



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

Second Year of the 169th General Court

Calendar and Journal of the 2026 Session

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Friday, April 17, 2026

No. 16

Contains: Amendments; Bills Laid on the Table; Committee Reports; House Bills Amended by the Senate; House Deadlines; Meetings and Notices; Revised Fiscal Notes.

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The House will meet on Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. in Representatives Hall. There will be no session on April 30. Please hold Wednesday, May 13 as a possible session day, and Thursday, May 14 as a likely session day, which is our deadline to act on all remaining Senate Bills.

Any House member with official business at the State House on a non-session day may use the legislative parking garage on Storrs Street. Those needing parking accommodations closer due to mobility or health challenges may contact the Speaker's Office at 603-271-3661.

Please remember that when filing amendments, you should not add a cosponsor without their prior approval. As a reminder, floor amendments are due to the Clerk by 4:30 the day prior to session.

As a reminder, lobbying/advocacy materials are not permitted on the anteroom tables. Food and beverages are not permitted within Representatives Hall, aside from water. Please leave other beverages and snacks in the anteroom, and keep our historic chamber clean.

House members with inquiries about statutory or study commissions/committee appointments may send an email to houseappointments@gc.nh.gov or call the Speaker's Office at 603-271-3661.

When travelling out-of-state, and throughout your service in the House, please remember that your state-issued EZ-Pass devices will not work outside of New Hampshire.

Members are reminded to utilize our Visitor's Center staff if you wish to bring family and friends on a tour of our historic State House.

As always, please make every effort to be civil, kind and professional with your colleagues, staff, and constituents. Our principles of conduct (paragraph IV), appropriately require us to "...treat each other, legislative employees, and the public with dignity and respect." As elected officials we should hold ourselves to high standards even in the most contentious of times.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Thursday April 23rd at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.
Rep. Jason Osborne, Majority Leader

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday April 23rd at 9:00 a.m.** in the State House Cafeteria.
Rep. Alexis Simpson, Democratic Leader

NOTICE

ALL reports, scheduling and notices are due in the House Clerk's Office by **3:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAYS**. Reports and scheduling shall be turned in to House Committee Services for processing **no later than 1:00 p.m.** on Wednesday. Please be sure to complete that work in a timely fashion to meet the Calendar deadline.

CLOSES AT 3:00 p.m. ON:

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Wednesday, May 6, 2026

AVAILABLE ON:

Friday, April 24, 2026
Friday, May 1, 2026
Friday, May 8, 2026

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2026 HOUSE DEADLINES

Second Year Session Deadlines

Thursday, April 23, 2026	Last day to act on Senate Bills going to a second committee
Thursday, May 7, 2026	Last day to report all Senate Bills
Thursday, May 14, 2026	Last day to act on all Senate Bills
Thursday, May 21, 2026	Last day to form committee of conference
Thursday, May 28, 2026	Last day to sign committee of conference reports (4:00 p.m.)
Thursday, June 4, 2026	Last day to act on committee of conference reports
Tuesday, September 1, 2026	First day for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information
Friday, September 11, 2026	Last day prior to the General Election for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information
Friday, October 23, 2026	Last day to file 2026 Interim Study reports
Wednesday, November 4, 2026	First day for all Representatives to file LSRs with complete information
Wednesday, November 18, 2026	Last day to file LSRs with complete information (4:00 p.m.)
	Ten-day signoff begins
Tuesday, January 5, 2027	Last day to sign-off on all LSRs (4:00 p.m.)
Friday, January 15, 2027	Last day to introduce House Bills
	Last day to amend House Rules by majority vote

BILLS LAID ON TABLE

CACR 22, relating to the compensation of the legislature. Providing that the present compensation per elected term for legislators is hereby abolished. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 414-FN, prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 652-FN, abolishing the family division, creating the office of family mediation, and reassigning the jurisdiction of the family division. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 748-FN, establishing a local education freedom account program. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1002-FN, repealing the solar energy systems tax exemption. Pending question: Ought to Pass

HB 1046, enabling a person to carry a firearm on a snowmobile being operated on private property. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1067-FN, relative to the mental health courts. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1063-FN, reducing the amount of meals and rooms taxes operators can retain. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1098-FN, relative to municipalities denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1105-FN, making the term of office for certain Belknap county elected officials 4 years. Pending question: Ought to Pass

HB 1114, relative to the documentation and preservation of public comment reports by standing legislative committees. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1176-FN, relative to the display of license plates on vehicles. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1264, increasing the requirements of the education freedom savings account oversight committee and modifying the purpose of the committee. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1317, relative to patient privacy protections. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1322-FN, reestablishing the judicial conduct commission. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1367, establishing a criminal offense of doxing. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB1387, repealing limiting liability for certain design features of firearms. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1393, relative to the definition of public servant and the offense of official oppression. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1396, relative to vacancies in state offices. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1402, relative to credentials for the position of superintendent of schools. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1403, relative to credentials for the position of school business administrator. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1409-FN, modifying the deposit of revenues collected from video lottery terminals. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1418, setting a minimum affirmative vote for new or expanded spending for SB 2 towns. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1436-FN, relative to the classification and protection of personal digital information and cloud-stored files. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1446, providing that an individual's use of therapeutic cannabis shall not disqualify the individual from the purchase, ownership, or possession of a firearm. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1451, relative to protecting workers from extreme temperature-related injuries and fatalities in the workplace. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1454-FN, relative to the possession of firearms following a court order requiring surrender of firearms and ammunition. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1484, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for incremental increases. Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1500, establishing a commission to study and propose procedures in the event of a state government shutdown. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1572-FN, relative to licensure as a master licensed alcohol and drug counselor. Pending question: committee amendment.

HB 1578, adds definitions and reporting requirements relative to education freedom accounts. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate

HB 1607-FN, relative to the use and storage of road salt. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1612 -FN, relative to the use of price-fixing websites, algorithms, or other software by landlords. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1616-FN, prohibiting state agencies and political subdivisions from advertising or expending funds to advertise vaccines in the state of New Hampshire. Pending question: committee amendment.

HB 1640, relative to consent for school billing purposes. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1641-FN, relative to petitions for certain orders of protection where the subject of the order is either released on bail or on probation. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1653, relative to emergency medical care provided at freestanding hospital emergency facilities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1655-FN, establishing a funding source for maintaining state owned dams. Pending question: No pending question.

HB 1675, establishing a commission to investigate the New Hampshire Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and requiring funding only be provided for the direct services materially benefitting survivors of sexual and domestic assault. Pending question: committee amendment.

HB 1701 -FN, reestablishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership program and making an appropriation therefor. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1720-FN, relative to notice to child day care providers of child care scholarships. Pending question: No pending question.

HB 1721-FN, relative to limiting new system enrollment and adjusting compliance payments under the renewable portfolio standard program. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1741-FN, relative to the enrollment and use of distributed energy resource aggregations by electric utilities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1752-FN, requiring the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody. Pending question: majority committee amendment.

HB 1777-FN, relative to the enhanced 911 system fund. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1786-FN, relative to creating a state assessment on non-homestead luxury second homes to fund state-wide housing development programs and address housing shortages and making appropriations therefor. No pending question.

HB 1798-FN, relative to the coverage of diapers under the state Medicaid plan. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1814-FN, establishing a 10-year strategic housing and infrastructure plan. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1820-FN, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1822-FN, relative to reporting of civil immigration detentions by state, county, and local law enforcement and correctional facilities. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1831-FN, repealing the education trust fund targeted aid cap. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1834-FN, relative to the education freedom account enrollment cap. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HCR 11, declaring the directives of the judicial branch in the Claremont cases that the legislative and executive branches define an "adequate education," adopt "standards of accountability," and "guarantee adequate funding" of a public education are not binding on the legislative and executive branches. Pending question: Refer for Interim Study.

HCR 13, requesting Congress to call a constitutional convention relative to implementing term limits for elected members of both houses of Congress. Pending question: Ought to Pass

HR 38, authorizing and directing the house judiciary committee to investigate whether cause exists for the impeachment of any justice of the New Hampshire supreme court. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

2026 HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

HB 59-FN, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 109-FN, relative to false reports to law enforcement. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 126, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 158, (New Title) requiring the secretary of state to review absentee ballot data biennially, forward certain requests to the election law unit for review, and make a report to the general court. (SJ 3/26/2026)

HB 191-FN, (Second New Title) providing criminal penalties for the transporting of an unemancipated minor in order to obtain a surgical procedure or a termination of the minor's pregnancy without parental permission. (SJ 1/7/2026)

HB 221, (New Title) enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators. (SJ 1/7/2026)

HB 222, (New Title) 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. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 244, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code. (SJ 3/12/2026)

HB 266, (New Title) relative to structural changes to the department of energy and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights and relative to the effect of murder on a decedent's estate. (House Concurr, 2/19/2026)

HB 281, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format. (SJ 3/12/2026)

HB 292, (New Title) establishing a revolving loan fund for school districts. (SJ 1/7/2026)

HB 317, preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person's identity without identification, even if they personally know that person. (SJ 3/12/2026)

HB 340-FN, relative to electioneering by public employees. (SJ 1/7/2026)

HB 348, relative to eligibility for local assistance. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 481, (New Title) relative to the state primary date. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 510-FN, (New Title) establishing a commission to study due process in higher education disciplinary proceedings. (SJ 3/5/2026)

HB 610-FN, (New Title) relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 639-FN, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies. (SJ 3/12/2026)

HB 649-FN, (Second New Title) relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 751-FN, (Second New Title) establishing a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state, and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights. (House Req CofC, 2/19/2026)

HB 1030, relative to licensed practical nurse scope of practice. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1044, relative to the filling of vacancies in the office of a county commissioner. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1159, relative to updating the state building code. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1168, relative to employer documentation requirements. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1190-FN, (New Title) 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. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1205, (New Title) prohibiting state and county owned lands from participating in timber carbon sequestration projects. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1310, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers. (House Concurr, 4/9/2026)

HB 1689, (New Title) relative to the term of office for county officers in Belknap and Merrimack counties. (House Non-Concurr 4/9/2026)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 CONSENT CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 456, establishing the commission for children's futures. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The majority believes that this bill is a thoughtful, low-cost step that brings together the right voices to examine gaps in how we serve and protect New Hampshire's

children. It ensures we are making informed, data-driven decisions rather than acting in silos or without a full understanding of the system. For those reasons, the majority of the committee supported an Ought to Pass recommendation. **Vote 10-2.**

SB 515-FN, relative to judicial determinations related to children placed in a qualified residential treatment program in certain juvenile matters and appointment of counsel in certain circumstances. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The committee supports this bill because it establishes a thoughtful framework to improve program delivery while ensuring taxpayer funds are used responsibly. The bill clarifies how the program operates, sets appropriate guardrails for implementation, and provides necessary oversight to ensure transparency and accountability. By including these safeguards, the bill allows us to move forward with a policy that is both effective and fiscally responsible, while giving the legislature the ability to monitor its success. **Vote 16-0.**

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 408-FN, relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill expands current law, which requires coverage of prosthetic devices for children, to include coverage for adults, including activity-specific prosthetic devices. Testimony in the committee highlighted these devices restore mobility, improve physical and mental health, and can reduce long-term healthcare costs associated with sedentary lifestyles and chronic disease. The amendment adopted by the committee refines the structure of this coverage expansion. It preserves existing protections for children, including access to one activity-specific prosthetic device per plan year, while extending coverage to adults with appropriate utilization parameters — allowing one activity-specific prosthetic device every five years and permitting utilization management to ensure responsible use. The amendment also maintains that medically necessary prosthetic devices are not subject to annual limits. Additionally, the amendment clarifies applicability by extending these requirements to group health insurance policies and explicitly including the State of New Hampshire employee health benefit plan under RSA 21-L, ensuring alignment between private insurance markets and the state plan. The bill, as amended, represents a balanced approach that expands access to essential prosthetic care while incorporating reasonable cost controls and consistent coverage standards. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 548-FN, relative to health carrier provider contract standards. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill provides that, when termination of a contract between a health carrier and provider will affect 1,000 or more covered persons, the Insurance Commissioner will hold a hearing for the purpose of considering how the contract termination will affect access to care in the community. As amended, the Department of Insurance by rulemaking will create a standard form letter that will be mailed by the health insurance companies to the affected covered persons. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 610-FN, requiring an opportunity for public comment prior to proposed long-term care rate increases under certain circumstances. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill relocates a provision on the Insurance Commissioner's rulemaking authority on loss ratio standards for long-term care policies within statute, authorizes approval of innovative care policies, revises the criteria for disapproving insurance forms, and permits public hearings with discretionary disclosure of form and rate filings. Because implementing this bill as proposed would be impossible, the committee amendment replaced the entire bill and provides that the commissioner may approve innovative short or long-term care policies or certificates and the rates, provided the commissioner finds that: (a) issuance or delivery is not contrary to the best interest of the public, and (b) the benefits are reasonable in relation to the premium charged. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 657-FN, (New Title) creating a study commission to oversee the use of artificial intelligence in the state. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The Information Technology Council is a body under RSA 21-R:6 that advises the Commissioner of Information Technology on statewide technology strategy, procurement, standards, and budgeting. As amended by 2026-1491h, this bill adds artificial intelligence (AI) to the council's advisory charge, including compliance with RSA 5-D, opportunities to improve government efficiency, and workforce effects. RSA 5-D, enacted in 2024, is the state's AI governance statute, prohibiting certain uses, requiring human review of high-stakes AI decisions, and tasking the Department of Information Technology with oversight and annual reporting. The amendment also adds AI to the subjects for technical committees under RSA 21-R:7 and creates a new RSA 21-R:9-b requiring a public inventory of state agency AI systems and a consolidated annual report that satisfies the existing RSA 5-D:5, III reporting requirement. Housing this work within the council leverages existing governance rather than duplicating it. **Vote 18-0.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 467-FN, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses and establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee wishes to evaluate the current state of the fentanyl crisis in New Hampshire and debate this bill based on facts and data that are not available to us in the short time we have. **Vote 11-0.**

SB 512-FN, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that when the state failed to meet its burden to prove someone is guilty of a crime, the state and not the defendant should bear the cost of clearing the criminal record of the formerly accused. **Vote 12-0.**

SB 557-FN, (Second New Title) making synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal to prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise, with exceptions made for scientific research. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after hearing from experts and members of the public, determined that the concentrated and often semi-synthetic substance derived from kratom called 7-OH, has become a serious public safety crisis in New Hampshire and around the country. The importation of highly potent, synthesized “kratom” is available to adults and children alike in gas stations and convenience stores across the state. These products, that bear very little resemblance to the kratom leaf itself, are untested by the USDA or any other government health and safety agency. Simply put, there is no way to know exactly what is in them or how potent the kratom extract is. As the commercial sale of kratom derived products is relatively new, we do not have the same scientific information that we do for fentanyl and heroin. What we do know is 7-OH is in fact a drug that works similarly to opioids and that it is both addictive and dangerous. We also know it is being manufactured and imported from China and other countries with dubious product safety track records. Finally, we know it’s being marketed and sold as kratom and it is in fact not kratom, any more than fentanyl is an opium poppy. This bill stops the sale of these products in any establishment licensed by the liquor commission. This included anyone selling tobacco products as well. This does not impact businesses offering the natural kratom leaf therapies, who many people claim have helped them with various ailments including chronic pain and depression. The Senate version of the bill would have added 7-OH to the schedule of illegal drugs, and while many committee members think this is appropriate, others urged caution while waiting for the DEA to take action. Neither the New Hampshire Department of Health or Department of Safety have asked us to add this substance to our controlled substance schedule, though the Liquor Commission did support this version of the bill. The FDA has asked the DEA to add the concentrated semi-synthetic extract of kratom to the federal controlled substance schedule and the DEA has indicated that it is working on it now. This bill is a stop-gap compromise that will remove these dangerous products from the majority of stores where it can be bought by children as well as adults who may not be aware of the dangers it poses. Once the DEA adds it to the federal schedule, no further legislation will be necessary. **Vote 13-0.**

SB 622-FN, relative to the offense of identity fraud. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill ensures that individuals who falsely represent themselves as an authorized agent of a business or government entity with the intent to defraud can be prosecuted under identity fraud statutes. This provides essential protections for New Hampshire’s business community and public institutions against sophisticated phishing and “spoofing” schemes that target organizational data and assets. The committee found this to be a common-sense update to our criminal code. As identity theft increasingly targets organizations to gain access to bulk consumer data or financial accounts, our laws must recognize that an “identity” can belong to an entity as well as an individual. By adding “entities” to the definition of a victim and prohibiting the unauthorized use of an entity’s identifying information, such as logos or tax IDs, for fraudulent purposes, we provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to combat modern fraud. **Vote 12-0.**

SB 625-FN, (New Title) establishing a committee to study options for family members of intentional homicide victims where the department of justice does not file charges in a case. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that it was an appropriate use of a study committee to determine if it is possible to provide any relief to victims of crime who do not feel that their case was properly prosecuted. The committee understands that constitutionally, the sole authority to prosecute resides with the executive branch and no other branch may compel them to bring charges in any case. That being said, it is possible to put in place mechanisms to make that process more transparent and responsive to victim inquiry and input. It is the intent of the committee that the study committee examine options for that and make recommendations. **Vote 13-0.**

EDUCATION FUNDING

SB 580-FN, (New Title) relative to establishing a school cooperative purchasing program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. As introduced, this bill contains three separate, non-related sections: 1) establishing a school cooperative purchasing program, 2) requires school boards and board of trustees of public charter schools to develop and adopt policies, and 3) authorizes the State Board of Education to place a school or school administrative unit (SAU) into receivership in cases of operational and performance issues, including financial mismanagement or under performance. During testimony, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) indicated that the bill overlooks current actions of the Division of Procurement and Support Services. The department already has applicable contracts established and managed by DAS containing access for eligible participants and various political subdivisions such as school districts, nonprofit agencies under the provisions of section 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and more. Schools, at their sole discretion, are encouraged to participate in the program that involves cost savings and a wide range of vendors. In regard to part two of the bill, school boards are currently required to develop and adopt district policies in accordance with Ed 303.01 and Ed 306.04. Local school boards are responsible for implementing these administrative policies and duties; this part of the bill is duplicative of current practice. In regard to part three, the House previously passed by an overwhelming voice vote HB 1816, relative to the intervention of the Department of Education into a school or school district during a financial emergency. With the passage of HB 1816, the Commissioner of the Department of Education will have the authority to assist a school district or school in developing a recovery plan and to oversee such plan to leverage resources to address core financial needs. The committee unanimously agrees that intervention or assistance provided to a school or school district in a financial emergency is best handled in accordance with procedures outlined in HB 1816 and not through receivership as stated in this bill. In summary, after considering the three elements of this bill, the committee unanimously recommends Inexpedient to Legislate, as the bill is not needed. **Vote 17-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SB 624-FN, restricting access to certain hemp-derived products. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Jonah Wheeler for Environment and Agriculture. This bill addresses a gap in the law that allows retailers to sell intoxicating synthetic cannabis products. This legislation defines these products, and restricts the sale of them. The bill protects our consumers who are using legal CBD products which are not intoxicating; while also protecting our children from purchasing synthetic cannabis products that have been allowed under this gap that is fixed by this legislation. This bill is the result of a thorough review by the House Environment and Agriculture Committee, the Liquor Commission's enforcement division, and representatives of the cannabis industry. **Vote 13-2.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 400, relative to duties and reporting requirements of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would expand upon the existing duty of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board (TCMOB) by requiring a methodically documented review of all available data on all currently approved and additional qualifying conditions every two years. The TCMOB already reviews medical literature relative to therapeutic cannabis. Additionally, medical specialty groups typically undertake a robust analysis of all data on a 3-5 year cycle with numerous professionals dedicating significant time to this process. As a volunteer board which already meets twice as frequently as statutorily required, mandating a review process twice as frequently as industry standards would likely impact board participation and reduce the ability of the board to fulfill other statutorily required duties. One proponent of the bill suggested hiring researchers to conduct this work, with the cost assessed to the three non-profit alternative treatment centers (ATC). Testimony from the ATCs made clear that the expense would ultimately be paid by the patients accessing therapeutic cannabis at New Hampshire ATCs. The committee notes that the TCMOB will hold a hearing to review medical evidence on hepatitis C and glaucoma soon, demonstrating the board's ongoing efforts regarding medical oversight and data analysis. Recognizing that the TCMOB annual report does not always include information on the board's review of medical literature, the amendment would require documentation of these reviews including findings and recommendations backed up by literature citations. **Vote 13-1.**

SB 425, (New Title) adopting the physician associate licensure compact. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would have New Hampshire join a multi-state compact for physician associate licensure which is currently in the process of forming. The compact has exceeded the seven state threshold to begin forming, and rules are expected in early 2027. The committee

believes that it would be unwise to join an interstate compact before the rules are established and without a seat at the table. The committee expects to see a bill filed in the next session to ready New Hampshire to join the compact after the rules are known. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 457-FN, (New Title) relative to the licensing of physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Dargie for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill has the admirable goal of trying to implement licensing changes that will attract more physicians to New Hampshire to hopefully alleviate the physician shortage. The problem is that the bill is severely deficient with regards to public safety. The bill unwisely proposes that international physicians bypass oversight by the Board of Medicine, they do not need to have their boards passed in the United States, they can have fewer clinical practice hours, and fraudulent physicians are not properly vetted. Physicians from outside of North America should meet the same standards that are required by the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact (IMLC). **Vote 14-0.**

SB 494-FN, relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill updated the fire code to the 2024 edition with amendments consistent with normal state code process, modifies the procedures for reporting and investigation of fires to include the state fire marshal when the cause, origin, and circumstance of a fire indicates it was the result of design or of suspicious origin, allows the state fire marshal to conduct inspections when local officials are not available and charge fees as set in rules, and enables information sharing between the fire marshal and the office of professional licensure and certification to the minimum extent required to enable the state fire marshal to contact current and past licensees of the mechanical licensing board and electrical board. The bill splits the current language in RSA 153:11 by moving the state fire marshal investigation of suspicious fires to the more appropriate RSA 153:18, and grants rulemaking authority regarding incident reports. The committee believes that this grants rulemaking authority to better define the size of incident subject to reporting and the form of reporting, and not an expansion in scope beyond the prior language in RSA 153:11. **Vote 13-0.**

SB 502-FN, (New Title) removing references to the department of business and economic affairs and the office of planning and development, and makes various changes to how certain committees and commissions participate or operate. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill removes references to the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and the office of planning and development, and makes changes to membership on the New Hampshire Community Development Advisory Committee, allows the retirement system independent investment committee and the New Hampshire healthcare workplace safety commission to meet remotely, adds clarity on the department of labor penalty appeal board, and clarifies that certain safety provisions apply to employers. These are minor but important changes and the committee supports passage. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 510-FN, ensuring state-operated, publicly accessible spaces have designated smoking areas undetectable to visitors. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Bailey for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would require any publicly owned or publicly operated property accessible to the public to provide public smoking areas to be “constructed or maintained so that smoke is not detectable in any public or common area” which presents questions on implementation. Current law puts this responsibility on the person in charge of such a facility, rather than mandating a potentially confusing process. Additionally, studies have not established any clear standard for optimal distances of outdoor non-smoking zones. **Vote 12-1.**

SB 530-FN, relative to fetal death reporting to the Centers for Disease Control. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is a continuation of the work started with SB 92 last year. Whereas SB 92 protected the privacy of parents after the birth of a newborn baby, SB 530 expands privacy rights after the loss of a pregnancy to a miscarriage. This bill limits the information shared by DHHS to the CDC when reporting fetal deaths, including parental names, full dates of birth, medical record numbers, or addresses. The bill allows for the release of parental birth years and fetal delivery dates. The bill also clarifies terminology recorded on fetal death forms. The committee felt, unanimously, this was in line with the position of the NH House in protecting privacy of Granite Staters. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 656-FN, establishing a web-based occupational license application portal for veterans and military spouses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Fred Davis for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would create a licensing concierge for military spouses and veterans. For well over a decade, New Hampshire has worked to reduce the burden of licensing on all people and on veterans, military, and their spouses in particular. This bill would essentially green-light a particular company seeking to help, and require a new interface for this software to

enter license applications into the current online system for license applications for all. Testimony focused on national trends and issues, and not on specific challenges faced in New Hampshire by military spouses, veterans, and their spouses. New Hampshire licensing for all applicants is faster than the time frame cited in testimony, and unlike other state New Hampshire allows applications without a physical presence in the state. The committee further thanks current and former military members, their spouses, and their families for the sacrifices they make on behalf of us all. **Vote 13-0.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SB 441-FN, (New Title) relative to the financial responsibility for local assistance and enabling municipalities to request a hearing regarding the residency of an assisted person. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Steven Kesselring for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee voted to refer this bill for Interim Study as this is a real issue, however there are issues with the bill that need addressing. The bill requires municipalities to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) before transporting individuals for substance use treatment, setting clear service, cost, and coordination terms. It also raises concerns around implementation, enforcement, and local control that warrant further review to get it right. **Vote 17-1.**

JUDICIARY

SB 414, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Kristine Perez for Judiciary. This bill provides that if a court finds any party in contempt relative to a marital property settlement it must fashion a remedy that “immediately” rectifies the cause of the contempt, “if practicable.” The committee felt that this bill would be difficult to enforce with subjective wording such as “immediately” as well as “if practicable.” Also, the occurrence of such incidents appear to be on a very limited basis and might best be handled by the individual courts on a case by case basis. **Vote 16-1.**

SB 459, (New Title) exempting classification of individuals based on biological sex from the definition of an unlawful discriminatory practice in certain limited circumstances. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Paul Berch for Judiciary. This bill requires that participation in school athletics, as well as access to associated locker rooms, be determined based on a person’s biological sex as assigned at birth. It also mandates that inmates in the New Hampshire State Prison system be housed on that same basis. In addition, the bill would apply to individuals involuntarily committed to mental health facilities. Members of the committee expressed differing concerns. Some believe the bill is underinclusive and too limited in scope, arguing that it should apply more broadly in other contexts. Others oppose the bill on policy grounds, believing its underlying purpose is flawed. Additionally, some members raised serious constitutional concerns. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 519-FN, relative to the use of unmanned aerial systems. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Kevin Scully for Judiciary. The Judiciary Committee is in unanimous agreement that the issue of protecting personal privacy in a world with ever-increasing intrusive technology does require serious consideration. The committee also believes that this bill, which attempts to protect privacy from intrusive drone surveillance, does have merit, but is not ready to pass into law in its current form. We believe something should be done and we want to write this bill as perfectly as we can to guard against unforeseen shortcomings and unintended consequences. Three separate amendments to the bill have already been submitted for this bill and the committee will include their content for our consideration regarding necessary changes and improvements. However, the committee believes that, at present, too many questions remain as to how the law should operate in this area to make it appropriate to enact legislation without further study. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 619-FN, establishing procedures for expedited court hearings and disposition of confiscated animals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for Judiciary. This bill establishes procedures for expedited court hearings and disposition of animals confiscated due to allegations of animal cruelty. The amendment removes a provision of the bill as it came to us from the other body that would have allowed forfeiture of animals to the seizing agency if the owner failed to post a bond of up to \$1,000 for each seized animal. The committee felt that this provision raised fairness and potentially constitutional issues in the case of persons who may be financially unable to post such bonds. Left in the bill, however, is the provision requiring a status hearing before the court within 14 days of the date of the seizure. **Vote 18-0.**

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

SB 529-FN, giving preference to lumber sourced in the United States on all state-funded building projects. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This bill would require all State of New Hampshire-funded building projects to give preference to lumber harvested in the United States. The driver behind this prefer-

ence is how American lumber is graded versus Canadian lumber. Some 30 odd years ago, the United States and Canada developed separate grading systems to label the strength of framing lumber. Canadian lumber is labeled SPF, while American lumber is labeled SPFs. However, these grading specifications have given Canadian lumber a competitive advantage over American lumber. From the testimony provided to the committee, North Country logging communities are at an economic disadvantage by the SPF's designation even though the wood cut and milled on both sides of the border is nearly identical. While the committee recognizes the fact that the state lacks authority on changing lumber grading standards, we can exercise some influence on how the state purchases lumber for its own construction projects. Consequently, the committee was united in its unanimous support for the bill to further promote American lumber with its projects. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 541-FN-A, (New Title) relative to capital appropriations for regional drinking water infrastructure. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This bill does two things: 1) It makes a \$65,000 appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services to assist the Pillsbury Lake Village District in Hillsborough in remedying loan costs associated with their water system upgrades; and 2) It reallocates \$5 million of an approved appropriation of \$50 million to the Department of Environmental Services for PFOA/PFOS remediation, and drinking water and wastewater residuals to the Phase 2B Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnect Project. Both funding sources provide the village district and regional project a continued path forward to providing clean and potable drinking water to those neighborhoods benefitting from these projects. Most importantly, the interconnect will provide a needed link to neighborhoods in Rockingham County impacted by cyanobacteria and PFOA/PFOS pollution. Please note that these items are not requests for new money appropriations, but rather reallocations and assignments of monies already appropriated through HB 2 of 2025 and HB 1264 of 2020. **Vote 15-0.**

SB 632-FN, relative to a certain highway sign in Concord. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Michael Edgar for Public Works and Highways. This bill requested authorization for the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, or its successor entity, to install and maintain one advertising device near Exit 12 on Interstate 93 for the sole purpose of promoting nonprofit events and destinations in downtown Concord. While this is a commendable goal, there were concerns expressed by several committee members. There were concerns that the sign would not comply with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, the State of New Hampshire agreement with the Administration and Federal Highway and appears to grant an exception to the Outdoor Advertising Control Statutes RSA 236:69-88. If the sign was allowed there was concern that the federal government would withhold 10% of federal highway revenue at some point in the future. Also, the sign owner could then seek reimbursement of expenses for the sign from the state. This could cause litigation and a financial burden on the state. There was an effort to convince the committee that the existing sign was grandfathered and not subject to the current laws. Some committee members felt that due to sign changes from the original, that grandfathering status would be challenged. Of concern to several members was the safety of the sign placement on a curve near an exit. Also, there were safety concerns with the distraction of trying to read a sign, and concentrate on driving due to the placement, type and layout. It was therefore decided to Refer the bill to Interim Study. **Vote 15-0.**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 595, (New Title) relative to rulemaking for transient non-community water systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. Transient non-community water systems supply drinking water to at least 25 different people daily. This bill is the result of a constituent concern where a quarterly water test that was inadvertently missed triggered a monthly testing schedule along with the associated, increased costs. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Services to align with federal regulations in these cases to retain a quarterly testing schedule. The committee amendment adjusts the language as suggested by the department and retains the option to impose fines to enforce the statute in the extraordinarily rare case of defiant offenders. **Vote 14-0.**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 447, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill attempted to meld two bills from last year to allow utilities to use purchase power agreements (PPAs) to procure nuclear power from new and existing sources. Unfortunately, the bill had many missing pieces and extra parts that seemed out of place. It did not accomplish its goals and the committee concluded that it could not go forward. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 560, modernizing the New Hampshire coordinate system. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill modernizes and clarifies the framework governing NH coordinate systems used in land surveying and mapping by formally adopting the most recent coordinate system released by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), updating terminology, and establishing usage restrictions. Testimony revealed that state taxpayers would incur no costs for this update and no highway, building or property markers would be affected. No changes would be needed by town planners or registrars of deeds. No further updates would be needed. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 590-FN, relative to electric aggregation plans. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Laroche for Science, Technology and Energy. This enabling legislation provides additional tools to finance municipal energy projects, which may lower costs for all ratepayers and taxes for municipal residents. It creates another type of revolving fund specific to energy projects. **Vote 17-1.**

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**SB 472**, removing the maximum age on the tenure of office for the position of deputy adjutant general. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee believes that the role of the Deputy Adjutant General should not be held to different standards from corresponding administrative roles within other departments of the state. Since this position is confirmed by the Executive Council every four years, there is already a limiting mechanism on service should a replacement be sought. With the merging of previous veteran-focused agencies into the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, this position is administrative in nature and is not within the military chain of command. It focuses on support services and the management of the state's veterans' cemetery. As such, the committee unanimously supported Ought to Pass on this measure. **Vote 13-0.**

SB 473, defining the term "field officers" within the national guard. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Raymond Plante for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This measure which was requested by the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, seeks to modernize the promotion process for New Hampshire National Guard officers by addressing administrative inefficiencies and wording within the current executive council review requirement. Under Article 46 of the New Hampshire Constitution, all field officers—specifically majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels—must be nominated and appointed by the Governor and Council. While traditionally intended for high-level commanders, this requirement now encompasses numerous majors in specialized staff roles, creating an unnecessary procedural burden that delays timely promotions. Such delays prevent federally recognized officers from receiving their entitled pay and benefits; therefore, this legislation ensures our service members are compensated and ranked equitably without redundant administrative oversight. **Vote 13-0.**

TRANSPORTATION**SB 617**, relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. This bill implements policy to expand background checks of contracted towing agencies to include all employees who may respond to service police requests, implements a two year restriction from the tow list for agencies which have violations or disciplinary actions in their contractual implementation, and introduces by legislation policy that had been an emergency executive action previously. The committee amendment reintroduces the language of HB 1492 which passed the House 256-84. **Vote 15-0.**

WAYS AND MEANS**SB 511-FN**, (New Title) relative to state park fee discounts for state residents. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill requires the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to establish state park entry fees for New Hampshire residents at no more than 50% of the fees charged to non-residents. The bill also allows the department to create separate fee schedules for specific uses within state parks, such as camping, facility rental, parking, and boat rentals; and permits discounted or waived rates for veterans and school or student groups. DNCR states this bill would result in an indeterminate impact on State Park Fund revenues and expenditures. Based on FY2023 visitation data, the department estimates that approximately half of all state park visitors are residents and half are non-residents. If the department reduced the day-use fee for residents by 50%, revenue would decrease by approximately \$1.1 million. Conversely, increasing non-resident day-use fees by 100% could generate approximately \$2.2 million in additional revenue. However, the department anticipates that fee changes of this extent would deter visitation by 5 to 20%, reducing the expected revenue gain. Currently, the fees are competitive to all the neighboring states. **Vote 12-0.**

SB 633-FN, (New Title) relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Thomas Schamberg for Ways and Means. This bill, as amended, adds new explicit statutory language that codifies what was often administrative practice; it sets clear dollar-based rules requiring the Governor and Executive Council approval for large donations to the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund and has new reporting requirements that ensure that legislators receive regular, formal updates of the financial activity connected to the fund. This bill, as amended, addresses how the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund is overseen and reported on. The bill continues the fund's role in supporting arts and cultural activities in New Hampshire, consistent with current law. It does not change the basic purpose of the fund or how patrons contribute to it. In simple terms, this bill as amended allows the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund to continue operating while improving transparency and accountability. By requiring a structured quarterly report to the Fiscal Committee, the amended bill gives lawmakers better visibility of the fund's performance and costs, helping them oversee public funds and make informed decisions in the future. **Vote 12-0.**

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 482-FN, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for the **Majority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Digital asset transaction kiosks are self-service terminals that let consumers buy, sell, or transfer cryptocurrency using cash or another payment method, and while a legitimate financial service they have been increasingly exploited to defraud older consumers. As amended by 2026-1526h, this bill creates a new RSA chapter 358-U establishing uniform consumer protections, including identity verification consistent with the federal Bank Secrecy Act, a 72-hour hold and \$3,000 cap on new-customer transactions with full refund on cancellation, on-screen and large font exterior kiosk warnings, fraud-screening prompts that block transactions when the customer is being coached or is not the destination wallet's beneficiary, blockchain analytics screening of flagged addresses, pre-transaction disclosure of reference price, fees, and spread, a detailed receipt, and data-handling rules including 30-day deletion of biometric and ID data as allowed by federal law. The chapter preempts more restrictive local ordinances and is enforceable exclusively by the Attorney General under RSA 358-A, with a compliance defense for operators that follow its terms. A majority of the committee found the bill targets documented fraud patterns harming older Granite Staters while preserving a workable regulatory environment for lawful digital asset commerce. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Jared Sullivan for the **Minority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The minority is deeply concerned that the committee amendment fundamentally alters the purpose of this bill by removing core consumer protections and replacing them with unprecedented statutory advantages for the crypto ATM industry. By eliminating any transaction limits after a threeday "new customer" period, the committee amendment would leave New Hampshire an ongoing and attractive target for scammers, who depend on large, rapid transactions to exploit victims. It also eliminates refunds once the threeday period expires and insulates crypto ATM operators from accountability by granting broad immunity from liability, prohibiting private rights of action, providing safe harbor from enforcement actions, and preempting local control. These changes would result in the weakest statutory protections against crypto ATM-related fraud in the country. During testimony, law enforcement officials expressed strong support for the version of the bill as amended by the Senate as a necessary tool to combat fraud and strong opposition to the committee amendment. The minority supports the bill as amended by the Senate, which reflects a balanced and reasonable approach consistent with protections enacted in approximately two dozen other states — protecting consumers from fraud and abuse without interfering with the legitimate, lawful use of crypto ATMs by New Hampshire residents.

SB 528-FN, prohibiting receiving compensation for lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As amended by the Senate, this bill would prohibit a lobbyist from receiving compensation for carrying out any lobbying activity on behalf of certain designated foreign adversaries. The list of foreign adversaries was specified in the bill, meaning the law would have to be changed to change the list. We have already seen that Venezuela has been off the list, then on the list (2020), and now with the capture of Nicolas Maduro, President Trump considers Venezuela an "ally" although formal regulations have not been fully executed. The bill further specifies that a lobbyist who is paid by a foreign adversary that owns more than 20% of a company, would be subject to a fine of \$1000 per violation, civil penalties including investigative demands seeking documents, and other information, and injunctive relief requiring compliance going forward. A significant issue is that the Peoples Republic of China (China), prominent in the list of adversaries, is currently the third largest trade partner with the US. Chinese corporations own some important American companies including Smithfield Foods, GE Appliances, Motorola Mobility, Lexmark, Ingram Micro, a number of gaming companies, AMC Theatres, the Waldorf Astoria, several Four Seasons and Ritz-Carlton hotels, and the aircraft companies Cirrus Aircraft (Minnesota), Nexteer Automotive (Michigan), and Karma Automotive (California). The employees of all these companies are, in most cases, US citizens who deserve to be represented by lobbyists working with our legislature. The 20% cutoff is a problem. The stock of small publicly traded companies changes ownership quickly. While the ownership of stock for large publicly traded companies moves slowly, it can happen at any time. This makes the 20% threshold very blurry. A lobbyist can be within the law one day and be in violation of it the next. There is another issue. Lenovo, owner of Motorola, what used to be IBM ThinkPad, IBM's x86 server and personal computing divisions as well as a number of other technology companies worldwide, sells products to the Department of Defense (DOD). They have completed seven national security reviews by CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the US) for their various divisions and found to be completely compliant. They have been a Government Services Administration-approved vendor of products for the US Government since 2005. The US maintains a list of Chinese companies referred to as "Chinese Military Companies" or CMC. As of 2026, the

US Government is banned from procuring goods, services or technology from those listed. All other Chinese companies may do business in the US and with the government after meeting security evaluations. Other states have implemented foreign entity disclosure requirements for lobbyists. Following that example, attempts were made to develop an amendment that would address some of the issues with the original bill. The list of adversaries was removed and replaced with a statement that all lobbyists for companies owned at least 20% by those controlled in other countries needed to register with the Secretary of State. The problems of stock ownership and punishments remained. An additional problem is how to understand the ownership of some types of companies. For companies traded publicly in the US, the SEC EDGAR Database can be used to find percent ownership. For privately held companies and subsidiaries determining 20% ownership is more difficult since not all companies are listed in any particular database including some commercial and third-party databases. For all these unresolved issues and conflicts with the federal government implementations, the majority of the committee has decided that Referral for Interim Study would be best so that an amendment can be developed that is straightforward to implement, does not punish lobbyists and provides the visibility into ownership that would be beneficial to the legislature. **Vote 12-6.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CACR 11, (New Title) relating to sheriffs. Providing that there shall be no age limitation for a person to hold the office of county sheriff. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority believes the choice to not recommend should be based on overwhelming evidence that not only is it not needed, but that it would be detrimental to society and our form of government. This is necessary because our choice to not recommend denies the citizens the opportunity to decide for themselves whether or not they think the amendment is warranted. The majority saw no such evidence in this case. The citizens of this state, along with the country are living longer more productive lives. The constitutional limit of age 70 for sheriffs was made in 1792. In the late 18th century, the average lifespan at birth for a man in New England was roughly 35 to 45 years. Removing deaths from infant mortality and childhood disease, once a man reached adulthood, he could reasonably expect to live into his early to mid-60s. Setting a mandatory retirement age at 70 in 1792 was actually quite generous. It was a limit most men would never hit. Modern medicine and nutrition has changed that expectation quite a bit in the last 234 years. For a man who reaches age 65 today, he is statistically expected to live another 18 to 20 years, frequently pushing him well into his mid-80s. This raises two questions. What good is it extending our lives if we continue treat the age limitations in our laws the same as we did 234 years ago? Next, we must consider can a man or woman in their 70s in 2026 perform the role of sheriff as it exists today? In 1792, there were no municipal police departments or state police. If you were a citizen in New Hampshire in the late 1700s, the sheriff and his deputies were the only professional law enforcement officers available. They were the general purpose “peace officers” for everything from stopping riots to investigating thefts. Now most daily patrol and investigative work is handled by local police or state police, with sheriffs augmenting both when necessary. Modern NH sheriffs primarily focus on court security, prisoner transport, and serving civil legal papers. Though they still perform important law enforcement duties, the sheriff is not involved in it anymore than the police chief in one of our large municipalities and police chiefs have no such age restriction. Putting an age limit was a way of limiting the office holder as the public did not have the same say in their getting the job as we do today. **Vote 7-5.** Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Article 78 of the New Hampshire State Constitution states that “No person shall hold the office of Judge of any Court, or Judge of Probate, or Sheriff of any county, after he has attained the age of seventy years.” This CACR would erase the maximum age restriction for county sheriffs, allowing sheriffs to begin or to continue serving into their seventies and potentially well beyond that into their eighties and nineties. While we heard testimony that the role of a sheriff is primarily administrative and is analogous to that of a CEO in a private business, there are a number of concerns with extending the age limit. Physical and mental vigor, which both decline with age, are critical for such a high-stress role. But even more importantly, sheriffs are also occasionally called upon to act in a direct law enforcement capacity, such as making an arrest or assisting with one, rather than simply performing administrative functions. By comparison, the mandatory retirement age for our state police is set at age 60. Many corporations also set mandatory retirement ages for CEOs and board members. While age should never be a barrier to serving your community, mandatory retirement ages provide opportunities for qualified younger people to step up. Moreover, they don’t preclude those impacted by them from serving their community in other ways.

SB 460-FN, relative to the offense of loitering or prowling. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This legislation establishes “child safety zones” to protect New Hampshire’s most vulnerable citizens by prohibiting high-risk registered sex offenders from being present in areas where children congregate. The amendment narrows the original bill and limits this restriction to only tier III offenders, the highest risk category, specifically those whose underlying

offense could have involved a felonious sexual attack on a victim under 18 years of age and are deemed most likely to re-offend. Under this act, such individuals are prohibited from knowingly being within 500 feet, a decrease from the 1000 feet in the original bill, of a school, child care facility, public park, playground, pool, or active school bus stop. The original bill sought to use the loitering statute to solve a problem that it was not designed for, and thus caused significant constitutional concerns. The amended bill puts the solution in the sex offender laws where it belongs. It removes every one of the constitutional concerns raised by the ACLU and the minority. It specifically provides affirmative defenses for constitutionally protected acts and transporting their own children. Some now seek to move the goal posts. When an offender registers, they would be notified in writing of the specific restrictions related to their offender level category. This removes the vagueness concerns about who it applied to and the exact behavior that would constitute a crime. Tier III sex offenders would sign a form acknowledging their notification and understanding. If they are found by law enforcement to be in violation of their restrictions, a felony level offense, they can be immediately arrested and removed from the child safety zone. As noted, the original bill sought to use the loitering statute to address the potential predatory stalking of children by sex offenders. The only penalty available under the loitering law is a violation, which is one of the flaws of trying to use that statute to address this conduct. The majority believes a violation, which carries a small fine, is not a serious way to address a person required to register as a tier III sex offender, ignoring a law requiring them to stay away from children, especially after having been clearly warned of the conditions and consequences. With the limited availability of childcare facilities in New Hampshire, parents expect us to ensure their children are as safe as possible while they are there and they should not have to worry that their children are being targeted for abuse by a known predator. This applies to playgrounds, bus stops, and public pools as well. We must allow our children to be children by safely enjoying the outdoors and getting off their computers and social media. A place incidentally, where they are also frequently targeted by sex offenders. We must take these offenses seriously. The restrictions should be on those who harm our children and not the children themselves. We must place the liberty of our children before that of those who chose to sacrifice their own liberty by harming our children. **Vote 9-4.** Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill as amended moves the substance of a flawed loitering/prowling bill to the sexual offender statute. It still contains language that is constitutionally flawed, which renders it needlessly broad in its scope. It compounds that over-breadth by raining the penalty from that for a violation in the original bill to a class B felony. The minority amendment attends to these and other flaws in a narrowly tailored version of the original bill.

EDUCATION FUNDING

SB 586-FN, requiring school districts to publish a school administrative unit audit report after the end of the fiscal year. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Education Funding. Currently, RSA 198:4-d requires school districts and charter schools to annually produce various financial reports, including audited financial statements. This bill specifies some extra contents for those statements, including information about personnel and salaries, capital projects, etc. It also adds requirements that the statements be produced in a timely manner, has the Department of Education verify that they are complete, and if incomplete after a grace period, the department will withhold state funds. The committee's amendment rewrites the bill so that the new policy doesn't interfere with other reporting needed to set property tax rates. It also requires school administrative units to submit audited financials, changes the timeline to be more compatible with the school accounting process, prevents adequacy aid from being withheld, and makes sure reports are publicly accessible. When financial irregularities occur, they must be exposed before they can be fixed. This bill, as amended, ensures financial problems will not be overlooked. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Hope Damon for the **Minority** of Education Funding. The minority finds the process for reviewing and amending this bill has been rushed and was not complete. We support the committee amendment 2026-1500h as it addressed some of our concerns and improved the bill. However, despite considerable discussion of the meaning of "non-compliant" and of "deficiencies" in the context of the bill, the language does not include necessary clarifying definitions. The Department of Education (DOE) requested to have a work session with the committee to address issues raised by the Bureau of School Finance but that has not happened. DOE requested to discuss considerations of what realistic audit policy could be adhered to by the field (there are very few public accounting firms in NH) and to address the need for resources at DOE to implement this legislation which has no appropriation ask to accompany the fiscal note. Very significantly, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to impose mandatory withholding of fiscal capacity and extraordinary needs funds from high need districts regardless of the seriousness or fiscal relevance of the particular point of non-compliance with the proposed audit requirements. This is an unnecessarily punitive approach that does not help districts implement effective fiscal policies and procedures. The minority believes the Commissioner of Education should have some discretion in applying financial penalties. Finally, there may be contradiction with other statutory law relative to auditing practices that relate to public schools – it is critical that new legislation align with or update existing statutes.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 101-FN, (New Title) authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, institutes a state-wide, comprehensive policy for public school choice via open enrollment across district boundaries that balances significant local control with the necessary prohibitions on districts vetoing students and families who desire to leave to pursue education elsewhere. Each school would be required to provide notice of its capacity to accept open enrollment pupils and would require selection by lottery in the event applications exceed capacity. The bill also establishes a funding formula for payments by the Department of Education from the Education Trust Fund for open enrollment pupils, leaving local money with the resident district. This voluntary program retains all existing local options for parents and students, including special education and transportation. The program enables the potential receiving district wide latitude in determining their reasonable capacity, without the addition of staff, to accept students or not. However, the incentives generated by this structure favor the likelihood of more schools opening up and being willing to receive some students when the blockade of localities preventing students from leaving is broken down. The majority of the committee believes that public school open enrollment will bring substantial benefits to New Hampshire students, families, and communities. This policy has the potential to modernize the state's educational framework, enhance parental choice, and improve educational outcomes by providing more opportunities for students to access high-quality education. By breaking down the geographic restrictions that limit choice and ensuring adequate safeguards for local control, this bill sets a path toward a more dynamic and equitable educational system in New Hampshire. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill would require statewide open enrollment, allowing parents to send their children to public schools outside their home districts. While framed as expanding choice, in practice it would benefit only those families able to provide transportation, limiting access for many others. The committee heard nearly ten hours of testimony over two days, with the overwhelming majority opposed. Additionally, over 2,000 more residents registered their opposition on-line. Significant concerns remain unresolved, including issues of equity, funding, special education services, and how districts would determine capacity. Clearly, many constituents are not calling for the state to override local control with this mandate. The minority strongly feels it is premature to advance a major overhaul of our public school system without clear, workable solutions to ensure fairness and equity for every student. The minority amendment proposes establishing a commission of legislators and experienced stakeholders to develop a comprehensive, thoughtful policy—one that clearly defines responsibilities, addresses budget and funding obligations, sets consistent standards for capacity, and creates a fair, transparent process for student enrollment and selection. This commission would lay the groundwork for future legislation, ensuring any open enrollment policy is practical, equitable, and truly serves students, families, and school districts.

SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, requires the placement of a basic trauma, or “stop-the-bleed” kit with a tourniquet, be placed in schools. This compliments automated external defibrillators (AEDs) as a well-rounded supply for the treatment of medical emergencies in schools, which addresses trauma and hemorrhage as a leading cause of mortality in young people. The bill further enshrines some exemptions in existing audio/video recording policy necessary to tackle unintended consequences of prior expansive prohibitions on such recordings in public schools, enabling such recordings for use in the normal course of academic work as well as events such as sports and choir. **Vote 18-0.**

ELECTION LAW

SB 534-FN, relative to foreign funding and influence in constitutional amendment and local ballot question campaigns. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill, as amended, expands the prohibition on foreign funding of election matters to both the state and local level. While current law already prohibits certain foreign expenditures at the state level, the amendment strengthens and clarifies that prohibition by making clear that it applies to both expenditures and contributions. The amendment also extends the prohibition to local elections and meetings by revising the applicability provisions in RSA 664 so that the restriction applies uniformly at both the state and local levels. The amendment further incorporates and expands the penalty provisions contained in the original bill. The committee finds it important that these penalties apply not only to political committees, but also to foreign nationals acting in their individual capacity. This ensures the law cannot be avoided simply by acting independently rather than through a political committee. The amendment also provides that violations may be subject to any other penalties available under RSA 664:21. For these reasons, the committee recommends the bill Ought to Pass with Amendment. **Vote 18-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SB 465-FN, classifying xylazine as a schedule III controlled drug. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for the **Majority** of Environment and Agriculture. This bill would classify xylazine as a schedule III controlled drug. We heard testimony that xylazine is being used to cut fentanyl and creates substantial health problems beyond those created by the opioids it is mixed with. It was not clear, however, that state level schedule III listing would create a control point for the drug entering the black market. There is legislation proposed at the federal level for xylazine that could provide more effective control, here and nationwide, while providing necessary exemptions for veterinary use. We heard testimony from a large animal vet who explained that xylazine is a critical, and much used, tranquilizer for large animal medicine. Especially for handling bovines, ready access to xylazine is important both for preventing animal suffering and for protecting the safety of those handling the animals. The administrative overhead of schedule III handling requirements would be very problematic for vets working in the field and for those who need to prescribe the medication so that farmers can use it with their animals. **Vote 11-5.** Rep. Lisa Freeman for the **Minority** of Environment and Agriculture. Given the rising cases of fentanyl being “cut” with xylazine, and given the debilitating effects, far worse than fentanyl, a minority of this committee believe that schedule III reporting requirements and restrictions on use, may be a means to prevent xylazine into falling into the wrong hands and being used counterproductive to its original intent. Additionally, Congress is working on similar legislation, however, the speed of Congress presently necessitates urgency to pass legislation here in New Hampshire. For the above reasons, a minority of the committee believes this bill Ought to Pass.

SB 593, (New Title) enabling the use of solid waste management funds by solid waste management districts. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This bill is a housekeeping measure intended to correct an omission in existing law that was adopted last year. Under current statute, solid waste management districts—which are cooperative agreements among multiple municipalities—were not included among the entities eligible to receive tipping fee reimbursement payments from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) managed Solid Waste Management funds. Because of that omission, these solid waste management districts are currently unable to receive the quarterly reimbursements that would otherwise be reimbursed to them to reduce trash disposal costs for their participating municipalities. These reimbursement payments have a direct impact on local property taxes. This correction needs to be made as soon as possible so that this additional language can be included in rule making regarding the reimbursement program being set up by DES this summer. **Vote 16-0.**

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

SB 505-FN, (New Title) relative to applications for guide licenses and repealing the fee for temporary registration of nonresidents relative to OHRVs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Ouellet for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The primary bill eliminates the OHRV temporary registrations, which do not contribute to trail maintenance funding, and aligns New Hampshire’s registration costs with those of Maine and Vermont. The amendment specifies that background checks for NH Guide applicants can be conducted and accessed only by designated personnel within the law enforcement division of New Hampshire Fish and Game. **Vote 12-0.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SB 543-FN, relative to long-term care eligibility and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jay Markell for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This comes with a fiscal note, but it is not able to determine what the ultimate amount of the funds the state would need to advance in terms of funding. Since this would be an agreement that the state would be advancing Medicaid funds with the hope of repayment, there are no assurances of repayment of funds by a long term care facility in the event of a bankruptcy filing with a contract that is still executory. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Janet Lucas for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill does not authorize new positions and appropriates the sum of \$1 for the proposed revolving fund. Nevertheless we heard in testimony that the New Hampshire Care Association supports the bill and believes it is worth enacting into statute should the future means exist to monetize the fund. As it stands, both private and county nursing homes are owed millions of dollars for care provided to patients awaiting application approval for Medicaid enrollment. Most importantly, in the case of our county nursing homes, this is another drain on resources caused by uncompensated care. This cost will inevitably pass to property tax payers. The minority believes this bill ought to pass to create a statutory framework to prevent a future increase in property taxes.

SB 545-FN, relative to financial eligibility for the Medicare savings program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill was carefully reviewed by the committee and the majority of the committee supported Inexpedient to Legislate. The primary concern is the cost to the state. As written, the bill creates new financial obligations without clearly defining the total fiscal impact or identifying a sustainable funding source. At a time when fiscal responsibility is critical, moving forward with uncertain and potentially significant costs is not prudent. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. William Palmer for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill removes the resource limit for the Medicare savings program and, subject to CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) approval, makes the low income subsidy for Medicare Part D available to residents to assist with prescription drug costs. This bill clarifies that New Hampshire will continue to help with drug subsidies for those that qualify and this program is 100% federally funded. Failure to pass the bill will leave federal funds already available on the table. If this bill fails patients will likely lose their prescription drug coverage and their medical conditions are likely to worsen leading to emergency visits and hospitalizations both increasing the suffering of patients and leading to significant costs to the state. If this legislation is defeated connections to other Medicare and Medicaid programs, such as LIS (Low Income Subsidy) and MSP (Medicare Savings Programs) will be disrupted with reduction in benefits to low income Granite Staters and decrease in economic benefits these programs provide to the state and local economies.

SB 549-FN, (New Title) requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matt Drew for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. While the provision of clean, sterile syringes helps reduce the spread of various diseases among intravenous drug users, discarded syringes create a significant public health hazard for the population at large. This bill creates a syringe recovery reporting requirement for syringe distribution programs and establishes standards for recovery. The majority of the committee finds that this is a reasonable constraint on state-supported syringe distribution programs. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Tim Hartnett for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The bill requires syringe exchange programs to re-allocate resources devoted to harm reduction to syringe sanitation efforts. The bill wrongly assumes that the syringe exchange programs are responsible for all syringe waste. On the contrary, syringe exchange programs have proven to increase syringe returns in multiple studies. The absence of these programs has proven to increase syringe waste in public parks and streets. In summary, there is clear evidence that this bill may actually result in increased syringe waste on our streets and parks, particularly if the legislation results in syringe programs being forced to close.

HOUSING

SB 564, prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The Housing Committee believes this bill should be found Ought to Pass. This bill puts a reasonable guardrail on municipalities by stating they cannot place arbitrary restrictions on the maximum road length. This bill would maintain municipalities have the right to determine road length as long as the reasons they give fall under basic health, safety, and welfare for the municipality or extending the road would violate the state fire code. The Housing Committee believes additional clarity in this law is necessary for both municipalities and property owners. **Vote 15-0.**

JUDICIARY

SB 464-FN, relative to civil rights enforcement. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the **Majority** of Judiciary. The subject of this bill, the Civil Rights Act codified in RSA chapter 354-B, is, as even the assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division acknowledged, a poorly drafted statute that, if applied according to its literal terms, can produce untoward results that infringe on a citizen's fundamental First Amendment right to freedom of speech, as was found by the New Hampshire Supreme Court in the recent case of Attorney General v. Hood, 177 N.H. 176 (2025). Under its present wording, the statute prohibits the actual or threatened use of physical force or violence or the actual or threatened damage to or trespass on property "when such actual or threatened conduct is motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or disability." The problem with this language is demonstrated by the following scenario: if actor A trespasses on someone's property to place a racist sign on the property and thereafter, actor B observes the sign, is offended by its racist character, and trespasses onto the property to remove the sign, under the current version of the statute both A and B could be found liable for violating its terms since both were motivated by race in the actions they took. Yet it is quite clear the statute was never intended to capture B's conduct as a violation. To rectify this problem, the bill changes the statute's language to require that the conduct must be "substantially

motivated by hostility toward the race, sex, gender identity, religion,” etc. of the person against whom the conduct is targeted. The revised language is taken directly from another statute, RSA 651:6, I(f), which has been in effect since 2005 and provides for enhanced sentences for persons who commit offenses motivated by sexual, racial, gender, etc. hatred. As amended, the bill also adds language indicating that, with respect to threatened (as opposed to actual) conduct – the kind of conduct/speech where First Amendment rights are most likely to be implicated – the threat must be imminent in order to trigger liability. Once again, the purpose is to ensure that the right to freedom of speech is not violated by statements that may be offensive or obnoxious, but which do not portend an intent to inflict actual harm on another person in the near future. Where such imminence is lacking, it is much more likely that the statements made involve a form of “pure speech” that does not represent a serious intention to actually carry out the threatened behavior. Lastly, the amendment replaces the language of section II of RSA 354-B:1. At present, this section provides, “It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere or attempt to interfere with the rights secured by this chapter.” The assistant attorney general acknowledged that this section too could be subject to varying interpretations. The problem here is that there is no requirement that the means used to “interfere” with the statutory rights be unlawful. Thus, it is entirely possible that this section could be construed to capture conduct that is perfectly lawful, but that has the effect of interfering with the actions of another person exercising his constitutional rights. For example, if one group of people is loudly protesting against racial discrimination and another group organizes a counter-protest close by to loudly oppose affirmative action, could this section of the statute be invoked to hold one group liable for “interfering” with the activities of the other group? The answer is anybody’s guess under the current wording of the law. To correct this problem, the amendment replaces the current language with language stating that “nothing in RSA chapter 354-B shall be construed to prohibit any conduct or speech that is protected under the United States Constitution or the New Hampshire Constitution.” The majority of the Committee believes that these changes afford ample protection against harmful biased-motivated conduct, while also ensuring that the First Amendment rights of all persons are safeguarded. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Paul Berch for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This bill changes the standard for enforcement of civil rights in New Hampshire by requiring that prohibited conduct be substantially motivated by hostility toward a targeted individual’s protected characteristics. This represents a significant departure from existing law, which does not require proof of hostility or ill will in order to establish discrimination. The US Supreme Court has made clear in cases such as Feeney and Bostock that discriminatory intent and causation do not depend on evidence of personal hostility or animus in the ordinary sense. The Office of the Attorney General, which is responsible for enforcing the state’s civil rights laws, testified that this change would make enforcement more difficult and recommended that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. That position was consistent with the testimony of every witness and organization that appeared before the committee, as well as the overwhelming majority of individuals who submitted testimony or opinions online. The minority fully agrees with the Attorney General and the public. The minority also believes that this bill raises serious constitutional concerns as to vagueness. The Supreme Court has invalidated laws that fail to give ordinary people fair notice of what is prohibited or that invite arbitrary application. Terms like “substantially” and “hostility” are inherently subjective and undefined, leaving courts and juries to speculate about a person’s internal motivations. That is precisely the kind of indeterminacy the Constitution forbids. This bill would undermine enforcement of civil rights laws by eliminating well-established mixed-motive liability. Discrimination often operates through multiple motives, implicit bias, or structural factors—not overt hostility. By requiring proof that hostility is a substantial motivating factor, the bill would exclude a wide range of real-world discrimination that current law properly reaches. The minority finds that this bill is both legally vulnerable and a significant step backward in protecting civil rights in New Hampshire. The result is a law that is weaker in force, uncertain in application, and far easier to evade. For these reasons, the bill raises concerns about its impact on the effectiveness, clarity, and consistency of civil rights enforcement in New Hampshire. The minority, consistent with the recommendation of the Attorney General and virtually unanimous public opposition, recommends this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

SB 627-FN, (New Title) relative to toll rate adjustments and periodic inflation-based toll reviews for the New Hampshire turnpike system to support the 2027-2036 ten-year transportation plan. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Martin Jack for Public Works and Highways. The bill provides for a toll increase to fund turnpike projects that were deleted from the Ten-Year Transportation Plan due to insufficient turnpike revenue. Like the budget, the Ten-Year Plan must be balanced. The increase is expected to raise \$60 million per year. This would fund projects in Nashua, Merrimack, Bedford, Manchester, Bow, and Concord that improve hazardous merges and reduce congestion, fuel usage, and trip delays. Experience with I-93 shows that economic and housing development follows after highway improvements. It also frees \$85 million in federal highway aid that would be reallocated to other projects if this bill passes. The increase is structured so that holders of

funded New Hampshire EZ-Pass transponders pay exactly the current rates; the increase falls on other drivers. Surrounding states already have the same in-state discount structure in place. All funds raised by toll collection go toward operation, maintenance, and improvement of the turnpike system; no funds are diverted elsewhere. Toll rates have not been increased since 2009, some ramp tolls have been removed, construction cost is increasing dramatically, and collection has stagnated since COVID, so that improvement funding is very limited. Even with the increase, New Hampshire has the lowest toll rates of any EZ-Pass agency. The bill provides that a measure of inflation be taken every two years, but leaves it to the existing process to adjust future rates. In future Ten-Year Transportation Plans, other needed turnpike improvements can be funded and increased spending will provide a stable supply of toll credits for Federal highway aid matching funds. There was no public hearing testimony opposing the bill. **Vote 15-0.**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 450-FN, relative to a state parks pass pilot program for recovery centers and community mental health centers. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ron Dunn for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The majority of the committee is in favor of the intent of this bill; however, this pilot program can be enacted without this legislation. For these reasons, the majority of the committee recommends this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 12-2.** Rep. Suzanne Vail for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill establishes a limited, three-year pilot program enabling the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to provide a state park pass to New Hampshire's 10 community mental health centers, with reporting requirements to evaluate outcomes. The program is fully funded by grants and carries no cost to New Hampshire State Parks. The minority asserts that statutory authority is needed to implement such a program, as discretionary action is insufficient to ensure consistent and equitable access. The minority also believes that grants for this low-cost pilot program would be for as little as the cost of 10 passes, providing a controlled and limited approach that does not alter the underlying fee structure. The bill's requirement to report back to the legislature creates a mechanism to evaluate participation, outcomes, and administrative impact before any consideration of continuation. Without the bill, the pilot would not necessarily reflect the results of collaboration that grant writers for community mental health centers need. The connection between access to nature and improved mental health outcomes is well-established in clinical literature. Removing financial and logistical barriers to state park access for individuals receiving services through community mental health centers is a modest approach that complements existing treatment without creating a clinical mandate or significant new cost burden. While the department may have the ability to offer passes administratively, statutory authorization ensures that the program is implemented uniformly across the state and not limited to uneven or ad hoc efforts. For these reasons, the minority finds that this bill is a targeted and accountable approach to expanding access to state parks in support of mental health.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 449-FN, (New Title) relative to relative to the participation of large customer-generators in net metering and relative to energy storage in connection with net metering. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill mirrors SB 106 from 2025, a bill the House Indefinitely Postponed. It allows a growth in net metering up to 5MW for a new class of electricity user called an "industrial host." This increase in the net metering cap exposes NH ratepayers to millions of dollars of increased costs. In Maine, for example, an increase in that cap imposed \$250 million in new costs on that state's ratepayers in 2025. In addition, this bill would require all ratepayers to shoulder these costs, not just the commercial/industrial users who would directly benefit, which the majority defines as corporate welfare. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Kat McGhee for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Industrial net metering with storage helps New Hampshire business owners manage their enormous energy costs, while lowering demand/load on the system; demand side efforts benefit all electric customers and keep energy dollars in the state. This bill has been brought forth every year, for several years and is supported by many large businesses who want to invest in local energy infrastructure. The Business and Industry Association (BIA) is concerned that the House keeps preventing this commonsense policy from passing into law because energy costs are becoming the deciding factor in whether businesses opt to remain in the state. The minority amendment preserves the storage language just passed in HB 1718; passing this bill, as is, will rewrite the storage language the House wants in statute.

SB 538-FN, extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill extends the time window for guaranteed benefits from the net metering program to assist municipalities in obtaining financing for renewable energy

projects. Currently, the statutory limit for net metering is capped after 2040. This bill extends that cap to 15 years beyond the date at which such a system became active if it begins operation on or before this legislation has taken effect. Since 15-year financing is an industry norm for projects backed by net metering, the committee amendment changed the original bill's 20-year limit to 15 to reduce ratepayer exposure to future net metering costs. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 540-FN, relative to portable solar generation devices. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill attempts to provide important safeguards concerning a new class of products called balcony solar systems. These systems are widely available for purchase and can supply 1,200 watts of electricity via a convenient attachment to a home's electrical circuits by simply plugging them into a wall outlet. They are popular in Europe where residential wiring codes are more robust than here in the US. In this country, residential wiring only permits one-way electricity flow. That means these balcony solar systems violate National Electrical Code 705. Nevertheless, nothing prevents anyone from buying one of these systems, plugging it in, and potentially causing a circuit overload and possible fire. The bill as amended requires that NH require such systems to be certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory to meet nationally-recognized safety standards. The bill also requires the state Department of Energy to provide information on its website to help users understand the risks of buying and operating such a system. **Vote 16-1.** Rep. Michael Harrington for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Though well intentioned, this bill accomplishes almost nothing. It creates a bunch of rules but provides no mechanism for educating the public about the rules or any mechanism for enforcing them. Plug in solar generators can be purchased over the Internet from other states and even other countries. None of these locations will have any knowledge of NH law requiring that the system be certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory to meet nationally-recognized safety standards. The bill also includes a requirement that only one plug in solar generator with a maximum inverter output of 1,200 watts be allowed per metered customer. Someone buying the generator over the Internet will have no idea that this requirement exists. Of course, this applies to all aspects of the bill. Rather than creating new feel-good regulations that accomplish nothing, an education program to inform potential buyers of plug in solar about safety considerations would be beneficial. An insert in electric bills listing the safety considerations, while not a perfect solution, would be step in the right direction.

SB 589-FN, (New Title) relative to port electrification, microgrid development, and cybersecurity standards for energy and water systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kat McGhee for Science, Technology and Energy. This critical infrastructure bill covers essential areas of security and technology, including port electrification, cyber security, micro-grids, and water systems. The committee agreed on passage of this bill, which was championed by the Department of Environmental Services to help them complete their ongoing work; the bill required two minor changes needed to make the statutory language work and those were adopted in the committee amendment. **Vote 18-0.**

SB 591-FN, allowing utility companies to own or build generation facilities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill permits electric utilities to invest in distributed energy generation up to 10% of the utility's total distribution peak in megawatts (MW). Distributed energy units may not exceed five MW in size and are not regulated by the Independent System Operator New England (ISO-NE); they are connected to the utility's local distribution system. Investment in micro-nuclear, small scale natural gas/propane, solar, wind, biomass, hydro, and battery technology are all included. Battery capacity is not limited to the 10% investment threshold. Any investment is subject to the Public Utility Commission's determination that the benefits outweigh the costs borne by ratepayers. **Vote 11-7.** Rep. Thomas Cormen for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Although the minority fully supports increasing distributed electric generation in the state, increasing the limit on utility-owned generation from six percent of peak generation to 10 percent is not the way to go. When we restructured three decades ago, we wanted to reduce costs on the backs of ratepayers due to capital costs incurred by the utilities. Utilities get a guaranteed rate of return on what they build, and so if costs rise to the point that they exceed the benefits, the ratepayers are on the hook for these stranded costs. Restructuring was also intended to create a competitive market for power generation. Having one class of power generator that is guaranteed to achieve a rate of return on investment, while all the others must compete against them, distorts what should be a fair and competitive market. Finally, the utilities are well below the current limit of six percent, with only one distributed generation facility having been built in the state so far. Let's see the utilities build more distributed generation and approach the six percent limit before we consider raising that limit.

SB 599-FN, relative to the renewable energy fund. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Schneller for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is a technical fiscal cleanup that restores up to \$1 million to the Department of Energy for commercial programs and \$1 million for admin-

istration including funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Innovation while sweeping surplus money from the Renewable Energy Fund to the General Fund as intended in HB 2 (2025). This bill will restore \$7 million to the state budget adopted last year. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Lucius Parshall for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) is funded by Alternative Compliance Payments levied on utilities when they fail to procure sufficient Renewable Energy Certificates. This fee has typically been passed onto ratepayers to encourage the adoption of renewable energy. With passage of this bill, revenue from the REF will now be rerouted into the General Fund. According to legal precedence, these fees will be unconstitutionally converted into a tax. Lawyers were consulted for their legal opinion on the constitutionality of this diversion of monies, and while they have disagreed, the creation of this new tax clearly puts New Hampshire at risk of multiple lawsuits.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 448-FN, (New Title) modifying the definition of veteran. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. As amended, this measure corrects an oversight in prior law that failed to properly recognize those veterans given "general" discharges under honorable circumstances. The new characterization involves both of the two varieties of discharges considered honorable. Earlier this year the House passed HB 1287 which addressed discharge status issues related to special number plates. This measure adds "general discharge under honorable conditions" status to the existing "honorable discharge" status in terms of eligibility for certain other benefits. The definitions in related law are thus adjusted to properly recognize both statuses and provide definition regarding benefits to another contingent of veterans who honorably served our nation and state. **Vote 13-0.**

SB 492-FN, authorizing the department of military affairs and veterans services to license and lease property in which the department holds a property interest. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Sanjeev Manohar for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This bill authorizes the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services (DMAVS) to lease or license property under its jurisdiction and establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing fund for the management of such property. It clarifies that leased or licensed property is not exempt from taxation of local municipalities. Testimony before the committee highlighted the increasing cost of housing in areas surrounding military installations, such as our base at the former Pease Air Force Base and the resulting challenges for service members and their families, particularly enlisted personnel. In some cases, personnel are required to commute significant distances to access affordable housing, which can negatively impact readiness and quality of life. The committee found that this bill provides a practical and flexible tool for DMAVS to make better use of its existing property in a manner that may help address housing constraints and support military personnel. The ability to lease or license property offers a creative approach to addressing these challenges while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability. The amendment changed the effective date from July 1, 2026, to "60 days after passage." **Vote 13-0.**

TRANSPORTATION

SB 559-FN, reducing the minimum allowable speed limit on locally controlled roads. **MAJORITY: INEXPE- DIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for the **Majority** of Transportation. Allowing municipalities to reduce local speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph in the name of safety commendable, but does not fix the issues that cause the unsafe conditions. An engineering study is required to justify a change in speed limits. This study should identify any unsafe conditions and recommend a fix for those unsafe conditions. Passage of this bill would also allow municipalities to change speed limits on state owned roads in compact urban areas. This change could confuse drivers from other areas who are not accustomed to this type of change. Finally this lowering of a speed limit could force some school zones and work to be forced to be lowered to as low as 10 mph. **Vote 11-4.** Rep. George Sykes for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill is enabling legislation which would allow a minimum allowable speed limit of 20 mph. This bill is at it's most basic is a public safety measure. The most critical point remains that the survivability of pedestrians and the bicyclist's with this speed reduction the likelihood of death or serious injury drops to 5% vs 45% at 30 mph.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Room 100, SH

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROGRAMS STUDY COMMISSION (RSA 79:32), Room 154, GP

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTALLY-TRIGGERED CHRONIC ILLNESS (RSA 126-A:73-a),

3:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 861 1781 8803 Passcode: 669915
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86117818803?pwd=cWRXdGwQnQvc2ZRbkNOBhGc3M0dz09>

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Room 230, GP

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

FOSTER CARE OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE (RSA 21-V:10), Room 103, SH

12:00 p.m. Organizational meeting.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13), Room 158, GP

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE (RSA 14-B:2), Room 122-123, SH

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3), Cog Railway Service Shop, 3168 Base Station Road, Mount Washington

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 20**FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 234, GP**

10:00 a.m. Division work session on **SB 592-FN**, 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; **SB 600-FN**, requiring the governor to submit and present a quarterly fiscal year budget report about the general and education trust funds to the general court fiscal committee.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 230, GP

9:00 a.m. Division work session on **SB 481-FN-A**, relative to the sale of the Sununu youth services center property; **SB 603-FN**, relative to the funding of the SNAP program by the department of health and human services; **SB 663-FN-A**, creating a Medicaid methodology working group within the department of health and human services.

NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a), New Hampshire Veterans Home, Tarr South Conference Room, 139 Winter Street, Tilton

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will take place online via Zoom with meeting information available by calling (603) 527-4400.

OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 21-V:10), Room 100, SH

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee meeting.

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1), NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Rd., Concord,

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21**COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 229, GP**

10:00 a.m. **SB 524**, enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

10:15 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane amendment #2026-1492h to **SB 524**, (New Title) enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol. This amendment creates a fine for a person under 21 years of age who violates the laws relative to use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products. It changes what types of products businesses with different types of liquor licenses are able to sell. It also requires holders of the retail tobacco licenses, tobacco products manufacturers, and tobacco products wholesalers to report inventory, loss, purchases and sales to the liquor commission. Additionally, this amendment subjects licensees found in possession of selling or delivering illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products to an administrative fine equal to the amount of state tobacco tax that would have been due had the tobacco products been lawfully purchased and taxed. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.

10:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 524**, enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

- 1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 444-FN**, prohibiting the use of animal testing when other comparable methods are available; **SB 487**, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member; **SB 496**, relative to supervision and registration requirements for associates of broker-dealers; **SB 525**, raising the maximum amount of state guarantees in force; **SB 573**, establishing certification standards for facility comfort dogs; **SB 639**, establishing a committee to study the health and safety impacts of Red Dye 40 and other food additives in food and beverages sold in New Hampshire; **SB 648**, requiring age verification by commercial entities to allow access to pornographic material.

HOUSING, Room 231, GP

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 523-FN**, establishing a commission to study the implementation of a residential builder registration system.
- 10:30 a.m. Executive session on **SB 415**, relative to a certain exemption in interest in condominium units; **SB 490**, establishing a task force to assess the development of housing at Great Bay community college and authorizing the college the right to use vacant property for the purpose of developing housing; **SB 523-FN**, establishing a commission to study the implementation of a residential builder registration system.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 159, GP

- 9:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **SB 655**, relative to employee leasing companies, workers' compensation coverage options, and a minimum wage exemption for minor league baseball players; **SB 88-FN**, prohibiting state government entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants; **SB 416**, relative to the pooling and sharing of tips among tipped employees.
- 2:30 p.m. Executive session on **SB 655**, relative to employee leasing companies, workers' compensation coverage options, and a minimum wage exemption for minor league baseball players; **SB 88-FN**, prohibiting state government entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants; **SB 416**, relative to the pooling and sharing of tips among tipped employees.
- Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 229, GP

- 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 256-FN**, establishing safety and care requirements for clinician-administered drugs; **SB 455-FN**, relative to health plan coverage of GLP-1 medications; **SB 480-FN**, limiting certain prior authorization requirements for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and similar rehabilitative services; **SB 498-FN**, relative to children's mental health services for persons 18 years of age and younger; **SB 544-FN**, relative to managed care laws; **SB 550-FN**, relative to insurance coverage for services provided by naturopathy providers; **SB 606-FN**, relative to insurance coverage for biomarker testing; **SB 607**, relative to short-term, limited duration health insurance policies; **SB 614-FN**, establishing multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangements for nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers; **SB 646-FN**, relative to mental health standards of care; **SB 647**, authorizing the department of insurance to participate in a cooperative procurement group via an intergovernmental agreement for a prescription drug discount program; **SB 661-FN**, relative to pooled risk management programs; **SB 665-FN**, relative to pharmacy benefits managers, managed care laws, notice of drug pricing options and pharmacy benefit manager business practices.
- 1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **SB 562**, relative to a home damage mitigation and resiliency program; **SB 565-FN**, requiring the commissioner of the insurance department to prepare and publish a report regarding fortified home and commercial standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 231, GP

- 10:00 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane amendment #2026-1533h to **SB 56**, relative to consolidating the New Hampshire health and education facilities authority within the business finance authority. This amendment establishes a surplus land revitalization program. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.

- 10:30 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane amendment #2026-1518h to **SB 572**, relative to New Hampshire hospital real estate. This amendment limits the ability of certain appointees to serve until their successor is appointed and qualified to a maximum of 6 months. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.
- 11:00 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane amendment #2026-1522h to **SB 640-FN**, relative to the use of artificial intelligence to provide services requiring a professional license. This amendment prohibits the use of artificial intelligence or other means to provide services requiring a professional license unless those services are provided by someone with such a license. It allows the office of professional licensure and certification to collect fees for the costs of enforcement of the prohibition on unlicensed practice. It establishes specific requirements for the use of artificial intelligence for psychologists, mental health practitioners, and alcohol and other drug use professionals. It establishes an artificial intelligence and software division within the department of information technology to develop and maintain software applications for state agencies using artificial intelligence-assisted development tools. It establishes a process and structure to support software modernization by requiring agency coordination with the department on major technology purchases, establishes a software innovation fund, sets artificial intelligence governance standards, and requires regular reporting on modernization process. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 159, GP

- 10:00 a.m. Executive session on **SB 409-FN**, relative to the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer; **SB 667-FN**, relative to the assault of emergency room personnel.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord

- 12:00 p.m. Subcommittee meeting.

SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP (RSA 149-M:61), NHDES - 29 Hazen Drive, Concord (Room 208C)

- 9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

FINANCE, Room 230, GP

- 1:00 p.m. Executive session on **SB 592-FN**, 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; **SB 600-FN**, requiring the governor to submit and present a quarterly fiscal year budget report about the general and education trust funds to the general court fiscal committee; **SB 481-FN-A**, relative to the sale of the Sununu youth services center property; **SB 603-FN**, relative to the funding of the SNAP program by the department of health and human services; **SB 663-FN-A**, creating a Medicaid methodology working group within the department of health and human services.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 229, GP

- 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing to consider the matter of Representative Corcoran as referred to the committee by the House of Representatives.

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE (RSA 187-A:28-a), Room 100, SH

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 159, GP

- 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on **CACR 12**, relating to voting on broad-based taxes. Providing that a supermajority vote of the general court shall be required to enact any broad-based taxes.
- 10:30 a.m. Executive session on **CACR 12**, relating to voting on broad-based taxes. Providing that a supermajority vote of the general court shall be required to enact any broad-based taxes.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Training Room, Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord

9:30 a.m. Subcommittee meeting.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 231, GP

1:00 p.m. Full committee work session on **SB 640-FN**, relative to the use of artificial intelligence to provide services requiring a professional license.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

TEMPORARY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO STUDY, MONITOR, AND SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE MEASURES IDENTIFIED IN THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET ASSISTANT AUDIT (HB 2, Chapter 141:369, Laws of 2025), Room 234, GP

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

ELECTION LAW, Room 158, GP

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **SB 223-FN**, prohibiting student identification cards from being used as photo identification for purposes of obtaining a ballot; **SB 405**, relative to amounts reported by political committees; **SB 438**, relative to the sharing of data between the department of safety and the secretary of state for the purposes of verifying the accuracy of information in the centralized voter registration database; **SB 660**, relative to photo identification cards issued solely for the purpose of voting.

STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2), Edward Cross Training Complex, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Training Room, Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord

9:30 a.m. Subcommittee meeting.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF OHRVS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 215-A:44-a), DNRC, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Microsoft Teams:
Meeting ID: 218 299 554 481 60 Passcode: em2nw222
By phone: +1 603-931-4944,840445040#

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 17-N:1), Room 234, GP

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 11

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (RSA 188-E:10-b), 25 Hall Street, Concord

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

LONG-TERM SEACOAST COMMISSION ON DRINKING WATER (RSA 485-F:6), New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), Portsmouth Regional Office in Room A, Pease International Tradeport, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 18

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1), NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Rd., Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115>
Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115

TUESDAY, MAY 19

COMMISSION TO STUDY REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO THE ROAD TOLL, ROAD TOLL REGISTRATION CHARGES, AND REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, INCLUDING ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STATE'S HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES AND THEIR RESULTING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT (RSA 21-J:49), Room 228, GP

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

REVISED FISCAL NOTES

The following bills have a revised fiscal note: HB 112, HB 215, HB 219, HB 224, HB 241, HB 518, HB 547, HB 563, HB 570, HB 572, HB 595, HB 607, HB 609, HB 611, HB 619, HB 621, HB 624, HB 629, HB 630, HB 635, HB 648, HB 649, HB 651, HB 652, HB 665, HB 671, HB 675, HB 686, HB 716, HB 721, HB 725, HB 727, HB 729, HB 734, HB 751, HB 767, HB 772, HB 773, HB 1029, HB 1088, HB 1130, HB 1170, HB 1176, HB 1197, HB 1199, HB 1301, HB 1420, HB 1426, HB 1433, HB 1457, HB 1466, HB 1469, HB 1471, HB 1477, HB 1483, HB 1492, HB 1499, HB 1542, HB 1555, HB 1566, HB 1576, HB 1594, HB 1600, HB 1602, HB 1603, HB 1622, HB 1655, HB 1705, HB 1708, HB 1718, HB 1727, HB 1739, HB 1740, HB 1747, HB 1748, HB 1751, HB 1752, HB 1753, HB 1754, HB 1760, HB 1761, HB 1764, HB 1765, HB 1767, HB 1768, HB 1769, HB 1770, HB 1771, HB 1772, HB 1773, HB 1775, HB 1776, HB 1777, HB 1778, HB 1781, HB 1782, HB 1783, HB 1784, HB 1786, HB 1787, HB 1788, HB 1789, HB 1790, HB 1793, HB 1794, HB 1796, HB 1797, HB 1798, HB 1799, HB 1802, HB 1803, HB 1808, HB 1807, HB 1810, HB 1812, HB 1815, HB 1818, HB 1819, HB 1820, HB 1822, HB 1823, HB 1824, HB 1825, HB 1826, HB 1827, HB 1830, HB 1831, HB 1832, HB 1833, HB 1834, HB 1837, SB 36, SB 49, SB 71, SB 101, SB 103, SB 112, SB 134, SB 223, SB 247, SB 256, SB 408, SB 425, SB 448, SB 449, SB 450, SB 454, SB 457, SB 465, SB 470, SB 480, SB 482, SB 491, SB 502, SB 505, SB 510, SB 511, SB 512, SB 515, SB 519, SB 540, SB 543, SB 545, SB 548, SB 549, SB 557, SB 559, SB 567, SB 580, SB 589, SB 591, SB 592, SB 600, SB 606, SB 608, SB 619, SB 620, SB 625, SB 627, SB 632, SB 640, SB 642, SB 643, SB 652, SB 656, SB 657, SB 663, SB 669, SB 670.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Rockingham County Executive Committee Meeting, Friday, May 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the FY-2026 Third Quarter Budget review. A quorum is required.

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd= TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue,

Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

Rockingham County Convention Meeting, Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is to Vote Elected Officials Salaries and Benefits for the term commencing January 2027 (RSA 23:7, 655:14). A quorum is required.

Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd= TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>

By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue,

Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

Rockingham County Executive Committee Meeting, **Friday, May 22, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Norman L. Major Auditorium, Rockingham County Municipal Building, 94 North Road, Brentwood, NH. The purpose of the meeting is for Subcommittee Chairs to present their subcommittee recommendations. The Executive Committee votes on the budget to be presented at the Executive Committee Public Hearing on June 3, 2026. Zoom Access is available: <https://zoom.us/j/5713255541?pwd= TkV4NnM5OHp5SnZzVEcxaFlrL0VYZz09>
By Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 571-325-5541, No Participant ID - Press # to continue,
Meeting Password: 312900

Rep. John Potucek, Clerk

MEMBERS' NOTICES

The following notices are published in the House Record as a courtesy to the member(s) requesting publication. These are not official public notices and will be limited to legislative policy or legislative social activities and political meetings or events. Publication should not be construed as support for either the events listed or the views espoused by the individual or organization sponsoring the event.

All Representatives are invited to a Bible Study and prayer during the Lunch Break on Session Day. We will meet in the Upham Walker House with Pastor Peter Chamberland for this time together. Come and be refreshed both physically and spiritually during our lunch hour. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan

Join the New Hampshire Children's Trust, General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire and partners from across the state for a community gathering in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. On **Thursday, April 23, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** we will be planting a community Pinwheel Garden on the State House Lawn, that brings together families, community leaders, and partners to highlight the importance of child abuse prevention, connection, and the supports that help children and families thrive.

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner

The New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Council would like to cordially invite all Representatives to a hearty hot breakfast on **Thursday, April 23rd from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.** in the basement of St. Paul's Church (21 Centre St., across from the State House) to learn about the Council and suicide prevention. RSVP (encouraged but not required) to Holly Stevens, co-chair of the SPC policy subcommittee, at hstevens@naminh.org.

Rep. Mark Pearson

NH Voices of Faith invites legislators to a Legislative Luncheon! **April 23, 2026, 12:00 am-1:00 p.m.**, State House dining room. NH Voices of Faith invites legislators to a delicious Legislative Luncheon! April 23, 2026, 12:00 - 1:00pm, State House dining room.

Rep. Heath Howard

On behalf of the New Hampshire Farm, Forest & Garden Expo Board of Directors, the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (NHDAMF) invites all New Hampshire legislators to attend the Farm, Forest, and Garden Expo. The 2026 Expo will take place on **May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and on **May 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This year's theme, From Soil to Sawdust: How New Hampshire Makes Ag Happen, highlights the people on the front lines transforming the Granite State's natural resources into the food we eat, the tools we use, and the products that support everyday life. This event provides an excellent opportunity to connect with the individuals and practices that keep New Hampshire thriving. For tickets, stop by NHDAMF at 1 Granite Place, Suite 211, in Concord, or email Rebecca.W.Ross@agr.nh.gov. More information is available at <https://www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org/>.

Rep. Steven Smith

Legislators & staff are cordially invited to the annual Walmart lunch and health screening in the State House cafeteria on **Thursday, May 14th starting at 11:30 a.m.**

Rep. Jason Osborne

With Session coming to a close in a few weeks, Dartmouth Health invites you to join them for lunch on **May 21st from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Dartmouth Health works to ensure the health and well-being of their patients statewide and advance New Hampshire health in our communities. Please stop by to meet with Dartmouth Health leaders and learn more about how they work to keep the Granite State healthy.

Reps. Lucy Webber and Wayne MacDonald

NH/VT Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is part of a national construction industry trade association representing more than 23,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC helps New Hampshire contractors develop people, win work, and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Please join local contractors on the State House Plaza on **Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** for hands on demonstrations of the trades, craft training, safety equipment and technology used every day to literally build New Hampshire. Lunch will be served!

Rep. Jason Osborne

The New Hampshire Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Association cordially invites you to attend the 34th Annual New Hampshire Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony. This Ceremony is being held to honor the Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of New Hampshire who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty while protecting the citizens of the State. The Ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 22, 2026**, beginning promptly at **10:00 a.m.**, at the Memorial Site in front of the Legislative Office Building. The Ceremony will proceed rain or shine. Please do not hesitate to contact Colonel Kevin Jordan at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 603-271-3128, should you have any questions.

Speaker Packard

AMENDMENTS

(LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

Amendment to SB 101-FN (2026-1451h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Policy and Administration –r

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

AN ACT authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state.

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

1 Open Enrollment. RSA 194-D is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 194-D

OPEN ENROLLMENT SCHOOLS

194-D:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. “Capacity” means the number of pupil seats available for any grade, program, or technical education program in a public school without the addition of staff. Capacity shall be determined by the governing body of the school district and need not equal the maximum number of pupils otherwise allowed by law.

II. “Open enrollment school” means any district public school that provides educational services to pupils outside its district.

III. “Open enrollment pupil” means any pupil who attends a school outside of their resident school district pursuant to the terms of this statute.

IV. “Parent” means a parent, guardian, or other person or entity having legal custody of a child or, in the case of a child with a disability, a surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with state or federal law.

V. “Pupil” means any child who is eligible for attendance in public schools in New Hampshire in kindergarten through grade 12 who is a resident of this state.

VI. “Receiving district” means a district receiving pupils from outside of the school district.

VII. “Receiving school” means a district public school receiving pupils from another school district under this statute.

VIII. “Resident district” means the school district in which the pupil resides.

IX. “School board” means the school district school board.

X. “State board” means the state board of education.

194-D:2 Establishment; Parental Choice; Admission.

I. Each district governing body shall establish an open enrollment policy to allow pupils to transfer among schools within the district and from another district in the state, or from any state that has an interstate compact with New Hampshire that does not require nonresident pupils to pay an application fee or tuition.

II. The governing body of each school district shall determine the capacity of each school in the district, including the capacity of each grade level, career and technical education program, and other academic program with enrollment limitations.

III. The governing body shall develop an open enrollment policy to determine what number of the total capacity of any grade level or career, and technical education program shall be allotted for open enrollment pupils.

IV. The district shall publish on its website the total capacity, under paragraph II, and the number of available allocated open enrollments spots, under paragraph III, that are available for each school, grade level, career and technical education program, and other academic program with enrollment limitations on or before July 1 and December 15 of each year.

V. Each school district in the state shall report annually to the department of education the number of applications, acceptances, and denials, and the reason for each denial. The department of education shall publish the data annually on its website and provide reports to the senate and house education committees, and the state board of education.

VI. A parent may apply to any public school within the state on behalf of a pupil.

VII. Applications may be made on behalf of eligible pupils to more than one school or program with available capacity.

VIII. Every school shall make information about its curriculum and policies available on its website.

IX. There shall be no application fee for pupil admission to any public school.

X. Applications for open enrollment may be denied only for the following reasons:

(a) The pupil was expelled by the pupil's previous district;

(b) The pupil has a documented history of significant disciplinary issues that are not documented as part of an identified disability;

(c) The pupil has a documented history of chronic absenteeism that is not documented through a section 504 plan or IEP, through McKinney Vento status, or due to Foster Care, or as a result of bullying;

(d) The school, grade level, program, or class has reached the allotted capacity set for open enrollment pupils by the school district's governing body pursuant to paragraph III; or

(e) The pupil does not satisfy the prerequisite requirements for the program.

XI. No receiving school shall accept or reject an applicant based on pupil needs, special education needs, disability of a pupil, aptitude, or athletic achievement.

XII. School boards may adopt application procedures and deadlines for applications for enrollment; provided that:

(a) Applications for enrollment shall be open at least twice per academic year.

(b) If the number of applicants for enrollment exceeds capacity as established under paragraph III, enrollment shall be determined by a random selection lottery that provides equal opportunity for admissions.

(c) The lottery shall be conducted in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school board from adopting a policy that establishes preferences in the lottery for:

(1) Siblings of currently enrolled pupils;

(2) Children of school employees;

(3) Pupils residing within a defined geographical boundary; and/or

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

(e) Any preferences established by a district's open enrollment policy shall be published with the application, prior to the start of the application period.

XIII. An open enrollment pupil shall maintain continuous enrollment in the receiving school without requirement of reapplication, except in cases of expulsion.

XIV. School board policies shall provide an admission preference prioritizing open enrollment pupils matriculating with the same cohort.

XV. For the purposes of open enrollment pupil, neither the resident nor the receiving school district shall be obligated to provide transportation services for pupils attending a school outside the pupil's resident district. A parent may provide transportation to a bus stop on an existing route, unless otherwise determined by an IEP or Section 504 Plan, as determined by the receiving school district. The receiving district shall provide the parents with information regarding transportation options.

XVI. A pupil may withdraw from an open enrollment school at any time and enroll in a public school where the pupil resides, except that no pupil shall change schools more than once per academic year. The school board of the pupil's resident district may waive this limitation after a hearing.

194-D:3 Funding.

I.(a) There shall be no tuition charge for any pupil attending an open enrollment school.

(b) For each open enrollment pupil, the department of education shall pay aid amounts pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(a)-(c) plus the additional grant pursuant to RSA 194-B:11, I(b)(1)(A) to all open enrollment public schools according to the average daily membership in attendance pursuant to RSA 198:38, I(a). The department shall adjust the rates specified in this subparagraph in accordance with RSA 198:40-d.

II.(a) Districts with an existing tuition agreement shall follow the terms of any existing and active tuition agreement as applicable between both parties. Notwithstanding any provision herein, nothing in this statute shall relieve a district from providing at least one education option that does not require additional tuition payment from the parent. A district not operating a school, serving any grade from kindergarten through grade 12, shall maintain an active tuition agreement that has been approved by the school board to provide pupils with the opportunity to acquire an adequate education as defined in RSA 193-E:2.

(b) Districts receiving an open enrollment pupil from a resident district that already has a tuition agreement with the receiving open enrollment school shall not receive an open enrollment aid amount. The resident district shall follow their tuition agreement and shall receive the adequacy aid amount as calculated and distributed pursuant to RSA 198:42, III. Open enrollment public schools shall report to the department of education the number of open enrollment pupils attending each school.

(c) Any district where the number of pupils residing in the district and calculated towards the open enrollment grant pursuant to paragraph I exceeds the number of resident district pupils calculated towards the adequacy calculation pursuant to RSA 198:38, I-a shall have their existing tuition agreement presented by the district to the state board of education. The state board of education may require the district to enter into a new tuition agreement.

III. For a pupil attending an open enrollment school in another school district, the department of education shall calculate and distribute open enrollment aid payments during the year in which the pupil is educated as set forth in this paragraph. The first payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil open enrollment aid amount, excluding differential aid components pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(b)-(d), multiplied by the number of eligible pupils enrolled on October 1st. Such payment shall be made on November 1st, January 1st, and April 1st. To calculate the final payment, the department of education shall multiply the per pupil amount, including differential aid components pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(b)-(d), by the average daily membership in attendance for the full school year, and subtract the total amount of the first 3 payments made. The remaining balance shall be the final payment paid on October 1st of the following school year.

IV. The source of funds for payments under this section shall be moneys from the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this section. Such warrant for payment shall be issued regardless of the balance of funds available in the education trust fund. If the balance in the education trust fund, after the issuance of any such warrant, is less than zero, the state comptroller shall transfer sufficient funds from the general fund to eliminate such deficit.

V. In accordance with current department of education standards, the funding and educational decision-making process for children with disabilities transferring to a school shall be the responsibility of the resident school district and shall retain all current options available to the parent and to the school district.

VI. The commissioner of the department of education shall apply for all federal funding available to open enrollment schools under any federal source of funds. The commissioner shall expend any such funds received in a manner acceptable to the funding source.

VII. A resident district may provide funds, services, transportation, equipment, materials, or personnel to a school, in addition to the amounts specified in this section in accordance with the policies of the resident school district.

194-D:4 District of Liability for Special Education Services. The resident district shall remain responsible for educational decision making and the provision of special education and related services under RSA 186-C, consistent with the child's IEP, for pupils with disabilities who transfer to a school outside the resident district.

194-D:5 State Board; Duties.

I. The state board shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, consistent with the provisions of this chapter relative to the administration of enrollment in public schools across the state.

II. The state board shall convene one or more working committees to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation and effectiveness of open enrollment policies. The recommendations shall be provided to the legislative oversight committee in RSA 193-C:8-a.

2 New Subparagraph; Education Trust Fund; Open Enrollment Aid. Amend RSA 198:39, I by inserting after subparagraph (q) the following new subparagraph:

(r) To fund open enrollment aid pursuant to RSA 194-D.

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

2026-1451h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the governing body of each school district to establish an open enrollment policy to allow pupils to transfer among schools within the district and from another district in the state. Each school would be required to provide notice of its capacity to accept open enrollment pupils and would require selection by lottery in the event applications exceed capacity. The bill also establishes a funding formula for payments by the department of education from the education trust fund for open enrollment pupils.

**Amendment to SB 101-FN
(2026-1455h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Education Policy and Administration-r

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study public school open enrollment.

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

1 New Section; Commission to Study Open Enrollment Public Schools; Established. Amend RSA 194-D by inserting after section 7 the following new section:

194-D:8 Commission to Study Open Enrollment Public Schools. There is established a commission to study public school open enrollment and provide revisions related to RSA 194-D.

I. For the purposes of this section, "equitable access" shall mean the principle of ensuring fair and just treatment for all individuals through providing the necessary resources and accommodations to achieve an equally effective and meaningful opportunity to participate in a program or benefit from a service, regardless of their background, including, but not limited to, disability, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the commission shall be composed of the following members:

(a) The commissioner of the department of education, or their designee.

(b) Three public school superintendents, each of whom shall be from a different region as recognized by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA), appointed by the NHSAA legislation committee chair.

(c) Two local school board members or officers, each of whom shall be from a different region as recognized by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA), appointed by the NHSAA legislation committee chair.

(d) The chair of the house education committee or designee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(e) The chair of the senate education committee or designee, appointed by the president of the senate.

(f) A member of a house education committee, appointed jointly by the chair of the committee and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(g) A member of a senate education committee, nominated by the chair of the committee and appointed by the president of the senate.

(h) One business administrator, representing a different public school district than the appointed superintendents under subparagraph (b), appointed by the head of the New Hampshire School Business Administrators Association.

(i) Two parents or guardians of public school students in the state, who should each be representatives of different counties in the state, sizes of schools and school districts, and demographics of public school students, including but not limited to disability, socioeconomic, gender, race, and ethnic backgrounds.

(j) A charter school administrator, appointed by the New Hampshire Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

(k) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Educators.

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

IV. The commission shall:

(a) Develop a public school open enrollment system that:

(1) Establishes state funding mechanisms for this educational pathway;

(2) Provides an adequate education through an integrated system of shared responsibility between state and local government; and

(3) Ensures equitable access for all public school students and families.

(b) Propose revisions to RSA 194-D to establish the following components of open enrollment public schools:

(1) The random, fair, and equitable process for student enrollment and selection that complies with all federal and state civil rights and anti-discrimination laws and regulations;

(2) The department of education's ability to provide support and guidance to school districts that want to consider open enrollment;

- (3) Required timelines to establish an open enrollment school, including those stated in RSA 194-D:3;
- (4) Transportation responsibilities between public schools;
- (5) Special education responsibilities between public schools;
- (6) Required policies for an open enrollment public school;
- (7) Clarifications on budget documentation for public schools using open enrollment;
- (8) State procedures regarding use of state adequacy and differentiated grants to fund open enrollment in public schools; and
- (9) Development of a funding algorithm and mechanism that prevents direct invoicing between public schools.

(c) Determine the work schedule and organizational plan to complete the review process with the timeline specified in paragraph VI. This may include additional work sessions with various groups of New Hampshire public school educators and leaders.

V. The first meeting of the commission shall occur within 30 days of the effective date of this section. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first named member of the commission, excluding the commissioner of education. The commission shall make all decisions related to its recommendations using a simple majority vote of the commission members.

VI. The commission shall provide a final report no later than September 1, 2027. The report shall be sent to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairs and ranking members of the house and senate education committees, and the commissioner of the department of education.

2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 194-D:8, relative to establishing the commission to study open enrollment public schools, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2027.

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

2026-1455h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study public school open enrollment.

**Amendment to SB 400
(2026-1309h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration–c

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

1 Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board; Reporting Requirement. Amend RSA 126-X:12, VI to read as follows:

VI. On or before January 1 of each year, the board shall make a report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the oversight committee on health and human services established under RSA 126-A:13, the board of medicine, and the board of nursing. *The report shall include documentation of the board's reviews of currently approved and additional qualifying medical conditions, including the board's findings and recommendations, and citations to the medical and scientific evidence reviewed by the board.*

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

2026-1309h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the annual report by the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board to include documentation of the board's review of currently approved and additional qualifying medical conditions, including the board's findings and recommendations, and citations to the medical and scientific evidence reviewed by the board.

**Amendment to SB 408-FN
(2026-1505h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs–c

Amend RSA 415:18-ff, I and II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group ~~or blanket accident or~~ health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide coverage for prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for children under 19 years of age, who are residents of this state and covered by such insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-specific prosthetic devices to one activity-specific prosthetic device per plan year. Medically necessary prosthetic devices shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section shall be subject to such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply.

II. Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide coverage for prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for individuals over 19 years of age who are residents of this state and covered by such insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-specific prosthetic devices to one activity-specific prosthetic device every 5 years and may apply utilization management, including limiting or excluding coverage if the covered person has received an activity-specific device in the last 5 years. Medically necessary prosthetic devices shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section shall be subject to such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply, including any applicable cost sharing. This section shall also apply to the state of New Hampshire's employee health benefit plan under RSA 21-I.

**Amendment to SB 429-FN-A
(2026-1351h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Education Policy and Administration-r

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

AN ACT relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor and relative to the parental bill of rights concerning the creation of student media recordings.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

4 Education; Parental Bill of Rights. RSA 189-B:4, I(p) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(p) To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including any school pursuant to RSA 189:68, III-V, makes a video or voice recording, unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding; part of a forensic interview in a criminal or child protective services investigation; solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles; as a component of the administration of a required assessment; during a school-sponsored event that is open to the general public; as part of the regular instructional coursework required by the school; or as part of instruction in a student journalism, media production, or broadcasting course or school-sponsored extracurricular activity that has been approved by the local school board or board of trustees.

5 Effective Date.

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

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

2026-1351h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the placement of trauma kits in public schools and makes an appropriation to a fund established to fund the placement.

II. Adds additional exemptions to the parental bill of rights in education concerning parental written consent prior to the creation of student audio or visual recordings.

**Amendment to SB 448-FN
(2026-1444h)**

Proposed by the Committee on State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs-r

Amend the bill by deleting section 1 and renumbering the original sections 2-9 to read as 1-8, respectively.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 5 with the following:

6 Honorable Discharge; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "honorable discharge" or "an honorable discharge" with "discharge of a character outlined in RSA 21:50": RSA 115-A:16; 115-A:29, I-II; 115-B:1, II(a); 115-B:1, II(c); 165:5; 175:1, XXII; 176:10; 261:86, I(d); 261:87-b, I; 275-G:1, II; 466:8, I; and 651-A:13.

7 Honorably Discharged; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "honorably discharged" with "discharge of a character outlined in RSA 21:50": RSA 72:28, IV(a); 72:28-b, IV; 72:35, I; 99-F:2, VI(a)(1)-(3); 100-A:4, VI(a)(2); 119:1, I; 119:2, II; 261:86, I(c)-(e); 261:141, VIII(c); 261:157-a; and 291:3.

8 Applicability. The change in terminology made under sections 6 and 7 of this act shall apply to municipal rules in effect on the effective date of this act without amendment or readoption by the municipality.

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

**Amendment to SB 449-FN
(2026-1439h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy-r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definition; Eligible Customer Generator. RSA 362-A:1-a, II-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

II-b. “Eligible customer-generator” or “customer-generator” means an electric utility customer who owns, operates, or purchases power from an electrical generating facility either powered by renewable energy or which employs a heat led combined heat and power system, with a total peak generating capacity, or maximum nameplate rating, of up to and including one megawatt, except as provided for a municipal host as defined in paragraph II-c or as provided for an industrial customer as defined in paragraph II-g, that is located behind a retail meter on the customer’s premises, is interconnected and operates in parallel with the electric grid, and is used to offset the customer’s own electricity requirements. Energy storage, as defined in RSA 374-H:1, III, may be added to such a generation facility without affecting the generation facility’s size determination relating to its eligibility to net meter. Such energy storage, if configured to allow electricity to be exported to the grid, shall be charged only from such generation facility, except as provided for in RSA 362-A:9, XXIV. Incremental generation added to an existing generation facility, that does not itself qualify for net metering, shall qualify if such incremental generation meets the qualifications of this paragraph and is metered separately from the non-qualifying facility.

Amend the bill by replacing section 6 with the following:

6 New Paragraph; Net Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph XXIII the following new paragraph:

XXIV. The commission may determine terms and conditions for how a customer-generator may use and be compensated for exports to the grid from energy storage added to renewable energy generation sources in conjunction with net metering and related tariff provisions. The commission shall require such energy storage, if configured to allow electricity to be exported to the grid, to be charged only from such generation facility, unless charging is under the control of an entity other than the customer-generator or as otherwise authorized by the commission in an adjudicated proceeding.

2026-1439h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Revises the definition of “eligible customer-generator” to allow renewable or heat-led CHP systems up to one megawatt, permit associate energy storage, and allow separately metered incremental generation to qualify and establishes a definition of “industrial customer” with generating capacity between one and 5 megawatts and specifies the treatment of excess annual generation.

II. Directs electric distribution utilities to make available alternative tariffs for net metering in accordance with PUC Order 26,029 and establishes tariff transition provisions for industrial customer generators submitting interconnection applications before December 31, 2031.

III. Directs the department of energy to adopt rules for the installation and interconnection of customer energy storage systems.

IV. Authorizes the public utilities commission to determine terms and conditions for the use of and compensation for exports to the grid from energy storage paired with renewable generation under net metering, and requires the commission to impose charging source restrictions for such storage unless otherwise authorized.

**Amendment to SB 460-FN
(2026-1286h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety–r

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

AN ACT prohibiting tier III criminal offenders from being present in designated child safety zones absent a legitimate purpose.

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

1 New Section; Registration of Criminal Offenders; Child Safety Zones. Amend RSA 651-B by inserting after section 12 the following new section:

651-B:13 Child Safety Zones; Prohibited Presence.

I. No person who is required to register as a tier III offender under this chapter, as a result of an offense where the victim was under 18 years of age, shall knowingly go in, on, or within 500 feet of a child safety zone.

II. Distance shall be measured in a straight line from the outer property boundary of the child safety zone to the person.

III. In this section, “child safety zone” means the premises of any of the following:

- (a) A public or private elementary or secondary school.
- (b) A licensed child care facility or day care center.
- (c) A public park, playground, or public swimming pool.
- (d) A designated school bus stop currently in use by a school district.

IV. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution if the person was within the child safety zone for a legitimate purpose, including:

- (a) Transporting their own legal child to or from the facility.

(b) Participating in a constitutionally protected activity, such as voting.

(c) Direct travel to or from their place of residence, or place of employment, if such was established prior to the effective date of this section.

V. Evidence that the person has received written notice of these prohibitions during registration, or that the zone was marked with signage or otherwise open and obvious, shall be prima facie evidence that the person acted knowingly.

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

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

2026-1286h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes it a class B felony for tier III registered offenders to be present in certain designated child safety zones, and makes it an affirmative defense that the offender was there for a legitimate purpose.

**Amendment to SB 460-FN
(2026-1337h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety-r

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

AN ACT prohibiting certain registered criminal offenders from remaining near a school or childcare facility after being requested to leave by a law enforcement officer, absent constitutionally-protected conduct.

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

1 Registration of Criminal Offenders; New Duty Added. Amend RSA 651-B:3 to read as follows:

651-B:3 Release of Certain Sexual Offenders Into the Community; Duties; ***Presence at School or Child-care Facility.***

I.(a) When a person is convicted of a sexual offense or offense against a child that results in the person being required to register, the court shall notify the offender in writing and advise the offender of his or her duty to report under this chapter. The offender shall acknowledge in writing that he or she has received such notice. The court shall forward a copy of the notice to the division along with a copy of each offense for which he or she was convicted, including a copy of any indictment, complaint, juvenile petition, mittimus, or other court orders. The division shall enter such information into the SOR system.

(b) Upon release of any sexual offender or offender against children required to register, whether on probation, parole, conditional or unconditional release, completion of sentence, release from secure psychiatric care, release into the community after involuntary commitment, release from a juvenile detention facility, or for any other reason, the official in charge of such release shall notify the offender of the offender's duty to report under this chapter. ***The official shall also notify the person of the restriction on their conduct imposed by RSA 651-B:3, V.*** The offender shall acknowledge in writing that he has received such notice. The official shall obtain the address at which the offender expects to reside upon release and shall report such address to the department. The department shall inform the local law enforcement agency in the city or town where the offender expects to reside. The local law enforcement agency in the city or town where the offender expects to reside may notify the superintendent of the school administrative unit and the principal of any school within its jurisdiction of the address at which the offender expects to reside. If such notification occurs, the local law enforcement agency shall also notify the superintendent of the school administrative unit and the principal of any school within its jurisdiction of any changes to the offender's information made pursuant to RSA 651-B:5. The division shall enter the information concerning the offender's release and notification in the SOR system.

II. Upon receipt from any out-of-state law enforcement agency of information that a sex offender or offender against children has moved to New Hampshire, the department shall obtain the address at which the offender expects to reside and shall inform the local law enforcement agency. The local law enforcement agency in the city or town where the offender expects to reside may notify the superintendent of the school administrative unit and the principal of any school within its jurisdiction of the address at which the offender expects to reside. The department shall locate and shall serve notice upon such offender of the offender's duty to report under this chapter. ***The department shall also notify the person of the restriction on their conduct imposed by RSA 651-B:3, V.*** Service by the department is not required if the offender has already registered with the local law enforcement agency in which the offender resides or is located as required by this chapter. At the time of the initial registration, the offender shall acknowledge in writing that the offender has received notice of the duty to report ***and of the restriction on their conduct imposed by RSA 651-B:3, V.*** The division shall enter the information concerning the offender's location in New Hampshire and notification in the SOR system. This paragraph shall not apply to a sexual offender or offender against children who has moved to New Hampshire and has registered with a local law enforcement agency.

III. Semi-annually, the department shall verify, in person, the address at which the offender resides or by sending a letter by certified non-forwarding mail to the offender. The address verification shall occur

prior to the offender's birthday and again prior to the offender's 6-month semi-annual registration. The address verification shall remind the offender of the obligation to register in person. The offender shall sign the address verification and return it to the officer, if the address verification was made in person, or to the department within 10 business days of receipt.

IV. In the discretion of the local law enforcement agency or the department, such agency or the department may affirmatively verify the address of any offender within that agency's jurisdiction through in-person contact at the home or residence of the offender.

V. Any tier II or tier III sexual offender required to register under this chapter shall be guilty of a violation if the offender knowingly remains in an area within 100 feet of a school or childcare facility after being requested to leave by a law enforcement officer, unless the offender is engaged in constitutionally-protected conduct.

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

2026-1337h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits certain registered criminal offenders from remaining near a school or childcare facility after being requested to leave by a law enforcement officer, absent constitutionally-protected conduct.

Amendment to SB 464-FN

(2026-1369h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Judiciary-r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Civil Rights Act; Civil Rights Enforcement. Amend RSA 354-B:1 to read as follows:

354-B:1 Civil Rights Enforcement.

I. All persons have the right to engage in lawful activities and to exercise and enjoy the rights secured by the United States and New Hampshire Constitutions and the laws of the United States and New Hampshire without being subject to actual or threatened physical force or violence against them or any other person or by actual or threatened damage to or trespass on property when such actual or threatened conduct is ***substantially*** motivated by ***hostility toward the*** race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or disability ***of the person who is the target of the aforesaid activity***. "Threatened physical force" and "threatened damage to or trespass on property" is a communication, by physical conduct or by declaration, of an intent to ***imminently*** inflict harm on a person or a person's property by some unlawful act with a purpose to terrorize or coerce.

II. [~~It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere or attempt to interfere with the rights secured by this chapter.~~] ***Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any conduct or speech that is protected under the United States Constitution or the New Hampshire constitution.***

2026-1369h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the standard for civil rights enforcement by requiring that prohibited conduct be substantially motivated by hostility toward the victim's protected characteristics. This bill further provides that the chapter shall not be construed to prohibit constitutionally protected conduct or speech.

Amendment to SB 482-FN

(2026-1526h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs-r

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

1 Statement of Findings. The general court finds that digital asset transaction kiosks are a legitimate financial service used by consumers to buy and sell digital assets; that the state of New Hampshire has positioned itself as a leader in the digital asset economy; and that these kiosks have been exploited by criminals to defraud consumers, particularly adults over age 60, who, according to the Federal Trade Commission, are more than 3 times as likely as younger adults to report losing money through such kiosks. It is the intent of the general court to protect vulnerable consumers from fraud while preserving a regulatory environment that supports lawful digital asset commerce in New Hampshire.

2 New Chapter; Digital Asset Transaction Kiosks. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 358-T the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 358-U

DIGITAL ASSET TRANSACTION KIOSKS

358-U:1 Statement of Purpose. It is the intent of the general court that this chapter establish reasonable and uniform consumer protections while permitting lawful and responsible digital asset transaction kiosk operations. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit an operator from adopting policies or practices that provide greater protections to consumers than the minimum standards established in this chapter.

358-U:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Authorized delegate" means a person or entity contractually authorized by an operator to perform identity verification or other services on behalf of the operator in connection with kiosk transactions, including a third-party identity verification service.

II. "Customer" means a natural person who initiates or completes a transaction at a kiosk.

III. "Digital asset" means a digital representation of value recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or blockchain, including cryptocurrency.

IV. "Digital asset transaction kiosk" or "kiosk" means a self-service electronic terminal located in a public or retail setting that enables a person to buy, sell, or transfer a digital asset using cash or another payment method. The term does not include a general-purpose computer, mobile application, or web-based platform.

V. "Hold period" means the period of not less than 72 hours during which an operator delays the transmission or release of digital assets for a transaction initiated by a new customer, as described in RSA 358-U:4, I(a).

VI. "New customer" means a person who is using a kiosk operated by a particular operator for the first time, or whose identity was first verified by that operator fewer than 72 hours before the transaction in question, measured from the time the operator completed its initial identity-verification procedures for that customer.

VII. "New customer period" means the 72-hour period during which a customer is a new customer as defined in paragraph VI of this section.

VIII. "Operator" means a person or entity that owns, manages, or controls one or more kiosks in this state, whether directly or through a third-party host location.

IX. "Reference price" means a contemporaneous price for the digital asset derived from a publicly accessible exchange or composite index that is verifiable by the customer.

358-U:3 Identity Verification and Operator Obligations.

I. Prior to accepting payment from a customer at a digital asset transaction kiosk, the kiosk operator, or its authorized delegate, shall verify the identity of the customer in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws, including the Bank Secrecy Act, 31 U.S.C. section 5311 et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder. Notwithstanding RSA 263:12, X, an operator or its authorized delegate may scan, record, store, or retain personal information from a driver's license or other government-issued identification for the sole purpose of verifying the customer's identity and preventing fraud, provided that the operator complies with the data privacy requirements of RSA 358-U:4, VI and with applicable federal law.

II. An operator shall not permit a transaction to be conducted under any false, fictitious, or assumed identity.

III. Each operator performing business in this state shall maintain a dedicated communications line for government agencies, accessible via a toll-free United States telephone number or monitored electronic mail address posted at each kiosk. The operator shall respond to inquiries received through said communications line within one business day.

IV. An operator that has a reasonable basis to believe a customer is a victim of fraud or is being directed by a third party to conduct a transaction may report such activity to local law enforcement or the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau. No operator shall be subject to civil liability for making or declining to make such a report in good faith.

V. Within 90 days of commencing kiosk operations in this state, and annually thereafter, each operator shall file a written notice with the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau, stating the operator's legal name, principal business address, a contact telephone number and electronic mail address, and the number and general locations of kiosks operated in this state. No fee shall be required. Failure to file shall not, by itself, constitute a violation of this chapter but may be considered by the attorney general in determining remedies for any other violation.

358-U:4 Core Consumer Protections.

I.(a) An operator shall delay the transmission or release of digital assets for each transaction initiated by a new customer for a period of not less than 72 hours from the time the customer confirms the transaction at the kiosk, after which time the operator may complete the transaction.

(b) The total dollar value of all digital asset transactions initiated by a new customer during the new customer period shall not exceed \$3,000 in United States dollar value.

(c) During the hold period under subparagraph (a), a new customer may request cancellation of any held transaction. The operator shall refund the entire amount, including all fees, within 5 business days of receiving the request.

II. The requirements of this paragraph shall apply to all transactions, whether initiated by a new customer or an existing customer.

(a) Before accepting funds, each kiosk shall display warnings in a manner reasonably calculated to be noticed and understood by the customer, including that no government agency, law enforcement body, court, utility, bank, technology support service, employer, or retailer will ever demand payment by a kiosk or crypto ATM and that digital asset transactions are irreversible and that losses due to fraudulent or accidental transactions may not be recoverable.

(b) The kiosk shall require the customer to respond to fraud-screening prompts before the transaction may proceed, including whether the customer is being directed or coached by another person and whether the customer is the owner or intended beneficiary of the destination wallet address. Operators shall have the flexibility to update warning content and screening prompts as fraud tactics evolve, provided that any updated prompts remain consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(c) If the customer indicates that another person is directing or coaching the transaction, or that the customer is not the owner or intended beneficiary of the destination wallet address, the kiosk shall block the transaction and display contact information for local law enforcement and the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau.

(d) Each kiosk shall display a clearly visible and legible warning on its physical exterior, readable before a customer begins a transaction, stating in substance: "WARNING: No government agency, bank, or business will ever ask you to pay by crypto ATM. If someone is telling you to use this machine, it may be a scam." The warning shall be printed in a font size of no less than 28 points. The operator shall be responsible for ensuring the warning remains displayed and legible at all times the kiosk is available for use.

III.(a) Operators shall use commercially available blockchain analytics software, of a type generally accepted in the digital asset industry, to screen and block transfers to or from wallet addresses flagged for association with scams, theft, sanctions violations, or other illicit activity.

(b) Operators shall maintain written anti-fraud and consumer protection policies and shall make such policies available for inspection by the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau, or by any member of the general public, upon request. The operator shall respond within 10 business days and may provide the policies in electronic form. An operator may redact proprietary security measures whose disclosure would undermine the anti-fraud program but shall inform the requestor that redactions have been made.

IV.(a) Before accepting funds, the kiosk shall disclose on-screen the reference price for the digital asset, all applicable fees, and the spread between the operator's price and the reference price expressed as a percentage of the reference price.

V. Upon completion of a transaction, the kiosk shall provide a printed or electronic receipt, including by text message, electronic mail, or online customer portal. The receipt shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) The operator's legal name.
- (b) A toll-free live customer service telephone number.
- (c) The kiosk's physical location.
- (d) The date and time of the transaction.
- (e) The name and quantity of the digital asset.
- (f) The reference price at the time of the transaction.
- (g) The spread expressed as both a percentage and a dollar amount.
- (h) All fees charged.
- (i) The total amount paid by the customer.
- (j) The destination wallet address or voucher identification number.
- (k) Any applicable cancellation code.
- (l) The operator's refund or cancellation policy.

VI.(a) Operators shall limit data collection to information reasonably necessary to verify the customer's identity and to comply with applicable state and federal laws. Data collected pursuant to this chapter shall not be used for any purpose other than verifying the identity of customers and complying with applicable law.

(b) An operator shall not condition a customer's access to a kiosk on the customer's agreement to receive marketing or promotional materials.

(c) A customer shall have the right to opt out of receiving marketing or promotional materials from the operator at any time, and the operator shall honor such request within 10 business days.

(d) An operator and any authorized delegate or third party that receives or processes photographs, facial images, biometric data, or copies of government-issued identification documents on behalf of the operator shall securely destroy or delete such data within 30 days after the date of collection, unless retention for a longer period is required by applicable federal law. The operator shall ensure by contract that any authorized delegate or third party complies with this requirement.

358-U:5 Preemption. No municipality or political subdivision of this state shall enact, adopt, or enforce any ordinance, resolution, or regulation governing the operation of digital asset transaction kiosks that is more restrictive than the provisions of this chapter. Any such ordinance, resolution, or regulation in effect on the effective date of this chapter shall be unenforceable to the extent that it conflicts with this chapter.

358-U:6 Remedies.

I. Any violation of this chapter shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning of RSA 358-A:2. Any right, remedy, or power set forth in RSA 358-A, including the investigative and enforcement authority of the attorney general, may be used to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

II. The rights, obligations, and remedies provided in this chapter shall be in addition to any other rights, obligations, or remedies provided for by law or in equity.

III. Notwithstanding RSA 358-A:10 or any other provision of law, no private right of action shall arise under this chapter, and no person shall have standing to bring a private civil action to enforce any provision of this chapter or to recover damages for an alleged violation of this chapter, whether such action is brought under this chapter, under RSA 358-A, or under any common-law or equitable theory arising from or relating to the subject matter of this chapter. Enforcement of the provisions of this chapter shall be exclusively by the attorney general pursuant to RSA 358-A.

IV. An operator that demonstrates compliance with all applicable provisions of this chapter at the time of a transaction shall not be subject to enforcement under this chapter solely because a third party defrauded the customer. The operator bears the burden of demonstrating compliance by a preponderance of the evidence.

358-U:7 Severability. If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To this end, the provisions of this chapter are severable.

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

**Amendment to SB 492-FN
(2026-1443h)**

Proposed by the Committee on State-Federal Relations and Veterans affairs-r

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

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

**Amendment to SB 505-FN
(2026-1336h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources-r

Amend RSA 215:2, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. The chief of the fish and game law enforcement division or their designee *within the law enforcement division of the department* shall review the criminal record information prior to making a registration decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

**Amendment to SB 534-FN
(2026-1406h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Election Law-r

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

AN ACT relative to compliance with certain political expenditures and contribution statutes.

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

1 Political Expenditures and Contributions; General Provisions; Applicability of Chapter. Amend RSA 664:1 to read as follows:

664:1 Applicability of Chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all state primary, general, and special elections, but shall only apply to presidential preference primaries as provided in this section. ***The provisions of RSA 664:2, 664:4, VII, 664:5, III, and 664:14-22 shall apply to city, town, school district, and village district elections or meetings.*** The provisions relating to political advertising, push polling, and enforcement, RSA 664:14 through RSA [664:22] ***664:21***, shall additionally apply to presidential primary[; city, town, school district, and village district] elections.

2 Political Expenditures and Contributions; General Provisions; Definitions. Amend RSA 664:2, X to read as follows:

X. "Measure" shall mean any constitutional amendment or question that is submitted or intended to be submitted to a popular vote [at an election].

3 New Paragraph; Political Expenditures and Contributions; Contributions; Prohibited Political Contributions. Amend RSA 664:4 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

VII. By any foreign national, as defined in 52 U.S.C. Section 30121(b) and 11 C.F.R. Section 110.20 (a)(3).

4 Political Expenditures and Contributions; Expenditures; Prohibited Political Expenditures. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 664:5 to read as follows:

664:5 Prohibited Political Expenditures. No expenditure or use of a contribution, ***whether*** tangible or intangible, shall be made for the purpose of promoting the success or defeat of any political party, measure, or candidate:

5 New Paragraph; Political Expenditures and Contributions; Enforcement; Penalty. Amend RSA 664:21 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

X. If a political committee, or any foreign national, as defined in 52 U.S.C. Section 30121(b) and 11 C.F.R. Section 110.20(a)(3), willfully violates RSA 664:4, VI or RSA 664:5, III, then the political committee or foreign national shall pay to the secretary of state the amount of such contribution or expenditure, plus

interest accrued from the date of the contribution or expenditure, as applicable, at the current prime rate of interest as published in the Wall Street Journal on the date of payment. If funds of the political committee or foreign national are insufficient, the political committee or foreign national shall pay all of its available funds to the secretary of state, and the directors, officers, or members responsible for the financial decisions of the political committee or foreign national shall be jointly and severally liable for the amount due, in addition to any other penalties that may apply from this statute.

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

2026-1406h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Prevents certain foreign nationals from making political contributions during state election cycles.
- II. Requires that political committee that file reports with the secretary of state include an affirmation of compliance with RSA 664:4, VI and RSA 664:5, III.
- III. Requires a political committee that willfully violates RSA 664:4, VI or RSA 664:5, III to pay to the secretary of state the amount of the relevant contribution or expenditure, plus interest.

**Amendment to SB 538-FN
(2026-1453h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy-r

Amend RSA 362-A:9, II-a as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II-a. Each electric distribution utility shall make available alternative tariffs for net metering to eligible customer-generators in accordance with Order No. 26,029 dated June 23, 2017, and the net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before the effective date of this paragraph and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions that first receive compensation under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff shall remain eligible to receive that tariff for 15 years from the first day on which compensation is received.

2026-1453h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes long-term eligibility for certain customer-generators to receive net energy metering compensation under alternative tariffs approved by the public utilities commission.

**Amendment to SB 540-FN
(2026-1452h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy -r

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

AN ACT relative to plug-in solar generation systems.

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

1 New Paragraphs; Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraphs:

IV-a. "Plug-in solar generation system" means a movable photovoltaic generation system intended to exclusively offset a portion of a customer's onsite electric consumption that complies with national standards for interconnection and interoperability of distributed energy resources and connects to a building's electrical system through a receptacle or other non-permanent wiring connection.

2 New Section; Plug-In Solar Generation Systems; Exemptions; Requirements. Amend RSA 362-A by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

362-A:10 Plug-in Solar Generation Systems; Exemptions; Requirements.

I. Plug-in solar generation systems shall be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to meet nationally recognized safety standards applicable to distributed energy resources and plug-in solar generation systems.

II. The applicable electric distribution utility may develop a method for the customer to inform the electric distribution utility of the wattage of the system at the customer's service address subsequent to installation. Such information shall be for notification purposes only.

III. An electric distribution utility shall not require a customer using a compliant plug-in solar generation system to:

- (a) Obtain electric distribution utility approval before installing or using the system;
- (b) Complete an interconnection review or obtain an executed interconnection agreement;
- (c) Pay any fee related to the system, except any charges the system incurs through its use; or
- (d) Install additional electric distribution utility-specified controls or equipment beyond those integrated into the system.

IV. Each metered customer shall be allowed a maximum of one plug-in solar generation system with a maximum inverter output of 1,200 watts AC.

V. The department of energy shall establish and maintain a page on its website with relevant information for consumers regarding plug-in solar generation systems, including meter compatibility at the state's various distribution utilities, potential impacts on electric billing, applicable safety standards and considerations, and any other information the department determines appropriate. Such information shall include notice that connecting unlisted systems or connecting systems in a manner not in accordance with the state building code or manufacturer instructions may affect a customer's homeowners or renters insurance coverage.

3 New Section; Plug-In Solar Generation Systems. Amend RSA 155-A by inserting after section 14 the following new section:

155-A:15 Plug-In Solar Generation Systems.

I. The building code review board shall amend the state building code to address the building and the building's electrical system when a plug-in solar generation system is used.

II. Each plug-in solar generation system shall be installed and operated in accordance with the state building code and manufacturer instructions.

4 New Section; Liability. Amend RSA 374 by inserting after section 1-a the following new section:

374:1-b Liability for Plug-In Solar Generation Systems. An electric distribution utility shall not be liable for damage, injury, or compensation or charges arising from a plug-in solar generation system installed or used by a customer. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any cause of action against the manufacturer, installer, or owner of a plug-in solar generation system.

5 Rulemaking; Department of Energy; Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, X(a) to read as follows:

(a) Establish reasonable interconnection requirements for safety, reliability, and power quality as it determines the public interest requires. Such rules shall not exceed applicable test standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) [or], Underwriters Laboratory (UL), *or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics, Inc. (IEEE)*; and

6 Contingency. RSA 155-A:15, as inserted by section 3 of this act, shall take effect on the date the commissioner of the department of energy certifies to the director of the office of legislative services and the secretary of state that a nationally recognized standard exists authorizing plug-in solar systems to be safely connected to a building's electrical system.

7 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 6 of this act.

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

2026-1452h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Defines "plugin solar generation system," allows each metered customer one such system with a maximum inverter output of 1,200 watts AC, and exempts compliant systems from utility approval, interconnection review, additional utility-specified equipment, or related fees.

II. Requires plug-in solar generation systems to be certified to applicable national safety standards and to be installed and operated in accordance with the state building code and manufacturer instructions, and directs the building code review board to amend the state building code once nationally recognized standards for plug-in systems exist.

III. Authorizes the department of energy to adopt rules consistent with ANSI, UL, and IEEE standards, requires the department to maintain consumer information on its website regarding plug-in solar generation systems, and clarifies that electric distribution utilities are not liable for damages arising from customer-installed systems.

Amendment to SB 548-FN

(2026-1484h)

Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs—c

Amend RSA 420-J:8, XI as inserted by section 2 of the bill by inserting after paragraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

(d) The commissioner may adopt rules under RSA 541-A to further specify the content of and process for providing notice to consumers when a contract is terminated.

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

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

2026-1484h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the insurance commissioner to hold an informational public hearing when a health carrier ends a provider contract affecting 1,000 or more patients, requires continued access to the provider for a limited period; requires written notice of the contract termination; and authorizes the insurance department to adopt rules regarding notice of termination of provider contracts.

**Amendment to SB 557-FN
(2026-1473h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety-c

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

AN ACT making it illegal for liquor commission licensees to sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, possess, or allow the ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of certain kratom products.

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

1 New Paragraph; Alcoholic Beverages; Definitions and General Provisions; Definitions. Amend RSA 175:1 by inserting after paragraph LXIV-g the following new paragraph:

LXIV-h. "Unauthorized Kratom Products" means any consumable kratom product, including, but not limited to, edibles, liquids, powders, capsules, tablets, extracts, inhalants, or vapor products that fall into one or more of the following categories:

(a) An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative contained in a kratom leaf extract that has been exposed to chemicals or processes that confer a structural change in the alkaloids, including, but not limited to, oxidation, reduction, and ring opening or closing, resulting in material that has been chemically altered.

(b) An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative of the kratom leaf that has been created by chemical synthesis or biosynthetic means, including fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast-driven techniques, and enzymatic techniques, rather than by traditional food preparation techniques, such as heating or extracting.

(c) Purified mitragynine with enhanced levels of 7-hydroxymitragynine that are not found in the natural kratom leaf.

2 Enforcement, Requirements and Penalties; Premises Restrictions; Unlawful Purpose. RSA 179:50 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

179:50 Unlawful Purpose.

I. No licensee shall use, or allow to be used, their premises for any purpose contrary to law.

II. No licensee shall permit or allow the on-premises ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of any unauthorized kratom products, as defined by RSA 175:1, LXIV -h, on any licensed premises.

III. No licensee shall sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, or possess any unauthorized kratom products as defined by RSA 175:1, LXIV-h.

IV. The penalty for violations of paragraph II or paragraph III shall be determined by the state liquor commission in accordance with rules adopted under RSA 541-A. However, a second offense under paragraph II or paragraph III shall result in revocation of the license.

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

2026-1473h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes it illegal for liquor commission licensees to sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, possess, or allow the ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of certain kratom products.

**Amendment to SB 586-FN
(2026-1500h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Education Funding-r

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

AN ACT requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

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

1 Education; District Taxes; Reports Required; Cities, School Districts, and School Administrative Units. RSA 198:4-d is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

198:4-d Reports Required; Cities, School Districts, and School Administrative Units. The governing body of each city, school district, chartered public school, and school administrative unit shall submit to the commissioner of the department of education in a searchable electronic format the following reports pursuant to rules adopted under RSA 541-A by the commissioner of revenue administration which establish the form and content of such reports:

I. A report filed by the governing body of each city, school district, and chartered public school shall certify the appropriations voted by the meeting of the appropriate legislative body, whether city council, mayor and council, or mayor and board of aldermen, or by each annual or special school district meeting, along with estimated revenues. This report shall be filed within 20 days of the close of the meeting.

II. A report filed by the governing body of each city, school district, and chartered public school shall revise all the estimated revenues for the year. This report shall be filed by September 1 of each year. The revised estimates by school districts for the adequate education grants calculated under RSA 198:41 shall be considered the most accurate within 5 percent of the amount estimated pursuant to RSA 198:40-a.

III. A financial report for each city, school district, and chartered public school shall be filed showing the summary of receipts and expenditures, according to uniform classifications, during the preceding fiscal year, and a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities at the close of the year. This report shall be submitted on or before September 1 of each year. Each statistical report submitted under this section shall include a certification signed by the chairperson of the school district's governing body or the chairperson of the board of trustees of approved public academies that states: "I certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that all of the information contained in this document is true, accurate and complete."

IV. The department of education and the department of revenue administration together shall develop and maintain school accounting standards which shall be used by districts, chartered public schools, and school administrative units for financial reporting purposes.

V. The budget committee in school districts operating under the municipal budget law shall file the budget within 20 days of the close of the annual or special meeting.

VI. Chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5, shall be audited by an independent public accountant in accordance with RSA 21-J:19, II.

VII. If a city or school district is audited under RSA 671:5, the procedures in RSA 41:31-a through 41:31-d shall be followed.

VIII. Audit reports created under paragraphs VI and VII shall include balance sheets; a breakdown of revenue sources; an itemized list of all employees or staff on payroll and their pay, benefits, other post-employment benefits and pension liabilities; an itemized list of assets, debts, bonds, lease agreements, and capital improvement investment projects. The audit report for the last completed fiscal year shall be submitted to the department within 9 months of the end of the fiscal year. The commissioner of the department of education shall verify that the report appears complete within 3 months of receipt, comparing it against those submitted in prior years. The department may grant extensions as needed to address any disputed items. Deficiencies shall be corrected no later than 12 months from the date of the submission. The commissioner shall withhold state grant funding, not including RSA 198:40-a funding, allocated to any non-compliant city, school district, chartered public school, or school administrative unit until the audit or financial report is completed and submitted to the department, and any questions are answered to the commissioner's satisfaction.

IX. The department of education and reporting entities shall make reports filed under this section available to the public on their websites in a searchable electronic format.

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

2026-1500h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and for the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

Amendment to SB 589-FN (2026-1412h)

Proposed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy-r

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Cybersecurity and Electric Grid Interconnection Guidelines.

I. Within 120 days of the effective date of this section, the department of energy shall initiate a proceeding, in consultation as deemed necessary with the governor's advisor for utility critical infrastructure cybersecurity, the managing director of the New England Utility Cybersecurity Integration Collaborative, distributed energy resources businesses, electric distribution utilities, and regional/federal transmission authorities, to determine:

(a) The need for guidelines or standards for cybersecurity standards for distributed energy generation and related devices.

(b) The proper venue for promulgation of those guidelines or standards, including, but not limited to rulemaking, statutory changes, and including guidelines or standards within existing procedures and filings.

II. Such new guidelines or standards shall not apply to generation and related devices licensed or regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

II. The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than one year after initiating the study. The report shall include recommendations for statutory changes, rulemaking, or other actions as needed. The department shall submit copies of the report to the governor, senate president, speaker of the house, and chairs of senate and house energy policy committees.

**Amendment to SB 595
(2026-1367h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development–c

Amend RSA 485:3, I(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) Criteria and procedures to assure compliance with the levels or methods determined under subparagraph (b), including quality control monitoring and testing procedures and standards to ensure compliance with such levels or methods; criteria and standards to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the system; requirements as to the minimum quality of water which may be delivered to the consumer; and requirements with respect to siting new facilities. Such rules shall be no less stringent than the most recent national Primary Drinking Water Regulations in effect, as issued or promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. ***Such rules shall include the option for transient non-community water systems to remain on quarterly sampling if a sample is missed consistent with the criteria and procedures in 40 C.F.R. section 141.854 et seq, as amended from time to time.***

**Amendment to SB 610-FN
(2026-1497h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs–c

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

AN ACT allowing the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies.

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

1 New Paragraph; Disclosure and Performance Standards for Long-Term Care Insurance. Amend RSA 415-D:5 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, the insurance commissioner may approve innovative short or long-term care policies or certificates and rates, provided the commissioner finds that:

- (a) Issuance or delivery is not contrary to the best interest of the public; and
- (b) The benefits are reasonable in relation to the premium charged.

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

2026-1497h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies or certificates and rates that the commissioner finds are reasonable and in the public interest.

**Amendment to SB 617
(2026-1510h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Transportation–c

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

AN ACT relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement, relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways, and prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 9 with the following:

10 Fees for Removal and Impoundment of Motor Vehicles. Amend RSA 262:35-a to read as follows:
262:35-a Review of Fees for Removal and Impoundment.

I. All fees charged for the removal and storage of any vehicle caused to be removed by an authorized official pursuant to RSA 262:32 or RSA 262:40-a shall be reasonable, and may reflect market variables, including, but not limited to, distance traveled to and from the storage facility, vehicle size and weight, the amount of time needed to remove and store the vehicle, any special equipment needed, and personnel costs. ***The invoice for towing and impoundment of the vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appeal pursuant to this section.*** If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge the reasonableness of the fee charged, the owner or other person may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of the vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the [release of the vehicle] **receipt of the invoice**, request in writing a review by the commissioner of safety. The commissioner of safety or designee shall review the claim to determine if there are sufficient grounds to conduct a hearing to determine whether the charge was reasonable. If the commissioner or designee determines that a hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be scheduled by the bureau of hearings within 20 days after review by the commissioner, at which time the extent of removal and storage fees shall be determined. The commissioner or designee shall approve or disapprove of the decision of the bureau of hearings within 7 days after the hearing was held. Notwithstanding RSA 262:25, any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner or designee under this section may appeal the decision to the superior court in

the same manner as that prescribed in RSA 263:75, II and III. If no request for review is filed within the [15-day] **30-day** period, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle shall be deemed to have waived all rights to review under this section and shall be liable for the total amount billed.

II. Nothing in this section shall prevent a review of the reasonableness of the towing or other action as may be permitted by laws of this state by a court of competent jurisdiction.

III. Any time that a person is storing a vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision, the person may remove any items from within the vehicle that are not a part of or accessories to the vehicle. The person may hold any such items, other than wallets, purses, life essential clothing, mail, legal documents, car seats, eyeglasses, medicine, medical equipment, or house keys pending payment of any fees due under this subdivision. If fees remain unpaid after [20] **30** days, the person may dispose of the items.

11 Abandoned Vehicles; Procedure for Removal and Impoundment. Amend RSA 262:33, II and III to read as follows:

II. Whenever a vehicle is towed pursuant to RSA 262:31-a or RSA 262:32, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to the possession of the vehicle shall be entitled to recover said vehicle and release of the above lien by payment of all reasonable towing and storage charges. ***The invoice for towing and impoundment of the vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appeal pursuant to this section.*** If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge whether there was sufficient grounds for towing and impoundment, he or she may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of such vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the [towing and impoundment] ***receipt of the invoice***, request in writing a hearing.

III. The hearing shall be held before the head of the law enforcement agency which employs the authorized official who caused the vehicle to be removed and stored, or his or her designee. In the event such agency head or his or her designee determines sufficient grounds did not exist for the removal and storage of the vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall reimburse the owner or other person lawfully claiming possession for any amount paid to the custodian to secure release of the vehicle, ***or, if payment has not yet been made, order that the vehicle be immediately released from impoundment, with the agency assuming full liability of the lien.***

12 New Section; License Suspension; Failure to Pay Fines and Fees. Amend RSA 263 by inserting after section 56-g the following new section:

263:56-h License Suspension Prohibited for Unpaid Towing or Storage Fees.

I. Under no circumstances shall the director suspend, revoke, or fail to renew a driver's license for failure to pay removal and storage fees for a vehicle towed or stored for any reason.

II. A person whose driver's license has been suspended for outstanding vehicle removal or storage fees and who is otherwise eligible to drive shall have their driver's license reinstated and shall not be required to pay a reinstatement fee. No later than 30 days after the effective date of this section, the division shall, without requiring a reinstatement fee, reinstate the driver's license or nonresident operating privilege. In cases where a driver's license was not renewed due to outstanding removal and storage fees, the person shall be immediately eligible for license renewal and shall pay the same renewal fee as a driver not under suspension, but not a separate reinstatement fee.

13 License Suspension Restricted. Amend RSA 263:57, I to read as follows:

I. Any justice of [a district or municipal court] ***the circuit court*** or of the superior court may suspend any license issued to any person, for a period not to exceed 30 days, after a conviction of an offense under the provisions of this title, after [due hearing] ***a hearing where the driver had reasonable notice of the possibility of license suspension prior to the hearing***, for any cause ***not prohibited in RSA 263***, which he ***or she*** may deem sufficient.

14 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, XVIII to read as follows:

XVIII. The tow business shall provide state police with a complete updated list of all rates for the services it performs related to the towing and storage of vehicles, on the letterhead of the business, and shall update such list when prices change. State Police shall not set the fees for these services nor use the rate schedule provided in determining placement on a rotation schedule. [Price lists shall remain confidential except when determining the reasonable fee in a requested hearing conducted by the department of safety.]

15 Effective Date.

I. Sections 10, 11, and 14 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1510h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. This bill substantially revises the procedures and processes concerning the maintenance of and utilization of a list of contracted tow companies used by the division of state police for the removal of vehicles.

II. Requires that invoices generated from towing and impounding vehicles clearly indicate the process for appealing said tow or impoundment and extends the time period for a vehicle owner to appeal the reasonable-ness of towing and impoundment fees to the department of safety.

III. Prohibits the division of motor vehicles from suspending a person's license or driving privileges based on their failure to pay a debt related to a commercial entity's towing or storage of a vehicle.

**Amendment to SB 619-FN
(2026-1347h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary-c

Amend RSA RSA 644:8, IV(a)(3) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(3) Courts shall give cases in which animals have been confiscated by an arresting officer priority on the court calendar. In cases in which animals have been confiscated by an arresting officer or his or her agency, a status hearing shall be held by the court within 14 days of the confiscation of the animals.

(A) A purpose of the hearing shall be to determine whether the confiscation of the animal or animals was lawful in accordance with paragraph IV-a. Upon such a showing, the court may make a determination of temporary custody that is in the best interest of the animal's health, safety, and wellbeing. If the confiscated animal is co-owned by the defendant, the court may transfer the custody of the animal to the remaining owner or co-owners equitably if the court determines that such is in the best interest of the animal's health, safety, and wellbeing. The court may also address any other matters before it as raised by either party or if it is in the interests of justice. Upon request from either party or by order of the court, this hearing may include the defendant's arraignment. Waiver of the arraignment by the defendant shall not waive the 14 day hearing set forth in this paragraph.

(B) If the accused fails to appear in court without giving prior notice within 3 days of the hearing date, or, if less than 3 days notice, without evidence of emergent circumstances, the hearing shall take place as scheduled and the court may rule on any matters before it.

**Amendment to SB 624-FN
(2026-1499h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture-c

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Hemp; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 439-A:4 to read as follows:

439-A:4 Hemp-Derived Products Containing THC Prohibited.

I. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the sale of products that are derived from hemp which contain natural or synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, which appear in any formulation, including delta-8 THC, delta-9 THC, THCA, or any other THC isomer variant. Such products are prohibited.

II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(a) Final hemp-derived cannabinoid products shall not include products that contain more than 0.4 mg total THC per container, including all forms of tetrahydrocannabinols (including delta-9 THC and THCA) and other cannabinoids with similarly intoxicating effects.

(b) Products exceeding this limit are not authorized for sale, and are excluded from the legal definition of hemp.

III. A corporation or unincorporated association that knowingly sells a product in violation of this section shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for a first, second, or third offense, and guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$20,000 for any fourth or subsequent offense. A writ of execution may be issued by the court against the corporation or unincorporated association who violates this section to compel payment of the fine, together with costs and interest.

2026-1499h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill sets penalties applicable to corporations and unincorporated associations for possession of certain hemp-derived products, directs liquor licensees to comply with the prohibition, and amends the definition of hemp.

**Amendment to SB 627-FN
(2026-1352h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Public Works and Highways-r

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

1 Tolls. Amend RSA 237:9 to read as follows:

I. The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor and council, shall establish toll rates and other charges for use of the New Hampshire turnpike system or any part of the right-of-way and

other property acquired in connection therewith. The governor and council shall approve or reject the commissioner's proposed toll rates and other charges within 90 days of receiving them. The tolls collected shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate account to be used exclusively for purposes of the New Hampshire turnpike system including, without limitation, the operating expenses, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of the New Hampshire turnpike system. All operating expenses and maintenance costs shall be paid from said account. From the balance remaining after the payment of operating expenses and maintenance costs, there shall be paid the interest and principal on the bonds issued to finance the system. No part of such revenues shall, by transfer of funds or otherwise, be diverted to any other purpose whatsoever. Fourteen days previous to the time any interest or principal is payable, on any general obligation bonds issued to finance the system, the state treasurer shall examine the existing balance and, except as otherwise provided in RSA 237:10, if such balance is insufficient to make the payment, then he *or she* shall notify the governor who shall immediately draw his *or her* warrant on the highway fund to cover any deficit and if the funds in both of the above accounts are insufficient, the governor shall draw his *or her* warrant upon the state's general fund to the amount necessary to meet the payments. Any funds paid out from the state's highway fund or general fund for the above purposes shall be reimbursed from the collection of tolls as soon as such funds are available. Any funds that have been or may be expended for any portion of the system by the department of transportation shall be repaid to said department when, in the opinion of the governor and council, sufficient funds are available. Any excess income may be used for further system extensions in accordance with RSA 237:5, II(m). No provision of this chapter shall constitute a covenant with bondholders with respect to the charging, collection or disposition of tolls.

II. Notwithstanding paragraph I, RSA 237:24, and any other provision of law to the contrary, to support the turnpike projects included in the 2027-2036 ten year transportation plan and to cover associated operating expenses and maintenance costs for the central New Hampshire turnpike, the eastern New Hampshire turnpike, and the New Hampshire turnpike system, the toll rates for all cash transactions and for vehicles using the New Hampshire electronic toll system not listed on a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account shall be increased based on the toll plaza and vehicle classification. For purposes of this section, "class" shall mean the classification of vehicles by type, height, number of axles, and dual tires established by the commissioner of transportation in rules adopted under RSA 541-A. Beginning January 1, 2027, the toll rates shall be as follows:

(a) Hooksett Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$2.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$2.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.50***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.75***
- (5) Class 5: \$4.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$4.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$5.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$5.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$6.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$6.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$7.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$ 7.50***

(b) Hooksett Ramp:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$1.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$1.50***
- (4) Class 4: \$1.75***
- (5) Class 5: \$2.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$2.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$3.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$3.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$4.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$4.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$5.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$5.50***

(c) Bedford Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$2.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$2.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.50***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.75***

- (5) *Class 5: \$4.00*
- (6) *Class 6: \$4.50*
- (7) *Class 7: \$5.00*
- (8) *Class 8: \$5.50*
- (9) *Class 9: \$6.00*
- (10) *Class 10: \$6.50*
- (11) *Class 11: \$7.00*
- (12) *Class 12: \$7.50*
- (d) *Hampton Main:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$4.00*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$4.25*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$4.50*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$4.75*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$8.00*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$8.50*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$9.00*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$9.50*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$10.00*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$10.50*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$11.00*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$11.50*
- (e) *Hampton Side:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$1.50*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$1.75*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$2.00*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$2.25*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$3.00*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$3.50*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$4.00*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$4.50*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$5.00*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$5.50*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$6.00*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$6.50*
- (f) *Dover:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$1.50*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$1.75*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$2.00*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$2.25*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$3.00*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$3.50*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$4.00*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$4.50*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$5.00*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$5.50*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$6.00*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$6.50*
- (g) *Rochester:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$1.50*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$1.75*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$2.00*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$2.25*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$3.00*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$3.50*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$4.00*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$4.50*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$5.00*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$5.50*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$6.00*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$6.50*

III. Notwithstanding paragraph I, RSA 237:24, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the toll rates for vehicles listed on a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account using the New Hampshire electronic toll collection shall be based on toll plaza and vehicle classification, where “class” has the same meaning as in paragraph II. Beginning January 1, 2027, the minimum toll rates shall be as follows:

(a) Hooksett Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.70*
- (2) Class 2: \$0.88*
- (3) Class 3: \$1.05*
- (4) Class 4: \$1.23*
- (5) Class 5: \$1.80*
- (6) Class 6: \$2.25*
- (7) Class 7: \$2.70*
- (8) Class 8: \$3.15*
- (9) Class 9: \$3.60*
- (10) Class 10: \$4.05*
- (11) Class 11: \$4.50*
- (12) Class 12: \$4.95*

(b) Hooksett Ramp:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.35*
- (2) Class 2: \$0.53*
- (3) Class 3: \$0.70*
- (4) Class 4: \$0.88*
- (5) Class 5: \$0.90*
- (6) Class 6: \$1.35*
- (7) Class 7: \$1.80*
- (8) Class 8: \$2.25*
- (9) Class 9: \$2.70*
- (10) Class 10: \$3.15*
- (11) Class 11: \$3.60*
- (12) Class 12: \$4.05*

(c) Bedford Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.70*
- (2) Class 2: \$0.88*
- (3) Class 3: \$1.05*
- (4) Class 4: \$1.23*
- (5) Class 5: \$1.80*
- (6) Class 6: \$2.25*
- (7) Class 7: \$2.70*
- (8) Class 8: \$3.15*
- (9) Class 9: \$3.60*
- (10) Class 10: \$4.05*
- (11) Class 11: \$4.50*
- (12) Class 12: \$4.95*

(d) Hampton Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.40*
- (2) Class 2: \$1.58*
- (3) Class 3: \$1.75*
- (4) Class 4: \$1.93*
- (5) Class 5: \$3.60*
- (6) Class 6: \$4.05*
- (7) Class 7: \$4.50*
- (8) Class 8: \$4.95*
- (9) Class 9: \$5.40*
- (10) Class 10: \$5.85*
- (11) Class 11: \$6.30*
- (12) Class 12: \$6.75*

(e) Hampton Side:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.53*
- (2) Class 2: \$0.70*

- (3) *Class 3: \$0.88*
- (4) *Class 4: \$1.05*
- (5) *Class 5: \$1.35*
- (6) *Class 6: \$1.80*
- (7) *Class 7: \$2.25*
- (8) *Class 8: \$2.70*
- (9) *Class 9: \$3.15*
- (10) *Class 10: \$3.60*
- (11) *Class 11: \$4.05*
- (12) *Class 12: \$4.50*

(f) *Dover:*

- (1) *Class 1: \$0.53*
- (2) *Class 2: \$0.70*
- (3) *Class 3: \$0.88*
- (4) *Class 4: \$1.05*
- (5) *Class 5: \$1.35*
- (6) *Class 6: \$1.80*
- (7) *Class 7: \$2.25*
- (8) *Class 8: \$2.70*
- (9) *Class 9: \$3.15*
- (10) *Class 10: \$3.60*
- (11) *Class 11: \$4.05*
- (12) *Class 12: \$4.50*

(g) *Rochester:*

- (1) *Class 1: \$0.53*
- (2) *Class 2: \$0.70*
- (3) *Class 3: \$0.88*
- (4) *Class 4: \$1.05*
- (5) *Class 5: \$1.35*
- (6) *Class 6: \$1.80*
- (7) *Class 7: \$2.25*
- (8) *Class 8: \$2.70*
- (9) *Class 9: \$3.15*
- (10) *Class 10: \$3.60*
- (11) *Class 11: \$4.05*
- (12) *Class 12: \$4.50*

2 Agency Directive; Department of Transportation; New Hampshire E-Z Pass Transponder. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a period of 210 days, beginning upon the effective date of this section, the department of transportation shall issue, at no cost, a New Hampshire E-Z Pass transponder to anyone who opens or currently maintains a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account, if so requested by the new or current New Hampshire E-Z Pass holder.

3 Repeal. RSA 237:11, V, relative to the E-Z Pass discount on established tolls on any of the New Hampshire turnpike system, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

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

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

**Amendment to SB 633-FN
(2026-1353h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Council on the Arts; State Art Fund; Granite Patron of the Arts Fund. Amend RSA 19-A:9, II to read as follows:

II. The division and the council are authorized to institute programs to solicit and receive any gifts, grants, donations, or to receive federal matching funds made for the encouragement of the arts and to deposit such gifts, grants, or donations in the New Hampshire council on the arts fund under this section. The division and the council shall acknowledge receipt of any gifts, grants, or donations within 15 days of receipt on a form provided by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. ***Donations greater than or equal to \$50,000 shall require the approval of the governor and executive council. Expenditures greater than or equal to \$50,000, and expenditures on employees of the division, shall require the approval of the governor and executive council, and with a report to the fiscal committee of the general court.***

III. Quarterly expenditure reports shall be filed with the governor, executive council, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

**Amendment to SB 657-FN
(2026-1491h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs–c

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

AN ACT relative to the use of information technology and artificial intelligence systems by state agencies.

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

1 Department of Information Technology; Information Technology Council. RSA 21-R:6, I is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I. There is established an information technology council to advise the commissioner on the following:

- (a) Statewide strategic technology plans.
- (b) Outsourcing relationships, including those involving the purchase, lease, or rent of technology equipment and vendor contract terms.
- (c) Computer systems consolidation.
- (d) Implementation of centralized services.
- (e) Changes in information technology resources.
- (f) Statewide information technology policies and standards.
- (g) Budgeting for information technology.
- (h) The security of data shared with the federal government, methods to improve state data security practices, and suggested legislation, policies, and procedures to limit data sharing when its confidentiality cannot be assured.
- (i) The development, procurement, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence systems by state agencies, including:
 - (1) Compliance with RSA 5-D, the department's code of ethics for artificial intelligence systems, and safeguards for the right of privacy guaranteed by part I, article 2-b of the New Hampshire constitution;
 - (2) Opportunities to improve government efficiency, transparency, and accountability through artificial intelligence; and
 - (3) The effects of artificial intelligence on the state workforce, including training needs and changes to employment patterns.

2 Department of Information Technology; Technical Committees. RSA 21-R:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

21-R:7 Technical Committees.

I. The commissioner may establish technical committees to advise him or her on technical issues relating to, but not limited to:

- (a) Hardware, software, and telecommunications standards.
- (b) Information technology planning processes.
- (c) Development of statewide policies and procedures.
- (d) Emerging Internet and intranet technologies.
- (e) E-government strategy and deployment.
- (f) Wide area network efficiencies.
- (g) Cybersecurity.
- (h) Cloud technologies or strategies.
- (i) Artificial intelligence technologies, including generative artificial intelligence, automated decision systems, and machine learning.

II. Personnel from all 3 branches of state government with expertise and knowledge in the applicable subject areas shall be represented on each committee.

3 New Section; Department of Information Technology; Artificial Intelligence Inventory and Annual Report. Amend RSA 21-R by inserting after section 9-a the following new section:

21-R:9-b Artificial Intelligence Inventory and Annual Report.

I. The commissioner shall maintain a current inventory of all artificial intelligence systems, as defined in RSA 5-D:1, deployed by executive branch agencies. The inventory shall include, for each system, the name and vendor, the agencies using the system, a brief description of its purpose and function, whether the system is used in making decisions affecting the rights or benefits of individuals, and the date of deployment. The inventory shall be posted on the department's website and updated not less than annually.

II. On or before October 1 of each year, the commissioner, in consultation with the information technology council, shall submit a report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library. The report shall satisfy the annual reporting requirement of RSA 5-D:5, III. The report shall include:

- (a) A summary of the inventory maintained under paragraph I, including any changes from the prior year;
- (b) An assessment of agency compliance with RSA 5-D;
- (c) A summary of efficiency gains, cost savings, or service improvements attributable to artificial intelligence deployment;
- (d) Any incidents involving the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information by an artificial intelligence system;
- (e) The effects of artificial intelligence on workforce composition and training needs; and
- (f) Recommendations for legislation, policy changes, or additional safeguards.

III. For the first report submitted under this section, the commissioner may limit the inventory and efficiency data to information reasonably available and shall establish baseline metrics against which subsequent reports shall measure progress.

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

2026-1491h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Changes the advice the commissioner of the department of information technology receives from the information technology council.

II. Allows the commissioner to establish an artificial intelligence-related advisement committee.

III. Requires the commissioner to submit an annual report detailing state agency use of artificial intelligence systems.