



State of  
New Hampshire

# HOUSE RECORD

## Second Year of the 169<sup>th</sup> General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2026 Session

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

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Vol. 48

Concord, N.H.

Thursday, April 9, 2026

No. 10

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## HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 9 (Cont'd)

Thursday, March 26, 2026

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

## HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 10

Thursday, April 9, 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 mercy, as this session begins, we pause to recognize the weight and privilege of what is set before this body. Each person here has been entrusted with responsibility, not only to represent, but to serve with care, thoughtfulness, and integrity. Today, as we acknowledge Tartan Day, we also recognize the rich Scottish heritage of those who came before us; men and women who valued courage, perseverance, community, and conviction. May we carry forward those same qualities in the work set before us, honoring the legacy of those who helped shape both this state and this nation. Steady every mind and heart in this room. Keep frustration from taking root and replace it with perseverance. Keep pride from clouding judgment and replace it with humility. For those who feel the pressure of expectation, bring clarity. For those navigating difficult conversations, bring wisdom. For those making choices that will affect many lives, bring a deep awareness of that trust. May the work accomplished here today reflect a genuine commitment to the well-being of all people across this state, across every community, every background and every point of view. Let this not simply be a place of debate, but a place of thoughtful service. May each person leave this day knowing they have labored not just with effort, but with purpose. With respect for all who are present, I offer this prayer. Amen.

Rep. Michael Vose, member from Epping, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Booras, Bryer, Bucu, de Vries, Heath Howard, Katsakiores, Kluger, Sofikitis and Tenczar, the day, illness.

Reps. Coker, Girard, Haskins, Knab, Leavitt, Malone, Michael Murphy, Oppel, Post, Raynolds, Sargent, Selby, Wade and Warden, the day, important business.

Reps. Bricchi, Leishman and Nelson, the day, illness in the family.

Rep. Jeudy, the day, death in the family.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Christopher Glinski, student at Windham High School and Julian Gutierrez, student at Nashua North High School, pages for the day.

Gladys Kofalt, mother of Representative Kofalt. Benjamin and Theodore Jacobs, husband and son of Representative Jacobs. George Koch, guest of Representative Turer. Heather Robitaille, guest of Representative Rung. Kate Cook, guest of Representatives Selig and Meuse; and fourth-grade students from Woodman Park Elementary School, guests of Representative Miller.

### TARTAN DAY PROGRAM

Rep. Hunt spoke about Tartan Day and introduced and welcomed special guests who performed for the House in honor of New Hampshire Tartan Day: dancers Madeline Arpin, Lydia Lowne and Connor Monroe, drummers Marielle Webster and Phoebe Morris, pipers Allan Muir, Ron Arpin, Corban Webster, Silas Lowne and Pipe Major, Campbell Webster. Pipers played the lament in memory of Representative Harry Bean.

Representative Stephen Pearson offered a Scottish blessing:

Bless this house and those within.  
 Bless our giving and receiving.  
 Bless our words and conversation.  
 Bless our hands and recreation.  
 Bless our sowing and our growing.  
 Bless our coming and our going.  
 Bless all who enter and depart.  
 Bless this house, your peace impart.

### GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE ON HB 349-FN

Access to quality and affordable healthcare is necessary and essential to our quality of life here in New Hampshire. Just as important is ensuring that Granite Staters receive care delivered by medical professionals trained to perform the full range of procedures that may be required for serious surgeries.

Authorizing non-physician providers to perform eye surgeries has the potential to create unnecessary risks for patients, particularly if additional surgical intervention is necessary. This is no criticism of our eye care professionals, as optometrists are essential care providers for eye exams, lenses, and non-surgical care. The reality is that ophthalmologists, who complete a minimum three-year residency after medical school, receive far greater supervised clinical and surgical training than optometrists. Laser eye surgeries are not minor procedures. Complications or failure of such procedures can lead to permanent vision loss. Even if most of these procedures go as planned, complications can require the full spectrum of surgical skills and training that only ophthalmologists as physicians possess.

There have been successful efforts, such as expansion of care in Berlin, to increase access to care in rural parts of our state. We can and should strive to expand access and availability without reducing the safety threshold of the care provided to patients.

HB349 would increase the level of risk to patients by permitting eye surgeries by non-physician practitioners. In order to preserve a high level of safety, eye surgeries should be performed by physicians. As such, I am vetoing this bill.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly A. Ayotte, Governor

The question being, notwithstanding the Governor's veto, shall **HB 349-FN**, relative to the practice of optometry and authorization to perform ophthalmic laser procedures, become law?

Pursuant to the New Hampshire Constitution, Part II, Article 44, a roll call, requiring a two-thirds vote of the House for approval, was taken.

### YEAS 145 - NAYS 206

#### YEAS - 145

##### BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen  
 Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara  
 Toner, Travis

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

St. Clair, Charlie

##### CARROLL

Avellani, Lino  
 Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike  
 Petermel, Katy

Paige, David  
 Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John  
 Woodcock, Stephen

##### CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick  
 Nalevanko, Rich

Harvey, Cathryn  
 O'Rourke, Terri

Hunt, John  
 Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly

##### COOS

King, Seth

Tremblay, Marc

##### GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph  
 Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin  
 McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex  
 Sellers, John

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise  
 Stringham, Jerry

**HILLSBOROUGH**

Alexander, Joe  
Corcoran, Travis  
Drew, Matt  
Foss, Lily  
Grill, Jessica  
Lascelles, Richard  
McLean, Mark  
Notter, Jeanine  
Prout, Andrew  
Scully, Kevin  
Slottje, Jeremy  
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith  
Creighton, James  
Dumont, Dillon  
Georges, Mary  
Kesselring, Steven  
Long, Patrick  
Mooney, Maureen  
Pauer, Diane  
Reinfurt, Sherri  
Seibert, Christine  
Telerski, Laura

Barbour, Liz  
Kelley, Diane  
Dupont, Pierre  
Giasson, Henry  
Kofalt, Jim  
Murray, Megan  
Morton, Jonathan  
Plamondon, Marc  
Rung, Rosemarie  
Sheehan, Vanessa  
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross  
Dargie, Paul  
Erf, Keith  
Gregg, Alicia  
Labrie, Brian  
Mazur, Lisa  
Noble, Kristin  
Presa, Adam  
Schneller, John  
Sirois, Shane  
Thomas, Wendy

**MERRIMACK**

Andrus, Louise  
Cambriis, Jose  
Moffett, Michael  
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril  
McGuire, Dan  
Polozov, Yury  
Snodgrass, Jim

Aylward, Deborah  
Ebel, Karen  
Schultz, Kris  
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol  
Mehegan, Peter  
Seaworth, Brian  
Wood, Clayton

**ROCKINGHAM**

Bennett, Cindy  
Drago, Mike  
Guzowski, James  
Layon, Erica  
Markell, Jay  
Nadeau, Brian  
Porcelli, Susan  
Simpson, Alexis  
Tripp, Richard

Bernardy, JD  
Dunn, Ron  
Harb, Robert  
Love, David  
McDonnell, Valerie  
Osborne, Jason  
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine  
Soti, Julius  
Tudor, Paul

DeVito, Sayra  
Edgar, Michael  
Janigian, John  
Maggiore, Jim  
McGrath, Linda  
Brown, Pam  
Read, Ellen  
Spillane, James  
Wilson, Vicki

Donnelly, Tanya  
Grote, Jaci  
Miner, Laurence  
Mandelbaum, Jennifer  
Muns, Chris  
Popovici-Muller, Daniel  
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt  
Sweeney, Joe

**STRAFFORD**

Bailey, Glenn  
DeRoy, Susan  
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine  
Farrington, Samuel  
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise  
Granger, Michael  
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan  
Harrington, Michael  
Stone, John

**SULLIVAN**

Cloutier, John  
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret  
Spilsbury, Walter

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

**NAYS - 206****BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven  
Nagel, David

Bordes, Mike  
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell  
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa

**CARROLL**

Boudman, Bobbi  
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita  
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel

Hamblen, Joseph

**CHESHIRE**

Berch, Paul  
Gruber, James  
Germana, Nicholas  
Thackston, Dick

Fox, Dru  
Jacobs, Samantha  
Newell, Jodi  
Weber, Lucy

Murphy, Denis  
Jones, Philip  
Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry  
Mattson, Rita  
Rhodes, Jennifer

**COOS**

Davis, Arnold  
Morency, Pete

Durkin, Sean  
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori  
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael

**GRAFTON**

Almy, Susan  
Fellows, Sallie  
Ladd, Rick  
Rockmore, Ellen

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

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

Cormen, Thomas  
Hakken-Phillips, Mary  
Muirhead, Russell  
Sykes, George

**HILLSBOROUGH**

Murray, Alistandra  
Budathoki, Suraj  
Cole, Brian  
DiSilvestro, Linda  
Flanagan, Jack

Boyd, Bill  
Chourasia, Manoj  
Cornell, Patricia  
Elberger, Susan  
Griffin, Gerald

Bergeron, Dan  
Chretien, Suzanne  
Daniels, Gary  
Davis, Fred  
Gagne, Larry

Boehm, Ralph  
Colcombe, Riché  
Darby, Will  
Fedolfi, Jim  
Gorski, Ted

Gould, Linda  
Hegner, Karen  
Kenny, Catherine  
Lloyd, Christal  
McGhee, Kat  
Paquette, Kathleen  
Proulx, Mark  
Rombeau, Catherine  
Spier, Carry  
Tellez, Trinidad  
Wheeler, Jonah

Grund, Stephanie  
Herbert, Christopher  
Kerwin, Erin  
Howard, Molly  
Miles, Julie  
Peeples, Raymond  
Newman, Ray  
Ryan, Linda  
Staub, Kathy  
Ulery, Jordan  
Wilhelm, Matthew

Harriott-Gathright, Linda  
Jack, Martin  
Foxy, Loren  
Manohar, Sanjeev  
Murphy, Nancy  
Petrigno, Peter  
Raymond, Heather  
Newman, Sue  
Suiter, John  
Vail, Suzanne

Hartnett, Tim  
Juris, Louis  
LeClerc, Daniel  
Murphy, Mary  
Ohm, Bill  
Preece, David  
Rice, Kimberly  
Salvi, Santosh  
Swanson, Dale  
Veilleux, Daniel

### MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony  
Gibbs, Merryl  
Luneau, David  
Pitaro, Matthew  
Schamberg, Thomas  
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana  
Hicks, Matthew  
Hall, Muriel  
Plante, Raymond  
Soucy, Timothy

Devoid, Ricky  
Hill, Gregory  
Newsom, James  
Roesener, James  
Walsh, Thomas

Kelly, Eileen  
Lane, Connie  
Payeur, Stephanie  
Boyd, Stephen  
Wallner, Mary Jane

### ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy  
Mannion, Dennis  
Edwards, Jess  
Guthrie, Joseph  
Walsh, Lilli  
Paige, Mark  
McMahon, Charles  
Perez, Kristine  
Scherr, Buzz  
Dolan, Tom  
Verville, Kevin  
Weinstein, Toni

Ball, Lorie  
Thomas, Douglas  
Foote, Charles  
Murray, Kate  
Litchfield, Melissa  
Pearson, Mark  
Melvin, Charles  
Potucek, John  
Sorensen, Carrie  
Turer, Eric  
Vose, Michael  
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas  
de Vries, Erica  
Ford, Mary  
Khan, Aboul  
Lundgren, David  
Malloy, Dennis  
Meuse, David  
Roy, Terry  
Summers, James  
Vallone, Mark  
MacDonald, Wayne

Cahill, Michael  
DeSimone, Debra  
Gilman, Julie  
Kuttab, Katelyn  
Lynn, Bob  
Manos, Zoe  
Milz, David  
Pearson, Stephen  
Sytek, John  
Vandecasteele, Susan  
Ward, Gerald

### STRAFFORD

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

Bixby, Peter  
Smith, Geoffrey  
Johnson, Erik  
Smith, Marjorie  
Southworth, Thomas  
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne  
Gilmore, Gary  
LaMontagne, Jessica  
Miller, Seth  
Turcotte, Len

Butler, Billie  
Horrigan, Timothy  
Larochelle, John  
Schmidt, Peter  
Pearson, Wayne

### SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian  
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope

Aron, Judy

Aron, Michael

and the veto was sustained lacking the necessary two-thirds vote.

### GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE ON HB 451-FN

NO sales tax. Not now, not ever.

For the reason stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 451-FN.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly A. Ayotte, Governor

The question being, notwithstanding the Governor's veto, shall HB 451-FN, establishing the paint product stewardship program, become law?

Rep. Berry spoke against.

Rep. Ebel spoke in favor.

Pursuant to the New Hampshire Constitution, Part II, Article 44, a roll call, requiring a two-thirds vote of the House for approval, was taken.

**YEAS 186 - NAYS 169**

**YEAS - 186**

**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen  
St. Clair, Charlie

Comtois, Barbara

Freeman, Lisa

Nagel, David

**CARROLL**

Boudman, Bobbi  
Smith, Jonathan

Burroughs, Anita  
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David  
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph  
Woodcock, Stephen

**CHESHIRE**

Ames, Dick  
Murphy, Denis  
Jacobs, Samantha  
O'Rorke, Terri

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

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

Fox, Dru  
Hunt, John  
Newell, Jodi

**COOS**

King, Seth

Tierney, James

**GRAFTON**

Almy, Susan  
Fellows, Sallie  
Ladd, Rick  
Rockmore, Ellen  
Sykes, George

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

Bolton, Bill  
Hakken-Phillips, Mary  
Lucas, Janet  
Stavis, Laurel

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

**HILLSBOROUGH**

Murray, Aissandra  
Chourasia, Manoj  
Darby, Will  
Davis, Fred  
Gregg, Alicia  
Hartnett, Tim  
Juris, Louis  
LeClerc, Daniel  
Murray, Megan  
Ohm, Bill  
Newman, Ray  
Ryan, Linda  
Seibert, Christine  
Telerski, Laura  
Thomas, Wendy

Barbour, Liz  
Chretien, Suzanne  
Dargie, Paul  
Foss, Lily  
Grill, Jessica  
Hegner, Karen  
Kerwin, Erin  
Lloyd, Christal  
Manohar, Sanjeev  
Petrigno, Peter  
Raymond, Heather  
Newman, Sue  
Spier, Carry  
Tellez, Trinidad  
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan  
Cornell, Patricia  
DiSilvestro, Linda  
Georges, Mary  
Grund, Stephanie  
Herbert, Christopher  
Foxy, Loren  
Long, Patrick  
McGhee, Kat  
Plamondon, Marc  
Rombeau, Catherine  
Salvi, Santosh  
Staub, Kathy  
Vail, Suzanne  
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj  
Creighton, James  
Elberger, Susan  
Gould, Linda  
Harriott-Gathright, Linda  
Jack, Martin  
Lascelles, Richard  
Howard, Molly  
Murphy, Nancy  
Preece, David  
Rung, Rosemarie  
Scully, Kevin  
Swanson, Dale  
Veilleux, Daniel

**MERRIMACK**

Caplan, Tony  
Gallager, Eric  
Luneau, David  
Richards, Beth  
Snodgrass, Jim

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

Kelly, Eileen  
Hicks, Matthew  
Newsom, James  
Schamberg, Thomas  
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen  
Lane, Connie  
Payeur, Stephanie  
Schultz, Kris  
Woods, Gary

**ROCKINGHAM**

Balboni, Peggy  
Gilman, Julie  
Paige, Mark  
Mandelbaum, Jennifer  
Milz, David  
Porcelli, Susan  
Simpson, Alexis  
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael  
Grote, Jaci  
Pearson, Mark  
Manos, Zoe  
Muns, Chris  
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine  
Sorensen, Carrie  
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica  
Murray, Kate  
Maggiore, Jim  
Markell, Jay  
Nadeau, Brian  
Read, Ellen  
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael  
Miner, Laurence  
Malloy, Dennis  
Meuse, David  
Perez, Kristine  
Scherr, Buzz  
Vallone, Mark

**STRAFFORD**

Bay, Luz  
England, Myles  
Howland, Allan  
Levesque, Cassandra  
Schmidt, Peter  
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter  
Smith, Geoffrey  
Johnson, Erik  
Smith, Marjorie  
Selig, Loren  
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne  
Gilmore, Gary  
LaMontagne, Jessica  
Miller, Seth  
Southworth, Thomas  
Wall, Janet

Butler, Billie  
Horrigan, Timothy  
Larochelle, John  
Potenza, Kelley  
Stone, John

**SULLIVAN**

Sullivan, Brian  
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John  
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope  
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 169****BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven  
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike  
Minor, Sheri

Dumais, Russell  
Terry, Paul

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet  
Toner, Travis

**CARROLL**

Avellani, Lino  
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike  
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel

MacDonald, John

**CHESHIRE**

Karasinski, Sly  
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita  
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

Qualey, James

**COOS**

Davis, Arnold  
Morency, Pete

Durkin, Sean  
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori  
Tremblay, Marc

Murphy, Michael

**GRAFTON**

Barton, Joseph  
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin  
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex  
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise  
Sellers, John

**HILLSBOROUGH**

Alexander, Joe  
Boehm, Ralph  
Kelley, Diane  
Dupont, Pierre  
Griffin, Gerald  
Kenny, Catherine  
Murphy, Mary  
Mooney, Maureen  
Paquette, Kathleen  
Proulx, Mark  
Schneller, John  
Suiter, John

Ammon, Keith  
Colcombe, Riché  
Daniels, Gary  
Erf, Keith  
Gagne, Larry  
Kesselring, Steven  
Mazur, Lisa  
Morton, Jonathan  
Pauer, Diane  
Prout, Andrew  
Sheehan, Vanessa  
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill  
Cole, Brian  
Drew, Matt  
Fedolfi, Jim  
Giasson, Henry  
Kofalt, Jim  
McLean, Mark  
Noble, Kristin  
Peeples, Raymond  
Reinfurt, Sherri  
Sirois, Shane  
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross  
Corcoran, Travis  
Dumont, Dillon  
Flanagan, Jack  
Gorski, Ted  
Labrie, Brian  
Miles, Julie  
Notter, Jeanine  
Presa, Adam  
Rice, Kimberly  
Slottje, Jeremy  
Wherry, Robert

**MERRIMACK**

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

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

Aylward, Deborah  
Devoid, Ricky  
Pitaro, Matthew  
Seaworth, Brian  
Wood, Clayton

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

**ROCKINGHAM**

Ball, Lorie  
Mannion, Dennis  
Donnelly, Tanya  
Foote, Charles  
Harb, Robert  
Walsh, Lilli  
Lundgren, David  
McMahon, Charles  
Popovici-Muller, Daniel  
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt  
Sweeney, Joe  
Tudor, Paul  
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy  
Thomas, Douglas  
Drago, Mike  
Ford, Mary  
Janigian, John  
Layon, Erica  
Lynn, Bob  
Melvin, Charles  
Potucek, John  
Soti, Julius  
Sytek, John  
Vandecasteele, Susan  
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD  
DeSimone, Debra  
Dunn, Ron  
Guthrie, Joseph  
Khan, Aboul  
Litchfield, Melissa  
McDonnell, Valerie  
Osborne, Jason  
Roy, Terry  
Spillane, James  
Dolan, Tom  
Verville, Kevin  
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas  
DeVito, Sayra  
Edwards, Jess  
Guzofski, James  
Kuttab, Katelyn  
Love, David  
McGrath, Linda  
Brown, Pam  
Pearson, Stephen  
Summers, James  
Tripp, Richard  
Vose, Michael

**STRAFFORD**

Bailey, Glenn  
DeRoy, Susan  
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine  
Farrington, Samuel  
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise  
Granger, Michael  
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan  
Harrington, Michael

**SULLIVAN**

Drye, Margaret  
Smith, Steven

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

Rollins, Skip

and the veto was sustained lacking the necessary two-thirds vote.

**MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE**

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on the veto of **HB 451-FN**, establishing the paint product stewardship program. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

**DEBATE ON HB 451-FN**

**Representative Berry:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, House Bill 451 is a hidden sales tax on paint. They can call it an assessment all they want, but when government forces an extra charge into the purchase price of a product, regular people know what it is; it's a tax by another name. And if this program was such a great idea, why legislate that the sellers must hide the cost in the legislation? That tells you everything you need to know. If you have to mandate that the charge be buried into the cost by law, you're not the good guy. That's trickery, not transparency. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes New Hampshire less affordable. Paint is not some luxury item. People buy it to maintain their homes, fix up their apartments, run their businesses,

and keep their property in good shape. Every extra dollar the state sneaks into the price makes it harder for working families and small businesses to make ends meet. This is how affordability gets chipped away; not always in one giant tax hike, but with one hidden sales tax after another, each one folded back into the daily cost of living. Today, it's a paint tax. Tomorrow, it's something else. HB 451 is a sales tax sold to us as stewardship. It makes New Hampshire less affordable. It grows bureaucracy, and once again, Mr. Speaker, if you have to legislate to hide the cost, you are not the good guy. I urge my colleagues to press the red button.

**Speaker Packard:** The Chair recognizes Representative Ebel.

**Representative Ebel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over a year ago, HB 451, a bill that would create a free paint recycling program in this state, passed the House on the consent calendar after a thorough vetting by the House Commerce Committee. It was on consent, and then it was properly waived off from Finance because there was no impact on the state budget. Why? No state fee. No sales tax. Any minimal state costs would be reimbursed by paint manufacturers. Paint recycling options were thoroughly researched, first by the Environment and Agriculture Committee, then by the state's solid waste working group, and once again by the Commerce Committee. So much work has gone into this bill, but here we are. Everyone involved has had the good of this state in mind only, a desire to make it easy and free for granite staters to recycle old paint. The body on the other side of the wall passed it on a bipartisan basis, sent to Ways and Means, not sent to Finance. No budget impact. No state fee. No state tax. HB 451, as vetoed, is precisely the same bill that we passed unanimously a year ago and not one word has changed. So, the veto message was surprising given the bill's rigorous committee review and the legislature's strong support. Yes, no sales tax. Not now. Not ever. Product stewardship, nationwide, is an accepted, industry-supported waste management method. It's not nefarious. Willing manufacturers help by funding non-profit organizations to collect hazardous waste, or products that are difficult to manage, like sharps, mattresses, light bulbs, e-waste, batteries, and yes, paint. Collection is free. We've had a program right here in New Hampshire for mercury thermostats for decades. HB 451 is supported by our towns, by the solid waste industry, by the paint industry, by the BIA, by environmental groups, and these are our constituents. HB 451 saves property tax dollars. Old paint will be recycled for free, not tossed. Retailers can act as collection sites if they want to, and some want the foot traffic. Folks with their basements full of old paint love this idea. They could finally empty the cellar without waiting for the next household hazardous waste day; a day we all seem to miss every time. So let's get to the crux of this, which is the funding. HB 451 authorizes paint manufacturers to fund a paint can collection program by including collection costs in paint sold into the state. This recycling cost is state-based, and it's included, yes, in the wholesale cost of paint. Retailers sell the paint, setting their own prices as they do now, and that's it. No point-of-sale charge. People who use paint, pay. The rest of us don't. It seems fair. This is not unusual in this state. In fact, no one objected to this bill until outside groups decided to lean into the sales tax mantra. Facts have been explained at length to staff throughout the statehouse to no avail. Why has a decision been made to call this a sales tax when it isn't? I don't know, but I can guess. What I do know is that we have been embroiled in landfill battles here for years. We worry about contaminated leachate ending up in wastewater and drinking water. We have very few good options to make a real dent in the waste we throw away, and this is one. What I do know is that property taxes are skyrocketing. We should look for ways to reduce them. This is one. This program could save our constituents upwards of a million dollars annually. That is more affordable. Giving granite staters a free, convenient program for collecting hazardous waste is good policy. And to quote my colleague from Rochester, folks, the New Hampshire Advantage is its people, its lakes, its mountains, and its quality of life. We would do well to remember that here today and work to preserve it. Let's do something better with our paint than dumping it. I urge this body to vote green, overturn the veto, because, yes, there is no sales tax here. Not now, not ever. Thank you.

**Speaker Packard:** The House will be in order. The state constitution requires a roll call. A two-thirds vote is required to override a veto. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The state constitution requires a roll call. A two-thirds vote is required to override a veto. The chair recognizes Representative Judy Aron for her parliamentary inquiry.

**Representative Judy Aron:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that our property taxes now pay for the expensive disposal of everyone's hazardous paint products and paint cans, even if we never use paint, and if I also know that the paint industry will set up a program in New Hampshire to recycle paint and paint cans rather than dispose of them in our landfills, and if I further know that HB 451 simply authorizes paint manufacturers to include collection and recycling costs along with their other costs into the price we pay for paint, with no point of sale fee and funds going to the state, and finally, if I know that this body passed HB 451 unanimously and that it does not create a sales tax, would I now press the green button to support better paint disposal and taxpayer savings and override this veto? Thank you.

**Speaker Packard:** The question before the House is notwithstanding Governor's veto, shall House Bill 451-FN become law? If you are in favor of the bill becoming law, you will press the green button. If you are opposed and wish to sustain the Governor's veto, you will press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 186 voting aye, 169 voting nay. The motion fails, lack of two-thirds.

**(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)**  
**SENATE MESSAGES**

**REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

**HB 59-FN**, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26).

Rep. Roy moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Rep. Meuse spoke against.

On a division vote, with 199 members having voted in the affirmative, and 155 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

**HB 109-FN**, relative to false reports to law enforcement. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Roy moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 222-FN**, repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services and updating the organizational structure of the department of corrections. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Noble moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 481**, relative to the state primary date. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 610-FN**, relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Layon moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1030**, relative to licensed practical nurse scope of practice. (Amendment printed SJ 3/26/26)

Rep. Layon moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1159**, relative to updating the state building code. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Layon moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1310**, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Layon moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 126**, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Wayne MacDonald moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1168**, relative to employer documentation requirements. (Amendment printed SJ 3/5/26)

Rep. Creighton moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 348**, relative to eligibility for local assistance. (Amendment printed SJ 3/26/26)

Rep. Pauer moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1044**, relative to the filling of vacancies in the office of a county commissioner. (Amendment printed SJ 3/26/26)

Rep. Pauer moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1205**, prohibiting state and county owned lands from participating in timber carbon sequestration projects. (Amendment printed SJ 3/26/26)

Rep. Pauer moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1689**, relative to the term of office for county officers in Belknap and Merrimack counties. (Amendment printed SJ 03/26/26)

Rep. Pauer moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Reps. Poloszaj, Terry, Comtois and St. Clair spoke against.

Rep. Bogert spoke in favor.

Rep. Wheeler requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

**YEAS 65 - NAYS 287****YEAS - 65****BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven

Bordes, Mike

Freeman, Lisa

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

MacDonald, John

**CHESHIRE**

Karasinski, Sly

Newell, Jodi

Rhodes, Jennifer

**COOS**Davis, Arnold  
Morency, PeteDurkin, Sean  
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori

Murphy, Michael

**GRAFTON**

Sullivan, Jared

McFarlane, Donald

Stavis, Laurel

**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe  
Erf, Keith  
Lascelles, Richard  
Telerski, LauraBoyd, Bill  
Griffin, Gerald  
Pauer, Diane  
Wherry, RobertBerry, Ross  
Georges, Mary  
Proulx, Mark  
Wilhelm, MatthewCole, Brian  
Herbert, Christopher  
Rice, Kimberly**MERRIMACK**Aylward, Deborah  
Richards, BethGibbs, Merryl  
Schamberg, Thomas

Hicks, Matthew

Pitaro, Matthew

**ROCKINGHAM**Ball, Lorie  
Donnelly, Tanya  
Pearson, Mark  
Melvin, Charles  
Pearson, Stephen  
Sytek, JohnBridle, Nicholas  
Gilman, Julie  
Maggiore, Jim  
Milz, David  
Simpson, Alexis  
Dolan, TomMannion, Dennis  
Janigian, John  
Mandelbaum, Jennifer  
Popovici-Muller, Daniel  
Spillane, James  
MacDonald, WayneDeSimone, Debra  
Kuttab, Katelyn  
McMahon, Charles  
Roy, Terry  
Sweeney, Joe  
Weyler, Kenneth**STRAFFORD**

Howland, Allan

Wall, Janet

**NAYS - 287****BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen  
Ploszaj, TomComtois, Barbara  
St. Clair, CharlieDumais, Russell  
Terry, PaulNagel, David  
Toner, Travis**CARROLL**Avellani, Lino  
Paige, David  
Peternel, KatyBelcher, Mike  
Hamblen, Joseph  
Brown, RichardBoudman, Bobbi  
Smith, Jonathan  
Taylor, BrianCrawford, Karel  
McAleer, Chris  
Woodcock, Stephen**CHESHIRE**Ames, Dick  
Murphy, Denis  
Jacobs, Samantha  
Nalevanko, Rich  
Thackston, DickBerch, Paul  
Faulkner, Barry  
Jones, Philip  
O'Rorke, Terri  
Weber, LucyHarvey, Cathryn  
Gruber, James  
Mattson, Rita  
Parshall, LuciusFox, Dru  
Hunt, John  
Germana, Nicholas  
Qualey, James**COOS**

King, Seth

Tierney, James

Tremblay, Marc

**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan  
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise  
Fracht, David  
Louis, Darrell  
Rockmore, Ellen  
Sykes, GeorgeBaldwin, Heather  
Bolton, Bill  
Franz, Linda  
Lovett, Peter  
Sellers, JohnBeaulier, Calvin  
Cormen, Thomas  
Hakken-Phillips, Mary  
Lucas, Janet  
Spahr, TerryBerezhny, Lex  
Fellows, Sallie  
Ladd, Rick  
Muirhead, Russell  
Stringham, Jerry**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Aissandra  
Boehm, Ralph  
Colcombe, RichéAmmon, Keith  
Budathoki, Suraj  
Corcoran, TravisBarbour, Liz  
Chourasia, Manoj  
Cornell, PatriciaBergeron, Dan  
Chretien, Suzanne  
Creighton, James

Kelley, Diane  
DiSilvestro, Linda  
Elberger, Susan  
Foss, Lily  
Gould, Linda  
Harriott-Gathright, Linda  
Juris, Louis  
Kofalt, Jim  
Lloyd, Christal  
MacKenzie, Mark  
McGhee, Kat  
Morton, Jonathan  
Ohm, Bill  
Plamondon, Marc  
Newman, Ray  
Rung, Rosemarie  
Schneller, John  
Sirois, Shane  
Suiter, John  
Ulery, Jordan  
Wheeler, Jonah

Daniels, Gary  
Drew, Matt  
Davis, Fred  
Gagne, Larry  
Gregg, Alicia  
Hartnett, Tim  
Kenny, Catherine  
Foxy, Loren  
Long, Patrick  
Manohar, Sanjeev  
McLean, Mark  
Murphy, Nancy  
Paquette, Kathleen  
Preece, David  
Raymond, Heather  
Ryan, Linda  
Scully, Kevin  
Slottje, Jeremy  
Swanson, Dale  
Vail, Suzanne

Darby, Will  
Dumont, Dillon  
Fedolfi, Jim  
Giasson, Henry  
Grill, Jessica  
Hegner, Karen  
Kerwin, Erin  
Labrie, Brian  
Howard, Molly  
Murphy, Mary  
Miles, Julie  
Noble, Kristin  
Peeples, Raymond  
Presa, Adam  
Reinfurt, Sherri  
Newman, Sue  
Seibert, Christine  
Spier, Carry  
Tellez, Trinidad  
Veilleux, Daniel

Dargie, Paul  
Dupont, Pierre  
Flanagan, Jack  
Gorski, Ted  
Grund, Stephanie  
Jack, Martin  
Kesselring, Steven  
LeClerc, Daniel  
Murray, Megan  
Mazur, Lisa  
Mooney, Maureen  
Notter, Jeanine  
Petrigno, Peter  
Prout, Andrew  
Rombeau, Catherine  
Salvi, Santosh  
Sheehan, Vanessa  
Staub, Kathy  
Mannion, Tom  
Thomas, Wendy

### MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise  
Caplan, Tony  
Kelly, Eileen  
Lane, Connie  
Moffett, Michael  
Polozov, Yury  
Seaworth, Brian  
Walsh, Thomas  
Woods, Gary

Aures, Cyril  
Colby, Eleana  
Ebel, Karen  
Luneau, David  
Newsom, James  
Roesener, James  
See, Alvin  
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol  
McGuire, Dan  
Gallager, Eric  
Hall, Muriel  
Payeur, Stephanie  
Boyd, Stephen  
Snodgrass, Jim  
Wallner, Mary Jane

Cambrils, Jose  
Devoid, Ricky  
Hill, Gregory  
Mehegan, Peter  
Plante, Raymond  
Schultz, Kris  
Soucy, Timothy  
Wood, Clayton

### ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy  
Thomas, Douglas  
Dunn, Ron  
Ford, Mary  
Harb, Robert  
Walsh, Lilli  
Lynn, Bob  
Markell, Jay  
Muns, Chris  
Perez, Kristine  
Read, Ellen  
Soti, Julius  
Turer, Eric  
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy  
de Vries, Erica  
Edgar, Michael  
Grote, Jaci  
Murray, Kate  
Layon, Erica  
Paige, Mark  
McDonnell, Valerie  
Nadeau, Brian  
Porcelli, Susan  
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt  
Summers, James  
Vallone, Mark  
Ward, Gerald

Bernardy, JD  
DeVito, Sayra  
Edwards, Jess  
Guthrie, Joseph  
Khan, Aboul  
Litchfield, Melissa  
Malloy, Dennis  
McGrath, Linda  
Osborne, Jason  
Potucek, John  
Scherr, Buzz  
Tripp, Richard  
Vandecasteele, Susan  
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael  
Drago, Mike  
Foote, Charles  
Guzofski, James  
Miner, Laurence  
Love, David  
Manos, Zoe  
Meuse, David  
Brown, Pam  
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine  
Sorensen, Carrie  
Tudor, Paul  
Verville, Kevin  
Wilson, Vicki

### STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn  
Burton, Wayne  
DeRoy, Susan  
Gilmore, Gary  
Johnson, Erik  
Levesque, Cassandra  
Hall, Robley  
Stone, John

Bay, Luz  
Butler, Billie  
England, Myles  
Granger, Michael  
Kaczynski, Thomas  
Smith, Marjorie  
Schmidt, Peter  
Turcotte, Len

Bixby, Peter  
DeDe-Poulin, Denise  
Farrington, Samuel  
Harrington, Michael  
LaMontagne, Jessica  
Miller, Seth  
Selig, Loren  
Pearson, Wayne

Burnham, Claudine  
DeLemus, Susan  
Smith, Geoffrey  
Horrigan, Timothy  
Larochelle, John  
Potenza, Kelley  
Southworth, Thomas  
Walker, David

### SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian  
Grant, George  
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John  
Hemingway, Wayne  
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope  
Aron, Judy  
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret  
Aron, Michael

and the motion failed.

Rep. Sweeney moved to nonconcur.

Motion was adopted.

### (Representative Kofalt in the Chair)

**HB 649-FN**, relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators. (Amendment printed SJ 2/5/26)

Rep. Thomas Walsh moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

**HB 1190-FN**, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21 and relative to fleet vehicle registration requirements. (Amendment printed SJ 3/5/26)

Rep. Thomas Walsh moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.  
Motion was adopted.

**(Speaker Packard in the Chair)**

**MOTION TO REPRIMAND**

Representative Simpson moved that the member from Weare, Representative Travis Corcoran, be reprimanded. Without objection, the Speaker ordered the motion to be referred to the Committee on Legislative Administration for review and report.

**(Representative Kofalt in the Chair)**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**SB 620-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated, removed by Reps. C. McGuire, Granger, Giasson, Beaulier, Tom Mannion, D. Kelley, J. Smith, Sirois, Mehegan and Drew.

**SB 649-FN**, increasing fines for using a hand-held mobile electronic device while driving a motor vehicle, removed by Reps. Alexander, Tom Mannion, McFarlane, Barton, D. Kelley, DeVito, Reinfort, Granger, Thibault and Giasson

**SB 412**, relative to the conditional release of delinquent minors and children in need of services. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The committee supports this bill, as it is about bringing clarity, and consistency to a system that too often leaves families navigating uncertainty. By strengthening oversight and ensuring clear standards, this bill helps protect those who rely on these processes the most, especially children and vulnerable individuals. Vote 14-0.

**SB 413**, relative to the detention of a minor attaining the age of 18 during the pendency of a delinquency action. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lori Korzen for Children and Family Law. This bill addresses a narrow but important gap in our juvenile justice statutes, by clarifying where a youth may be held while their delinquency case is still pending, aligning state law with a recent New Hampshire Supreme Court decision and current practice and ensuring clear authority for courts and agencies to manage these cases safely. For these reasons the committee unanimously recommends Ought to Pass. Vote 14-0.

**SB 410**, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after public hearing agreed law enforcement requires a lawful mechanism to acquire donated human remains for the purpose of training cadaver dogs. We passed an identical House version and therefore this one is unnecessary. We agreed to send it to interim study in case it needs to be revisited next year if the House bill does not become law. Vote 13-0.

**SB 411**, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, identical to the House version that passed on the consent calendar, makes small changes to the administration of search warrant returns regarding who can witness the inventory. We agreed that it updates the process to reflect modern requirements for electronic evidence. Vote 13-0.

**SB 521-FN**, relative to unauthorized camping on private property. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While this bill seeks to expand prohibitions on unauthorized camping, it does not meaningfully address the root causes or realities of homelessness in New Hampshire. This bill primarily focuses on enforcement and penalties, extending restrictions on camping to private property in certain municipalities, but offers no corresponding investments in housing access, shelter capacity, or supportive services. Committee members expressed concern that the bill would further criminalize individuals experiencing homelessness without providing viable alternatives for safe shelter or stability. In practice, this approach risks displacing people from one location to another, increasing interactions with law enforcement, and exacerbating existing challenges rather than resolving them. The committee recognizes the importance of public health, safety, and property rights; however, we believe effective responses to homelessness must center on long-term solutions such as affordable housing, mental health support, and community-based services. Because this bill does not advance these goals and instead relies on punitive measures, the committee determined it was not an appropriate or effective policy response. Vote 12-0.

**SB 401-FN**, relative to removing an obsolete annual reporting requirement by municipal overseers of public welfare to the department of health and human services and repealing the department of health and human services reporting requirement on 10-year demographic cost projections. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Paul Dargie for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill removes the obsolete reporting requirement for municipal public welfare officials and the Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, it eliminates the corresponding 10-year demographic current services cost projections. This bill was a request of the Department of Health and Human Services. Vote 12-0.

**SB 402-FN**, eliminating certain non-compete agreements for physician associates. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James Thibault for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill eliminates non-compete agreements for physician associates going forward, with no impact on existing non-compete agreements. Non-compete agreements can make it more difficult to recruit professionals from other regions because it eliminates the opportunity to find a better fitting position, if needed, in the area where the physician associate moved in order to provide service to the community. Vote 12-0.

**SB 426**, repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Fred Davis for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill disbands the Permissible Fireworks Review Committee at the request of the members of the committee. The committee was formed in 1999 when the state was approving fireworks devices individually. In 2011, the state adopted federal standards for firework devices sold in New Hampshire. The State Fire Marshal has the necessary tools needed to continue any relevant work without the committee. Vote 12-0.

**SB 427-FN**, relative to the joint committee on employee classification. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Sytek for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is a routine request which appears every legislative session. The role of the JCEC is to examine and evaluate the reclassification of executive departments unclassified positions as requested by the respective departments. These position changes typically result from an expansion of scope of responsibility, perhaps even the elimination or consolidation of positions or the result of reorganization--the latter generally being the result of other legislation. To ensure as much objectivity as possible, an outside consulting company is used to assist in the determination using comparable industry standards. Accordingly, the JCEC has effected the changes enumerated in this bill and this bill now asks that they be codified into law. The chair of JCEC rotates and this year's chair is a Senator, hence why this is a Senate bill. Vote 13-0.

**SB 428**, relative to the maximum amount of terms an individual can serve on the electricians' board. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill permits members of the electricians board to serve one additional term for a total of 3 5-year terms and one additional hold-over year if the vacant position is not filled in the year after a member terms out. Currently the 5 member board has a vacancy due to a recent resignation and there are no current applicants for this board seat. Permitting electricians to serve an additional term helps address challenges in recruiting new members while also allowing for greater carryover of institutional knowledge. Vote 13-0.

**SB 451**, amending the title of the position of senior deputy secretary of state. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill clarifies the hierarchy in the Secretary of State's Office. Currently, in the Secretary of State's Office, there is a full time Deputy Secretary of State and a part time Senior Deputy of Secretary of State. The Senior Deputy is assigned special projects and to bring clarity in the title, the Senior Deputy will now be called the Special Deputy. As amended, "them" was changed to "him or her" to indicate that there is only one individual in the office with that title. Vote 12-0.

#### **Amendment (1230h)**

Amend RSA 5:2-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

5:2-a [~~Senior~~] **Special** Deputy Secretary of State. The secretary of state may appoint a [~~senior~~] **special** deputy secretary of state who shall serve for not more than 90 days in any one fiscal year. The [~~senior~~] **special** deputy secretary of state appointed under this section shall exercise the duties and functions delegated to him **or her**, and all duties and functions exercised by him **or her** while so acting shall have the same validity and effect as though performed by the secretary of state. Amend RSA 5:2-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

5:2-a [~~Senior~~] **Special** Deputy Secretary of State. The secretary of state may appoint a [~~senior~~] **special** deputy secretary of state who shall serve for not more than 90 days in any one fiscal year. The [~~senior~~] **special** deputy secretary of state appointed under this section shall exercise the duties and functions delegated to him **or her**, and all duties and functions exercised by him **or her** while so acting shall have the same validity and effect as though performed by the secretary of state.

**SB 469**, (New Title) allowing the director of the division of motor vehicles to adopt administrative rules regarding the use of electronic signatures and relative to signature requirements where ownership of a vehicle is transferred to an insurer after payment of damages. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Sellers for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would modernize signature requirements for some motor vehicle transactions by permitting electronic signatures where currently only traditional signatures are permitted. Electronic signatures at the point of sale and in insurance transactions can save time and money while leaving an audit trail. The Division of Motor Vehicles has stated that they will apply the Department of Justice electronic signature guidelines to ensure integrity when drafting rules. The committee believes that we should join with the majority of states which permit electronic signatures for these transactions. Vote 12-0.

**SB 489**, (New Title) altering the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Patrick Long for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill, as amended in the Senate, addresses a previous oversight in HB 2 that failed to specify the appointing authority for the members of the Board of Tax and Land Appeals, stating only that they serve at the pleasure of the governor and council. This housekeeping bill reestablishes the governor and the executive council as the official appointing authorities for the board. Vote 12-0.

**SB 526**, establishing a New Hampshire-Greece trade council. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would establish a New Hampshire-Greece trade council funded solely by direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions. The purpose of the council shall be to advance bilateral trade and investment between New Hampshire and Greece, initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to New Hampshire and Greece, and promote business and academic exchanges between New Hampshire and Greece. Recognizing that the state has the highest per capita concentration of Greek Americans in the country, the committee recommends this bill ought to pass. Vote 14-1.

**SB 527**, relative to written notice provided by state agencies to municipalities regarding pending applications. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill updates RSA 541-A:39 to modernize notice requirements from state agencies to municipalities. It replaces the outdated requirement of "first class mail" with broader "written notice" to the town or city clerk. This change provides agencies with flexibility to use email, electronic portals, or other written methods while maintaining the requirement to give affected municipalities reasonable opportunity to comment on permits, licenses, or actions impacting land use, development, transportation, business operations, or municipal services. Vote 14-0.

**SB 568**, (New Title) relative to the department of safety's procedures for the processing of employee candidate background checks. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Glenn Bailey for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill permits the commissioner of the Department of Safety to designate an employee within the department to receive criminal conviction information from the federal bureau of investigations, consistent with FBI best practices. This is for internal processing of background checks for candidates for employment or promotion in the department of safety. The committee notes that the term "employee" as used in this bill designates a human working for the department and does not include artificial intelligence. Vote 13-0.

**SB 571**, relative to the requirements to be issued a certificate as a certified public accountant. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. The committee recommends this bill as inexpedient to legislate, as HB 1259, which addresses the same topics has been adopted by both bodies with language which better satisfies the request of stakeholders and the interests of the sponsors in furthering this policy, making this bill unnecessary. Vote 14-0.

**SB 641-FN**, relative to examination requirements for licensure as a chiropractor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill removes duplication in testing to attain licensure to practice as a chiropractor in New Hampshire. The NH Chiropractic Association and the State Board of Chiropractic Practitioners testified that the testing in the national and state level are more than adequate to confirm an applicant's ability to serve the public seeking service from a NH licensed chiropractor. Therefore the duplicative testing, part IV of the national test is not necessary. Vote 13-0.

**SB 497**, (New Title) removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The Committee on Public Works and Highways unanimously approved this bill, which removes a reference to procurement through the Department of Administrative

Services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire, and changes a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature by assigning permanent use of the fourth floor of the state house annex. These technical changes fix the language, and add clarity to the original language in our capital budget. Vote 12-0.

**Amendment (1031h)**

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

AN ACT removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire, changing the name of a capital project, and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

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

1 Capital Improvements; Community College System of New Hampshire. Amend 2025, 159:4, I and II to read as follows:

I. The appropriations made for the community college system in paragraph II of section 1 and the sums available for this project, **and paragraph II of section 13, and the sums available for this project**, shall be expended by the trustees of the community college system of New Hampshire.

II. The appropriations made to the community college system in paragraph II of section 1 **and paragraph II of section 13** are available for all costs incidental to the completion of the project enumerated including but not limited to the costs of the services for architects, engineers, and other consultants of such kind and capacity as the community college system board of trustees may, in its discretion, wish to employ on such terms and conditions as the board determines. These monies shall be spent under the direction of the community college system board of trustees and pursuant to the policies adopted by the board of trustees.

2 Legislative Officers and Proceedings; Office Space and Parking Facilities. Amend RSA 14:14-b, IV to read as follows:

IV. All rooms and other spaces of the state house annex designated and assigned for use by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate, including but not limited to the west wing of the [second] **fourth** floor, **as well as shared access to the break room and lactation room adjacent to the west wing**; and

3 Project Amended; Community College System of New Hampshire. Amend 2023, 113:1, XVI, 3 to read as follows:

3. NCC [~~Respiratory Therapy Program~~] **Allied Health Instructional Center** Teaching Equipment and

Teaching Space Renovations

1,500,000

4 Repeal. 2025, 159:13, IV, relative to a requirement that certain contracts and projects concerning capital appropriations for the community college system of New Hampshire be awarded in accordance with RSA 21-I, is repealed.

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

2026-1031h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Removes a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire

II. Changes the name of a capital project.

III. Changes a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

**SB 443**, relative to wastewater engineering. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Pierre Dupont for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill improves clarity by removing archaic and unnecessary statutory language and provides clearer statutory authority for the Wastewater Bureau's Industrial Pretreatment Program. This bill was requested by the Department of Environmental Services. Vote 15-0.

**SB 503**, relative to the use of spruce-pine-fir lumber. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill is about fairness and helps the New Hampshire forest products economy to level the playing field for New Hampshire sawmills, loggers, and timber owners. This bill clarifies that New Hampshire grown spruce, pine and fir lumber graded as SPFS may be used wherever SPF is specified under the state building code; and recognizes that SPFS and SPF are the same species, grown in substantially identical climates, differing only by international grading designations. This bill also maintains all existing safety standards, and it helps housing affordability by expanding allowable materials and increasing supply. It reduces cost pressure and gives builders more flexibility. Vote 15-0.

**SB 522**, re-establishing the commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Nicholas Bridle for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill re-establishes a commission to study the statewide economic impact of New Hampshire's arts and culture sector. The previous commission data is now over 10 years old, and having current data is essential for informed decision-making in future House budget sessions. The diversity of the board seats provides a wide aperture as to the impact of arts within the state and thus should provide an accurate depiction of the need for this sector. The bill includes a repeal date, ensuring the commission will self-terminate without need for further legislation upon completion of its work. Vote 15-0.

**SB 592**, (New Title) enabling regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors and creating a commission to study transferring ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program to an alternative authority. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill takes two distinct actions. First, it directs conservation commissions and regional planning commissions to recognize and inventory wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds, with the understanding that this information is not intended for zoning or planning, which are outside the purview of these commissions. Second, it forms a short-term commission to investigate the transfer of the ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP) from the state to an alternate authority, as well as providing an unclassified state position to help with this analysis and potential transition. The funding for the unclassified position is completely paid by the municipalities served by the WRBP, with no cost to the state. These municipalities and the Department of Environmental Services requested these provisions of the bill as maintenance costs for the aging wastewater treatment facilities are increasing, and the affected communities are interested in having a larger stake in its future direction. The committee amendment repeals the commission following the delivery of its report on November 1, 2026. Vote 15-0.

#### **Amendment (1277h)**

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 6 with the following:

7 Repeal. RSA 21-O:14-b, relative to the commission to study transferring the commission to study ownership and/or operation of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program (WRBP) to an alternative authority, is repealed.

8 Effective Date.

I. Sections 5 and 6 of this act shall take effect upon passage.

II. Section 7 shall take effect November 1, 2026.

III. This remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**SB 594-FN**, eliminating the use of agitators in instances where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. Dock deicers agitate or heat water during the winter to prevent ice accumulation around dock piers, which can damage docks as ice shifts. While these may be necessary for permanent docks, when left in place following the removal of a seasonal dock, they can cause dangerously thin ice conditions, damage a lake's ecology by disturbing sediment, and promote the growth of invasive species and cyanobacteria when sunlight penetrates would be iced-over water. The committee also heard testimony of a young person falling through the ice when a dock de-ice was installed without a permanent dock, and another situation where a dock de-ice may have contributed to a drowning. This bill prohibits the use of dock deicers, referred to as agitators, except when necessary to protect permitted permanent structures, and increases the visibility requirements of warning signs when dock deicers are installed. Vote 15-0.

**SB 598**, establishing the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund task force. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill proposes a short-term summer initiative to explore alternative funding strategies for the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund. The unanimous support came from hearing from Amy Smagula from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), who voiced strong support for the task force, emphasizing its role in coordinating the funds and the 11 projects that have shown success in the past. There are over 400 hits for blooms across NH Lakes, and this project requires significant funds to combat blooms. Also, NH LAKES supported the bill, noting that the mitigation fund is nearly depleted and highlighted the need for scalable funding solutions. Lastly, the NH Marine Trades Association praised the bill for its innovative approach to tackling cyanobacteria mitigation challenges. The bill proposes the creation of a short-term advisory committee to address the rapidly depleting mitigation fund. This task force is designed to operate efficiently over a single summer session, producing actionable results. It provides a structured framework to coordinate scientific expertise and state resources to develop a long-term sustainable funding plan for the fund established under RSA 485-A:58. Additionally, the task force prioritizes finding alternative funding sources beyond traditional taxes on lakefront property owners and boaters to explore other programs to help fund upgrades to drainage, causing impacts. Donations from other state programs to help fund 60 to 70 lakes today with bloom hits and the growing priority our NH Lakes. Vote 15-0.

**SB 542**, (New Title) limiting the game dates available to charities at gaming facilities. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill limits game dates available to charities at gaming facilities and would allow the number of charities working with a gaming facility to be increased. This bill would reduce the number of days from 10 to 7, with the 7 days not needing to be consecutive. The idea behind this would be to allow more charities to participate over the course of the year. However, there have been some gaming operators in the southern tier of the state already limiting days for charities which would automatically allow for more charities to participate. In the north country, there is a concern that there may not be enough charities participating and limiting days from 10 to 7 could result in possible blackout dates for the gaming operators. Given the issues discussed in the public hearing testimony, concerns voiced during the work session, and that there is a Racing and Charitable Gaming Study Commission examining these issues, the committee recommends that this bill be sent to Interim Study. Vote 19-0.

**SB 652-FN**, changing the maximum award of tax credits for overpayment of due taxes. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Mary Murphy for Ways and Means. This bill seeks to slow down the scheduled “phase-down” of tax credit carryforwards for overpaid taxes. Currently, when a business overpays its taxes, it can keep a large amount of that money as a “credit” that can be applied in subsequent years rather than getting a refund. Existing law was set to slash that limit significantly which could be a shock to the state General Fund; this bill wants to keep those limits higher for longer. Under current law, the maximum credit a business can carry forward is gradually decreasing. This bill proposes a more “business-friendly” (slower) reduction schedule. The bill affects taxable periods ending 12/31/2029 through 12/31/2041 and would gradually decrease the credit limit as a percentage of tax liability from 450% to 150% versus the current 250% to 100% by 2031. The reductions would continue every two years until reaching 150% in 2041. The proposed new credit schedule offers more flexibility for businesses. If a company has a massive overpayment, they can keep it as a “banked” credit to offset future tax bills rather than being forced to take a refund. This is often preferred by large corporations for long-term tax planning. This bill also benefits the state. According to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), this change would actually increase net revenue in the short-to-medium term. Because the state is issuing fewer refunds (since more money is staying as credits), it estimates a positive impact of about \$54.1 million on the General and Education Trust Funds between fiscal years 2030 and 2044. While it keeps more money in the state’s hands initially by avoiding refunds, it creates a long-term “liability” because businesses will eventually use those credits to pay \$0 in taxes in future years. Vote 19-0.

The Speaker referred SB 592 to the Committee on Finance.

The Speaker referred SB 594 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

### **REGULAR CALENDAR MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER**

Rep. Milz moved that **SB 629**, renaming the new roundabout on Route 302 at the East Conway Road intersection to “Oliveira Circle.” be made a Special Order to the next order of business.

Motion was adopted.

**SB 629**, renaming the new roundabout on Route 302 at the East Conway Road intersection to “Oliveira Circle.” **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Steven Bogert for Public Works and Highways. David and Catherine Oliveira’s lives were cut short on September 3, 2018 due to a motorcycle accident at the intersection of Route 302 and East Conway Road, leaving behind their three adult children and family members. Since this horrific accident, a roundabout has replaced the intersection. With the concurrence of the Town of Conway, the family requested the roundabout should be honored with the name of “Oliveira Circle” and agreed to pay the cost of manufacturing, installing, and maintenance of NH Department of Transportation (DOT) approved signage. Vote 13-0.

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

Rep. Milz spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

### **REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D**

**SB 608-FN**, relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The committee supports the bill as amended to ensure that changes to New Hampshire’s childcare scholarship program are only implemented after receiving federal approval and when sufficient funding is in place. The amendment clarifies that the Department of Health and Human Services is not required to implement the program until it is fully funded, preventing unfunded mandates and protecting the state budget. It also requires regular reporting to the legislature on funding and implementation status, ensuring transparency, accountability, and that the program is rolled out responsibly and sustainably. Vote 15-0.

**Amendment (1263h)**

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Contingency. Department of Health and Human Services; Funding.

I. RSA 167:83, II(q), as amended by section 3 of this act, and RSA 167:83, II(v), as inserted by section 4 of this act, shall take effect upon certification by the commissioner of the department of health and human services to the director of the office of legislative services and secretary of state that the federal Office of Child Care has approved modification of the child care scholarship program as provided in sections 3 and 4 of this act.

II. The department shall not be required to implement the provisions of this act until such date that the program is sufficiently funded to meet the requirements of sections 1 through 4 of this act. Beginning July 1, 2026, the department shall submit bi-monthly written reports to the house children and family law committee and the senate children and family law committee on the status of available funding to implement the requirements of this act until such time that the program is fully implemented.

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 Speaker referred to the committee on Finance.

**SB 642-FN**, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Susan DeRoy for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is at the request of the Department of Health and Human services. The institutional review board (IRB) repealed by this bill was previously required to fulfill federal requirements for multiple IRB's for research conducted in department-funded programs that serve people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse or dependence disorders. In current law, this IRB is not activated when a single IRB can meet federal requirements which leaves a seven or more person board with nothing to do. Vote 12-1.

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

Committee report was adopted.

**SB 596-FN**, prohibiting smoking in Hampton Beach State Park. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. Primarily due to concerns over its practical application and financial consequences, a bipartisan majority of the committee opposes this bill, arguing that passing a state law explicitly forbidding use in the Hampton State Park is unenforceable, encroaches on parking areas, and the campground. Furthermore, the majority cited the projected \$50,000 annual loss to the State Park Fund as a significant risk to the loss of visitors to the community. It was also stated that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources already has the regulatory authority to address smoking through internal rulemaking, making a new state statute unnecessary. Ultimately, the bill trying to ban people from smoking in Hampton State Parks lacks enforcement, putting lifeguards in precarious situations, would impose restrictions in parking and camping areas, not just the sand, and the proposed smoking ban would have a negative fiscal impact. Vote 11-4.

Rep. Allison Knab for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. Hampton Beach State Park draws thousands of visitors each day over the summer months, many of whom are families. Sitting just three feet from a smoker outdoors exposes you to the same level of secondhand smoke as sitting indoors with one. This creates real health consequences for children at the beach, and the minority believes families should have one state beach where they know they will not be impacted by second-hand smoke. Additionally, Hampton Beach is carry in carry out, but cigarette butts are a major source of litter on the beach. As the bill does not create any new fines, it is more focused on educating visitors about not smoking on the beach, rather than penalizing them.

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

Majority committee report was adopted.

**BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**SB 620-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, as amended, increases the administrative license suspension (ALS) for a first-time refusal of a chemical test from the current 180 days to 9 months. It further addresses the disparity between administrative penalties and criminal sentences to ensure the state's "implied consent" contract remains enforceable. The committee amendment represents a necessary incremental improvement toward correcting a systemic failure. Currently, New Hampshire's 180-day refusal penalty is among the lowest in the nation, contributing to a 75% test refusal rate in 2026. This high refusal rate is not a matter of civil liberties, but of rational economic choice: under current law, a driver is statistically incentivized to refuse a test

to withhold evidence, as the penalty for refusal is often lighter or shorter than the penalty for a conviction based on evidence. The committee recommends the 9-month suspension as a vital first step to signal that the state will no longer tolerate the strategic obstruction of the legal process. By moving to 9 months, we align the refusal penalty with the standard mandatory minimum for a DWI conviction, removing the “discount” currently given to those who breach their licensing contract. While 9 months improves the status quo, the committee recognizes that a 12-month suspension, as originally passed by the Senate, is the true threshold for a functional system. To a libertarian or constitutionalist perspective, a contract is only as strong as the consequence for its breach. For the “implied consent” contract to be meaningful, the penalty for breaching it (refusal) must be stricter than the penalty for honoring it and being found guilty. If the suspension for refusal, 9 months, is identical to the suspension for conviction, the “rational actor” will still refuse every time, as there is no downside to withholding evidence and a significant upside, potential acquittal. The committee supports this 9-month compromise to move the ball forward and immediately address our state’s outlier status in refusal rates. However, the majority of committee members maintain that a 12-month standard remains the most logically consistent duration to ensure that refusal is never a “winning” legal strategy. This bill is an essential step in restoring the integrity of our roads and the accountability of the licensing agreement. Vote 12-0.

#### **Majority Amendment (1229h)**

Amend RSA 265-A:14, I(a)(1)-(2) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(1) The director shall suspend his or her license to drive or nonresident driving privilege for a period of ~~[180 days]~~ **9 months**; or

(2) If the person is a resident without a license or permit to drive a motor vehicle in this state, the director shall deny to the person the privilege to drive and the issuance of a license for a period of ~~[180 days]~~ **9 months** after the date of the alleged violation.

Amend RSA 265-A:14, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Except as provided in paragraph VI, the ~~[180-day]~~ **9-month** or ~~[2-year]~~ **3-year** suspension period or denial of issuance period imposed pursuant to this section shall not run concurrently with any other penalty imposed under the provision of this title. Any such suspension or denial of a license or privilege to drive shall be imposed in addition to any other penalty provided by law, subject to review as provided in RSA 265-A:31.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Giasson spoke against.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

Rep. Carol McGuire requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

#### **YEAS 259 - NAYS 94**

##### **YEAS - 259**

##### **BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen  
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven  
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike  
Terry, Paul

Nagel, David

##### **CARROLL**

Boudman, Bobbi  
Hamblen, Joseph  
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita  
MacDonald, John

Crawford, Karel  
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David  
Taylor, Brian

##### **CHESHIRE**

Ames, Dick  
Faulkner, Barry  
Karasinski, Sly  
Parshall, Lucius  
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul  
Hunt, John  
Mattson, Rita  
Qualey, James

Harvey, Cathryn  
Jacobs, Samantha  
Nalevanko, Rich  
Rhodes, Jennifer

Murphy, Denis  
Jones, Philip  
Newell, Jodi  
Thackston, Dick

##### **COOS**

Davis, Arnold  
Morency, Pete

Durkin, Sean  
Ouellet, Mike

Korzen, Lori  
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael  
Tremblay, Marc

##### **GRAFTON**

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

Baldwin, Heather  
Fellows, Sallie  
Sullivan, Jared  
Muirhead, Russell  
Stringham, Jerry

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise  
Fracht, David  
Ladd, Rick  
Rockmore, Ellen  
Sykes, George

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

**HILLSBOROUGH**

Murray, Aissandra  
Boehm, Ralph  
Cornell, Patricia  
Dargie, Paul  
Fedolff, Jim  
Gorski, Ted  
Grund, Stephanie  
Kenny, Catherine  
Lascelles, Richard  
Murray, Megan  
McGhee, Kat  
Murphy, Nancy  
Plamondon, Marc  
Newman, Ray  
Rombeau, Catherine  
Salvi, Santosh  
Sheehan, Vanessa  
Telerski, Laura  
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill  
Budathoki, Suraj  
Creighton, James  
Dupont, Pierre  
Foss, Lily  
Gould, Linda  
Harriott-Gathright, Linda  
Kerwin, Erin  
LeClerc, Daniel  
MacKenzie, Mark  
Miles, Julie  
Ohm, Bill  
Preece, David  
Raymond, Heather  
Rung, Rosemarie  
Schneller, John  
Spier, Carry  
Tellez, Trinidad  
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan  
Chourasia, Manoj  
Daniels, Gary  
Elberger, Susan  
Gagne, Larry  
Gregg, Alicia  
Herbert, Christopher  
Foxy, Loren  
Lloyd, Christal  
Manohar, Sanjeev  
Mooney, Maureen  
Paquette, Kathleen  
Presa, Adam  
Reinfurt, Sherri  
Ryan, Linda  
Scully, Kevin  
Staub, Kathy  
Vail, Suzanne

Berry, Ross  
Colcombe, Riché  
Darby, Will  
Davis, Fred  
Georges, Mary  
Grill, Jessica  
Jack, Martin  
Labrie, Brian  
Long, Patrick  
Mazur, Lisa  
Morton, Jonathan  
Petrigno, Peter  
Proulx, Mark  
Rice, Kimberly  
Newman, Sue  
Seibert, Christine  
Suiter, John  
Thomas, Wendy

**MERRIMACK**

Andrus, Louise  
Caplan, Tony  
Ebel, Karen  
Lane, Connie  
Moffett, Michael  
Richards, Beth  
Soucy, Timothy

Aures, Cyril  
Colby, Eleana  
Gallager, Eric  
Luneau, David  
Newsom, James  
Boyd, Stephen  
Wallner, Mary Jane

Aylward, Deborah  
Devoid, Ricky  
Gibbs, Merryl  
Hall, Muriel  
Payeur, Stephanie  
Schamberg, Thomas  
Woods, Gary

Cambrils, Jose  
Kelly, Eileen  
Hicks, Matthew  
Mehegan, Peter  
Pitaro, Matthew  
Snodgrass, Jim

**ROCKINGHAM**

Balboni, Peggy  
Bridle, Nicholas  
DeSimone, Debra  
Ford, Mary  
Guzofski, James  
Khan, Aboul  
Litchfield, Melissa  
Pearson, Mark  
Manos, Zoe  
McMahon, Charles  
Muns, Chris  
Packard, Sherman  
Potucek, John  
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt  
Spillane, James  
Dolan, Tom  
Vandecasteele, Susan  
Weinstein, Toni

Ball, Lorie  
Cahill, Michael  
Drago, Mike  
Gilman, Julie  
Harb, Robert  
Kuttab, Katelyn  
Lundgren, David  
Maggiore, Jim  
Markell, Jay  
Melvin, Charles  
Nadeau, Brian  
Perez, Kristine  
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine  
Scherr, Buzz  
Summers, James  
Tripp, Richard  
Vose, Michael  
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy  
Mannion, Dennis  
Edgar, Michael  
Grote, Jaci  
Janigian, John  
Miner, Laurence  
Lynn, Bob  
Malloy, Dennis  
McDonnell, Valerie  
Meuse, David  
Osborne, Jason  
Popovici-Muller, Daniel  
Roy, Terry  
Simpson, Alexis  
Sweeney, Joe  
Turer, Eric  
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD  
Thomas, Douglas  
Foote, Charles  
Guthrie, Joseph  
Murray, Kate  
Walsh, Lilli  
Paige, Mark  
Mandelbaum, Jennifer  
McGrath, Linda  
Milz, David  
Brown, Pam  
Porcelli, Susan  
Pearson, Stephen  
Sorensen, Carrie  
Sytek, John  
Vallone, Mark  
Ward, Gerald

**STRAFFORD**

Bay, Luz  
Smith, Geoffrey  
Larochelle, John  
Schmidt, Peter  
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter  
Gilmore, Gary  
Levesque, Cassandra  
Selig, Loren  
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne  
Howland, Allan  
Smith, Marjorie  
Southworth, Thomas  
Wall, Janet

England, Myles  
LaMontagne, Jessica  
Potenza, Kelley  
Stone, John

**SULLIVAN**

Sullivan, Brian  
Hemingway, Wayne  
Smith, Steven

Cloutier, John  
Aron, Michael

Damon, Hope  
Palmer, William

Drye, Margaret  
Rollins, Skip

**NAYS - 94****BELKNAP**

Comtois, Barbara  
St. Clair, Charlie

Dumais, Russell  
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

**CARROLL**

Avellani, Lino  
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

**CHESHIRE**

Fox, Dru

Gruber, James

Germana, Nicholas

O'Rourke, Terri

**COOS**

King, Seth

**GRAFTON**Beaulier, Calvin  
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex

Louis, Darrell

McFarlane, Donald

**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe  
Cole, Brian  
Drew, Matt  
Giasson, Henry  
Kesselring, Steven  
Noble, Kristin  
Prout, Andrew  
Mannion, TomAmmon, Keith  
Corcoran, Travis  
Dumont, Dillon  
Hartnett, Tim  
Howard, Molly  
Notter, Jeanine  
Sirois, Shane  
Ulery, JordanBarbour, Liz  
Kelley, Diane  
Flanagan, Jack  
Hegner, Karen  
Murphy, Mary  
Pauer, Diane  
Slottje, Jeremy  
Veilleux, DanielChretien, Suzanne  
DiSilvestro, Linda  
Griffin, Gerald  
Juris, Louis  
McLean, Mark  
Peeples, Raymond  
Swanson, Dale  
Wheeler, Jonah**MERRIMACK**McGuire, Carol  
Roesener, James  
Walsh, ThomasMcGuire, Dan  
Schultz, Kris  
Thibault, JamesHill, Gregory  
Seaworth, Brian  
Wood, ClaytonPlante, Raymond  
See, Alvin**ROCKINGHAM**de Vries, Erica  
Edwards, Jess  
Soti, JuliusDeVito, Sayra  
Layon, Erica  
Tudor, PaulDonnelly, Tanya  
Love, David  
Verville, KevinDunn, Ron  
Read, Ellen  
Wilson, Vicki**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn  
DeLemus, Susan  
Harrington, Michael  
Miller, SethBurnham, Claudine  
DeRoy, Susan  
Horrigan, Timothy  
Hall, RobleyButler, Billie  
Farrington, Samuel  
Johnson, Erik  
Turcotte, LenDeDe-Poulin, Denise  
Granger, Michael  
Kaczynski, Thomas**SULLIVAN**

Grant, George

Aron, Judy

Spillsbury, Walter

and the committee report was adopted.

**REFERRAL DECLINED**

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **SB 608-FN**, relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and childcare support for kinship caregivers.

**BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D**

**SB 649-FN**, increasing fines for using a hand-held mobile electronic device while driving a motor vehicle. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill increases the financial penalties and establishes license suspension protocols for the use of hand-held mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. The committee found that existing penalties have become insufficient to change driver behavior, as distracted driving remains a primary cause of preventable accidents in New Hampshire. In 2024, there was a staggering 233% increase in young driver fatalities. The Office of Highway Safety identifies distracted driving as one of the "top three" factors in these preventable adolescent deaths. Traffic deaths in New Hampshire increased by 42% between 2014 and 2024. State safety officials attribute this rise largely to the combination of increased speed and distracted driving. This bill focuses on accountability for repeat offenders. By implementing a tiered system that culminates in a license suspension, the state sends a clear message: the privilege of using public ways is contingent upon the safe operation of the vehicle and respect for the physical safety of other motorists. Vote 11-1.

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

**MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE**

Rep. Scherr moved that **SB 649-FN**, increasing fines for using a hand-held mobile electronic device while driving a motor vehicle, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 168 members having voted in the affirmative, and 186 in the negative, the motion failed.

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

Rep. Giasson spoke against.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 232 members having voted in the affirmative, and 123 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

### RESOLUTION

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

Motion was adopted.

### LATE SESSION

#### Third Reading and Final Passage

**SB 412**, relative to the conditional release of delinquent minors and children in need of services.

**SB 413**, relative to the detention of a minor attaining the age of 18 during the pendency of a delinquency action.

**SB 411**, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories.

**SB 401-FN**, relative to removing an obsolete annual reporting requirement by municipal overseers of public welfare to the department of health and human services and repealing the department of health and human services reporting requirement on 10-year demographic cost projections.

**SB 402-FN**, eliminating certain non-compete agreements for physician associates.

**SB 426**, repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee.

**SB 427-FN**, relative to the joint committee on employee classification.

**SB 428**, relative to the maximum amount of terms an individual can serve on the electricians' board.

**SB 451**, amending the title of the position of senior deputy secretary of state.

**SB 469**, allowing the director of the division of motor vehicles to adopt administrative rules regarding the use of electronic signatures and relative to signature requirements where ownership of a vehicle is transferred to an insurer after payment of damages.

**SB 489**, altering the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals.

**SB 526**, establishing a New Hampshire-Greece trade council.

**SB 527**, relative to written notice provided by state agencies to municipalities regarding pending applications.

**SB 568**, relative to the department of safety's procedures for the processing of employee candidate background checks.

**SB 641-FN**, relative to examination requirements for licensure as a chiropractor.

**SB 497**, removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire, changing the name of a capital project, and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

**SB 443**, relative to wastewater engineering.

**SB 503**, relative to the use of spruce-pine-fir lumber.

**SB 522**, re-establishing the commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire.

**SB 598**, establishing the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund task force.

**SB 652-FN**, changing the maximum award of tax credits for overpayment of due taxes.

**SB 629**, renaming the new roundabout on Route 302 at the East Conway Road intersection to "Oliveira Circle."

**SB 642-FN**, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board.

**SB 620-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

**SB 608-FN**, relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers.

**SB 649-FN**, increasing fines for using a hand-held mobile electronic device while driving a motor vehicle.

**(Speaker Packard in the Chair)**

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. McGhee requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Rep. Wendy Thomas and addressed the House.

Objection was made.

The question being shall the member continue.

Rep. Selig requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

**YEAS 155 - NAYS 181**

**YEAS - 155  
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David St. Clair, Charlie

**CARROLL**

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

**CHESHIRE**

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

**GRAFTON**

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

**HILLSBOROUGH**

Murray, Alissandra Boyd, Bill Bergeron, Dan Chourasia, Manoj  
Chretien, Suzanne Cornell, Patricia Darby, Will Dargie, Paul  
Elberger, Susan Davis, Fred Foss, Lily Georges, Mary  
Gregg, Alicia Grill, Jessica Grund, Stephanie Harriott-Gathright, Linda  
Hartnett, Tim Hegner, Karen Herbert, Christopher Jack, Martin  
Juris, Louis Kerwin, Erin Foxx, Loren LeClerc, Daniel  
Lloyd, Christal Long, Patrick Howard, Molly Murray, Megan  
MacKenzie, Mark Manohar, Sanjeev McGhee, Kat Miles, Julie  
Murphy, Nancy Petrigno, Peter Plamondon, Marc Preece, David  
Newman, Ray Raymond, Heather Rung, Rosemarie  
Ryan, Linda Newman, Sue Salvi, Santosh Seibert, Christine  
Spier, Carry Staub, Kathy Swanson, Dale Telerski, Laura  
Tellez, Trinidad Vail, Suzanne Veilleux, Daniel Thomas, Wendy  
Wheeler, Jonah Wilhelm, Matthew

**MERRIMACK**

Caplan, Tony Colby, Eleana Kelly, Eileen Gallager, Eric  
Gibbs, Merry Hicks, Matthew Lane, Connie Luneau, David  
Hall, Muriel Newsom, James Payeur, Stephanie Richards, Beth  
Schamberg, Thomas Schultz, Kris Snodgrass, Jim Soucy, Timothy  
Wallner, Mary Jane Woods, Gary

**ROCKINGHAM**

Balboni, Peggy Cahill, Michael de Vries, Erica Edgar, Michael  
Gilman, Julie Grote, Jaci Murray, Kate Paige, Mark  
Maggiore, Jim Malloy, Dennis Mandelbaum, Jennifer Manos, Zoe  
McDonnell, Valerie Meuse, David Muns, Chris Read, Ellen  
Scherr, Buzz Simpson, Alexis Sorensen, Carrie Turer, Eric  
Ward, Gerald Weinstein, Toni

**STRAFFORD**

Bay, Luz Burton, Wayne Butler, Billie England, Myles  
Gilmore, Gary Horrigan, Timothy Howland, Allan Johnson, Erik  
LaMontagne, Jessica Larochelle, John Levesque, Cassandra Smith, Marjorie  
Miller, Seth Schmidt, Peter Selig, Loren Southworth, Thomas  
Stone, John Pearson, Wayne Wall, Janet

**SULLIVAN**

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

**NAYS - 181  
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen Bogert, Steven Comtois, Barbara Dumais, Russell  
Freeman, Lisa Harvey-Bolia, Juliet Ploszaj, Tom Minor, Sheri  
Terry, Paul Toner, Travis

**CARROLL**

Avellani, Lino Belcher, Mike Hamblen, Joseph Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

Hunt, John  
Qualey, James

Davis, Arnold  
Morency, Pete  
Tremblay, Marc

Barton, Joseph  
Franz, Linda  
Sellers, John

Alexander, Joe  
Colcombe, Riché  
Kelley, Diane  
Erf, Keith  
Giasson, Henry  
Kesselring, Steven  
Murphy, Mary  
Morton, Jonathan  
Paquette, Kathleen  
Proulx, Mark  
Scully, Kevin  
Suiter, John

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

Ball, Lorie  
Thomas, Douglas  
Drago, Mike  
Ford, Mary  
Janigian, John  
Walsh, Lilli  
Lynn, Bob  
McMahon, Charles  
Osborne, Jason  
Porcelli, Susan  
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt  
Sweeney, Joe  
Vandecasteele, Susan  
Weyler, Kenneth

Bailey, Glenn  
DeRoy, Susan  
Kaczynski, Thomas

Drye, Margaret  
Aron, Michael

and the motion failed.

Karasinski, Sly  
Rhodes, Jennifer

Durkin, Sean  
Ouellet, Mike

Beaulier, Calvin  
Ladd, Rick

Ammon, Keith  
Cole, Brian  
Daniels, Gary  
Flanagan, Jack  
Gorski, Ted  
Kofalt, Jim  
Mazur, Lisa  
Noble, Kristin  
Pauer, Diane  
Reinfurt, Sherri  
Sheehan, Vanessa  
Mannion, Tom

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

Bennett, Cindy  
DeSimone, Debra  
Dunn, Ron  
Guthrie, Joseph  
Khan, Aboul  
Layon, Erica  
Pearson, Mark  
Melvin, Charles  
Brown, Pam  
Potucek, John  
Soti, Julius  
Sytek, John  
Verville, Kevin  
Wilson, Vicki

Burnham, Claudine  
Farrington, Samuel  
Potenza, Kelley

Grant, George  
Rollins, Skip

## CHESHIRE

Mattson, Rita  
Thackston, Dick

## COOS

Korzen, Lori  
King, Seth

## GRAFTON

Berezhny, Lex  
Louis, Darrell

## HILLSBOROUGH

Barbour, Liz  
Corcoran, Travis  
Drew, Matt  
Griffin, Gerald  
Gould, Linda  
Labrie, Brian  
McLean, Mark  
Notter, Jeanine  
Peeples, Raymond  
Rice, Kimberly  
Sirois, Shane  
Ulery, Jordan

## MERRIMACK

Aylward, Deborah  
Devoid, Ricky  
Pitaro, Matthew  
Seaworth, Brian  
Wood, Clayton

## ROCKINGHAM

Bernardy, JD  
DeVito, Sayra  
Edwards, Jess  
Guzofski, James  
Kuttab, Katelyn  
Litchfield, Melissa  
Markell, Jay  
Milz, David  
Perez, Kristine  
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine  
Spillane, James  
Tripp, Richard  
Vose, Michael

## STRAFFORD

DeDe-Poulin, Denise  
Granger, Michael  
Hall, Robley

## SULLIVAN

Hemingway, Wayne  
Smith, Steven

Nalevanko, Rich

Murphy, Michael  
Tierney, James

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise  
McFarlane, Donald

Berry, Ross  
Creighton, James  
Dumont, Dillon  
Gagne, Larry  
Kenny, Catherine  
Lascelles, Richard  
Mooney, Maureen  
Ohm, Bill  
Presa, Adam  
Schneller, John  
Slottje, Jeremy  
Wherry, Robert

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

Mannion, Dennis  
Donnelly, Tanya  
Foote, Charles  
Harb, Robert  
Miner, Laurence  
Love, David  
McGrath, Linda  
Nadeau, Brian  
Popovici-Muller, Daniel  
Roy, Terry  
Summers, James  
Tudor, Paul  
MacDonald, Wayne

DeLemus, Susan  
Harrington, Michael  
Walker, David

Aron, Judy  
Spilsbury, Walter

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Rung requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding the late Governor John Gilbert Winant and addressed the House.

## MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Sweeney moved that the remarks made by Rep. Rung during Unanimous Consent be printed in the

Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

### REMARKS

**Representative Rung:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My friend and former colleague from Virginia, Peter Molinaro, was recently brushing up on his World War II history and alerted me to an important New Hampshire figure from this era, John Gilbert Winant, who also served three terms as New Hampshire governor. Peter was impressed by Winant and wanted to make sure we honored him, and we have. His statue graces the front of the State Library just opposite the Park Street entrance to the State House, and his portrait graces the hallway outside the North Elevator. Peter's message got me to do my own research on Governor Winant, and what I learned was that beyond a statue or a portrait, the most important legacy he leaves us are his life lessons, which are more important today and in this House than ever. I want to highlight three of them for you. First, attend to the critical financial needs of our state and its people. Despite Governor Winant's privileged life, he worked to lessen the debilitating outcomes of poverty. During his service as governor, two terms of which were during the Great Depression, Winant oversaw an Emergency Credit Act to finance deficits faced by local administrations, saving many, many towns from bankruptcy. He pushed through a minimum wage for women and children and fought for better accounting of state agency funds. On a personal level, he gave money to anyone he ran across who was poor until he ran out of money himself. He anonymously paid for free hot breakfasts for those in jail for vagrancy and loitering, which are common offenses among those who are desperately poor. The second lesson, place integrity above partisanship. In 1936, Alf Landon, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, was calling for the repeal of the newly created Social Security Program, of which Winant, a prominent Republican, was the first administrator of. It was an awkward position for Winant as the Social Security Program was nonpartisan, but Winant believed strongly that it needed to continue. Winant resigned just one year into his position, so he would be free to speak out publicly in support of the program without compromising the integrity and nonpartisanship of his organization, even though it meant he was going against his party and ending any hope of seeking higher office. How many of us consistently place our integrity ahead of the partisan agendas? Third lesson, and what is considered Winant's greatest legacy, is build bridges that not only allow you to cross divides but create connections for others. The stronger those bridges are, the longer they will endure. As the U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, Winant played a key role in forging World War II's Atlantic Alliance. He fostered a close friendship with Winston Churchill and that extended to the people of England. During German bombing raids in 1940, Winant ignored his own safety to walk the streets of London to comfort the injured. Of any other American diplomat, John Winant forged a lasting alliance with the British that serves as a strong foundation for our continued alliance with them. We are living in challenging times, my colleagues, but we can take lessons from those like John Gilbert Winant, care for the less fortunate, value integrity over party, and build bridges that withstand the storms of time. Thank you for listening. Thank you.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Vose requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Bataan and Corregidor and addressed the House.

### MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

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

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

### REMARKS

**Representative Vose:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues. Some of you have heard me speak before about the importance of April 9th. It's important in my family history, as I'll explain in a few minutes, but even more important in our country's history because on April 9th of 1942, at about 5:30 in the morning, General Edward P. King surrendered to Imperial Japanese forces, American and Philippine forces on the Bataan Peninsula of the island of Luzon in the Philippines. That event was the culmination of a four-month struggle that began simultaneously on December 7th and because of the international dateline, it was actually December 8th in the Philippines; a four-month struggle where the very superior Imperial Japanese forces overtook American and Philippine forces in the Philippines. They had a plan in place on how to protect themselves if the battle went against them and that plan was to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula, which they did. They tried to defend that peninsula, but the Japanese forces were just too strong. They couldn't hold them off. And so, in order to prevent further death and destruction, General King surrendered on April 9th, 1942. That day was my father's 21st birthday. He was languishing in a field hospital in the jungles of Bataan, suffering from malaria. He was in a coma. That malarial coma actually saved his life because he was spared from marching in the Bataan death march. Instead, Japanese soldiers threw him and other hospital victims into railroad cars and took them to the Cabanatuan prison camp, which they quickly established not far from Manila, a

little north of Manila. All this came back to mind to me this winter because the cold snowy winter kept us inside and my wife and I decided to do some decluttering around our house, and I opened up a box that was up in my storage room, which I had brought from my parents' house after I sold it, after their death. Inside that box was a book I'd never seen before. I thought I knew all the things that my folks had bequeathed to the family, but this book I'd never seen before. It was a book called *General Wainwright's Story*, and it was written by General Jonathan Wainwright, who was actually the commander of General Edward King due to the fact that his commander, General Douglas MacArthur, had been forced to withdraw from Corregidor to the island of Australia, the continent of Australia, by President Roosevelt. So General Wainwright was actually in charge of the war in the Philippines for about 27 days. He was in charge of those forces on Corregidor. When I found this book, I immediately spent the next 8 hours reading it ravenously because I've always wondered exactly what happened during that time. My father would never talk about it. As any of you who've had any interactions with former prisoners of war, you will know that they won't talk about it except to other prisoners of war. So, my father's story is kind of a mystery to me. I mean, there are books that have been written about what happened in the aftermath of this surrender, and General Wainwright's book was one of them. And it turns out that General Wainwright's journey was very similar to the journey that my father endured. They both spent the entirety of the rest of World War II as Japanese prisoners of war. My father spent two years in a prison camp in the Philippines and then was sent by a troop ship to the island of Japan where he was a slave in a mine until the end of the war. He was liberated. He weighed 87 lbs. They put him on a hospital ship to San Francisco, and he spent the next six months of his life recovering from 3 1/2 years of being a prisoner of war. He died in 2011 at the age of 90 and was one of the strongest people I've ever known. General Wainwright's journey was similar. He was sent to prison camp on the island of Formosa, what we call today Taiwan, and transferred from one prison camp to another. He and other general officers from the US Army were treated with the same kind of cruelty and deprivation as soldiers like my father. He was eventually moved to mainland China and then eventually to the Manchurian border, which actually was good for General Wainwright because the food at the Manchurian prison camp was better than the food at the prison camps in China and on Formosa. Their stories were very similar except for the ending. My father went to the hospital. General Wainwright once he was liberated, was immediately called back into service by General MacArthur, and his first task was to join the General, General MacArthur, on the decks of the USS Missouri to sign the surrender documents as the Emperor of Japan surrendered to the United States to conclude World War II. General Wainwright said later in a speech that he made in Washington, DC, this is why I wanted to speak about this, this morning, he said these words and I want to read them to you. He said, "that moment of surrender in Tokyo Bay had been bought with the blood of more than a million Americans who died or were wounded in the struggle. Billions of dollars and countless hours of labor by Americans at home had been required to bring that little party to the USS Missouri's deck." And this is the part I want to emphasize. He went on to say, "all because for a while, we were careless of the nation's safety. We let down our guard." Let that sink in. We let down our guard. "It's over now," he went on. "We are at peace. But in the name of all my comrades who suffered with me, I pray that the nation will never again neglect the strength of its defenses." Now, we let our guard down just before September 11th of 2001, and we've been dealing with the aftermath of that ever since, for the past 25 years. But the admonition remains strong. We have to keep our guard up. General Wainwright concluded with these words. And I'll conclude myself "still keep before you the words which I know fired you to great effort after our sorrowful defeat. Remember, Bataan. Remember, Corregidor." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Horrigan requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding The Middle East War and addressed the House.

An objection was made.

The question being, shall the member continue.

Rep. Telerski requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

#### YEAS 115 - NAYS 149

##### YEAS - 115

##### BELKNAP

Comtois, Barbara

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

##### CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi

Paige, David

Peternel, Katy

Taylor, Brian

##### CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick  
Jones, Philip

Murphy, Denis  
Germana, Nicholas

Faulkner, Barry  
Newell, Jodi

Gruber, James  
O'Rourke, Terri

Parshall, Lucius

Weber, Lucy

**COOS**

Tierney, James

**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan  
Sullivan, Jared  
Sykes, GeorgeCormen, Thomas  
Lucas, JanetFracht, David  
Rockmore, EllenHakken-Phillips, Mary  
Stringham, Jerry**HILLSBOROUGH**Boyd, Bill  
Darby, Will  
Foss, Lily  
Jack, Martin  
Howard, Molly  
Murphy, Nancy  
Presa, Adam  
Rung, Rosemarie  
Swanson, Dale  
Wheeler, JonahBergeron, Dan  
Dargie, Paul  
Gregg, Alicia  
Kerwin, Erin  
MacKenzie, Mark  
Noble, Kristin  
Newman, Ray  
Ryan, Linda  
Tellerski, Laura  
Wilhelm, MatthewChretien, Suzanne  
Elberger, Susan  
Harriott-Gathright, Linda  
Lloyd, Christal  
Manohar, Sanjeev  
Petrigno, Peter  
Raymond, Heather  
Newman, Sue  
Tellez, TrinidadCornell, Patricia  
Davis, Fred  
Hartnett, Tim  
Long, Patrick  
Miles, Julie  
Preece, David  
Rombeau, Catherine  
Staub, Kathy  
Veilleux, Daniel**MERRIMACK**Caplan, Tony  
Gallager, Eric  
Moffett, Michael  
Wallner, Mary JaneColby, Eleana  
Gibbs, Merryl  
Schamberg, Thomas  
Woods, GaryKelly, Eileen  
Lane, Connie  
Snodgrass, JimEbel, Karen  
Hall, Muriel  
Soucy, Timothy**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy  
Paige, Mark  
McDonnell, Valerie  
Read, Ellen  
Turer, EricEdgar, Michael  
Malloy, Dennis  
Meuse, David  
Scherr, Buzz  
Ward, GeraldGrote, Jaci  
Mandelbaum, Jennifer  
Muns, Chris  
Simpson, Alexis  
Weinstein, ToniMurray, Kate  
Manos, Zoe  
Osborne, Jason  
Sweeney, Joe**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz  
LaMontagne, Jessica  
Potenza, KelleyBurton, Wayne  
Larochelle, John  
Schmidt, PeterGilmore, Gary  
Smith, Marjorie  
Stone, JohnHorrigan, Timothy  
Miller, Seth  
Wall, Janet**SULLIVAN**Sullivan, Brian  
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 149****BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen  
Ploszaj, TomBogert, Steven  
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

**CARROLL**

Avellani, Lino

Belcher, Mike

Hamblen, Joseph

**CHESHIRE**Karasinski, Sly  
Rhodes, JenniferMattson, Rita  
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

Qualey, James

**COOS**Davis, Arnold  
Morency, PeteDurkin, Sean  
Ouellet, MikeKorzen, Lori  
King, SethMurphy, Michael  
Tremblay, Marc**GRAFTON**Barton, Joseph  
Franz, LindaBeaulier, Calvin  
Ladd, RickBerezhny, Lex  
Louis, DarrellBjelobrk, Marie Louise  
Sellers, John**HILLSBOROUGH**Alexander, Joe  
Colcombe, Riché  
Daniels, Gary  
Erf, Keith  
Gorski, TedAmmon, Keith  
Corcoran, Travis  
Drew, Matt  
Griffin, Gerald  
Gould, LindaBarbour, Liz  
Creighton, James  
Dumont, Dillon  
Gagne, Larry  
Kenny, CatherineBerry, Ross  
Kelley, Diane  
Dupont, Pierre  
Giasson, Henry  
Kesselring, Steven

Kofalt, Jim  
Mazur, Lisa  
Ohm, Bill  
Reinfurt, Sherri  
Sirois, Shane  
Ulery, Jordan

Labrie, Brian  
McLean, Mark  
Paquette, Kathleen  
Rice, Kimberly  
Slottje, Jeremy  
Wherry, Robert

Lascelles, Richard  
Mooney, Maureen  
Pauer, Diane  
Schneller, John  
Suiter, John

Murphy, Mary  
Notter, Jeanine  
Peebles, Raymond  
Sheehan, Vanessa  
Mannion, Tom

### MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise  
Hill, Gregory  
Polozov, Yuri  
Walsh, Thomas

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

McGuire, Dan  
Pitaro, Matthew  
Seaworth, Brian  
Wood, Clayton

Devoid, Ricky  
Plante, Raymond  
See, Alvin

### ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie  
Thomas, Douglas  
Drago, Mike  
Guzowski, James  
Walsh, Lilli  
Lynn, Bob  
Melvin, Charles  
Popovici-Muller, Daniel  
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt  
Tripp, Richard  
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy  
DeSimone, Debra  
Edwards, Jess  
Harb, Robert  
Layon, Erica  
Markell, Jay  
Milz, David  
Porcelli, Susan  
Soti, Julius  
Tudor, Paul  
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD  
DeVito, Sayra  
Ford, Mary  
Janigian, John  
Litchfield, Melissa  
McGrath, Linda  
Nadeau, Brian  
Potucek, John  
Spillane, James  
Vandecasteele, Susan  
Weyler, Kenneth

Mannion, Dennis  
Donnelly, Tanya  
Guthrie, Joseph  
Khan, Aboul  
Love, David  
McMahon, Charles  
Brown, Pam  
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine  
Summers, James  
Verville, Kevin  
Wilson, Vicki

### STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn  
DeRoy, Susan  
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine  
Farrington, Samuel  
Walker, David

DeDe-Poulin, Denise  
Granger, Michael

DeLemus, Susan  
Harrington, Michael

### SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret  
Rollins, Skip

Grant, George  
Smith, Steven

Hemingway, Wayne  
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Michael

and the motion failed.

### RECESS MOTION

Rep. Osborne moved that the House stand in recess for the purposes of the introduction of bills, enrolled bill amendments, enrolled bill reports and receiving messages.  
Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 12:25 p.m.

### RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

### SENATE MESSAGES

### CONCURRENCE

**HB 365-FN**, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters.

**HB 1113**, enabling towns to establish a 3-year term for town moderators.

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

**HB 1151**, relative to conservation commission appropriations.

**HB 1157-FN**, relative to licensure as a pet vendor.

**HB 1161**, removing the requirement for municipalities to have an advisory board for development districts.

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

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

**HB 1247**, requiring the secretary of state to create, post on the secretary of state's website, and otherwise distribute notice of proposed constitutional amendments.

**HB 1274-FN-LOCAL**, relative to dog licenses.

**HB 1366-FN**, relative to military orders of protection.

**HB 1435-FN**, relative to changes to the Winnepesaukee river basin control replacement fund.

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

**HB 1515-FN**, repealing the requirement that the department of health and human services' biennial budget request include funding for certain child care workforce programs.

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

**HB 1730-FN**, enhancing the level of offense for certain sexual offenses.

**HB 1771-FN**, removing prospective repeal of child care staffing ratios and the associated waiver system and requiring the department of health and human services to provide certain notice regarding availability of the waiver.

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

**HB 1837-FN**, relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.

#### **NONCONCURRENCE**

**HB 206-FN**, relative to government agent entries into secured premises.

**HB 1090-FN**, relative to meals and rooms taxes.

**HB 1135**, prohibiting the acquisition of prescriptive rights in private roads through adverse use.

**HB 1137**, relative to municipal budget committee membership.

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

**HB 1370**, repealing the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

**HB 1667-FN**, establishing the first-in-the-nation security task force to coordinate planning for presidential campaign events.

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

#### **REFERRED FOR INTERIM STUDY**

**HB 1068**, taxing certain occupants who have established permanent residences under the meals and rooms tax.

**HB 1108-FN**, relative to the offense of criminal threatening.

**HB 1134**, relative to the town meeting form of local governance.

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

**HB 1225**, relative to the definition of adjusted gross income with respect to child support guidelines.

#### **LAID ON THE TABLE**

**HB 54-FN**, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit.

**HB 1808-FN-A**, establishing the position of academic research and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education and making an appropriation therefor.

#### **RECESS**

**(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)**

#### **ENROLLED BILLS REPORT**

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 1019 and 1624.  
Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

#### **RECESS**

**(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)**

#### **ENROLLED BILLS REPORT**

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 723 and Senate Bills numbered 497 and 620.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

#### **SENATE MESSAGE**

#### **CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

**SB 451**, amending the title of the position of senior deputy secretary of state.

**SB 497**, removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire, changing the name of a capital project, and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

**SB 608-FN**, relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers.

**SB 620-FN**, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

## RECESS

**(Speaker Packard in the Chair)**

## ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENT

**HB 1037**, extending the commission to study OHRV use in New Hampshire and adding a member from the department of tourism.

## Amendment 2026-1539EBA

Amend RSA 215-A:44-a, II(g) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:  
the division of state police.

Motion was adopted.

## SENATE MESSAGES

### CONCURRENCE

**HB 1039**, relative to the contents of parenting plans.

**HB 1059**, relative to the use of number plate scanning devices.

**HB 1089**, extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.

**HB 1148**, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

**HB 1186**, relative to the sale and labeling of eggs.

**HB 1267**, prohibiting school district attorneys and non-school personnel from questioning students without their parent or guardian present.

**HB 1309**, relative to town meeting warrants.

**HB 1325**, enabling supervisors of the checklist to correct the checklist on any day of the week.

**HB 1388**, relative to the form of ballot for amendments to the constitution.

**HB 1444-FN**, relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

### NONCONCURRENCE

**HB 590**, relative to cooperative school district school board elections.

**HB 1125**, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections.

**HB 1272**, providing an option for each candidate's party affiliations to be printed on the town or school district ballot.

**HB 1635**, modifying the requirements of suicide prevention education policies in schools.

**HB 1706-FN**, repealing the refugee resettlement program in the department of health and human services and prohibiting expenditure of state funds on refugee resettlement.

**HB 1833-FN**, creating a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments.

## REFERRED FOR INTERIM STUDY

**HB 257-FN**, relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

**HB 686-FN**, prohibiting certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities.

**HB 767-FN**, expanding requirements for reports to law enforcement by the department of health and human services.

**HB 1066-FN**, relative to warrant articles authorizing lease agreements.

**HB 1076**, relative to authorizing or rescinding the use of electronic ballot counting devices.

**HB 1117-FN**, relative to the right of licensed health care providers to freely communicate with patients, colleagues, and the public about medical information, emerging therapies, and treatment options.

**HB 1229**, relative to waivers of alimony.

**HB 1240-FN**, relative to the apparent use of a deadly weapon during the offense of criminal threatening.

**HB 1431-FN**, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

**HB 1505-FN**, requiring municipalities, towns, and cities to submit documentation to the department of revenue administration proving they are in compliance with local budget and tax caps.

**HB 1516-FN**, allowing municipalities to vote to require that pie charts, bar charts, and QR codes be placed on property tax bills depicting where and how tax dollars are being allocated.

**HB 1581-FN**, allowing municipalities to adopt a requirement that property owners be given notice when the assessed value of their property changes by certain amounts.

**HB 1788-FN**, holding state contracts with DEI provisions to be void as a matter of law and establishing a right of action for citizens where public entities or state agencies engage with contracts with DEI provisions.

#### **LAID ON THE TABLE**

**HB 1566-FN-A**, directing the department of health and human services to seek clarification from the Administration for Children and Families regarding the use of TANF reserve funds and repealing the requirement that the department of health and human services' biennial budget request include funding for certain child care workforce programs.

#### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:

Rep. Read off the Committee on Housing.

#### **RECESS**