to 27 federal departments and agencies notice of a policy prohibiting geoengineering activities within the borders of our state. Furthermore, several members of the committee question whether geoengineering has occurred, is occurring, or is in the offing, and therefore believe this resolution to be unnecessary.

Rep. Thomas Cormen

Rep. Vose moved Ought to Pass

Rep. Potenza offered floor amendment (0761h).

Floor Amendment (0761h)

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

Whereas, many atmospheric activities such as weather modification, stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), solar radiation modification (SRM), and other forms of geoengineering, involving the intentional release of polluting emissions, harm human health and safety, the environment, agriculture, wildlife, aviation, state security, and the economy of the state of New Hampshire; and

Whereas, it is the intention of the New Hampshire house of representatives to prohibit the intentional injection, release, or dispersion, by any means, of chemicals, chemical compounds, substances, or apparatus within the borders of this state into the atmosphere with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of the sunlight, thereby prohibiting geoengineering (including SAI and SRM) and other intentionally polluting activities in New Hampshire's atmosphere and/or at ground level to preserve the safe, healthful, and peaceful uses of New Hampshire's atmosphere for people, wildlife, and agriculture; and

Whereas, due to necessity arising from the federal stance and the potential and ease for enemies, foreign and domestic, to cause harm intentionally, the states' rights, including their authorities, are correctly exerted pursuant to the Tenth Amendment, where federal programs and restrictions have become oppressive or destructive; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives: the house hereby declares that no person shall engage in geoengineering activities, including weather modification, stratospheric aerosol injection, or solar radiation modification involving the intentional release of polluting emissions within the borders of the state of New Hampshire.

Let it be further resolved that the House of Representatives recommends that the commissioner of the department of environmental services, within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution, provide notice of this policy to the following entities and also create a dedicated page on the department of environmental services' website containing a copy of this resolution and copies of each certified letter sent to the following entities:

- I. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- II. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA);
- III. The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP);
- IV. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP);
- V. The Department of Energy (DOE);
- VI. The DOE Meteorological Coordinating Council (DMCC);
- VII. The National Science Foundation (NSF);
- VIII. The Department of Defense (DOD);
- IX. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA);
- X. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- XI. The Department of State (DOS);
- XII. The National Weather Service (NWS);
- XIII. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
- XIV. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- XV. Office of Science / Biological and Environmental Research (BER);
- XVI. National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA);
- XVII. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR);
- XVIII. The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR);
- XIX. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC);
- XX. NASA Earth Science Division (ESD);
- XXI. United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM);

XXII. The National Park Service (NPS);
 XXIII. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
 XXIV. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
 XXV. The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO);
 XXVI. The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR); and
 XXVII. The Department of Commerce (DOC).

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0761h).

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Corman moved that **HR 35**, urging the prohibition of the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding and weather modification, to preserve the atmosphere of New Hampshire, be laid on the table.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 153 - NAYS 166

YEAS - 153 BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

Smith, Jonathan

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Hunt, John
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Spahr, Terry

Corman, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Judy, Jean
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Pearson, Stephen
Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis
MacDonald, Wayne

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Milz, David
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren

Burton, Wayne
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 166**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Howard, Molly
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Spilsbury, Walter

Hemingway, Wayne

Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of floor amendment (0761h).

Rep. Swanson spoke against

Rep. Potenza spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0761h) was adopted.

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

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

YEAS 169 - NAYS 152**YEAS - 169****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Janigan, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bryer, Scott
Drago, Mike
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 152**BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer

Harvey, Cathryn
Hunt, John
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, Ellen

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Ulery, Jordan
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

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

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

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Donnelly, Tanya
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren

Butler, Billie
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 1063-FN, reducing the amount of meals and rooms taxes operators can retain. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. Despite an amendment that would exempt businesses with less than 20 employees from a change to the apportionment of Meals and Rooms Tax retained by operators from 3.0% to 1.5% with the other 1.5% being transferred to the General Fund and Education Trust Fund, the majority opinion is that the businesses primarily affected by this tax are tourism-related small businesses with seasonal revenues and low margins, such as restaurants. Small businesses comprise 97% of all businesses in New Hampshire, and the majority of these would be exempted by the proposed amendment. Consequently, while the Department of Revenue Administration is estimating a \$300,000 cost to update forms and information technology systems to make this change, they are unable to estimate what, if any, increase to General Fund or Education Trust Fund revenues would occur. Public testimony (in person, written, and online) was largely in opposition to this bill. Vote 13-6.

Rep. Thomas Oppel for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. New Hampshire is the only state in New England which provides a discount to businesses liable for collecting and submitting Meals and Rooms Taxes if the filing is timely. The current discount is 3%, however, this bill seeks to cut that discount in half to 1.5%. There is no reason to provide such a discount to large national and multinational firms such as Hilton or Hertz. The Department of Revenue Administration estimates that change would increase state revenue by about \$6 million annually. But to protect smaller businesses, who have little leverage to negotiate fees with the major credit card companies, the minority amendment would maintain the full 3% discount for independently owned and operated enterprises with 20 or fewer employees.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Janigian moved that **HB 1063-FN**, reducing the amount of meals and rooms taxes operators can retain, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 1108-FN, relative to the offense of criminal threatening. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill creates a dangerous “legal trap” for responsible gun owners by misapplying the strict standard of “objective reasonableness.” While the bill seeks to protect those who display a firearm to deter a crime, it fails to acknowledge that New Hampshire case law, specifically *State v. Gorham* (1980), firmly rejects “subjective fear” as a legal defense. In New Hampshire, it does not matter if a defendant honestly and truly feared for their life; what matters is whether a “typical, rational person” would have felt the same way under identical circumstances. Under existing RSA 627:4, a citizen is already fully protected when they display a firearm to warn away a threat of death or serious injury because that is an “objectively” lethal situation. However, this bill attempts to extend this “reasonableness” shield to lower-level, non-lethal incidents like “refusal to leave” or “property damage.” This mismatch is a recipe for tragedy: it encourages a citizen to introduce the threat of deadly force into a situation where a jury, viewing the event months later through the cold lens of “objective reasonableness”, might conclude that no lethal threat existed. By luring gun owners into brandishing a weapon for non-lethal disputes, this bill effectively hands the prosecutor a felony “criminal threatening” conviction on a silver platter. The committee concluded that the safest path for New Hampshire’s Second Amendment community is to maintain the clarity of our current laws, which already provide the strongest possible protections for justifiable self-defense. Vote 13-0. The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Rhodes moved that **HB 1108-FN**, relative to the offense of criminal threatening, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 297 members having voted in the affirmative, and 23 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1367-FN, establishing a criminal offense of doxing. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill addresses a critical gap in our criminal code regarding the malicious weaponization of personal information, commonly known as “doxing.” In the digital age, a person’s private data, including their home address, personal phone number, and workplace, can be broadcast to thousands of people in an instant with the explicit intent to incite harassment, threats, or physical harm. While New Hampshire has robust stalking and harassment laws, they often require a pattern of conduct or direct contact. Doxing is a unique and cowardly offense where the perpetrator uses an audience as a proxy to inflict terror on a victim. This bill establishes a clear criminal offense for intentionally publishing another person’s personal identifying information when done with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or harm. By clas-

sifying this conduct as a class A misdemeanor, and potentially a class B felony if it results in bodily injury, we are sending a clear message that the “Live Free or Die” state will not tolerate those who use digital platforms to put a target on the backs of our citizens. Furthermore, this bill provides a vital civil remedy, allowing victims to seek damages and injunctive relief against those who have upended their lives and compromised their safety. This dual approach ensures that victims have both a criminal deterrent and a path toward personal restitution. Protecting the privacy and physical security of our constituents is a fundamental duty of this legislature, and this bill provides the necessary legal tools to hold digital vigilantes accountable for their actions. Vote 12-0.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Rhodes moved that **HB 1367-FN**, establishing a criminal offense of doxing, be laid on the table. Motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HR 44, concerning the protection of public lands. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. New Hampshire is blessed with magnificent forests and inviting open spaces welcoming all outdoors men and women to enjoy the state’s natural beauty. The White Mountain National Forest, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, state forest and parks are just a few Granite State treasures offering recreational, economic, cultural, and spiritual opportunities. This House Resolution proclaims the benefits of the state’s public land in light of threats facing pristine wilderness across the country, including road building, industrial development, and land disposal. The amendment removes references to federal regulations and logging, an important state industry. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0800h)

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

Whereas, Granite Staters have a deep love and affection for our shared, public lands and the innumerable benefits they provide; and

Whereas, New Hampshire’s state and federal public lands include the White Mountain National Forest, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, designated wilderness areas, state forests and parks, and other conserved lands that define our state’s natural character; and

Whereas, New Hampshire residents’ affection for public lands does not stop at our state line, extending to the greater Northern Forest, the Green and Adirondack Mountains, Acadia National Park, and the millions of acres of conserved lands across New England that offer hiking, skiing, boating, climbing, and world-class hunting and fishing; and

Whereas, our public lands reflect many of our most noble democratic ideals, offering recreational, economic, cultural, and spiritual opportunities to all people, regardless of background, income, or geography; and

Whereas, New Hampshire’s public lands provide defining features of our shared heritage: from the Presidential Range and Franconia Notch to historic trails like the Crawford Path, and the mills, farmsteads, and stone walls that tell the story of our communities; and

Whereas, these lands safeguard essential wildlife habitats, clean water sources such as the Saco, Androscoggin, and Merrimack Rivers, clean air, and natural amenities that support Granite Staters’ quality of life and strengthen our resilience to floods, droughts, and other disasters; and

Whereas, tourism and outdoor recreation are central to New Hampshire’s economy, with the outdoor recreation industry contributing nearly \$4 billion annually and supporting tens of thousands of jobs in guiding, hospitality, ski areas, equipment, and local businesses, including in communities that are near our state and federal public lands; and

Whereas, New Hampshire residents and visitors alike treasure the 4-season recreation that our forests and mountains provide — from summer hiking to fall foliage, winter skiing, and spring fishing — and these activities sustain both our economy and our identity; and

Whereas, attempts to open roadless areas to industrial development and road-building threaten New Hampshire’s treasured landscapes and are inconsistent with the values and interests of Granite Staters; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives:

I. Declares our support for keeping our public lands in public hands through the stewardship of the United States government and its federal land management agencies, including the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

II. Opposes efforts to open roadless areas or dispose of our state or federal public lands, including inventoried roadless areas in the White Mountain National Forest.

III. Encourages New Hampshire’s governor and attorney general, and our Congressional delegation, to take all necessary actions to oppose any attempt to rescind the Roadless Rule or diminish protections for our state and federal public lands.

Let it further be resolved that copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives, be forwarded by the house clerk to the governor of New Hampshire, the attorney general, the New Hampshire congressional delegation, and the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Darby moved that **HR 44**, concerning the protection of public lands, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 310 members having voted in the affirmative, and 7 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION

Rep. Osborne offered the following: RESOLVED, that the House now adjourn from the early session, that the business of the late session be in order at the present time, that the reading of bills be by title only and resolutions by caption only and that all bills ordered to third reading be read a third time by this resolution, and that all titles of bills be the same as adopted, and that they be passed at the present time, and when the House adjourns today it be to meet, Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 1837-FN, relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.

HB 1086-FN, creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.

HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders.

HB 1229, relative to waivers of alimony.

HB 1051, modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.

HB 1091, relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside.

HB 1175-FN, relative to the offense of use of scanning device or reencoder to defraud.

HB 1236-FN, relative to recordings of custodial interrogations.

HB 1308-FN, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.

HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

HB 1361, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories.

HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks.

HB 1366-FN, relative to military orders of protection.

HB 1651-FN, establishing sexual assault orders of protection and relative to sexual assault survivors' rights.

HB 1696-FN, relative to the issuance of a summons instead of arrest.

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study private businesses providing special education services and issues relative to local school district reimbursement.

HB 1514, requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school compliance and financial reports to school and school board authorities.

HB 1818-FN, requiring the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects.

HB 1370, repealing the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

HB 1795-FN, requiring criminal history record checks for the renewal of teaching licenses.

HB 1187-FN, relative to the time in which candidates for state representative may file their candidacy for a special election.

HB 1381, extending the time of the party filing period.

HB 1541-FN, requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.

HB 1013, relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.

HB 1138, limiting the placement of out-of-state waste going into New Hampshire landfills.

HB 1186, relative to the sale and labeling of eggs.

HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste.

HB 1676, limiting consumer access to certain high-risk rodenticides.

HB 1780, increasing penalties for persons violating laws relative to the sale of seeds, plants, and nursery stock.

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.

HB 1233, relative to the minutes of non-public sessions.

HB 1260-FN, relative to marriage registration forms and delayed certificates of marriage.

HB 1118, increasing the limit for moneys remitted to municipal treasurers.
HB 1135, prohibiting the acquisition of prescriptive rights in private roads through adverse use.
HB 1151, relative to conservation commission appropriations.
HB 1309, relative to town meeting warrants.
HB 1369, relative to the manner of posting the warrant for a special town meeting.
HB 1756-FN, allowing organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption.
HB 113, relative to OHRV operation on certain highways within the town of Windsor.
HB 1019, relative to the composition of the state water well board.
HB 1095, relative to the maximum weight of utility terrain vehicles.
HB 1204, relative to the grading and use of timber grown in New Hampshire.
HB 1425-FN, relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system.
HR 22, to name a certain peak after Alan Shepard.
HB 1535, relative to clarifying eligible renewable energy classes under the renewable portfolio standard.
HB 1577, relative to the disclosure of utility customer data to municipalities for emergency response planning.
HB 1685, establishing a commission to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.
HB 1733, relative to default electric service procurement and the recovery of competitive market supply costs.
HB 1742, relative to customer-generators inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program.
HCR 14, condemning the assassination of Charlie Kirk and reaffirming the state's commitment to freedom of speech and civil discourse.
HR 20, reaffirming the right for persons of all persuasions to keep and bear arms, and urging Congress and the President to cease infringement upon Second Amendment rights and to restore them where infringed.
HB 1226, relative to restricting the issuance of identification documents by unauthorized individuals.
HB 1433-FN, creating a child care tax credit for qualifying businesses.
HB 1225, relative to the definition of adjusted gross income with respect to child support guidelines.
HB 1078-FN, creating a gold star family and gold star father license plate.
HB 1048-FN, relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors.
HB 1495, allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances.
HB 1610, allowing school districts to annually retain year-end unassigned general funds.
HB 1815-FN, relative to education financing.
HR 19, encouraging state colleges and universities to invite more conservative speakers to campus for the purpose of increasing diversity of viewpoints.
HB 1256, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools.
HB 1331, enabling the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment.
HB 1573, permitting excused absences for students participating in civic engagement or attending a career or technical education event.
HB 1635, modifying the requirements of suicide prevention education policies in schools.
HB 1217, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.
HB 1442-FN, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity."
HR 42, honoring the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman.
HB 1134, relative to the town meeting form of local governance.
HB 1141, relative to permitting and fee authority for mining and prospecting.
HR 35, urging the prohibition of the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding and weather modification, to preserve the atmosphere of New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Wheeler requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Legislative Observations and addressed the House.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Beauchemin requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding the war in Iran and addressed the House.

OBJECTION

An objection was raised to the unanimous consent given by Rep. Beauchemin; withdrawing unanimous consent.

The question being shall the member continue.

Rep. Wheeler requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 91 - NAYS 82**YEAS - 91
BELKNAP**

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

Smith, Jonathan

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Weber, Lucy

Jacobs, Samantha

Germana, Nicholas

Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin

Hakken-Phillips, Mary

Oppel, Thomas

Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGHMurray, Aissandra
Beauchemin, Paige
Davis, Fred
Jack, Martin
Leishman, Peter
Murphy, Mary
Raymond, Heather
Swanson, Dale
Wheeler, JonahAmmon, Keith
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Judy, Jean
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Rombeau, Catherine
Telerski, LauraBoyd, Bill
Daniels, Gary
Georges, Mary
Kerwin, Erin
Howard, Molly
Noble, Kristin
Newman, Sue
Tellez, TrinidadBarbour, Liz
Darby, Will
Hartnett, Tim
Foss, Loren
Manohar, Sanjeev
Newman, Ray
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom**MERRIMACK**McGuire, Dan
Hall, MurielKelly, Eileen
Newsom, JamesGallager, Eric
See, AlvinLuneau, David
Wallner, Mary Jane**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Foote, Charles
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen
Vose, MichaelBridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Markell, Jay
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
MacDonald, WayneThomas, Douglas
Murray, Kate
McDonnell, Valerie
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, ToniEdgar, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sytek, John**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
Smith, Marjorie
Wall, JanetButler, Billie
Miller, SethHorrigan, Timothy
Schmidt, PeterLaMontagne, Jessica
Wade, Alice**SULLIVAN**Sullivan, Brian
Aron, MichaelCloutier, John
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 82
BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Belcher, Mike

MacDonald, John

CHESHIREKarasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
McFarlane, DonaldBerezhny, Lex
Sellers, John

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise

Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGHAlexander, Joe
Dumont, Dillon
Kofalt, Jim
Notter, Jeanine
Prout, Andrew
Ulery, JordanColcombe, Riché
Erf, Keith
Labrie, Brian
Ohm, Bill
Reinfurt, Sherri
Warden, MarkCreighton, James
Gagne, Larry
Mazur, Lisa
Pauer, Diane
Schneller, John
Wherry, RobertKelley, Diane
Giasson, Henry
Mooney, Maureen
Peeples, Raymond
Sirois, Shane

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Hill, Gregory
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Wood, Clayton

Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew

Gonzalez, Ernesto
Polozov, Yury

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Donnelly, Tanya
Janigian, John
Lynn, Bob
Brown, Pam
Soti, Julius

Bernardy, JD
Drago, Mike
Layon, Erica
Milz, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sweeney, Joe

Mannion, Dennis
Guzofski, James
Litchfield, Melissa
Nadeau, Brian
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Weyler, Kenneth

DeSimone, Debra
Harb, Robert
Love, David
Osborne, Jason
Selby, Donald

STRAFFORD

Burnham, Claudine
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise

DeLemus, Susan

Granger, Michael

SULLIVAN

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

The motion failed lacking the necessary three-fifths vote and with a quorum not being reached, the House was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:32 p.m.