



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 26, 2026

No. 9

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 8 (Cont'd)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 9

Thursday, March 26, 2026

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

God of wisdom and justice, we pause at the opening of this day mindful of the responsibility entrusted to those gathered here. We ask for wisdom. Grant these Representatives clear minds to understand the issues before them, steady hearts when decisions are difficult, and humility to listen well to one another. We acknowledge that each person in this chamber arrived here by a different path. Some sit on one side of the aisle, some on the other. Each was supported by communities, parties, and voters who believed in them and entrusted them with this responsibility. Yet, today we remember that the work of this body reaches far beyond any single district or affiliation. Those who serve here carry the responsibility of serving the entirety of the people of the State of New Hampshire. Grant them the wisdom to hold their convictions with integrity while remembering the broader good of all whom they represent. Give them courage to pursue what is right rather than what is easy, patience when debate grows heated, and grace when disagreement arises. Help them remember that behind every policy, every vote, and every discussion are the lives of neighbors, families, and communities across this state who look to this chamber with hope for thoughtful leadership.

For those carrying heavy burdens today; concerns for family, health, or the weight of leadership itself, we ask that they would find strength and steadiness for the work before them. May wisdom guide every word spoken here today, and may the work done within these walls contribute to the good of all the people of this state. Amen.

Rep. Dillon Dumont, member from Hudson, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by the Hudson Middle School Chorus.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Chair recognized Rep. Potenza and Pastor Peter Chamberland of the Granite State Baptist Church for a presentation on the 1782 Aitken Bible.

COMMUNICATION

March 25, 2026

Honorable Paul Smith
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State House Concord, NH 03301

Dear Paul:

Please be advised that the following representative-elect was sworn into office by the Governor and Executive Council on this day: Carroll County District No. 7

Roberta (Bobbi) Boudman, d, Wolfeboro (123 Warren Sands Rd) 03894

Sincerely,
David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Buco, Cambrils, Freeman, Gilman, Kesselring, Manohar and Thackston, the day, illness.
Reps. Beauchemin, England, Gibbs, Robley Hall, Harvey, Hegner, Leavitt, Tim Mannion, McFarlane, McLean, Muirhead, Michael Murphy, Read, Summers and Verville, the day, important business.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Andrew King and Natalie Brooks, students at Bishop Brady High School, Pages for the day.
Ethan Young, guest of Representative David Paige, Michelle Roussel-Buckley and Adam Thompson, guests of Representative Darby and Crystal Perry, guest of Representative Sheehan.

SENATE MESSAGES

CONCURRENCE

HB 1815-FN, relative to education financing.

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 323, 1110, 1119, 1373, and 1379.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

HB 241-FN, (New Title) relative to health insurance coverage of pain management services for the management of chronic pain. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for Finance. This bill would require carriers in the fully insured health insurance market to provide a state-approved plan for non-opioid pain management services and limit the use of utilization controls for those services. Health carriers would also be required to educate patients suffering from chronic pain about the pain management program and how to access services. The committee believes this bill will improve quality of life for patients by offering an array of evidence-based therapies for pain relief while reducing the risk of opioid dependency. Passage of the bill would take effect for policies, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027 with no determinable fiscal impact. Vote 25-0.

HB 1197-FN, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. The fiscal impact of this collection of clarifications and updates to the insurance statutes is an indeterminable amount of fines, penalties, and administrative assessments, most of which can be avoided by proper behavior. Vote 25-0.

HB 1426-FN, requiring the department of environmental services to employ certified personnel in each program area. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for Finance. This bill ensures that the Department of Environmental Services employs certified personnel in each program area, strengthening technical expertise and accountability across the agency. The committee determined that requiring qualified staff in critical roles improves program integrity and ensures more effective delivery of environmental services. Vote 25-0.

HB 1466-FN, relative to obtaining a certificate of title for certain trailers. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Keith Erf for Finance. This bill previously passed the House on the consent calendar and the Finance Division II OTP recommendation was unanimous. The bill provides that a boat trailer over 3,001 pounds whose manufacturer's model year is older than 10 years is exempt from the need to title on purchase or transfer. Voluntary titling is still available. The new fiscal note reduced the potential revenue reduction to about \$200,000 dollars per year. Vote 25-0.

HB 1600-FN, (New Title) relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. This bill is a codification of what the Secretary of State is doing to ensure election officials can verify the information needed for voting. It formalizes his agreement with the DMV to allow access to their database, and ensures that every town clerk is connected at the office. The only issue that came up was that some polling places do not have internet access – or good cell coverage – so special processes are needed there. The secretary told us that election officials can use a landline (more common in places with poor cell coverage) to call his office on election day and get the data they need. Based on this, we amended the bill to require “direct or indirect” access on election day, which reinforces the fact that this won't cost anything. Vote 25-0.

Amendment (1097h)

Amend RSA 654:12, VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in accordance with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity to the city and town clerks. The secretary of state shall work with the city and town clerks to ensure ***direct or indirect*** access on election day at the polling location ***to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place***. If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that qualification. Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

2026-1097h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the secretary of state, town, and city clerks to ensure that each polling place in the state has access to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place.

HB 1622-FN, requiring the state to develop additional solid waste disposal capacity. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. This bill clarifies the criteria used by DES to review and approve new or expanded solid waste disposal sites (landfills). It establishes that expansions of existing landfills – built to current standards - and new landfills on brownfield sites are preferred to new landfills on untouched sites. This does not increase the cost of the necessary reviews and analyses, so the committee recommended it unanimously. Vote 25-0.

HB 1710-FN, relative to procedures relating to child abduction. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for Finance. While the bill addresses important concerns related to child abduction procedures, the committee determined that additional review is necessary to fully assess legal implications, coordination with law enforcement, and potential fiscal impacts. Interim Study allows for a more comprehensive evaluation to ensure any future policy is implemented effectively. Vote 25-0.

HB 1718-FN, relative to authorizing energy storage in connection with net metering. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. This bill only requires a rulemaking update by the Public Utilities Commission, and will result in a tiny increase in electric power costs, offset by somewhat greater power capability when needed. Vote 25-0.

HB 1720-FN, relative to notice to child day care providers of child care scholarships. **RECOMMENDED BUT TO BE LAID UPON THE TABLE BECAUSE OF FUNDING.**

Rep. Gary Daniels for Finance. The Child Care Scholarship Program gives out about 5000 scholarships per year to over 700 providers. The cost of system changes proposed by the bill is about \$230,000, with an additional \$20,000 for salary and benefits for the staff needed to make these changes. These expenditures would be incurred in FY2027, with 40 percent federal funds and 60 percent state general funds, however, the effective date is 60 days after passage, leaving the committee questioning the source of the funding in the interim to support this program. Not wanting this initial funding to be taken from scholarship funds, reducing the number of scholarships available, the committee supported laying this on the table until the funding mechanism to make these changes can be identified. Vote 25-0.

HB 1827-FN-A, (New Title) requiring the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Finance. This bill was originally referred to the Education Funding Committee, which voted 18-0 to recommend OTPA with a non-germane replace-all amendment sought by the Department of Education (DOE) to require criminal background checks for all non-educator credentialed individuals employed (full-time or part-time) in public schools, public academies, school administrative units (SAU's), public charter schools, and private special education schools. It was placed on the consent calendar, passed the House on a voice vote February 19, 2026, and referred to the Finance Committee. The committee finds that this program will be self-funding and require no new appropriations. The Bureau of Educator Credentialing within the DOE administers these checks, collects a fee of \$100, is funded by these fee revenues, and receives no general fund appropriations. The DOE anticipates that the costs associated with additional staffing and administrative support could be covered through the existing \$100 fee per check, without the need for additional funding. Likewise, the Department of Safety has stated that it has a well-established internal process to handle the increase in background checks resulting from this bill, thus their charge of \$47 for the checks required by this bill would raise up to \$188,000 per year without new expenses. Taken together, revenues should exceed expenses immediately in the initial year, with that spread growing to over \$200,000 annually thereafter. Vote 24-0.

HB 1301-FN, increasing certain mooring fees and directing such funds to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for Ways and Means. This is a bipartisan environmental and fiscal bill designed to create a sustainable funding source for the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund. The bill targets specific boat moorings on eight major New Hampshire lakes (including Lake Winnepesaukee, Bow Lake, and Ossipee Lake) and increases the annual mooring fee for non-congregate (individual) moorings from \$25 to \$50. This \$25 increase is projected to generate between \$68,750 and \$80,000 annually. Currently, the state's Cyanobacteria Mitigation Fund—which helps towns and nonprofits manage toxic algae blooms—is nearly depleted and lacks a permanent funding stream. By diverting the new \$25 fee directly to this fund, the bill creates a sustainable source of money to pay for preventative measures, such as stormwater management and public education, rather than just reactive treatments. It should be noted this fee has not been increased since the 1980's and it is much cheaper to raise this fee and prevent cyanobacteria bloom than to pay to clean it up afterward. The bill empowers the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to provide grants for root-cause mitigation, helping to preserve the long-term health and property values of New Hampshire's waterfronts. New Hampshire's lakes are a multi-billion-dollar driver for the state economy. Passing this bill is a proactive "insurance policy" for the state's tourism and real estate industries. Vote 18-0.

HB 1594-FN, establishing a weight-based tiered registration fee schedule for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill changes the annual registration fee for electric vehicles from a flat fee to one based on type and weight. In addition to any other registration fees required, the bill calls for an annual registration fee for battery electric vehicles (BEV) weighing 1,001-3,000 pounds of \$50; BEVs weighing 3,001 to 8,000 pounds of \$100; BEVs weighing over 8,000 pounds of \$150; and any size plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) of \$50. Currently, the flat fee on a BEV is a surcharge of \$100. In FY 2025, 11,236 BEVs were registered resulting in \$1,123,600 in revenue. Most BEVs have a gross vehicle weight between 3,001 pounds to 8,000 pounds. Thus, even if registrations remain static, revenue should remain neutral. PHEV will continue at the same rate of \$50. Vote 18-0.

HB 1738-FN, relative to ratepayer benefits from the regional greenhouse gas initiative. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for Ways and Means. This bill is a bipartisan act relative to ratepayer benefits from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The primary driver of this bill is to implement the Third RGGI Program Review, which was adopted by all participating states. If New Hampshire does not pass this bill, its carbon allowance structure would technically fall out of alignment with the rest of the RGGI program beginning in 2027, potentially creating administrative and legal complications for the state's participation. Further, the bill adjusts the carbon dioxide emissions budget for 2027 through 2030. Because the allowance cap is being lowered (tightened), the state expects to see a reduction in total auction revenue. Revenue is projected to drop to roughly \$33 million–\$46 million per year, down from historical highs of approximately \$66 million per year. While this is a decrease in total funds, it ensures the state remains a participant in the auction process. To protect ratepayers from spikes in energy prices, the bill establishes a "two-tier" cost containment reserve. If auction prices for carbon allowances get too high, the state can release additional allowances at set "trigger prices" (e.g., ~\$20.87 in 2028). This acts as a safety valve to prevent wholesale electricity costs—which are passed on to consumers—from skyrocketing during periods of high demand or low allowance supply. Proceeds from RGGI auctions in New Hampshire are deposited into the Energy Efficiency Fund. The majority of these funds are returned directly to electricity customers as rebates on their bills. By updating the RGGI rules through this bill, the state preserves the mechanism that allows these rebates to continue, even if the total pool of money is smaller than in previous years. Vote 18-0.

HB 1751-FN, relative to a start park public safety parking surcharge. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill establishes a 5% public safety surcharge on paid parking at state park facilities and creates a dedicated fund to distribute collected revenues quarterly to host municipalities for public safety services related to park visitation. The bill as written would only allow the parking surcharge to work at parking facilities existing at Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) that had kiosks, mobile applications, and metered parking which are predominantly located in the municipalities of Hampton and Rye. Most of the state parks throughout state would not be able to institute this surcharge due to internet availability for mobile applications and the fact that most park fees are collected at a toll booth within the respective park. The department indicated that most park access fees are in whole dollars, for example \$5 per person, so the surcharge would be \$0.25. Parks that have a high volume of visitors would be required to make change for every visitor that went through the toll booth entrance making it cumbersome to enter the park. In addition to this, the parks would need to maintain enough coinage necessary to make change. Because this cannot be administered uniformly throughout all state parks with access fees, the committee voted to recommend this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

REGULAR CALENDAR

HB 112-FN, (New Title) requiring students in the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test,

take a course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass a civics course competency test. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill requires public college and university students to pass the U.S. naturalization civics test to graduate, or to have previously passed it as part of their NH high school graduation requirements. The colleges claim that implementing this would add hundreds of thousands of dollars to their administrative costs, but strangely when the identical bill reached the Governor's desk in 2021 it had no fiscal note. Similarly, the extensive bill passed in 2021 that added this requirement for high school graduation also lacked a fiscal note. The test has been successfully implemented by a hundred high schools across the state for the last five years. The majority concludes that the fiscal note on this bill is overstated, indicating general opposition to the policy rather than a necessary expense. Vote 14-11.

Rep. Eileen Kelly for the **Minority** of Finance. The minority supports the idea of civics classes and knowledge, however, we do not believe the legislature should mandate a requirement for the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and Community College System (CCSNH) students to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test. Currently, in order to graduate, New Hampshire public high school students must pass this test. Approximately fifty-three percent of our high school students go on to attend the NH University System and ninety-four percent of the Community College System students are in-state students. Therefore, the majority of these students have already passed this test in high school. Tracking which higher education students have met the requirement in this bill, along with exemptions, will be challenging. Exempted students include any undergraduate students that are: exchange students; foreign nationals; NH public secondary school graduates who completed the test in their NH high school on or after its establishment in July 1, 2023; any military personnel on full-time active duty or part-time service, veteran pursuant to RSA 110-D:3, II or XX, and any students who are admitted or transferring to an institution in the University System of New Hampshire before January 1, 2026. The amendment to HB 112 eliminated the fiscal note. However, there is a cost associated with mandating this test. The bill requires the University System and the Community College System to "establish procedures to administer, certify, and record results" of the test for those students needing to take it, along with managing the process to identify and record all the exemptions. When implementing the high school citizenship test requirement, the NH Department of Education outsourced many functions at a cost of approximately \$500,000 and an additional \$800,000 (approximately) through Governor and Council for a contract with the vendor for the next five years. In 2021, Governor Sununu vetoed HB 319, which was essentially the same bill as HB 112.

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

Rep. Eileen Kelly spoke against.

Rep. Moffett spoke in favor.

Rep. Jeudy requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 191 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 191

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Dumais, Russell

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Boudman, Bobbi
Pernel, Katy

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith

Fedolfi, Jim
 Georges, Mary
 Jeudy, Jean
 Lascelles, Richard
 Mooney, Maureen
 Ohm, Bill
 Post, Lisa
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Tenczar, Jeffrey
 Wheeler, Jonah

Flanagan, Jack
 Giasson, Henry
 Kenny, Catherine
 Murphy, Mary
 Morton, Jonathan
 Paquette, Kathleen
 Presa, Adam
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sirois, Shane
 Mannion, Tom
 Wherry, Robert

Griffin, Gerald
 Gorski, Ted
 Kofalt, Jim
 Mazur, Lisa
 Noble, Kristin
 Pauer, Diane
 Proulx, Mark
 Schneller, John
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Ulery, Jordan

Gagne, Larry
 Gould, Linda
 Labrie, Brian
 Miles, Julie
 Notter, Jeanine
 Peeples, Raymond
 Prout, Andrew
 Scully, Kevin
 Suiter, John
 Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 McGuire, Dan
 Moffett, Michael
 Seaworth, Brian
 Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
 Devoid, Ricky
 Pitaro, Matthew
 See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
 Hill, Gregory
 Polozov, Yury
 Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
 Mehegan, Peter
 Boyd, Stephen
 Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Guzowski, James
 Miner, Laurence
 Lundgren, David
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Pearson, Stephen
 Sweeney, Joe
 Vallone, Mark
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lynn, Bob
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Milz, David
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Dolan, Tom
 Vandecasteele, Susan
 Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Layon, Erica
 Pearson, Mark
 McGrath, Linda
 Nadeau, Brian
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Tripp, Richard
 Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Khan, Aboul
 Love, David
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 McMahon, Charles
 Nelson, Jodi
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Roy, Terry
 Spillane, James
 Tudor, Paul
 MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 DeRoy, Susan
 Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
 Harrington, Michael
 Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
 Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 157 BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
 Taylor, Brian

Paige, David
 Woodcock, Stephen

Hamblen, Joseph

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
 Gruber, James
 Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
 Jones, Philip
 Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry
 Germana, Nicholas
 Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 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
 Gregg, Alicia
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kluger, Lee Ann

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Foxx, Loren

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Davis, Fred
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Foss, Lily
 Hartnett, Tim
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel

Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sytek, John

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

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

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

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

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

HB 629-FN, (New Title) raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Peter Leishman for Finance. This bill was filed as a result of recommendations from a bipartisan “Committee to Study Alternatives for Funding the Operation, Maintenance, and Repair of State-Owned Dams.” The state finds itself in a unique situation that it owns 276 dams - a dam is any impoundment exceeding six feet in height. Many of these dams are more than 100 years old and require rehabilitation, replacement or removal due to their deteriorating condition. These state owned dams have created or increased the size of Lake Winnepesaukee, Newfound Lake, Squam Lake and Lake Sunapee to name a few. These now owned state dams have been acquired after dams were abandoned by the previous owners due to the burden presented by needed capital expenditures or the mills that had been relying on these dams closed. HB 629-FN as amended will add a \$5 fee to the boat sticker fee. This additional revenue will raise between \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually to be credited to the dam maintenance fund. Presently, there is a significant shortfall in the dam maintenance fund to abide by a 50-year rehabilitation schedule to replace or to rehabilitate state owned dams. The Dam Bureau requires \$16 million dollars annually to address the deteriorating state owned dams. With the passage of HB 629-FN, much needed funding will be available to address the under funded dam maintenance fund. Vote 25-0.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Dan McGuire moved that **HB 629-FN**, raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 155 members having voted in the affirmative, and 192 in the negative, the motion failed.

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

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

HB 1130-FN, relative to judicial performance evaluations. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill adds criteria and clarifies the requirements for judicial performance evaluations. The committee amendment deletes case processing as a criterion, since

scheduling is done by the clerk of the courts, and moves the effective date to January 1, 2027, to give the Judicial Branch time to work out the details of their implementation. Some members were concerned that it seemed to decrease the information available to the Governor and Executive Council if a judge were to be nominated to a higher position, but that's in the details the court system will establish. Another representative was concerned that this might increase risk to judges, since the evaluations would be public. Since the names of judges deciding important cases are regularly given in newspaper articles, that's not a serious concern. Vote 13-12.

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the **Minority** of Finance. The minority is opposed to the passage of HB 1130-FN. The bill would require an annual expenditure of \$160,000 to \$180,000 to hire additional administrative support to manage the increased number of court observers needed to evaluate current and proposed judges as called for in this bill. Taking into account Part 1, Article 37 of the NH Constitution, which outlines the separation of powers, this expenditure should be part of the Judicial Branch operations and not mandated by legislation. Additionally, this bill does not account for the cost of added security measures that may be necessary as a result of the public dissemination of identifiable performance reviews. When asked about the possibility of increased harassment or even threats to judges, a judge testified that security is a concern. The minority believes to pass this bill without any security accommodation to protect the increased risk to judges, especially since security for current courtroom proceedings is not adequately funded, is simply reckless.

Majority Amendment (1099h)

Amend RSA 490:32, II(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II.(a) The **JPE** program [~~for performance evaluation~~] shall be as [~~inclusive~~] **comprehensive** as practicable and shall include, but shall not be limited to: [~~a questionnaire, to be designed by the supreme court, and a self-evaluation form to be completed by the judge. The supreme court shall strive to achieve uniformity among court evaluation questionnaires, recognizing that the questionnaires for each court may differ due to the jurisdiction of the courts.~~]

(1) **Questionnaires;**

(2) **Self-evaluation; and**

(3) **In-court observations of the judicial officer.**

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 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. Mark Paige moved that **HB 1130-FN**, relative to judicial performance evaluations, be laid on the table. On a division vote, with 156 members having voted in the affirmative, and 194 in the negative, the motion failed.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Mark Paige spoke against.

Rep. Lynn spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 194 members having voted in the affirmative, and 156 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

Rep. Luneau declared a conflict and did not participate in the vote.

HB 1421-FN, modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Keith Erf for Finance. This bill passed the House on a voice vote and the Finance Division II OTP recommendation was unanimous. The bill legislates that any vehicle, except heavy trucks and truck-tractors whose gross vehicle weight exceeds 18,000 pounds, whose manufacturer's model year is older than 20 years is exempt from the need to title on purchase or transfer. This restores the rolling title exemption as it was prior to 2018 setting it at 20 years vs 15 years. Any vehicle over 20 years old may electively be titled by the owner provided they submit the proper documentation to establish chain of custody and ownership at the time the title application is submitted. The House amended bill that removed large trucks reduced the potential revenue reduction to about \$500,000 dollars per year. Vote 25-0.

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

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

HB 1457-FN, relative to natural organic reduction of human remains. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Karen Ebel for Finance. This bill allows for the natural organic reduction of human remains and sets forth regulation for the practice. Logically, the bill is based on New Hampshire's cremation statute, a method by which 80% of the remains of the deceased are treated. HB 1457 authorizes another process by which a

deceased body changes form and, currently, 80% of deceased in New Hampshire are cremated. The bill also addresses the requirements for a facility. The bill passed the House floor with a bipartisan 301-48 vote, indicating strong support for the policy. The Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) will be in charge of licensing and overseeing the program. The fiscal note shows that all expenditures incurred by OPLC will be defrayed by fees charged. The revenues and related expenditures are indeterminable, but not expected to exceed \$100,000. The committee unanimously supported passage of this legislation. Vote 25-0.

The question being the committee report of Ought to Pass.

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

HB 1458-FN, (New Title) relative to the licensing of massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Finance. This bill implements the first step in addressing human trafficking operations that disguise centers of prostitution as massage parlors: it requires each parlor to have an individual proprietor, who must be licensed as both a massage therapist and a proprietor. The therapist license makes it more difficult for a “paper husband” – a minimally involved person with a clean record – to get the proprietor’s license, which involves identification and a full, national criminal records check. The result of this process is that if a “massage parlor” is found, at least one of those running the show is identified, located, and available for prosecution. It will also identify the legitimate operations, at a minimal effort for them, so that we know the scope of the business in New Hampshire. Right now we know that there are some parlors, and some real massage therapy establishments, but not how many of each. The committee amendment updates the language on the criminal records check to the FBI’s current preference. Vote 25-0.

Amendment (1188h)

Amend RSA 328-B:4, VII(n) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(n) The qualifications for a massage establishment proprietor including verification of identity through provision of a social security number or tax identification number and no prior convictions under RSA 633, RSA 632-A, RSA 645:2, RSA 649-A or similar laws in other states, as verified by a background check conducted by the department of safety, division of state police and a background check conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with all associated costs to be paid by the licensee.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 8 with the following:

9 New Subparagraphs; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-H:5, VIII by inserting after subparagraph (l) the following new subparagraphs:

(m) Exemptions from the definition of bodywork establishment which maintain the intention to require a proprietor license only for those locations where there are multiple practitioners working in a location where there is no other oversight or visibility to the public or passersby. The board shall recommend an exemption to the definition of bodywork establishment to permit occasional assistance by another licensed practitioner.

(n) The qualifications for a bodywork establishment proprietor including verification of identity through provision of a social security number or tax identification number and no prior convictions under RSA 633, RSA 632-A, RSA 645:2, RSA 649-A or similar laws in other states, as verified by a background check conducted by the department of safety, division of state police and a background check conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with all associated costs to be paid by the licensee.

10 Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Renewal of Practitioner License. RSA 328-H:9 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

328-H:9 Renewal of License. All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire in accordance with RSA 310:8.

11 New Section; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Criminal History Records Checks. Amend RSA 328-B by inserting after section 6 the following new section:

328-B:6-a Criminal History Record Checks.

I. Every applicant for initial permanent licensure or reinstatement shall submit to the office of professional licensure and certification a criminal history record information authorization form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, which authorizes the release of his or her criminal history record information, if any, to the office of professional licensure and certification.

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

III. The office of professional licensure and certification shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the office of professional licensure and certification.

IV. The office of professional licensure and certification shall review the criminal record information prior to making a licensing decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

V. The applicant shall bear the cost of a criminal history record check.

12 New Section; Reflexologists; Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Practitioner License; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 328-H by inserting after section 8 the following new section:

328-H:8-a Criminal History Record Checks.

I. Every applicant for initial permanent licensure or reinstatement shall submit to the office of professional licensure and certification a criminal history record information authorization form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, which authorizes the release of his or her criminal history record information, if any, to the office of professional licensure and certification.

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

III. The office of professional licensure and certification shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the office of professional licensure and certification.

IV. The office of professional licensure and certification shall review the criminal record information prior to making a licensing decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

V. The applicant shall bear the cost of a criminal history record check.

13 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 2, 2027.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Germana moved that **HB 1458-FN**, relative to the licensing of massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities, be laid on the table.

Rep. Layon requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 158 - NAYS 193

YEAS - 158

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
St. Clair, Charlie

Bordes, Mike

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Brown, Richard

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer

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
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
Plamondon, Marc
Prout, Andrew
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Warden, Mark

Budathoki, Suraj
Drew, Matt
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Preece, David
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Chretien, Suzanne
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Presa, Adam
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

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

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Donnelly, Tanya
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Roy, Terry
Sorensen, Carrie

Bridle, Nicholas
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Pearson, Stephen
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Edwards, Jess
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Litchfield, Melissa
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

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

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

NAYS - 193**BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Dumais, Russell

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Flanagan, Jack

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald

Boyd, Bill
Booras, Efstathia
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry

Barbour, Liz
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry

Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Petrigno, Peter
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen
Post, Lisa
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Thomas, Wendy

Herbert, Christopher
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wheeler, Jonah

Kenny, Catherine
Leishman, Peter
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Colby, Eleana
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Maggiore, Jim
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Schmidt, Peter

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

and the motion failed.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Motion was adopted.

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

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

HB 1469-FN-A, (New Title) relative to the licensing requirements for massage therapy establishments.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Karen Ebel for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill requires that massage establishments be licensed through the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC). The advisory board and office are responsible for establishing rules for the license including standards, conditions, inspection standards and public display of certificate, among other requirements. The licenses are for those establishments with more than one therapist, however, those sole massage therapists that provide services without an appointment need a massage establishment license. The licensees are inspected upon a complaint per OPLC existing enforcement statutes. As amended to remove the paralegal investigative position, HB 1469 has no money associated with it. The bill is strongly supported by NH Association of Chiefs of Police and the town of Derry. As noted in the Derry town administrator's letter to the committee, the town staff worked collaboratively with the bill's prime sponsor to develop effective countermeasures to try to stop these harmful businesses. Vote 15-10.

Rep. Carol McGuire for the **Minority** of Finance. The minority is concerned about a number of issues with HB 1469. First, this sets up the administrative investigators from the OPLC to enforce the licensing and inspection requirements to prevent human trafficking. Human trafficking is a crime, and law enforcement personnel should be investigating it, not license clerks. Secondly, the registration and inspection requirements will be a burden on the legitimate massage therapy establishments. These are our constituents. We don't know how many establishments there are, and their licensing fees will have to pay for the regulations.

The minority recommends that the state institute the proprietor licenses from HB 1458 and determine how many massage establishments there are in the state, and if that minimal effort helps law enforcement deal with the trafficking cases.

Majority Amendment (1187h)

Amend the bill by deleting section 18 and renumbering the original section 19 to read as 18.

2026-1187h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires massage establishments to be licensed and regulated by the office of professional licensure and certification (OPLC). The bill also allows for compensation of members of the advisory board of massage therapists.

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

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

YEAS 323 - NAYS 28

YEAS - 323 BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David

Comtois, Barbara
St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Belcher, Mike
Paige, David
Peternel, Katy

Boudman, Bobbi
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Mattson, Rita
O'Rourke, Terri

Murphy, Denis
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

Barton, Joseph
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Barbour, Liz
Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
Dargie, Paul
Fedolff, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Foxx, Loren
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill

Alexander, Joe
Bergeron, Dan
Budathoki, Suraj
Cole, Brian
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Foss, Lily
Gorski, Ted
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Labrie, Brian
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McGhee, Kat
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Daniels, Gary
Elberger, Susan
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Georges, Mary
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Kofalt, Jim
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond

Petrigno, Peter
 Presa, Adam
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Ryan, Linda
 Scully, Kevin
 Spier, Carry
 Telerski, Laura
 Ulery, Jordan
 Wherry, Robert

Plamondon, Marc
 Proulx, Mark
 Rice, Kimberly
 Newman, Sue
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Staub, Kathy
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Post, Lisa
 Newman, Ray
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Sirois, Shane
 Suiter, John
 Tenczar, Jeffrey
 Veilleux, Daniel

Preece, David
 Raymond, Heather
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Schneller, John
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Swanson, Dale
 Mannion, Tom
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Caplan, Tony
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Newsom, James
 Roesener, James
 See, Alvin
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Aures, Cyril
 Colby, Eleana
 Gallager, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Boyd, Stephen
 Snodgrass, Jim
 Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
 Devoid, Ricky
 Hicks, Matthew
 Mehegan, Peter
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Soucy, Timothy
 Woods, Gary

Bricchi, Tracy
 Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Moffett, Michael
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Bridle, Nicholas
 Thomas, Douglas
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Khan, Aboul
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 Maggiore, Jim
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Nadeau, Brian
 Perez, Kristine
 Reynolds, Ned
 Scherr, Buzz
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Vose, Michael
 Weyler, Kenneth

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 de Vries, Erica
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Haskins, Linda
 Knab, Allison
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 Malloy, Dennis
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Meuse, David
 Nelson, Jodi
 Porcelli, Susan
 Roy, Terry
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Turer, Eric
 MacDonald, Wayne
 Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
 Cahill, Michael
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Grote, Jaci
 Janigian, John
 Kuttub, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Paige, Mark
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 McGrath, Linda
 Milz, David
 Osborne, Jason
 Potucek, John
 Pearson, Stephen
 Simpson, Alexis
 Sytek, John
 Vallone, Mark
 Ward, Gerald

Bernardy, JD
 Mannion, Dennis
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edgar, Michael
 Guzowski, James
 Murray, Kate
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Pearson, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 McMahon, Charles
 Muns, Chris
 Brown, Pam
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Dolan, Tom
 Vandecasteele, Susan
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Butler, Billie
 Farrington, Samuel
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Potenza, Kelley
 Stone, John
 Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
 DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Schmidt, Peter
 Turcotte, Len
 Wall, Janet

Burnham, Claudine
 DeLemus, Susan
 Granger, Michael
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Selig, Loren
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 DeRoy, Susan
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wade, Alice

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 - 28

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Qualey, James

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin

HILLSBOROUGH

Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Wheeler, Jonah

Dumont, Dillon
Prout, Andrew

Erf, Keith
Slottje, Jeremy

Flanagan, Jack
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

McGuire, Carol
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Dan
Walsh, Thomas

Hill, Gregory

Polozov, Yury

ROCKINGHAM

Edwards, Jess

Popovici-Muller, Daniel

Soti, Julius

Tudor, Paul

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn

Harrington, Michael

Kaczynski, Thomas

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

HB 1477-FN, relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Gerald Griffin for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill requires that all anchored seasonal platforms, on all the state's lakes, be permitted by the Department of Safety, Division of Marine Patrol. It establishes a \$50 permit fee for such permit, the proceeds of which will be split equally between the navigation safety fund and the cyanobacteria mitigation and grant fund. This bill does not provide for funding or new positions, yet we know from testimony that at least two positions would be needed and other costs would be incurred in carrying out the intent of the bill. The Marine Patrol currently employs one person to handle mooring permits on just eight of our lakes, yet this bill would require permits for floating platforms on all our lakes and the majority doubts that this can be done with only half the fee. In fact we have no clear idea of how many floating platforms even exist. Many of our smaller lakes are not visited on any regular basis, so enforcement would be questionable at best. The apparent goal of the bill was to raise funds for cyanobacteria mitigation, yet it seems ironic that it does so by taxing floating platforms, which by blocking sunlight from the water, are themselves a mitigation device. The majority believes this bill was not well thought out and increases our growing bureaucracy. Vote 14-11.

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill, which passed unanimously in the House, would require a registration fee on floats and inflatables consistent with registrations currently required for other private property anchored in public waters, such as docks and over 4,800 moorings. The \$50 fee would split between the Navigation Safety Fund (which shall administer the program) and the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund. From GIS analysis for areas within 75' setback of high water mark of bodies greater than 10 acres, NHDES estimates there are 50,000 shorefront properties. Aerial and on-the-ground observations estimate 25% would have anchored seasonal platforms. Thus, \$625,000/year would be raised annually by this fee with the estimated \$178,000 (2027), \$144,000 (2028) and \$150,000 (2029) administration cost coming from the Navigation Safety Fund. Presently, the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund is depleted and needs a consistent revenue source to address the growing number of lakes chronically impaired with toxic cyanobacteria blooms. Without treatment, which typically costs \$500,000 per lake, the \$17 billion dollar NH lake economy is at risk, in addition to the health care costs for diseases associated with exposure to toxic blooms.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Weyler moved that **HB 1477-FN**, relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 169 members having voted in the affirmative, and 178 in the negative, the motion failed.

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

Rep. John MacDonald spoke against.

Rep. Griffin spoke in favor.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 172 - NAYS 180**YEAS - 172****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Belcher, Mike

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
Sellers, John

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Howland, Allan

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 180**BELKNAP**

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

COOS

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Sullivan, Jared
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lovett, Peter
 Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
 Franz, Linda
 Lucas, Janet
 Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Oppel, Thomas
 Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Dupont, Pierre
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Judy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Lascelles, Richard
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Aylward, Deborah
 Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Richards, Beth
 Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Hall, Muriel
 Roesener, James
 Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Perez, Kristine
 Scherr, Buzz
 Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
 Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Pearson, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Reynolds, Ned
 Simpson, Alexis
 Vallone, Mark

Bryer, Scott
 Grote, Jaci
 Knab, Allison
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David
 Read, Ellen
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
 Harb, Robert
 Lundgren, David
 Malloy, Dennis
 Muns, Chris
 Pearson, Stephen
 Dolan, Tom
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Howard, Heath
 Larochelle, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas
 Walker, David

Smith, Geoffrey
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Stone, John
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion failed.

Rep. John MacDonald moved Ought to Pass.

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

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bill numbered 1815 .

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avarad for the Committee

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D**HB 1483-FN**, creating a motor vehicle license plate for amateur radio operators. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**Rep. Keith Erf for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill passed the House on the consent calendar and the Finance Division II OTP/A recommendation was 7-1. It stipulates a new vanity plate be made available for ham and amateur radio operators. The original bill stated "the director is allowed to set a fee for the plates as approved

by the New Hampshire house and senate ways and means committee.” As there is no New Hampshire house and senate ways and means committee the amendment removes this leaving the fee to be set as it is for all vanity plates. The cost to the state is only a one time setup fee of \$25,000. Vote 19-5.

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill is a vanity plate program for ham and amateur radio operators. The cost for software changes to accommodate these plates is borne by all vanity and standard plate owners, not just by those wishing to have a ham radio plate. This proposed decorated vanity plate does not generate revenue for the state like the existing special plates (Conservation and State Park), nor does it honor our heroes like plates do for veterans, Purple Heart recipients, active duty military, former Prisoners of War, the National Guard and Pearl Harbor survivors. Allowing special plates for ham radio operators sets a precedent for other hobbyists who want their own special plates, creating a higher overall administrative burden. The policy committee argued that ham radio operators would be needed volunteers during a catastrophic communications failure, but a license plate should not be intended as a volunteer recruitment tool for such an event, especially when the Department of Motor Vehicles said that the plate would not be able to accommodate call numbers exceeding 5-7 letters. The state already has a decal plate program that is more affordable and appropriate for people wanting a ham radio operator license plate.

Majority Amendment (0960h)

Amend RSA 261:89-f, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. If the FCC-issued call sign is not displayed, the registrant may request a standard issue plate featuring a lightning bolt symbol to indicate their status as a licensed amateur radio operator.

(a) There shall be no duplication of numbers.

(b) A list of all such plate holders shall be made available to the New Hampshire department of safety, division of homeland security and emergency management, for the sole purpose of contact and coordination of such persons in a natural disaster or other public safety requirement. All other data is privileged per RSA 260:14-a.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any special privileges, including but not limited to the use of emergency lights, exemption from traffic laws, or access to restricted areas, except when acting under the express direction of authorized public safety personnel.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment adopted.

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

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

HB 1492-FN, (New Title) relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways and prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. This bill passed the House on February 19 by a 256-84 division vote. The Finance Committee does not have any financial concerns over this bill and unanimously voted for the OTP motion. Vote 25-0.

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

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

HB 1555-FN, relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the **Majority** of Finance.

This bill was unanimously supported by the policy committee and passed the House on a voice vote, which is why we were surprised by the policy related objections raised by two out of three minority Finance Division II members during our work session, especially considering the modest fiscal note attached to the bill, and the fact that Finance Committee members do not attend the bill hearings and policy committee sessions. The majority does not feel the need to second guess the unanimous vote of the policy committee and has no concerns over the financial impact of this bill that will facilitate greater code flexibility, helping to keep building costs under control. Vote 14-10.

Rep. Kate Murray for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill appears to be in response to an individual problem for which there is already an appeal process in place. This process seems more than adequate in addressing future issues that may be raised. We find that this bill opens up a real and dangerous path to overrule local decisions. This bill takes decision-making out of the hands of local government and local officials who understand the particulars of any issues and the impacts of any decisions on the community. We feel this bill provides an avenue for an appeal process designed to get around local decisions and adds unnecessary bureaucratic layers to the current appeals process. This disincentivizes communities from compromising and working together with both parties coming to mutually acceptable outcomes. Fire chiefs from several municipalities were clear that they oppose this bill as it undermines their ability to do what is best for their com-

munities. Further, the state fire marshal indicated he would need an additional two positions, anticipating the amount of work this would involve at an appropriation for about \$200,000 per year. Already there are numerous positions in the department that are unfilled. For these reasons, the minority opposes the OTP and recommends a motion of ITL.

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

Rep. Kate Murray spoke against.

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

YEAS 192 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 192

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Stavis, Laurel

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Long, Patrick
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Roy, Terry

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Pearson, Stephen

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt

Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

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

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 162 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

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

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

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

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra

Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 1563-FN-LOCAL, relative to the special education aid formula. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Finance. The House approved HB 1563, with amendment 2026-0546h, by voice vote on February 19, 2026, sending it on to Finance. In this form, the bill would lower the threshold at which the state would begin contributing to a school district's costs for high dollar special education students from the current level of 3-1/2 times the average statewide per student cost, i.e., approximately \$75,000, down significantly to \$50,000. The Department of Education would be responsible for 10 percent in a new tier from \$50,000 up to \$60,000, and 80 percent above \$60,000 up to \$200,000, and 90 percent above \$200,000. It further provides that these threshold levels would adjust 2 percent annually to account for anticipated inflation and that, when budgeted funds fall short, proration would occur subject to a guaranteed floor of 80 percent (rising to 90 percent on July 1, 2029) of all qualified claims properly submitted. The Finance Committee finds that the number of additional students that would be subject of this expanded state support is unknown, that the costs associated with those students is unknown, and that the department has no data from the districts that would enable a good estimate, so that it is impossible to quantify the exposure to the state of such a dramatic expansion with any confidence except to understand that it might be dramatic. Nonetheless, the committee believes that the policy of this bill is sound and that it is time for the state to move in the direction of increasing state support of special education costs, 85% of which are now borne by districts (especially in light of the failure of our federal government to provide more funds as initially envisioned on passage of the federal IDEA law). Therefore, the committee has fashioned an amendment (2026-1086h) designed to allow progress in this direction in a conservative fashion. The committee's amendment creates a three-tier structure, introducing a new tier reimbursing 15% of costs over a threshold of 2-1/2 times the statewide average per student cost, retaining the existing commitment to reimburse 80% of costs exceeding 3-1/2 times, and incorporating the bill's top tier of 90% share over 10 times the base average. Our rough estimates suggest this will obligate the state to new spending somewhere under a maximum of \$22.5 million annually. The committee concludes that limiting the state's share in the new lower tier to 15% will contain the exposure to a manageable level while moving in a constructive direction, lightening the burden on the district property taxpayers, and beginning to provide the data to better understand district spending on special education services. The amendment applies the proration floor of 80%, adopted into law last year, to all three tiers evenly. And it further mitigates the impact by requiring certified reporting from the districts and a risk-based monitoring system by the department to provide a broad-based set of selective and random reviews necessary to identify anomalies and problems, without the burden of examining every claim. Claims based on expenditures incurred during the 2027-2028 school year would be reimbursed starting in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, when the bill would take effect. The committee believes that these measures, taken together, may lay a foundation for further increasing support to districts gradually over time. Vote 25-0.

Amendment (1086h)

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

AN ACT relative to the special education aid formula and the administration and monitoring of state special education aid.

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

1 Legislative Intent. It is the intent of the general court to reduce administrative burden on school districts and the department, expedite reimbursement of state special education aid, and ensure appropriate stewardship of state funds through a risk-based monitoring methodology.

2 Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18, III to read as follows:

III.(a) ***For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, based upon school year 2027-2028 costs, and for each fiscal year thereafter,*** [The] ***the*** department of education shall distribute aid available under this paragraph as entitlement to such school districts as have a special education pupil for whose costs they are responsible, for whom the costs of special education in the fiscal year exceed [3] ***2*** and 1/2 times the most current state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution. If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special education aid in accordance with this section is insufficient therefor, the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally based on entitlement among the districts entitled to a grant, provided that the department of education shall distribute to the school district not less than 80 percent of the district's entitlement in the fiscal year. The state may designate up to \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated as required by this paragraph, for each fiscal year, to assist those school districts

which, under guidelines established by rules of the state board of education, may qualify for emergency assistance to mitigate the impact of special education costs. The state may designate up to an additional \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated under this paragraph for each fiscal year for any community of 1,000 or fewer residents to mitigate the impact of special education costs when emergency assistance is necessary to prevent significant financial harm to such district or community. Upon application to the commissioner of education, and approval by the commissioner, such funds may be accepted and expended by school districts in accordance with this chapter; provided, however, that if a school district has received emergency assistance funds for certain children with disabilities, it shall not receive special education aid for those same children with disabilities. If any of the funds designated for emergency assistance under this paragraph are not used for such emergency assistance purposes, the funds shall be used to assist school districts in meeting special education cost increases in their special education programs as provided by this paragraph.

~~[(b) The school district shall be liable for 3 and 1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution, plus 20 percent of the additional cost, up to 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution.]~~

(b) The school district shall be liable for the following amounts, calculated using the most current state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution:

(1) An amount equal to 2.5 times the state average expenditure per pupil.

(2) 85 percent of the portion of costs exceeding 2.5 times, but not exceeding 3.5 times, the state average expenditure per pupil.

(3) 20 percent of the portion of costs exceeding 3.5 times, but not exceeding 10 times, the state average expenditure per pupil.

(4) 10 percent of the portion of costs exceeding 10 times the state average expenditure per pupil.

~~[(c) The department of education shall be liable for 80 percent of the cost above the 3 1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution, up to 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution. The department of education shall be liable for all costs in excess of 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution.]~~

(c) The department of education shall be liable for the following amounts, calculated using the most current state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution:

(1) 15 percent of the portion of costs exceeding 2.5 times, but not exceeding 3.5 times, the state average expenditure per pupil.

(2) 80 percent of the portion of costs exceeding 3.5 times, but not exceeding 10 times, the state average expenditure per pupil.

(3) 90 percent of the portion of costs exceeding 10 times the state average expenditure per pupil.

3 New Paragraph; Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18 by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

XII. A district shall be deemed eligible for special education aid when the costs associated with an individual student, after offsets applied by the district for the benefit of the student and for other available revenue sources, exceed 2 and 1/2 times of the expenditure per pupil pursuant to subparagraph III(a).

(a) In calculating costs associated with an individual student, the costs shall be incurred solely as a result of the provision of special education and related services to the student's individual education program pursuant to RSA 186-C:7.

(b) All services included in a claim for special education aid shall be specified and documented in an IEP and tied to the child's disability related needs and program. Such costs shall be necessary, reasonable, directly benefit the student's education and disability needs as outlined in their IEP. The state shall provide funding to school districts to help offset such expenses, but districts shall also be responsible for a portion of the costs.

(c) The district shall demonstrate and document that it has fully accessed, to the maximum extent possible, other available revenue sources, including Medicaid and private insurance, or provide documentation as to why other revenue sources were unavailable to the district for special education aid.

(d) Other available revenue sources, including Medicaid and private insurance, shall be applied by the district as offsets to reimbursable costs for each special education cost reimbursed through special education aid.

(e) A pupil's local education agency (LEA) shall provide documentation on the specific costs being claimed for each student. If there are questions about an LEA's claim and its costs are not documented, the claim may be disqualified. Appropriate documentation is included in the IEP for each student. All services included in the claim shall be specified in the IEP, and tied to the child's disability-related needs and programs. All documentation should connect each cost to the IEP, demonstrating that it is an actual cost of special education specific to the students. Appropriate documentation in support of the IEP may include, but not be limited to, daily schedules, payroll records, and invoices.

4 New Section; Special Education; Administration and Monitoring of State Special Education Aid. Amend RSA 186-C by inserting after section 18 the following new section:

186-C:18-a Administration and Monitoring of State Special Education Aid.

I. Each school district seeking reimbursement under this chapter shall submit to the department, by a date established by the department, a certified report for each student for whom reimbursement is requested.

II. The report shall include, at minimum:

- (a) A student identifier;
- (b) A description of services provided pursuant to the student's individualized education program (IEP);
- (c) Eligible expenditures associated with those services, itemized by category;
- (d) The total reimbursement amount requested for that student; and
- (e) Certification by the superintendent that the information submitted is accurate and that the district maintains supporting documentation.

III. The department shall determine and issue state special education aid payments based on the certified reports submitted by school districts.

IV.(a) The department shall establish a risk-based monitoring program to verify the accuracy and allowability of reimbursement claims.

(b) The monitoring program shall include:

(1) Annual review of not less than 20 percent of districts submitting claims for state special education aid on a rotating review schedule designed to ensure that each district is reviewed at least once every 5 years;

(2) Random selection of additional districts for review;

(3) Targeted reviews based on risk indicators, anomalies, prior findings, or other factors identified by the department; and

(4) Other criteria as identified by the department.

(c) If systemic errors are identified, the department may take additional measures, including:

(1) Conducting a full review of the past years of submissions;

(2) Requiring districts to enter into an agreement with an independent auditor to complete an audit of expenditures under this program;

(3) Requiring additional review and certification of expenditures by the local school board; and

(4) Other measures deemed appropriate.

V. For districts selected for review, the department may examine invoices, individualized education programs (IEPs), service documentation, expenditure records, and any other documentation necessary to verify eligibility and accuracy of reported costs.

VI.(a) The department shall adjust reimbursement amounts based on monitoring findings.

(b) Overpayments shall be subject to recoupment.

(c) The department may require corrective action plans for districts demonstrating systemic errors or noncompliance.

VII. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to implement this section, including reporting formats, certification requirements, monitoring standards, appeal procedures, and recoupment processes.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2028.

2026-1086h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the department of education to distribute aid to school districts for pupils whose special education costs exceed a certain dollar value, but only up to a certain threshold.

II. Creates considerations for calculating costs associated with a special education student's education.

III. Requires each school district seeking special education aid reimbursements to submit a certified report for each student for whom reimbursement is requested.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 1571-FN-A, requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curriculum and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. This bill was voted 16-1 out of the policy committee and passed the House on February 19 by a voice vote. The Finance Committee does not have any financial concerns over this bill and unanimously voted for the OTP motion. Vote 25-0.

Amendment (0900h)

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

AN ACT requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curricula.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 2 with the following:

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

2026-0900h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to revise the statewide academic standards decennially beginning in June 2026.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 1576-FN, relative to the enforcement of criminal restitution obligations. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for Finance. This legislation strengthens enforcement of criminal restitution obligations and reinforces that victims are prioritized within the justice system. The committee determined that improving compliance mechanisms will increase accountability and ensure that court-ordered restitution is fulfilled. Vote 25-0.

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

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

HB 1602-FN, creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill would have New Hampshire join an international cartel of battery manufacturers, in exchange for a battery recycling program. It requires that most types of batteries and some battery-containing products only be supplied by those who pay the cartel. This bill came to us deeply flawed. It has numerous typos and internal inconsistencies. Regardless of the merits of the underlying policy, the majority of the Finance Committee cannot approve a mess, hence the interim study recommendation. Even if the language problems were solved, the premise behind the bill can't be fixed. We're told that battery materials are toxic and valuable, that keeping them out of landfills and into recycling programs will help the environment and the economy. In reality ordinary alkaline and zinc batteries have been safe for landfills for thirty years, rechargeable batteries already have free recycling programs sponsored by big box hardware stores, and used batteries are not valuable, which is why nobody will buy yours. Our law already bans disposal of lithium ion batteries in trash. Finally, the majority believes this bill is clearly unconstitutional, consider part 2 article 83. In no uncertain terms it tells us to prevent monopolies. We are required to use all our powers against those who would "... destroy free and fair competition...through combination, conspiracy, monopoly..." We believe HB 1602 would do the opposite. Vote 13-11.

Rep. Karen Ebel for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill would create an effective, free battery collection system for NH, including hazardous lithium batteries. Independent businesses, which support HB 1602, will run the program, not the government. Finance Committee review indicates zero net effect on the state budget. The House supported the unanimous recommendation of the Environment and Agriculture committee with a 264-72 vote. E&A fully vetted the HB 1602 policy. The bill results from extensive research by the state's Solid Waste Working Group. It is a state stakeholder group charged with working with DES in support of the state's Solid Waste Management Plan seeking ways to reduce waste in NH. HB 1602 is a top priority business-operated program enhancing employee and first responder safety and keeping hazardous waste out of landfills. There's no state-imposed or industry-imposed state specific fee. All recycling costs are born by the battery manufacturers, which support the nationwide effort to recoup valuable critical minerals from enhanced battery collection. As a \$20B industry, including a state the size of NH has no real effect on their production costs with virtually no effect on battery costs. In fact, we are already buying batteries with included recycling costs. If we don't participate, we lose the benefit of free disposal. HB 1602 saves towns and businesses expensive disposal costs paid for via property taxes. The NH Retailers Association has no objection to HB 1602. Damaged lithium batteries have caused conflagrations in a matter of seconds in NH causing millions in damages. Solid waste workers and first responders are at extreme risk. Our State Fire Marshal, the NH Association of Fire Chiefs and the Professional Fire Fighters of NH support this bill. Our Governor focused on lithium battery hazards for the 2025 Fire Prevention Week. Battery-related fire risks are causing skyrocketing insurance premiums, increasing disposal costs. Our national security and strategic supply chain requires an adequate supply of critical minerals, including lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite. China controls at least 80% of the processing capacity. We are at their mercy for much of our supply. Recycling the \$30B of battery-related products we import from China builds our strategic stockpile. During the Finance Committee executive session, certain simple drafting oversights were identified. These will be corrected with passage of a bipartisan floor amendment. In addition to our fire chiefs and fire fighters, this bill is supported by the BIA, Waste Management, Casella, Win-Waste, the NHMA, the Rechargeable Battery Association,

the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District and a consortium of environmental groups. Real benefits to Granite Staters led to broad NH-based support: tax savings, consumer and business savings, fire safety and national security enhancement. HB 1602 deserves passage.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Refer for Interim Study.

Reps. Judy Aron and Potenza spoke against.

Rep. Dan McGuire spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 128 - NAYS 226

YEAS - 128

BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Belcher, Mike

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John

Karasinski, Sly

Nalevanko, Rich

Qualey, James

COOS

Durkin, Sean

Morency, Pete

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Ryan, Linda
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Murphy, Mary
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Potucek, John
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard

Bennett, Cindy
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul

DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Layon, Erica
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Litchfield, Melissa
McMahon, Charles
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeLemus, Susan

Farrington, Samuel

Granger, Michael

SULLIVAN

Grant, George

NAYS - 226

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
St. Clair, Charlie

Comtois, Barbara

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
O'Rorke, Terri

Murphy, Denis
Mattson, Rita
Parshall, Lucius

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

King, Seth

Tierney, James

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gorski, Ted
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Scully, Kevin
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Barbour, Liz
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Morton, Jonathan
Preece, David
Rice, Kimberly
Salvi, Santosh
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Cahill, Michael
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Walsh, Lilli
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Porcelli, Susan
Roy, Terry
Sorensen, Carrie
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Foote, Charles
Knab, Allison
Love, David
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Nelson, Jodi
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Pearson, Stephen
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Thomas, Douglas
Grote, Jaci
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lundgren, David
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Brown, Pam
Raynolds, Ned
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

Bryer, Scott
de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Read, Ellen
Simpson, Alexis
Vose, Michael
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Turcotte, Len
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

and the motion failed.

Rep. Ebel moved Ought to Pass and offered floor amendment (1278h).

Floor Amendment (1278h)

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

1 New Subdivision; Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Stewardship. Amend RSA 149-M by inserting after section 64 the following new subdivision:

Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Stewardship

149-M:65 Definitions; Stewardship Program Established.

I. In this subdivision:

(a) "Battery-containing product" means a product that contains or is packaged with a rechargeable or primary battery that qualifies as a covered battery.

(b) "Battery material refining" means refining end-of-life batteries or battery materials back to usable battery materials suitable for reintroduction into the battery supply chain or for other beneficial manufacturing applications.

(c) "Battery recycler" means an entity or facility that abides by all applicable federal, state, local, and jurisdictional laws and performs either or both materials recovery and battery material refining.

(d) "Battery stewardship organization" means a producer that directly implements a battery stewardship plan required under this subdivision, or one or more third-party entities designated by a group of producers to implement such plan.

(e) "Collection rate" means the percentage, by weight, of covered batteries collected by a battery stewardship organization, calculated by dividing the total weight of primary and rechargeable batteries collected during the previous calendar year by the average annual weight of such batteries estimated to have been sold in New Hampshire by all producers participating in the approved plan during the prior 3 calendar years.

(f) "Covered battery" means a portable battery or a medium format battery. This does not include:

(1) Batteries contained in a medical device, as defined in 21 U.S.C. section 321(h), as it existed as of the effective date of this section, not designed and marketed for sale or resale principally to consumers for personal use;

(2) Batteries that contain an electrolyte as a free liquid;

(3) Lead-acid batteries weighing more than 11 pounds;

(4) Batteries in a battery-containing product that are not intended or designed to be easily removable from the battery-containing product;

(5) Batteries that are being recalled for safety reasons; and

(6) Batteries designed to power a motor vehicle, part of a motor vehicle, or a component part of a motor vehicle assembled by, or for, a vehicle manufacturer or franchised dealer, including replacement parts for use in a motor vehicle.

(g) "Damaged and defective batteries" means batteries identified by the producer as defective for safety reasons, or that pose a risk of heat, fire, or short circuit, as described in 49 C.F.R. section 173.185(f) as of January 1, 2023, or as updated by department rule to align with federal standards.

(h) "Department" means the New Hampshire department of environmental services.

(i) "Easily removable" means designed by the manufacturer to be removed by the user with commonly available household tools.

(j) "Environmentally sound management practices" means practices that:

(1) Comply with all applicable laws and rules protecting workers, public health, and the environment;

(2) Provide for adequate recordkeeping, tracking, and documenting of material disposition; and

(3) Include comprehensive liability coverage for a battery stewardship organization, including environmental liability coverage that is commercially practicable.

(k) "Material recovery" means extracts and separates materials from end-of-life batteries into metals, compounds, intermediate fractions, and other components, and sending those materials, when appropriate, for further processing, refining, or use in batteries or other industry supply chains.

(l) "Medium format battery" means:

(1) A rechargeable battery weighing more than 11 pounds or rated above 300 watt-hours or both, but not exceeding 25 pounds or 2,000 watt-hours; or

(2) A primary battery weighing more than 4.4 pounds but not more than 25 pounds.

(m) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled mechanical device with a vehicle identification number (VIN) manufactured primarily for transporting people or property primarily on public roads, streets, and highways excluding rail-bound or airborne devices.

(n) “Portable battery” means:

(1) A rechargeable battery weighing no more than 11 pounds and rated at no more than 300 watt-hours; or

(2) A primary battery weighing no more than 4.4 pounds.

(o) “Primary battery” means a battery that is not capable of being recharged.

(p) “Producer” means the person responsible for compliance with requirements under this subdivision for a covered battery or battery-containing product sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into New Hampshire, as follows:

(1) For covered batteries:

(A) If sold under the brand of battery manufacturer, the producer is the manufacturer.

(B) If sold under a retail or third-party brand, the producer is the brand owner.

(C) If no person is identified in subparagraphs I(p)(1)(A) or (B), the producer is the licensee of a brand or trademark under which the battery is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into New Hampshire, whether or not the trademark is registered in New Hampshire.

(D) If no person is identified in subparagraphs I(p)(1)(A) through (C) within the United States, the producer is the importer of record for the battery into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the battery in New Hampshire.

(E) If no person is identified in subparagraphs I(p)(1)(A) through (D) with a commercial presence in New Hampshire, the producer is the person who first sells, offers for sale, or distributes the battery in or into New Hampshire.

(2) For battery-containing products:

(A) If the product is sold under the brand of the product manufacturer, the producer is the manufacturer of the product.

(B) If the product is sold under a retail or third-party brand, the producer is the brand owner.

(C) If no person is identified in subparagraphs I(p)(2)(A) or (B), the producer is the licensee of a brand or trademark under which the product is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into New Hampshire, whether or not the trademark is registered in New Hampshire.

(D) If no person is identified in subparagraphs I(p)(2)(A) through (C) located within the United States, the producer is the importer of record for the product into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the product in New Hampshire.

(E) If no person is identified in subparagraphs I(p)(2)(A) through (D) with a commercial presence in New Hampshire, the producer is the person who first sells, offers for sale, or distributes the product in or into New Hampshire.

(F) A person shall not be considered a producer if they only manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import a battery-containing product into New Hampshire, and the batteries used in that product are supplied by a producer that is a member of a registered battery stewardship organization under this subdivision. The battery producer must provide written certification of such membership to both the product manufacturer and the battery stewardship organization of which the battery producer is a member.

(q) “Program” means a program implemented by a battery stewardship organization under an approved battery stewardship plan.

(r) “Rechargeable battery” means a battery containing one or more voltaic or galvanic cells, electrically connected to produce energy, and designed to be recharged.

(s) “Recycling” has the same meaning as in RSA 149-M:4, XX.

(t) “Recycling efficiency rate” means the ratio of the weight of covered battery components and materials recycled by a program operator to the weight of covered batteries collected.

(u) “Retailer” means a person who sells or offers for sale covered batteries or battery-containing products in or into New Hampshire, including to other businesses.

II. Requirement that Producers Implement a Stewardship Plan. Beginning July 1, 2028, a producer that sells, offers for sale, or distributes covered batteries or battery-containing products in or into New Hampshire shall participate in an approved New Hampshire state battery stewardship plan through participation in and appropriate funding of a battery stewardship organization. A producer that does not participate in such an organization and plan shall not sell, offer for sale, or distribute covered batteries or battery-containing products in or into the state.

149-M:66 Role of Retailers.

I. Beginning July 1, 2028, a retailer shall not sell, offer for sale, or distribute a covered battery or battery-containing product unless the producer of the covered battery or battery-containing product has certified participation in a battery stewardship organization operating under a plan approved by the department.

II. A retailer shall be deemed in compliance with paragraph I if the department’s publicly accessible website, as required by RSA 149-M:72, II(c), as of the date the product is made available for retail sale, lists the producer or brand as participating in an approved stewardship plan.

III. Retailers of covered batteries or battery-containing products are not required to serve as collection sites for a battery stewardship program. However, a retailer that elects to do so shall participate in an approved battery stewardship plan and comply with all applicable collection site requirements established under this subdivision.

IV. A retailer selling or offering covered batteries or battery-containing products for sale in New Hampshire may provide consumers with information, supplied by a battery stewardship organization, regarding end-of-life management options for covered batteries collected by a battery stewardship organization. Such information may include in-store signage, printed materials, and other promotional content.

V. No retailer, producer, or battery stewardship organization shall charge a point-of-sale fee to consumers to cover the administrative or operational costs of a battery stewardship program.

149-M:67 Stewardship Plan Components.

I. Each battery stewardship organization shall submit a stewardship plan to the department for approval by January 1, 2028, for covered batteries. The department may extend the submission deadline for good cause shown. A battery stewardship organization may submit a revised plan to update an approved plan. Each plan shall include the following elements:

(a) A list of participating producers, battery brands, and battery-containing product brands, including contact information;

(b) A description of the covered batteries and battery-containing products included in the plan;

(c) A description of how covered batteries and battery-containing products will be managed using environmentally sound management practices, including criteria for collection sites, safety training procedures, and a list of proposed sorters, transporters, processors, and battery recyclers used for recycling;

(d) Education and outreach efforts to inform retailers of their obligations under RSA 149-M:66 and to promote participation by consumers, retailers, and other stakeholders;

(e) A description of the funding mechanism for the program;

(f) Performance goals for each of the next 3 calendar years, consistent with RSA 149-M:68; and

(g) A description of how the program will provide free, continuous, convenient, visible, and accessible collection of all covered battery chemistries and brands, including goals for the number and distribution of collection sites.

II. The department shall approve or deny a submitted plan in accordance with RSA 149-M:72, II(a), within 120 days of receipt and shall notify the submitting organization in writing. If the department denies a battery stewardship plan, it shall provide the reasons for denial in writing. A denial does not preclude the organization from submitting a revised battery stewardship plan. A producer shall not be in compliance with this section unless covered by an approved plan.

III. A battery stewardship organization shall submit a new plan to the department if there are significant changes to the methods of collection, transport, or end-of-life management not addressed in the approved plan. A battery stewardship organization shall submit a new updated battery stewardship plan at least once every 5 years.

IV. A battery stewardship organization shall notify the department on a quarterly basis of any changes in producer participation of the battery stewardship organization, including an updated list of participating producers and brands, if applicable.

149-M:68 Battery Stewardship Program Components and Performance Goals.

I. Each battery stewardship plan shall include annual performance goals to measure the effectiveness of the program, including:

(a) The weight, by chemistry, of covered batteries collected;

(b) The weight of materials recovered from covered batteries collected, in total and by battery recycling method;

(c) The public convenience and accessibility of the collection system; and

(d) Targeted recycling efficiency rates for covered batteries by recycling method.

II. A battery stewardship organization shall not reduce or discontinue collection, education and outreach, or other program activities based solely on the achievement of performance goals.

149-M:69 Funding by Battery Stewardship Organization.

I. Each battery stewardship organization shall ensure adequate funding is available to fully implement its approved battery stewardship plan, including:

(a) The collection, transportation, and processing of covered batteries;

(b) Education and outreach activities;

(c) Program evaluation; and

(d) Reimbursement of administrative costs to the department pursuant to RSA 149-M:72.

II. A battery stewardship organization implementing a plan on behalf of producers shall:

(a) Develop a system to collect charges from participating producers to cover the full cost of plan implementation;

(b) Be responsible for all costs associated with collection, transportation, processing, education, administration, department reimbursement, recycling, and end-of-life management, in accordance with this subdivision and environmentally sound management practice; and

(c) Equitably reimburse local governments and solid waste or recyclables handling facilities for demonstrable and reasonable costs incurred as a result of serving as a collection site, including labor, storage, and other costs necessary to meet accessibility and collection site standards.

III. At a minimum, a battery stewardship organization shall provide each collection site with appropriate containers for covered batteries, training, signage, safety guidance, and educational materials, at no cost to the collection site.

149-M:70 Collection and Management Requirements.

I. Each battery stewardship organization implementing a battery stewardship plan shall provide for the collection of all covered batteries, including all chemistries and brands, on a free, continuous, convenient, visible, and accessible basis to any person, business, government entity, or organization. Except as provided in subparagraph II(d), each stewardship plan shall allow any person or entity to deliver any chemistry and brand of covered battery to any collection site that counts toward meeting the plan's collection site criteria.

II. Each battery stewardship organization shall:

(a) Provide suitable collection containers at each collection site, segregated from other solid waste, or make mutually agreeable alternative arrangements for battery collection;

(b) Ensure that each collection site complies with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and adheres to the operations manual and safety guidance provided to the collection site by a battery stewardship plan by the organization;

(c) Have the authority to issue warnings, suspend, or terminate collection sites or services that fail to meet site criteria in the approved battery stewardship plan or pose immediate health or safety risks;

(d) Ensure medium format, recalled, and damaged or defective batteries are collected in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements;

(e) Ensure statewide collection opportunities, with sites reasonably distributed based on geographic and population data;

(f) Coordinate with other program operators and electronic waste recyclers to deliver services efficiently;

(g) Utilize existing public and private waste collection services and facilities, where cost-effective and practicable; and

(h) Accept as collection sites any retailer, wholesaler, municipality, solid waste facility, household hazardous waste facility, or other entity that meets the battery stewardship plan's criteria.

III. Battery stewardship programs shall:

(a) Provide for the collection of loose covered batteries;

(b) Not be required to collect battery-containing products;

(c) Not be required to collect batteries that are not easily removable by the user or that remain in a product at the time of delivery; and

(d) Not be required to collect batteries or battery-containing products subject to a safety recall. A battery stewardship organization may seek reimbursement from the producer of a recalled battery or battery-containing product for costs incurred in collection, transport, and processing such batteries or battery-containing products.

IV. No battery stewardship organization shall charge a fee at the point of collection for the management of unwanted covered batteries.

149-M:71 Reporting Requirements.

I. Each battery stewardship organization shall submit an annual report to the department detailing the implementation of its approved battery stewardship plan for the preceding calendar year. The report shall include all information required by the plan and any additional details as determined by the department by rule.

II. The first annual report shall be submitted no later than 120 days after the completion of the first year of program implementation, and in no case later than 18 months from the date the plan was approved. Thereafter, annual reports shall be submitted within 120 days following the end of each calendar year.

III. A producer or battery stewardship organization submitting information or records to the department under this subdivision may request that such information be treated as confidential. The department shall consider the request and, if confidentiality is not contrary to the public interest and is otherwise permissible under the New Hampshire right-to-know law, RSA 91-A, shall grant the request.

149-M:72 Administrative Cost Reimbursement and Department Responsibilities.

I. Each battery stewardship organization submitting a battery stewardship plan, revision, or amendment shall reimburse the department for administrative costs incurred in implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. Each person collecting batteries independent of a battery stewardship organization pursuant to RSA 149-M:74 shall reimburse the department for administrative costs incurred in implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. The reimbursement shall be sufficient to cover the department's

full costs, including costs associated with rulemaking and other startup activities necessary prior to the initial plan submissions. The department shall calculate the reimbursement amount to be paid by battery stewardship organizations and independent collectors on a proportional basis relative to its costs. No later than 90 days before a plan is due, and every 2 years thereafter, the department shall identify its incurred costs and determine the reimbursement amount necessary to fully recover those costs. The total reimbursement collected shall not exceed the amount necessary to administer this chapter. The timing and method of payment shall be determined in consultation with the department.

II. The responsibilities of the department in implementing, administering, and enforcing under this chapter include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Reviewing submitted battery stewardship plans and amendments to the battery stewardship plans and determining whether to approve them;
- (b) Reviewing annual reports for compliance;
- (c) Maintaining a publicly accessible website that lists producers and brands participating in approved stewardship plans and makes available each plan, amendment, and annual report received under this chapter;
- (d) Upon approval of the first plan, posting on its website a list of producers and brands covered by approved plans and updating the list as needed based on information provided by stewardship organizations; and
- (e) Providing technical assistance to producers and retailers regarding compliance with this chapter.

149-M:73 Liability.

I. A battery stewardship organization implementing an approved plan may bring a civil action to recover costs, damages, and fees, as specified in this paragraph, from a producer that sells or otherwise makes available in New Hampshire covered batteries or battery-containing products not included in an approved plan, in violation of this subdivision. Such an action may be brought against one or more defendants, but only if the stewardship organization incurs costs in New Hampshire, including reasonable incremental administrative and promotional costs, in excess of \$1,000 to collect, transport, recycle, or otherwise manage the non-compliant products.

II. A battery stewardship organization may bring a civil action against a producer of a recalled battery to recover costs associated with the collection, transport, and handling of the recalled battery.

III. A battery stewardship organization implementing an approved plan may bring a civil action against another battery stewardship organization that fails to meet its collection obligations under this subdivision by failing to collect and provide for the end-of-life management of batteries, resulting in the plaintiff organization incurring costs to manage batteries that would otherwise have been the responsibility of the defendant. Recoverable costs may include the value of services rendered, legal fees, and other related expenses.

IV. A producer, or a battery stewardship organization acting on behalf of producers, that creates, participates in, or implements a battery stewardship plan shall be exempt from RSA 356 and all other state laws concerning antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices, or other anticompetitive conduct, to the extent such conduct is undertaken in accordance with an approved battery stewardship plan.

149-M:74 Collection of Batteries Independent of a Battery Stewardship Program.

I. A person may operate a fee-based collection and recycling program for covered batteries independent of a battery stewardship organization, with up to 10 sites that are not fee-based for political subdivision sites, if the following conditions are met:

- (a) The person's services and facilities shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including United States Department of Transportation requirements and all applicable provisions of the department;
- (b) The person accepts all covered batteries;
- (c) The person receives no compensation from a battery stewardship organization with respect to the covered batteries, unless the battery stewardship organization has an agreement with the person;
- (d) The person provides the following information to the department annually:
 - (1) The weight, by chemistry, of covered batteries collected;
 - (2) The weight of materials recovered from covered batteries collected, in total and by battery recycling method;
 - (3) The recycling efficiency rate for covered batteries by recycling method;
 - (4) A description of how each facility used for the disposition of covered batteries, whether recycled or otherwise, managed the batteries and battery components; and
 - (5) The weight and chemistry of covered batteries sent to each facility that is used for disposition of the batteries; and
- (e) If a battery stewardship organization's performance goals would be impacted by the independent collection information provided under this section, the department shall:
 - (1) Consider the information when calculating the collection and recycling efficiency rate of the battery stewardship organization; and
 - (2) Provide the information to the battery stewardship organization.

II. Battery-containing products regulated pursuant to any statutorily created product stewardship program for electronic device collection and recycling shall not be subject to duplicative obligations under this chapter.

149-M:75 Rulemaking; Severability.

I. The department may adopt rules under RSA 541-A to implement this subdivision.

II. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

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

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1278h).

Reps. Dan McGuire and Ebel spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (1278h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 244 - NAYS 112

YEAS - 244

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
St. Clair, Charlie

Comtois, Barbara

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Belcher, Mike
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris

Boudman, Bobbi
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius

Murphy, Denis
Jacobs, Samantha
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

King, Seth

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Gould, Linda
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Morton, Jonathan
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Ryan, Linda
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Barbour, Liz
Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Gorski, Ted
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Scully, Kevin
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Mehegan, Peter

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James

Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Cahill, Michael
Foote, Charles
Knab, Allison
Love, David
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Raynolds, Ned
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Grote, Jaci
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lundgren, David
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Muns, Chris
Perez, Kristine
Read, Ellen
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
McMahon, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Roy, Terry
Sorensen, Carrie
Vose, Michael
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Walsh, Lilli
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Pearson, Stephen
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Harrington, Michael
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wade, Alice

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Turcotte, Len
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

NAYS - 112

BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Karasinski, Sly

Qualey, James

COOS

Durkin, Sean

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Paquette, Kathleen
Prout, Andrew
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Murphy, Mary
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Kofalt, Jim
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
DeVito, Sayra

Bennett, Cindy
Donnelly, Tanya

Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike

DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron

Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Litchfield, Melissa
Osborne, Jason
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Weyler, Kenneth

Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
McDonnell, Valerie
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard

Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
McGrath, Linda
Potucek, John
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul

Guzofski, James
Layon, Erica
Melvin, Charles
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeLemus, Susan

Farrington, Samuel

Granger, Michael

SULLIVAN

Grant, George

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

HB 1633-FN, expanding the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill requires law enforcement and emergency rooms to notify survivors of sexual assaults of their rights, with a notice prepared by the Attorney General's office. The only cost is in providing and processing the rape kits, and the committee believes that this is a normal responsibility of the AG's office – to obtain and control evidence of a crime. Vote 24-1.

Rep. Eileen Kelly for the **Minority** of Finance. The minority agrees that notifying victims of their rights is critical and should be happening. However, we are very concerned about the over \$1 million fiscal note and the impact it would have on existing practices. In the past, there has been a backlog of unprocessed rape kits, often expiring, leaving victims without recourse and affected their access to justice. This change could create another backlog of kits that are collected but won't actually yield any evidence that could be used in a case and could do more harm to victims. This bill would require the Department of Justice to redesign New Hampshire's sexual assault evidence collection kits, expanding evidence collection beyond existing state protocols and nationally recognized best practices. Doing so would require purchasing new materials and distributing more kits statewide, increasing costs and administrative burdens. The minority believes the bill also broadens the circumstances under which kits could be used, regardless of whether evidence collection is medically necessary or appropriate. This could potentially divert resources from cases where forensic evidence is most reliable. The current kits already align with national standards, ensuring reliable evidence collection while supporting survivors and the justice system effectively.

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

Rep. Layon requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 340 - NAYS 1

YEAS - 340

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Nagel, David
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

Boudman, Bobbi
Hamblen, Joseph
Peternel, Katy

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Qualey, James

Murphy, Denis
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

Faulkner, Barry
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
 Bergeron, Dan
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Corcoran, Travis
 Daniels, Gary
 Dumont, Dillon
 Davis, Fred
 Gagne, Larry
 Gould, Linda
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Juris, Louis
 Kofalt, Jim
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Murphy, Mary
 Mooney, Maureen
 Notter, Jeanine
 Peeples, Raymond
 Preece, David
 Newman, Ray
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Spier, Carry
 Telerski, Laura
 Ulery, Jordan
 Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
 Berry, Ross
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Cornell, Patricia
 Darby, Will
 Dupont, Pierre
 Flanagan, Jack
 Georges, Mary
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Kenny, Catherine
 Fogg, Loren
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 Mazur, Lisa
 Morton, Jonathan
 Ohm, Bill
 Petugno, Peter
 Presa, Adam
 Raymond, Heather
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Schneller, John
 Sirois, Shane
 Staub, Kathy
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
 Boehm, Ralph
 Colcombe, Riché
 Creighton, James
 Dargie, Paul
 Elberger, Susan
 Foss, Lily
 Giasson, Henry
 Grill, Jessica
 Jack, Martin
 Kerwin, Erin
 Labrie, Brian
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 McGhee, Kat
 Murphy, Nancy
 Paquette, Kathleen
 Plamondon, Marc
 Proulx, Mark
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Ryan, Linda
 Scully, Kevin
 Slottje, Jeremy
 Suiter, John
 Tenczar, Jeffrey
 Dolan, William
 Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
 Booras, Efstathia
 Cole, Brian
 Kelley, Diane
 Drew, Matt
 Erf, Keith
 Griffin, Gerald
 Gorski, Ted
 Grund, Stephanie
 Judy, Jean
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lascelles, Richard
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Miles, Julie
 Noble, Kristin
 Pauer, Diane
 Post, Lisa
 Prout, Andrew
 Rice, Kimberly
 Newman, Sue
 Seibert, Christine
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Swanson, Dale
 Mannion, Tom
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 McGuire, Carol
 Devoid, Ricky
 Hill, Gregory
 Mehegan, Peter
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Boyd, Stephen
 Seaworth, Brian
 Walsh, Thomas
 Woods, Gary

Aures, Cyril
 Caplan, Tony
 Ebel, Karen
 Lane, Connie
 Moffett, Michael
 Polozov, Yuri
 Sargent, Gregory
 See, Alvin
 Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
 Colby, Eleana
 Gallager, Eric
 Luneau, David
 Newsom, James
 Richards, Beth
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Snodgrass, Jim
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Bricchi, Tracy
 McGuire, Dan
 Hicks, Matthew
 Hall, Muriel
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Roesener, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Soucy, Timothy
 Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Bridle, Nicholas
 Thomas, Douglas
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Edwards, Jess
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Janigian, John
 Kuttub, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 McMahon, Charles
 Muns, Chris
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Pearson, Stephen
 Simpson, Alexis
 Sweeney, Joe
 Turer, Eric
 MacDonald, Wayne
 Wilson, Vicki

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 de Vries, Erica
 Drago, Mike
 Foote, Charles
 Guzowski, James
 Murray, Kate
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Pearson, Mark
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Nadeau, Brian
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Sytek, John
 Vallone, Mark
 Ward, Gerald

Bennett, Cindy
 Cahill, Michael
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Ford, Mary
 Harb, Robert
 Khan, Aboul
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 Malloy, Dennis
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Meuse, David
 Nelson, Jodi
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Reynolds, Ned
 Scherr, Buzz
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 Vandecasteele, Susan
 Weinstein, Toni

Bernardy, JD
 Mannion, Dennis
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edgar, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Haskins, Linda
 Knab, Allison
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 McGrath, Linda
 Milz, David
 Osborne, Jason
 Porcelli, Susan
 Read, Ellen
 Selby, Donald
 Spillane, James
 Tudor, Paul
 Vose, Michael
 Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 Burton, Wayne
 Farrington, Samuel
 Harrington, Michael
 Kaczynski, Thomas
 Smith, Marjorie
 Selig, Loren
 Pearson, Wayne

Bay, Luz
 DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Horrigan, Timothy
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 DeLemus, Susan
 Granger, Michael
 Howland, Allan
 Larochelle, John
 Potenza, Kelley
 Stone, John
 Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
 DeRoy, Susan
 Howard, Heath
 Johnson, Erik
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Schmidt, Peter
 Turcotte, Len
 Wall, Janet

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 - 1
MERRIMACK

Kelly, Eileen

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

HB 1705-FN, establishing an employee assistance program for small town and volunteer first responders and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Brian Seaworth for the **Majority** of Finance. This bill would task the state workers' Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with open enrollment to full-time or volunteer first responders from any town with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders in their employ. It accomplishes this by appropriating funds for one additional staffer for the EAP, a team managed out of the Department of Health and Human Services currently consisting of 6 employees plus one unfunded, unfilled position. The majority is acutely aware of the needs of our state's first responders and supports work to make sure they are provided for. We share the fear, expressed by the majority of the policy committee, that this bill is not developed sufficiently to meet those needs. We therefore recommend that this language be worked on over the summer to resolve the many questions that its language raises. Vote 14-10.

Rep. Jerry Stringham for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill as amended provides access to an employee assistance program (EAP) to volunteer first responders and towns with five or fewer full-time paid first responders. HB-1705 was passed by the House with a vote of 194-154 just a few short weeks ago. Both sides agree that there is a need for first responders without access to crisis related support services to have support. HB 1705 calls for the addition of one staff member to handle the added workload for the state employee's EAP. Because DHHS is short one staff now and the department is unable to recruit due to a budgetary-driven hiring freeze, the minority will propose an amendment to delay the start of the program to give the department the time to start the program appropriately. The minority recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Refer for Interim Study.

Rep. Stringham spoke against.

Rep. Seaworth spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 167 members having voted in the affirmative, and 181 in the negative, the motion failed.

Rep. Stringham moved Ought to Pass and offered minority amendment (1202h).

Minority Amendment (1202h)

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

AN ACT establishing an employee assistance program for small town and volunteer first responders.

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

1 New Sections; State-Funded Employee Assistance Program for Small Communities; Establishment of Fund. Amend RSA 281-A by inserting after section 17-f the following new sections:

281-A:17-g First Responders Support Fund. There is established a first responders support fund, which shall be administered by the department of health and human services. This fund shall be used for costs incurred to enroll and administer volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders into the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP). All fees, monetary grants, gifts, donations, or interest generated by these funds shall be deposited with the state treasurer in a special nonlapsing fund to be known as the first responders support fund and shall be continually appropriated to the department for the administration of this section.

281-A:17-h Eligibility and Enrollment.

I. Volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders shall be eligible for the employee assistance program for small communities.

II. The department of health and human services shall ensure that these first responders are enrolled in the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP), which offers comprehensive support services, including those for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and post-traumatic stress (PTS).

III. The department of health and human services shall develop and implement guidelines for the administration of the fund, including the process for enrollment and provision of services.

IV. The department shall submit an annual report to the legislature detailing the usage of the fund, the number of first responders served, and the outcomes of the program.

2 New Subparagraph; New Funding. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (410) the following new subparagraph:

(411) Moneys deposited in the first responders support fund as established in RSA 281-A:17-g. 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2026-1202h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a fund to cover the costs of enrolling and supporting first responders from small communities into the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP) and outlines eligibility, enrollment, and reporting requirements for the department of health and human services.

The question being adoption of minority amendment (1202h).

On a division vote, with 299 members having voted in the affirmative, and 49 in the negative, the amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 1775-FN, relative to utility ownership of natural gas and nuclear power generation facilities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the **Majority** of Finance. The majority of House Finance recommends Ought to Pass, as this bill allows utility ownership of natural gas and nuclear generation facilities under 5 Megawatt, expanding the state's ability to secure reliable and affordable energy. The committee determined that providing this flexibility strengthens long-term energy stability and positions New Hampshire to better manage supply and cost pressures for ratepayers. Vote 15-10.

Rep. Chris Muns for the **Minority** of Finance. The purpose of RSA 374-G is to stimulate diverse investment in distributed energy resources in New Hampshire to increase energy security and lessen our dependence on traditional fossil fueled sources of electricity. Nowhere in that chapter does the General Court favor one form of investment over another. This bill changes that neutrality by encouraging investment in natural gas and nuclear technologies, which picks "winners and losers" by "tipping the scales in favor" of one form of investment over another. The minority believes that by encouraging NH utilities to once again become vertically integrated monopolies who invest in the construction (and ownership) of nuclear or fossil fuel plants, we will be exposing NH ratepayers to higher electricity rates from cost overruns and other stranded costs such as occurred when PSNH invested in the Seabrook Nuclear Station. This is of particular concern with respect to small scale, modular nuclear plants which is a promising but unproven technology that comes with an extremely high price tag per megawatt. Nothing increases electricity rates faster than buying the most expensive form of energy and allowing investors to recover their investment from retail customer subsidies. Finally, the minority is concerned that the bill would repeal section RSA 374-G:3, V which requires fossil-fueled generators to operate at a minimum energy efficiency of 60% and to meet certain minimum emissions standards. No one who appeared before the committee gave any reasonable explanation of why repealing these standards for all fossil-fueled generators (not just new ones that might be built if this bill becomes law) was necessary or beneficial.

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

Reps. Cormen and Muns spoke against.

Rep. Carol McGuire spoke in favor.

Rep. McGhee requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 198 - NAYS 153

YEAS - 198

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Spahr, Terry

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Herbert, Christopher
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Leishman, Peter
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Suter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Schamberg, Thomas
Thibault, James

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

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yuri
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 153**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

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

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

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

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

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE

Rep. Butler moved that **HB 1446**, providing that an individual's use of therapeutic cannabis shall not disqualify the individual from the purchase, ownership, or possession of a firearm be removed from the table.

Rep. Heath Howard requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 81 - NAYS 270**YEAS - 81****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi

Paige, David

Brown, Richard

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Jacobs, Samantha

Newell, Jodi

COOS

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin

Berezhny, Lex

Bolton, Bill

Sullivan, Jared

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Kelley, Diane
Foss, Lily

Alexander, Joe
Darby, Will
Georges, Mary

Berry, Ross
Drew, Matt
Giasson, Henry

Budathoki, Suraj
Dupont, Pierre
Gregg, Alicia

Grill, Jessica
LeClerc, Daniel
Prout, Andrew
Sofikitis, Catherine
Mannion, Tom

Herbert, Christopher
Lloyd, Christal
Raymond, Heather
Suiter, John
Thomas, Wendy

Juris, Louis
Noble, Kristin
Ryan, Linda
Swanson, Dale
Warden, Mark

Kofalt, Jim
Plamondon, Marc
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Roesener, James

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Sargent, Gregory

Colby, Eleana
Pitaro, Matthew
Schultz, Kris

McGuire, Dan
Polozov, Yury

ROCKINGHAM

Bridle, Nicholas
Read, Ellen
Tudor, Paul

de Vries, Erica
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Vandecasteele, Susan

Layon, Erica
Selby, Donald

Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Soti, Julius

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Howard, Heath
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Harrington, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

Farrington, Samuel
Horrigan, Timothy
Selig, Loren

Granger, Michael
Johnson, Erik
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Palmer, William

NAYS - 270

BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Terry, Paul

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

Burroughs, Anita
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Karasinski, Sly
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Mattson, Rita
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Germana, Nicholas
Qualey, James

Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

Barton, Joseph
Fracht, David
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Franz, Linda
Lovett, Peter
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Grund, Stephanie
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Salvi, Santosh

Boyd, Bill
Booras, Efstathia
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Kenny, Catherine
Labrie, Brian
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Schneller, John

Barbour, Liz
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Dargie, Paul
Davis, Fred
Gorski, Ted
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
Lascelles, Richard
Howard, Molly
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Post, Lisa
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Scully, Kevin

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leapley, Nicole
Murray, Megan
McGhee, Kat
Murphy, Nancy
Pauer, Diane
Preece, David
Reinfurt, Sherri
Newman, Sue
Sheehan, Vanessa

Sirois, Shane
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel

Slottje, Jeremy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Dolan, William

Spier, Carry
Ulery, Jordan
Wherry, Robert

Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Devoid, Ricky
Hill, Gregory
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Snodgrass, Jim
Wallner, Mary Jane

Aures, Cyril
Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Seaworth, Brian
Walsh, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Hicks, Matthew
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
See, Alvin
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Ford, Mary
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
McDonnell, Valerie
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne
Wilson, Vicki

Ball, Lorie
Cahill, Michael
DeVito, Sayra
Edgar, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Litchfield, Melissa
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McGrath, Linda
Milz, David
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Scherr, Buzz
Sweeney, Joe
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guthrie, Joseph
Janigian, John
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Muns, Chris
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Simpson, Alexis
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Foote, Charles
Guzofski, James
Murray, Kate
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Smith, Marjorie
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Larochelle, John
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1809-FN, authorizing the medical use of psilocybin through a program established in the department of health and human services. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rich Nalevanko for the **Majority** of Finance. Members of the majority of the committee, as well as other members of the committee, identified several issues and challenges in the bill as presented. First and foremost, while members of DHHS took no position on the merits of the bill, in their direct testimony they noted that DHHS would be responsible for providing administrative support for the advisory board established by the bill which they said would require the upfront addition of one new administrator plus one new program administrator at an estimated cost of \$250,000 initially and annually - with no provision in the bill for this funding in the current budget and no authorization for the new positions, thus solely relying on general funds. Considering this, DHHS would face significant challenges in staffing and related costs in creating the required regulatory measures, especially in light of coping with a \$51 million back of the budget reduction and hiring freeze (it was noted that DHHS currently had more than 200 unfilled positions). There was some consensus on the committee that notwithstanding the possible merits of the bill that there were many other areas that would have a higher priority for an additional general fund expenditure of \$250,000 in the first full year, followed by \$224,000 and \$236,000 in the second and third years. Other issues and concerns raised by committee members during testimony by the prime sponsor included the statement that this program had no identifiable outside sources of near term or longer term funding and the likely number of potential participants in the program, while unknown, was likely to be small. Also, the fact that this is basically a research program

on a schedule 1 substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act means that data on the benefits and outcomes is not extensive nor definitive. The conclusion of the majority was that the financial expenditure in the current environment was not justified at this time, resulting in a recommendation of ITL. Vote 13-11. Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the **Minority** of Finance. This bill was unanimously supported by the policy committee and passed the House on February 12 on a voice vote. We cannot understate the importance of exploring ways of addressing the unmet needs of patients (including many veterans, and sex abuse victims) suffering with severe, treatment-resistant conditions like depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders, etc., so the minority believes that it is important to start the process by establishing and supporting the proposed Medical Psilocybin Advisory Board. The minority recognizes the concerns of the majority and has prepared amendment 1201h which removes the “Medical Use of Psilocybin Program” portion, and pushes the effective date of the bill to July 1, 2027. Since the amendment addresses the financial concerns of the majority by reducing the bill cost and by allowing any future expenditures to be considered during the next budget process, the minority of the Finance Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Reps. Polozov and Scherr spoke against.

Rep. Nalevanko spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 127 members having voted in the affirmative, and 222 in the negative, the motion failed.

Rep. Corcoran voted Aye and intended to vote Nay.

Rep. Popovici-Muller moved Ought to Pass and offered minority amendment (1201h).

Minority Amendment (1201h)

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

AN ACT establishing a medical psilocybin advisory board to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the use of psilocybin for therapeutic purposes.

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

1 Statement of Purpose. The medical community has always recognized that patients exist with serious conditions that are very resistant to effective treatment. Recently, research has begun to show that certain of those patients have had positive results with the closely supervised use of psilocybin for treatment. Patients with significant post-traumatic stress disorder, with treatment-resistant clinical depression, and with serious substance use disorder have been shown to benefit from the controlled, therapeutic use of psilocybin in a supervised setting. The purpose of this act is to study the feasibility of the creation of a carefully monitored and closely supervised setting in which an approved medical provider can treat a carefully chosen patient with appropriate doses of psilocybin which that same provider has produced for a medical intervention.

2 New Chapter; Medical Psilocybin Advisory Board. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 126-Z the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 126-ZZ

Medical Psilocybin Advisory Board

126-ZZ:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. “Department” means the department of health and human services.

II. “Provider” means an approved medical provider licensed in New Hampshire who has been approved by the department to provide medical services to qualified patients.

III. “Producer” means a person who grows and harvests or prepares psilocybin from psilocybin-producing mushrooms, including to compound, convert, process, or manufacture psilocybin products directly or indirectly from psilocybin mushrooms and who has been approved as a provider.

IV. “Program” means the medical use of psilocybin program.

V. “Psilocybin” means the naturally occurring psychedelic compound 4-phosphoryloxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, also known as 4-PO-DMT, and its pharmacologically active metabolite psilocin, 4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, found in certain mushrooms, but does not include synthetic or synthetic analogs of psilocybin.

VI. “Qualifying patient” means a patient whom a provider, as defined by RSA 126-ZZ:1, II, has diagnosed a medically appropriate candidate for the use of medical psilocybin based on being diagnosed with a qualifying condition.

VII. “Qualifying condition” means any of the following:

(a) Major treatment-resistant depression;

(b) Post-traumatic stress disorder;

(c) Substance use disorders; and

(d) Other conditions recommended by the advisory board to the department.

126-ZZ:2 Medical Psilocybin Advisory Board.

I. There is hereby established the medical psilocybin advisory board, which shall assess the clinical, quality, and public health related advantages and disadvantages of the use of psilocybin for therapeutic purposes under this chapter and, if appropriate, design a program for the medical use of psilocybin.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the board shall consist of the following members:

- (a) The medical director of the department of health and human services, or designee.
- (b) A qualifying patient, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.
- (c) A representative from the veterans' affairs community, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.
- (d) A representative from the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (e) A representative from the house of representatives, nominated by the minority leader of the house and appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (f) Nine medical and other providers, appointed by the commissioner of the department of health and human services, representing the following fields:
 - (1) At least one medical psilocybin researcher.
 - (2) At least 2 administrative representatives from existing programs regulating the medical use of psilocybin.
 - (3) Addiction services.
 - (4) Palliative care.
 - (5) Veterans' affairs.
 - (6) Naturopathy.
 - (7) Registered nursing.
 - (8) Mental health counseling.

III. The board shall convene at least 6 times per year to assess the clinical, quality, and public health related advantages and disadvantages of the use of psilocybin for therapeutic purposes under this chapter and, if appropriate, design a program for the medical use of psilocybin by:

- (a) Reviewing medical and scientific evidence pertaining to currently approved and additional qualifying conditions.
- (b) Identifying clinical outcomes nationally.
- (c) Reviewing potential protocols for producer/provider staff based on models from other states.
- (d) Receiving updates from alternative treatment centers in other states on effectiveness of the medical use of psilocybin.
- (e) Reviewing best practices for medical providers regarding provider education, certification of patients, and patient access to the program.
- (f) Reviewing any other clinical, quality, and public health related matter relative to use of psilocybin.
- (g) Reviewing the efficacy of the establishment of therapeutic psilocybin program in New Hampshire.

IV. The members of the board need not be residents of New Hampshire in order to encourage the greatest possible expertise in board members.

V. At its first meeting, the board shall elect by majority vote a chairperson and an alternate.

VI. The board may meet electronically to facilitate the inclusion of members who live outside the state of New Hampshire.

VII. Beginning November 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the board shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and recommendations to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, senate president, house clerk, senate clerk, and state library.

3 Repeal. RSA 126-ZZ, relative to the medical psilocybin advisory board, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2030.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2026-1201h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a medical psilocybin advisory board to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the use of psilocybin for therapeutic purposes.

The question being adoption of minority amendment (1201h).

On a division vote, with 248 members having voted in the affirmative, and 101 in the negative, the amendment was adopted.

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

HB 1542-FN, (New Title) allowing alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund to be refunded to ratepayers on a per kilowatt hour basis. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Ohm for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. This bill, as amended, would gradually wind down the Renewable Energy Fund and refund the proceeds to ratepayers, thus lowering their electric bills. The refunds would start in the next fiscal year, and are estimated to be \$6.4 million in FY 2027 and continue until the fund is depleted. Four administrative positions would be eliminated, which would leave five remaining. Funding for the Office of Energy Innovation would still be maintained. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Thomas Oppel for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. While global oil and gas prices rise exponentially, and with no domestic fossil fuel production in New Hampshire, this bill effectively eliminates most efforts to develop robust energy market competition. The minority believes that it trades leveraging investments in New Hampshire-based energy sources, which produce both real savings and long-term reliability, for the short-sighted return of pennies on consumer energy bills that leave the state trapped to fossil fuels as our primary source of energy. This is the equivalent of taking dollars out of digital technology to invest in the Pony Express.

Majority Amendment (1085h)

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

AN ACT directing alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund to be refunded to ratepayers.

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

1 Renewable Energy Fund; Effective until July 1, 2027. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget, the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section[~~excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the department of energy to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives, including the office of energy innovation. Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary.~~] **that are in excess of administration costs and funding for the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation shall be transferred to the general fund.** All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

2 Renewable Energy Fund; Effective July 1, 2027. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget, the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section[~~excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the department of energy to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives and offshore wind initiatives, including the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation. Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary.~~] **that are in excess of administration costs and funding for the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation shall be rebated to all retail electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be determined by the commission.** All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2027, at 12:01 a.m.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect June 30, 2026.

2026-1085h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund under RSA 362-F:10, II shall be refunded to ratepayers.

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

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Reps. Wendy Thomas and Oppel spoke against.

Rep. Ohm spoke in favor.

Rep. Wendy Thomas requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 189 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 189

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Terry, Paul

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
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine

Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 162 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
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
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

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

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

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan

Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on **HB 1542-FN**, directing alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund to be refunded to ratepayers be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 1542

Representative Wendy Thomas: Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to House Bill 1542. This bill is being sold as a refund. It is being dressed up as relief, but let's be honest about what it actually does. It raids the Renewable Energy Fund and redirects money away from the very investments that helped New Hampshire build a more stable, affordable, and resilient energy future. It is a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy. HB 1542 does not solve our energy challenges; it dodges them. The Renewable Energy Fund exists for a reason. It helps support solar, thermal, and other clean energy initiatives here in New Hampshire. It helps create the kind of forward-looking investments that lower costs over time, strengthen local energy independence, and prepare us for the realities of a rapidly changing world. This bill kneecaps that future. And what a reckless time to do it. Right now, I'm speaking. Right now, I'm still speaking. Right now, we are watching the disastrous effects of the Trump-led war in the Middle East ripple through global...

Speaker Steven Smith: We're so close. So, the House will be in order, and the member will try not to antagonize the House. There's a really nice reception coming up. Have you ever had those, like, Beef Wellington bites they have over there? I can't even find them anywhere. They're awesome. So let's just get through this together.

Representative Wendy Thomas: I am who I am. Ripple through global energy markets. As of March 2026, the conflict has driven major instability around the Strait of Hormuz, a choke point for roughly one-fifth of the world's oil supply, and oil and gasoline prices have surged as a result. Reuters and the Associated Press have both reported sharp spikes in fuel costs and growing fears of wider economic fallout. So what is our response here in New Hampshire? At the exact moment, the world is reminding us, in flashing red lights, of the danger of fossil fuel volatility and geopolitical dependence. This bill says, let's weaken our investments in renewable energy. Let's undercut programs that help people and communities reduce dependence on exactly the kinds of energy shocks we are now seeing play out in real time. This is not fiscal prudence. This is strategic malpractice. And let's talk about the so-called savings. The whole premise of this bill is that it would take alternative compliance payments that currently fund renewable energy programs and instead rebate them to the ratepayers on a per-kilowatt-hour basis. That may sound nice as a political slogan, but the actual effect is to strip support from programs that help low- and moderate-income families, small businesses, school districts, and towns and counties access solar and other energy improvements that lower all of our bills and our property taxes, while offering tiny short-term rebates that do nothing to transform the underlying cost burden. Even bill summaries note that this would effectively cut funding for renewable energy fund programs, including low- and moderate-income solar efforts. We should not be gutting long-term public benefit programs in exchange for a political talking point. We should be building an energy system that is more local, more affordable, more resilient, and less vulnerable to the whims of international conflict, oil cartels, and political strongmen. We should be helping families lower their bills, not just this month, but for years to come. We should be investing in the future, not kneecapping it. House Bill 1542 moves us backwards. It tells New Hampshire that when the energy world gets more dangerous and unstable, our answer is to retreat from innovation and resilience. I reject that. I believe the people of this state deserve better than symbolic rebates and short-sighted policy. They deserve leadership that can see beyond the next headline and the next election cycle. Let's not rob our future to pretend that we are helping in the present. I urge you to vote no on House Bill 1542, and, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the decision to make this a roll call vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Ohm is recognized to speak for the committee report.

Representative Ohm: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill, as amended, would gradually wind down the Renewable Energy Fund and refund the proceeds to ratepayers, lowering their electric bills. The refunds would start in the next fiscal year and are estimated to be about \$6.4 million in the next fiscal year and continue until the fund is depleted. Four administrative positions would be eliminated. However, the funding for the Office of Energy Innovation is maintained. Please vote green to lower electric rates for your consumers.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Oppel is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Oppel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I was first learning about speechwriting years ago, I was taught that you should start where your audience is and you should start with a couple of

simple facts. So let me do that. Fact number one is New Hampshire is not a fossil fuel producing state. There are no oil rigs in any of our 10 counties. Fact number two is I think we would all agree that free markets work best when there is competition. But House Bill 1542 doesn't just ignore those two facts, it aggressively moves us in the opposite direction and it will cost the state of New Hampshire. Even as artificial intelligence is advancing, this bill is directing us to invest in the Pony Express. Rather than investing in energy sources and jobs here in New Hampshire, like solar, wind, geothermal, even nuclear, House Bill 1542 wants to steal that investment to support fossil fuels produced far, far away from our borders and that are priced globally. As previously was mentioned, we've seen those prices rise in just the past few weeks. It was 80 cents at the gas pump in just a few weeks. It's a dollar or more for heating fuel and we have no control over that. We also know that solar and wind energy will be producing right here in New Hampshire long after the last oil and gas wells run dry. Now, there's an awful lot of talk about subsidies, but the fact of the matter is the fossil fuel industry is among the most subsidized industries in the world. And by eliminating energy competition, as this bill seeks to do, House Bill 1542 is in a sense creating a new subsidy for oil and gas. It is the very definition of picking winners and losers. Renewable energy, again a fact, has and will continue to outpace fossil fuels in job creation right here in New Hampshire. Currently, two-thirds of all energy jobs here in the Granite State are involved with renewable energy and the gap continues to grow. Competition in energy markets will result in far more savings to consumers and the state, than the pennies a month this bill proposes to refund to rate payers. I urge this body to follow the laws of economics, the logic of free markets, and the fundamental understanding that while New Hampshire is not a fossil fuel producer, we can be a leader in producing renewable energy. You don't build a strong economy for the future on short-term rebates and long-term neglect. I urge this body to reject House Bill 1542 and choose real financial stewardship over political gimmicks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Wendy Thomas 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 with Amendment. Representative Caplan is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Caplan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this bill kills the Renewable Energy Fund, that increases self-sufficient energy and lowers bills for school districts, towns, counties, small businesses, and working families, Mr. Speaker, if I further know that killing the Renewable Energy Fund, which lowers electric prices long-term for all users in order to send back pennies on individual monthly electric bills, is not a sound financial decision by any measure, and finally, if I know that now is not the time for doubling down on our fossil fuel addiction as we are about to embark on a war in Iran that will send prices for fossil fuels through the roof for the foreseeable future, would I now press the common sense red button so that a better motion can be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Ulery is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Ulery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And only one page, large type.

Speaker Steven Smith: That's good. I forgot my lighter.

Representative Ulery: Mr. Speaker, if I know this bill, as a fact, and as amended, moves New Hampshire forward, gradually winding down the underutilized Renewable Energy Fund, and refunds the proceeds to our neighbors and our ratepayers, lowering their electric bills by an estimated \$6.4 million in fiscal year 2027, and if I know administrative costs would be reduced, thus reducing the cost to operate state government, again saving money for our neighbors, and if I know that the funding for the Office of Energy Innovation would still be maintained, allowing private sector innovation and research to grow, ensuring free market, broad sector, effective, exciting, new, and cutting-edge development to take place, would I then push the green button for Ought to Pass?

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is a majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. 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. 189 in the affirmative, 162 in the negative, the committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1655-FN, establishing a funding source for maintaining state owned dams. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill: (1) established fees on property with waterfront access and deeded water rights to a body of water created by a state-owned dam; (2) directed such fees to the maintenance of state-owned dams; (3) directed the Department of Revenue to identify properties and landowners with waterfront access and deeded water rights to waterbodies impounded by state-owned dams; (4) authorized the municipality to assess and collect a fee of \$100 per year on real estate with waterfront access; (5) authorized the municipality to assess and collect a fee of \$50 per year on real estate with deeded water access; (6) authorized the municipality to retain \$5 of the collected fees for management, collection and disbursement of monies collected; (7) authorized a charge of 8% per annum for fees not collected by 12/1 to be applied toward maintenance fund. The committee members who voted to recommend this bill Inexpedient to Legislate stated it was a fairness issue, and to charge fees only to those who had waterfront access and

deeded rights, when the whole community benefited from access to the waterbodies, was not fair. They also felt that a better and more fair way to raise funds for dam maintenance would be advisable. Rep. Mary Ford **Statement in support of Ought to Pass:** This bill establishes a funding source for maintaining state owned dams. It raises \$3 million annually by establishing a fee on property that has waterfront access to a body of water created by a state-owned dam and directs such fees to the maintenance of state-owned dams. This bill is a responsible and necessary response based on the findings of the 2024 Committee to Study Alternatives for Funding the Operation, Maintenance, and Repair of State-Owned Dams. Half of the Ways and Means Committee voted to recommend this bill Inexpedient to Legislate, but those in favor of the Ought to Pass motion believe that it is short-sighted and potentially dangerous to prevent critical funding for dam maintenance. New Hampshire's lakes and rivers are a vital natural resource that all Granite Staters enjoy, and unless there is money set aside now, the future of the over 250 state-owned dams is at risk. The failure of any one dam could cost the state millions of dollars, and result in lost property value and recreational activities. Lakefront residents benefit most from dams because property values would be dramatically reduced if a dam fails. There are many examples of failed or failing dams affecting lake level and recreational opportunities, including the Hadley Falls Dam in Goffstown and Northwood Meadows Lake, the centerpiece of the state park, which is a big factor in the town's economy. The \$3 million raised annually for the Dam Maintenance Fund is based on 24,000 waterfront properties and 12,000 deeded access properties and expects to spend the full amount collected on dam maintenance and related infrastructure. While critics contend this bill unfairly burdens waterfront property owners, the funds raised are only one piece of the dam funding puzzle to meet the \$8.5 million annual unmet need. Rep. Dennis Malloy

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Janigian moved that **HB 1655-FN**, establishing a funding source for maintaining state owned dams, be laid on the table and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 187 - NAYS 161

YEAS - 187

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Boudman, Bobbi
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory

McGuire, Carol
Mehegan, Peter

Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Boyd, Stephen
Walsh, Thomas

Sargent, Gregory
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Howland, Allan
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 161 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

COOS

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

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

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Alexander, Joe
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Polozov, Yury
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Butler, Billie
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION

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

LATE SESSION**Third Reading and Final Passage**

HB 241-FN, relative to health insurance coverage of pain management services for the management of chronic pain.

HB 1197-FN, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.

HB 1426-FN, requiring the department of environmental services to employ certified personnel in each program area.

HB 1466-FN, relative to obtaining a certificate of title for certain trailers.

HB 1600-FN, relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days.

HB 1622-FN, requiring the state to develop additional solid waste disposal capacity.

HB 1718-FN, relative to authorizing energy storage in connection with net metering.

HB 1827-FN-A, requiring the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel.

HB 1301-FN, increasing certain mooring fees and directing such funds to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.

HB 1594-FN, establishing a weight-based tiered registration fee schedule for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

HB 1738-FN, relative to ratepayer benefits from the regional greenhouse gas initiative.

HB 112-FN, requiring students in the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test, take a course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass a civics course competency test.

HB 629-FN, raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.

HB 1130-FN, relative to judicial performance evaluations.

HB 1421-FN, modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.

HB 1457-FN, relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.

HB 1458-FN, relative to the licensing of massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities.

HB 1469-FN-A, relative to the licensing requirements for massage therapy establishments.

HB 1477-FN, relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters.

HB 1483-FN, creating a motor vehicle license plate for amateur radio operators.

HB 1492-FN, relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways and prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle.

HB 1555-FN, relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code.

HB 1563-FN-LOCAL, relative to the special education aid formula and the administration and monitoring of state special education aid.

HB 1571-FN-A, requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curricula.

HB 1576-FN, relative to the enforcement of criminal restitution obligations.

HB 1602-FN, creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program.

HB 1633-FN, expanding the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights.

HB 1705-FN, establishing an employee assistance program for small town and volunteer first responders.

HB 1775-FN, relative to utility ownership of natural gas and nuclear power generation facilities.

HB 1809-FN, establishing a medical psilocybin advisory board to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the use of psilocybin for therapeutic purposes.

HB 1542-FN, directing alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund to be refunded to ratepayers.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Georges requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding International Women's Day and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Georges: First, before I start my speech, March 8th was International Women's Day. Really, I'm very thankful for that day, and especially for this month of March, and all the women here as lawmakers. I'm very thankful for all the work you guys are doing because those women, they fight for us today, for the women to stand and do what we are doing. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Colleagues. I rise today with a heart full of gratitude to recognize International Women's Day, March 8th, 2026, celebrated under the theme, "Give to Gain." This theme reminds us of a truth rooted in scripture. When we sow generously, we reap abundantly. When we give to uplift women, we gain stronger families, stronger communities, and a more just world. Today, I stand here humbled and deeply thankful for the unity shown by this honorable body when your voice voted HR 26. Your support was not only a legislative action, it was a prophetic act. It was a declaration that peace is possible, that justice still matters, and that the cries of the vulnerable do not fall on deaf ears. For more than three decades, the women and the girls of the Democratic Republic of Congo have endured unimaginable suffering. Their bodies have been used as battlegrounds. Their dignity violated. Their voice silenced. Yet, they continue to rise. They continue to hope. They continue to pray. And through your vote, this House spoke back to the women of the Congo. We hear you. We see you. We have not forgotten you. As someone who left the Congo in 1990 and has carried these stories in my spirit for over 30 years, I know that today's action is more than symbolic. It is a seed; a seed of restoration, a seed of healing, a seed of peace. I believe by faith that God will water this seed and bring forth fruit in his time. On this International Women's Day, we honor women across the world. But today, I especially honor the women and girls of the Congo. Their resilience is a testimony. Their endurance is a prayer. Their survival is a miracle. Give to gain teaches us that when we give our voice to the voiceless, we gain a more compassionate world. When we give our courage to comfort injustice, we gain the possibility of peace. And when we give our hearts to the suffering, we gain the blessing of being instruments of God's healing. Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, thank you for giving so generously. May God continue to guide this House with wisdom, compassion, and unity. Thank you. May God bless you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Bill Boyd requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Profound Autism Day and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. McDonnell moved that the remarks made by Rep. Bill Boyd during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Bill Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise and I ask that my comments do be accepted for unanimous consent. Two constituents reached out to me last month asking me to do what I can do to raise awareness regarding profound autism day, and I'm very gracious that Governor Ayotte named Profound Autism Day this past March 17th to bring about awareness to this particular issue. I'd like to read the proclamation right now.

The State of New Hampshire
by Her Excellency Kelly A. Ayotte, Governor
A Proclamation
In the year of our Lord 2026, Profound Autism Day
March 17th, 2026.

WHEREAS profound autism is a form of autism characterized by significant communication challenges, intellectual disability, and a need for substantial lifelong support, and whereas individuals awareness and understanding of profound autism are essential to ensuring that individuals receive the services, support, and opportunities necessary to live fulfilling and dignified lives; and,

WHEREAS families, caregivers, educators, medical professionals, and advocates across New Hampshire work tirelessly to support individuals with profound autism and promote inclusion, compassion, and opportunity within our communities; and,

WHEREAS recognizing Profound Autism Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness, foster understanding, and reaffirm our commitment to supporting individuals with profound autism and their families across the Granite State.

NOW THEREFORE, I, KELLY AYOTTE, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim March 17th, 2026 as Profound Autism Day in the state of New Hampshire, and encourage all citizens to increase awareness, promote understanding, and support individuals with profound autism and the families and caregivers who stand beside them each day.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 17th day of March 2026,

Kelly Ayotte, Governor.

In conclusion, I really want to thank my constituents, Ashleigh and her son, Alexander, for bringing this issue to my attention. In creating awareness for a Profound Autism Day, we recognize the families, the friends, and the caregivers to the people with profound autism who truly honor the dignity of every individual daily, and we thank them for their continual commitment and service to every individual challenged with profound autism. Thank you very much, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Wilhelm requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Baseball and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Representative Wilhelm: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate America's pastime and Major League Baseball's opening day. It's something we can all get behind. It's a moment that for generations of Americans, today marks not just the start of a season, but the arrival of spring, of renewal, and hope. There are few traditions in our country that so seamlessly connect past to present, young to old, and community to community. In New Hampshire, we know this feeling well, whether it's a game of catch in the backyard, a Little League field on a Saturday morning, an evening at Delta Dental Stadium or historic Holman Stadium, or gathering with family, friends or colleagues to watch the first pitch of the season at 4:05 this afternoon. To help us reflect on what makes this day so meaningful, I'd like to share a passage written by a Granite State resident and an American treasure, Walpole, New Hampshire's very own Ken Burns, from his landmark 1994 PBS documentary, *Baseball*. It measures just 9 inches in circumference, weighs only about 5 ounces, and is made of cork wound with wool yarn, covered with two layers of cowhide and stitched by hand precisely 216 times. It travels 60 feet 6 inches from the pitcher's mound to home plate, and it can cover that distance at nearly 100 miles an hour. Along the way, it can be made to twist, spin, curve, wobble, rise or fall away. The bat is made of turned ash, less than 42 inches long, not more than 2 and 3-quarter inches in diameter. The batter has only a few thousandths of a second to decide to hit the ball, and yet players who fail seven times out of ten are considered the game's greatest heroes. It is played everywhere; in parks, and

playgrounds, and prison yards, in back alleys, and farmer fields, by small children and by old men and this summer by women in the inaugural season of the Women's Professional Baseball League, including Bedford, New Hampshire's own Maggie Foxx, daughter of Representative Loren Foxx. It's played by raw amateurs and millionaire professionals. It's a leisurely game that demands blinding speed; the only game where the defense has the ball. It follows the seasons beginning each year with the fond expectancy of springtime and ending with the hard facts of autumn. Americans have played baseball for more than 200 years, while they conquered a continent, warred with one another and with enemies abroad, struggled over labor and civil rights, and the meaning of freedom. At the game's heart lie mythic contradictions; a pastoral game born in crowded cities, an exhilarating democratic sport that tolerates cheating, and has excluded as many as it has included, a profoundly conservative game that sometimes manages to be years ahead of its time. It is an American Odyssey that links sons and daughters to fathers and grandfathers, and it reflects a host of age-old American tensions between workers and owners, scandal and reform, the individual and the collective. It is a haunted game where each player is measured by the ghosts of those who have gone before. Most of all, it's about time and timelessness, speed and grace, failure and loss, imperishable hope and coming home.

Thank You, Mr. Speaker. It's time to play ball.

RECESS MOTION

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

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 3:06 p.m.

RECESS

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

RESOLUTION

Rep. Osborne offered the following: RESOLVED, that in accordance with the list in the possession of the Clerk, Senate Bills numbered 441,442,445,447,448,456,464,468,470,482,498,504,512,520,535,541,545,557,570,586,593,595,607,614,615,617,625,647,648,655,657,661,665 and CACR 11 shall be by this resolution read a first and second time by the therein listed titles and referred to the therein designated committees.

Motion was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS

First, second reading and referral

CACR 11, relating to sheriffs. Providing that there shall be no age limitation for a person to hold the office of county sheriff.

SB 441-FN, relative to the financial responsibility for local assistance and enabling municipalities to request a hearing regarding the residency of an assisted person.

SB 442, relative to pet transfers.

SB 445, relative to adjudicative proceedings where there is a council or board with jurisdiction.

SB 447, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators.

SB 448-FN, modifying the definition of veteran.

SB 456, establishing the commission for children's futures.

SB 464-FN, relative to civil rights enforcement.

SB 468, relative to enabling alternative treatment centers to operate a greenhouse cultivation location.

SB 470-FN, relative to the expungement of certain disciplinary matters.

SB 482-FN, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks.

SB 498-FN, relative to children's mental health services for persons 18 years of age and younger.

SB 504, relative to the practice of pharmacy and the dispensing of certain medications by pharmacists.

SB 512-FN, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

SB 520, relative to breast surgeries for minors.

SB 535, defining residential breeder and imported animal for the purposes of animal transfers and removing references to commercial kennels.

SB 541-FN-A, relative to capital appropriations for regional drinking water infrastructure.

SB 545-FN, relative to financial eligibility for the Medicare savings program.

SB 557-FN, making synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal to prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise, with exceptions made for scientific research.

SB 570, relative to legislative ethics.

SB 586-FN, requiring school districts to publish a school administrative unit audit report after the end of the fiscal year.

SB 593, enabling the use of solid waste management funds by solid waste management districts.

SB 595, relative to rulemaking for transient non-community water systems.

SB 607, relative to short-term, limited duration health insurance policies

SB 614-FN, establishing multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangements for nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers.

SB 615-FN, establishing a commission to study the use and regulation of SNAP in New Hampshire.

SB 617, relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement.

SB 625-FN, establishing a committee to study options for family members of intentional homicide victims where the department of justice does not file charges in a case.

SB 647, authorizing the department of insurance to participate in a cooperative procurement group via an intergovernmental agreement for a prescription drug discount program.

SB 648, requiring age verification by commercial entities to allow access to pornographic material.

SB 655, relative to employee leasing companies, workers' compensation coverage options, and a minimum wage exemption for minor league baseball players.

SB 657-FN, creating a study commission to oversee the use of artificial intelligence in the state.

SB 661-FN, relative to pooled risk management programs.

SB 665-FN, relative to pharmacy benefits managers, managed care laws, notice of drug pricing options and pharmacy benefit manager business practices.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:

Rep. Thomas Bucu was removed from the committee on Resources, Recreation and Development.

Rep. Boudman on the committee on Resources, Recreation and Development.

RECESS

(Representative Simpson in the Chair)

MOTION TO VACATE

Rep. Telerski moved that the House vacate the reference of **SB 498-FN**, relative to children's mental health services for persons 18 years of age and younger., to the Committee on Children and Family Law.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker referred **SB 498-FN** to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SENATE MESSAGES

CONCURRENCE

CACR 13, relating to registers of probate.

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

HB 1019, relative to the composition of the state water well board.

HB 1037, extending the commission to study OHRV use in New Hampshire and adding a member from the department of tourism.

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

HB 1204, relative to the grading and use of timber grown in New Hampshire.

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

HB 1259, relative to the issuance of certificates as a certified public accountant.

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

HB 1287, relative to special number plates for veterans and eligibility therefore.

HB 1467-FN, relative to the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement program.

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

HB 1539-FN, authorizing electric utilities to issue AAA-rated bonds for the purpose of storm cost recovery and infrastructure resilience.

HB 1624-FN, relative to the elimination of certain special funds.

NONCONCURRENCE

HB 488, relative to limiting conflicts of interest and concentrations of power for municipal board and committee members.

HB 1126, repealing the certification requirement to perform residential mold assessments.

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

HB 1472, relative to the suspension period in cases involving the administrative appeals unit relative to licensure or certification concerning lead paint poisoning prevention.

REFERRED FOR INTERIM STUDY

HB 173, relative to maintaining the purpose of a petitioned warrant article.

HB 1033, establishing a commission to study the legislative bill enrollment process.

SENATE MESSAGE

The following entitled House Resolutions sent up from the House of Representatives were not admitted into the Senate under Senate Rule 3-21.

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 1216, relative to informed consent for law enforcement searches of houses or other property.

HB 1562-FN, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model.

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.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENT

HB 723-FN, repealing the multi-use energy data platform.

Amendment 2026-0549EBA

Amend paragraph I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. RSA 378:50, relative to definitions of the multi-use energy data platform, and the subdivision heading preceding RSA 378:50.

Motion was adopted.

RECESS

(Representative Simpson in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 1202,1204,1246,1259,1287,1467,1503 and 1539.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avar for the Committee

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 1160,1485 and Senate Bill numbered 182.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avar for the Committee

RECESS