

State of New Hampshire HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 157th Session of the General Court
Calendar and Journal of the 2001 Session

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Contains: Corrected Committee Reports and Additional Floor Amendments.

HOUSE CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

CORRECTED COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Neal M. Kurk for the Majority of Finance: This is the state's budget for the next two fiscal years. It not only covers our traditional state services (general government, criminal justice and public safety, environmental protection and resource development, transportation and highway improvement, health and human services, post-secondary and higher education), but it includes the state's obligation to fund primary and secondary education. For the first time, the state budget bill is a comprehensive plan that funds all of the state's responsibilities.

As our responsibilities have increased, the budget has increased. General fund spending for the biennium on a comparable basis is up 7.6% over current spending. In the first year, total general fund appropriations are \$1.14 billion, which is \$52.7 million

more than current spending levels. In the second year, total general fund appropriations are \$1.18 billion, which is \$44 million more than the first year.

Every state program is funded at a responsible level. Not a single existing state-funded program or service has been reduced unless the reduction was supported by the Governor or agency. Indeed, almost all programs and services have had their appropriations increased. Some of the increases exceeded those recommended by the Governor. These include school building aid, the developmentally disabled wait list and meals-on-wheels.

Some highlights of the budget: 1) The developmentally disabled wait list is funded at \$1 million per year more than the Governor's plan. 2) Direct aid to the elderly, TANF (welfare) and other clients served by the Department of Health and Human Services has been increased to meet projected case numbers and costs. 3) The rooms and meals distribution to cities and towns has increased by \$15 million. 4) Environmental grants to cities and towns for waste water treatment, public water systems, source water protection, and landfill and incinerator closings have increased to \$37.2 million. 6) LCHIP is funded at \$15 million over the biennium, none of which was included in the Governor's budget plan. 7) The Healthy Kids insurance program appropriation is increased significantly, with the same combination of federal, state and private foundation funding as we currently have. 8) The childhood immunization program is increased to cover two additional vaccines, with the additional funding to come from the general fund and private insurance companies, as is the current practice. 9) An additional \$4 million is appropriated for travel and tourism promotion, none of which is included in the Governor's budget plan. 10) A new pharmaceutical discount program for low-income seniors is funded. 11) Debt service is fully funded to meet the state's existing and anticipated short- and long-term borrowing requirements. 12) The Veterans Home and its expansion are fully funded.

In summary, this budget appropriates the necessary funds to provide for education and all state services, including those to our most vulnerable populations, at a responsible level. This budget is fair, balanced and good for NH. **Vote 13-9.**

Rep. Elizabeth S. Hager for the Minority of Finance: The bipartisan minority of the Finance Committee believes that the majority amendment continues to leave too many critical programs out of the basic state budget. The minority amendment restores funding for Healthy Kids (CHIP), for a critical wage increase for direct care providers, for tobacco use prevention, for immunizations, and for chronically ill children. It also includes funding for state planning initiatives, for Granite Scholars scholarships, and for the Best Schools initiative in more communities.

In other words, it makes the budget more responsive to the needs of our citizens and prevents costs being passed back down to the local property tax. The minority urges passage of the basic budget (the majority amendment) and then our amendment.

HB 767-FN-A-L, establishing the excellence in learning in New Hampshire school funding and improvement program and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS**

Rep. Neal M. Kurk for the Majority of Finance: This bill was divided by the Speaker into sections which were then referred to the appropriate policy committees. Ways and Means moved Inexpedient to Legislate on all the sections on revenue, and the Education Committee moved Inexpedient to Legislate on the sections on education. The balance of sections remaining for Finance to consider no longer had any application when the other sections as acted on by Ways and Means and Education were removed. Respecting the decisions of the policy committees, Finance came to the only logical conclusion and found the bill Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 13-7.**

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner for the Minority of Finance: HB 767 is comprehensive legislation that provides the sustainable funding necessary to meet our constitutional obligation to provide an adequate education for every child, reduces existing taxes, and sets us on a course toward educational excellence by setting rigorous performance standards for schools and through a model early literacy and reading initiative. HB 767 lowers the statewide property tax rate down to \$4.90, cuts the business enterprise tax in half, reduces the interest and dividends tax by 10 percent, and repeals the legacies and succession tax. HB 767 provides additional property tax relief to low and moderate income homeowners through a sliding scale homestead rebate on the state property tax. The 2.5 percent sales tax in HB 767 is half the rate of our three border states, low enough to maintain our retail advantage. HB 767 exempts every-day essential items from the sales tax, including food, clothes, prescription and over-the-counter medications, and heating fuel. The school performance and accountability provisions in HB 767 are consistent with those proposed by President Bush on a national level and are nearly identical to those recommended last fall by the bipartisan legislative adequacy commission led by the chairman of the House Finance Committee. HB 767 also modifies the poverty weighting formula in current law to eliminate the "cliff" effect and steer more state funds to the poorest communities in the state. It is time to enact a long-term school funding solution. HB 767 gets the job done and deserves to be passed on to the Senate.

EDUCATION REPORT ON THE EDUCATION PORTION of HB 767

HB 767, establishing the excellence in learning in New Hampshire school funding and improvement program and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS**

Rep. Warren C. Henderson for the Majority of Education: 1) The House Education Committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on sections 9-11 of HB 767. Our opposition to these sections of the bill stems in large part from profound concerns over the vast shift of power from local school districts to the state education establishment.

There is broad support on the committee for strengthening the so-called "report card" on schools and school districts, which is already in law. By most accounts it is this essential accountability tool that will better equip and inform the people of each school district to play a more meaningful part in sustainable school improvement. There is also support for assuring that state assistance is available to schools that request it. Whether this assistance takes the form of advice and counsel, referral to available resources or access to state, federal and private education grants, improving the uneven record of the Department of Education in this area is seen as a positive step.

That said, however, there is a number of serious problems with Sections 9-11 of the bill as written. For example:

The proposed "school performance standards" (beginning on page 28 line 3) set out minimum reading achievement levels for each school year through 2008 (line 6) as well as percentage minimums on state assessment tests (line 30). The bill says, "a school SHALL MEET OR EXCEED each of the following performance standards ... or demonstrate ... satisfactory progress toward meeting these standards ..." While these provisions are passed off as goals, in reality, any school that fails to meet these standards is in violation of state law unless the Department of Education excuses their deficient performance. Setting one statewide numeric standard in these areas, knowing that some schools will instantly exceed the standards while others may never attain them, immediately and perpetually puts some school districts in violation of state law unless the Department grants them clemency, an unreasonably harsh measure.

Another area of grave concern revolves around the so-called "watch list" generated by the Department of Education of those schools which it finds to be deficient in their performance. While supporters of the bill point out that local officials have "input" into the assessments, the state clearly has complete control over the entire process. The most controversial provision in these sections is subsection IV under State Assistance to Local School Districts (beginning on page 32 line 12). This subsection details the special sanctions for districts containing a school that remains on the "watch list" for three or more years. Under these conditions the Department of Education would have the power to prepare and implement an "action plan" which could include unrestricted hiring and firing, spending and/or wholesale changes in administration or curriculum without the consent of, or over the objections of, local school officials. Once again, local officials have input but no power. The ultimate power rests with the State Board of Education as is clearly stated on line 27, which reads, "The decision of the state board shall be final and binding on all parties."

It gets worse. This section authorizes the Department of Education to fund its takeover plan with (lines 21-24) "resources from a portion of the district's cost of providing an adequate education calculated by combining the district's share of the adequate education costs of its constituent municipality or municipalities." Simply, the state can seize any or all of the funds distributed to communities as state education aid, as well as the amount of property taxes raised as a state property tax, and reallocate them at the sole discretion of the state even if that contradicts decisions made at local school district meetings or by local school boards. Voters who went to the polls to decide how much money to raise for their schools and how to spend that money could find those decisions erased by these state takeover provisions. Further, even if only one school in a district was targeted for such sanctions, these funds for the entire district could be seized under this provision.

For all the excesses in sections 9-11 of HB 767 there was at least one glaring omission. The one party that is not held to any accountability standard by HB 767 is, ironically, the state Department of Education. While a performance audit of the Department was included in an accountability bill passed by the House last year, it is conspicuously absent from this proposal. It is only common sense that we would conduct an extensive examination of the Department of Education to determine its strengths and weaknesses and its fitness to fulfill a broader role in public education before we convey extensive new powers and resources to the Department.

2) The House Education Committee recommends *Inexpedient to Legislative on Section 12 of HB 767*. While the committee is largely in support of the goals reflected in this section, those of early literacy and reading improvement, the committee had virtually no time for the reasoned analysis that should precede setting new policy such as this. Despite six hours of testimony on HB 767 there was little meaningful testimony on these proposals beyond their good intentions. Similarly, other than the six members of the Education Committee who served on a very productive sub-committee on this section, the full Committee has not had an opportunity to examine this issue in any depth or detail. Therefore, while we recommend Inexpedient to Legislate on

section 12 of HB 767 we have already scheduled a work session on the subject of early learning and reading improvement (HB 757 was retained in committee for this purpose), so that we may address this subject in a meaningful way before the 2001 session concludes.

3) The House Education Committee recommends *Inexpedient to Legislative on Sections 14-16 of HB 767*. These sections of the bill deal with formulas for the distribution of state education aid and the weighting given to certain districts to compensate for relatively high levels of poverty or other community factors that may affect the costs of education. The committee found that, having already taken positions on these issues through our Ought to Pass recommendation on HB 747 and HB 748, it would not be constructive to adopt contrary positions on these sections. The subcommittee that reviewed these sections generated a series of issues and positions that was distributed to the full committee.

Overall, it is worthy of note that all of the work of the Education Committee on the relevant sections of HB 767 was extremely compressed by the very short amount of time between when these sections were assigned to our committee and the deadline for final action. Given that the House deadlines were set in early January, and given that none of the many divergent pieces of HB 767 were particularly groundbreaking, no credible reason was given to explain why introduction of the bill was delayed until the end of the third month of session. This extremely delayed introduction caused added constraints on the Education Committee's review of the bill which we urge be examined in the hopes they can be avoided in the future **Vote 11-7**.

Reps. Charles B. Yeaton and Iris W. Estabrook for the Minority of Education: The minority of the Education Committee favors the accountability provisions of HB 767, as it sets rigorous performance standards, holds school districts accountable for meeting them and insures adequate resources for assistance to struggling schools.

The minority further supports, as did the subcommittee, the bill's funding and weighting formulas.

The Early Literacy and Reading Improvement section of HB 767 is seen by the minority as a critical part of education reform. Research clearly shows the importance of quality early childhood experiences in preparing a child to succeed in school. As did the Adequacy Commission, which recommended just such an initiative on child development education for adults, parents and other caregivers interacting with our youngest children, we endorse HB 767's early literacy proposal for its emphasis on research proven effective delivery methods. We support investing resources to improve pre-literacy skills as a cost-effective way of reducing future costs for special education, remedial instruction and juvenile justice.

WAYS AND MEANS REPORT ON THE WAYS AND MEANS PORTION of HB 767

HB 767, establishing the excellence in learning in New Hampshire school funding and improvement program and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS**

Rep. David J. Alukonis for the Majority of Ways And Means: After considering those sections of HB 767 which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, the committee concluded that the imposition of a broad based sales tax would cause considerable harm to the citizens, businesses, and economy of New Hampshire. Of greatest concern to the committee is the loss of sales and the loss of jobs in this state which would occur if a sales tax were adopted. Retail businesses would see a reduction in sales of 15% according to the economist upon which the Education Funding Commission (Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission) relied. This loss in business base equates to the loss of as many as 33,000 jobs in this state. The loss in sales as well as the loss of jobs was echoed repeatedly by the dozens of citizens, business owners and workers who addressed the proposal throughout the deliberative process. Additionally, there is significant disagreement as to the revenues that a sales tax would generate. While the sponsor forecasts receipts of \$365 million in 2003 (the first full year of the tax), contrasting testimony that relied upon more current economic data suggests that actual net revenues could be as low as \$283 million. If this were to occur, this \$83 million difference would leave the state with a significant budget deficit at the end of the next biennium.

Additionally, the committee did not see the logic in restructuring the state's tax structure that this bill would provide for. The committee believes that it would be irresponsible to create a new tax, which would tax the citizens of this state over \$350 million per year in order to fund a \$100 million per year deficit. **Vote 10-6**.

Rep. Christine M. Konys for the Minority of Ways and Means: Two years ago the legislature passed a temporary "stopgap" plan to fund education, with the promise that we would, this session, provide a constitutional, durable and fair method of funding education. HB 767 fulfills all of these requirements. The 2.5 percent sales tax in HB 767 is half the rate of our three border states, the lowest rate in New England, and the lowest rate of any state in the nation with a sales tax. It exempts food, clothing, prescription and over-the counter medications, fuel and goods already subject to state taxation, such as restaurant meals and drinks. The New Hampshire Commission on Education Funding found that a low-rate sales tax would have little impact on the New Hampshire economy. The majority's assertion that a 2.5 percent sales tax would cause the loss of 33,000 jobs comes from a

four-page analysis paid for by certain retail merchants which ignored the fact that the State Department of Employment Services analysis of retail jobs in New Hampshire shows that half of the retail jobs in New Hampshire are in businesses that would not even be taxed by HB 767 - restaurants, bars, and food stores. The revenue estimates for HB 767 were confirmed by the Department of Revenue Administration at the Committee work session on April 6th. In its zeal to defeat this bill, the majority is willing to rebuff the estimates of the Department of Revenue Administration, whose revenue estimating over the years has been unfailingly accurate and whose work is relied upon for every other piece of legislation considered by the Committee. In addition to meeting our constitutional responsibility to fund an adequate education, and doing so without requiring cuts in other essentials state services, HB 767 reduces the statewide property tax from \$6.60 to \$4.90, cuts the business enterprise tax in half, reduces the interest and dividends tax rate from 5 percent to 4.5 percent, and repeals the unfair legacies and succession tax. HB 767 is a sustainable, constitutional and long-term school-funding plan.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

ADDITIONAL FLOOR AMENDMENTS

2001-0944h

Floor Amendment to HB 1-A

Proposed by Reps. Hunt and Letourneau

Amend PAU 05, 01, 07, 06, 03 as follows:

FY 2002 FY 2003

Strike out

91 Chip * 5,342,528 6,233,197

Insert in place thereof

91 Chip 5,342,528 6,233,197

Strike out

*Chip program. No general funds shall be expended for non-medicaid eligible children in the 1-19 year old age group.

Strike out

05 Private Local Funds I 1,759,896 2,062,722

Insert in place thereof

05 Private Local Funds I 200,341 199,542

Strike out

General Fund 92,210,212 97,533,011

Insert in place thereof

General Fund 93,769,767 99,396,191

2001-0952h

Floor Amendment to HB 25-FN-A

Proposed by Rep. Jeb Bradley

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Appropriation; University System of New Hampshire Projects.

I. The Knowledge Economy Education Plan (KEEP NH) documents the need for investment in university system of New Hampshire projects primarily to renovate and expand science, engineering, and technology facilities. A sum of \$100,000,000 is hereby committed to the university system of New Hampshire for KEEP NH, with the first \$37,000,000 appropriated effective July 1, 2001 and the remaining \$63,000,000 appropriated upon approval by the capital budget overview committee. The appropriations are for the following capital projects:

- (a) Murkland Hall renovations (UNH);
- (b) Mason Library renovations (KSC);
- (c) Boyd Hall renovation and expansion (PSC);
- (d) Kingsbury Hall renovation and expansion (UNH);
- (e) Science Building renovation and expansion (KSC);
- (f) Infrastructure work on all campuses (USNH); and
- (g) NHPTV equipment (UNH);

II. The university system board of trustees shall determine the timing of the projects and the specific dollar allocation to each from the sum available under paragraph I while ensuring the respective campus priorities are addressed. The board of trustees shall submit the programs and design development drawings which include cost estimates, design criteria, and square footage requirements for the projects in paragraph I to the capital budget overview committee for its review and approval as soon as possible. The board of trustees has stated that if the capital budget overview committee approval is received within 45 days of submittal then all 5 major facility projects listed in paragraph I(a)-(e) will be completed within the above appropriation. The capital budget overview committee approval is also required for the project in paragraph I(f). The appropriation shall be nonlapsing and in addition to any other appropriation to the university system; provided, however, that the university system shall not receive actual cumulative payments from the state for such purposes of more than:

- (a) \$40,000,000 in the biennium ending June 30, 2003.
- (b) \$70,000,000 through the biennium ending June 30, 2005.
- (c) \$100,000,000 through the biennium ending June 30, 2007.

Amend section 6 of the bill by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. Notwithstanding paragraphs I, III, and IV, the sums appropriated by section 2, for any of the projects listed in paragraph I of section 2, may be expended and awarded by the trustees of the university system; provided that all contracts for all or any part of the building or facilities shall follow construction management procurement procedures and guidelines. If the trustees select construction management pursuant to this paragraph, paragraphs I, III, and IV shall not apply and the trustees shall retain the right to reject or negotiate following accepted construction management practices.

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

8 Bond Authorized.

I. To provide funds for the total of the appropriations of state funds made in sections 1, 3, and 4 of this act, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$73,623,700 and for said purposes may issue bonds and notes in the names and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with the provisions of RSA 6-A.

II. To provide funds for the appropriation made in section 2 of this act, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow upon the credit of the state not exceeding the sum of \$100,000,000 and for said purposes may issue bonds and notes in the name of and on behalf of the state of New Hampshire in accordance with RSA 6-A; provided the cumulative bonds or notes shall not be issued in excess of:

- (a) \$40,000,000 in the biennium ending June 30, 2003.

(b) \$70,000,000 through the biennium ending June 30, 2005.

(c) \$100,000,000 through the biennium ending June 30, 2007.

2001-0939h

Floor Amendment to HB 50-FN-A-LOCAL

Proposed by Rep. DiFruscia

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

AN ACT relative to sources of funding an adequate education and ordering a statewide valuation of property.

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

9 Valuation Ordered. In accordance with part 2, article 6 of the New Hampshire constitution, which permits the general court to order valuations, the general court hereby orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

10 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect upon its passage, and shall apply to property taxes due for the tax year beginning April 1, 2002.

II. Sections 2-7 and IV and V of section 8 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

III. Paragraphs I, II, III, VII and VIII of section 8 shall take effect July 1, 2001 and shall apply to returns and taxes due on account of taxable periods ending on or after July 1, 2001. In the case of any business organization or enterprise which has elected a 52-53 week taxable period under section 441(f) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and the fiscal year of which ends on the last day of the week nearest to June 30, 2001, the taxable period shall be deemed to have ended on June 30, 2001, for the purposes of this act.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Reduces the rate of the education property tax.

II. Establishes a nuclear station property tax.

III. Establishes a low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief program.

IV. Extends the temporary rate of the communications services tax.

V. Repeals certain business tax credits.

VI. Orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

2001-0937h

Floor Amendment to HB 158

Proposed by Rep. McKinney

Amend RSA 208:8-a, I-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I-a. The provisions of paragraph I shall not apply to a person using an artificial light to locate or view a moose from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on any day during the period of September 1 through the second Monday of October. In addition, the exception in this paragraph shall be limited to the following roads in Coos county.

(a) Class I, II, and III state highways.

(b) Class IV, V, and VI city or town roads, with the permission of the local governing body.

2001-0945h

Floor Amendment to HB 304-FN

Proposed by Rep. Poulin

Amend RSA 417-G:2, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each insurer that issues or renews any policy of accident and health insurance providing benefits for hospital expense, medical-surgical expense, or major medical expense shall provide in each group or individual policy, contract or certificate of insurance issued or renewed for persons who are residents of this state, coverage for testing for the presence of prostate cancer, in accordance with the standards of the American Cancer Society, for men 50 years of age or older with a life expectancy of 10 years, and for men 45 years of age or older who are recognized as high risk. The coverage shall be as follows:

(a) An initial examination conducted by his licensed doctor and any follow-up clinical tests deemed necessary by the doctor for men 50 years of age or older, and for men 45 years of age or older who are considered high risk.

(b) An annual examination conducted by his licensed doctor and any follow-up clinical tests deemed necessary by the doctor, including a prostate-specific antigen blood test or a digital rectal examination performed in accordance with the standards of the American Cancer Society, for men 50 years of age or older and for men 45 years of age or older who are considered high risk.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires insurance coverage for testing for the presence of prostate cancer for men 50 years of age or older, and for men 45 years of age or older who are considered high risk.

2001-0941h

Floor Amendment to HB 319-FN

Proposed by Rep. Souza

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

AN ACT including "unborn child" in the definition of "another" for the purpose of capital murder, first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and negligent homicide.

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

1 Homicide; Capital Murder; Definition of Unborn Child. Amend RSA 630:1, IV to read as follows:

IV. As used in this section and RSA 630:1-a, 1-b, 2, 3 and 4, the meaning of "another" ~~[does not include a foetus]~~ **shall include an unborn child.**

2 New Paragraph; Capital Murder; Exemption for Abortion. Amend RSA 630:1 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a.(a) Nothing in this section or RSA 630:1-a, 1-b, 2, 3, or 4 shall apply to any act committed by the other of the unborn child, to any medical procedure, including abortion, performed by a physician or other licensed medical professional at the request of the pregnant woman or her legal guardian, or to the lawful dispensation or administration of lawfully prescribed medication. For the purposes of this section and RSA 630:1-a, 1-b, 2, 3, and 4, "abortion" means the act of using or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with knowledge that the termination by those means will, with, reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the unborn child. Such use, prescription, or means is not an abortion if done with the intent to save the life or preserve the health of an unborn child, or to remove a dead unborn child caused by spontaneous abortion, or to remove an ectopic pregnancy.

(b) "Conception" means the fusion of a human spermatozoon with a human ovum.

(c) "Gestation" means the time during which a woman carries an unborn child in her body from conception until birth.

(d) "Pregnant" means the female reproductive condition of having an unborn child in the woman's body.

(e) "Unborn child" means the offspring of human beings from conception until birth.

3 New Paragraph; Homicide; Negligent Homicide; Definition of "Another" to Include Fetus.

Amend RSA 630:3 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. As used in this section, the meaning of "another" shall include ~~[a fetus]~~ ***an unborn child as defined in RSA 630:1, IV-a.***

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that an unborn child shall be included in the definition of "another" for the purpose of capital murder, first and second degree murder, manslaughter and negligent homicide.

2001-0954h

Floor Amendment to HB 587-FN-A

Proposed by Rep. Bickford

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

AN ACT establishing a commission on the status of men.

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

1 Purpose. The general court recognizes men as an important resource for their families and children and wishes to explore the causes and consequences of a variety of social, economic, and health problems currently facing men, and make recommendations for relief. Specifically, the general court recognizes that fatherlessness is a severe social problem and New Hampshire children who have a poor or non-existent relationship with their father are the largest users of state-funded juvenile services. In addition, the health of men whose average life expectancy was formerly on a par with that of women are now dying 10 years sooner with much higher rates of suicide and mortality rates from the 15 leading causes of disease and accidents. And educationally, the general court recognizes the need to address the poor performance of boys in the areas of reading and language skills and increase the grade passage rate for boys while encouraging the pursuit of post-secondary degrees. Therefore, the general court recommends the establishment of a commission on the status of men.

2 New Chapter; State Commission on the Status of Men. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 19-H the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 19-I

State Commission on the Status of Men

19-I:1 Commission Established; Members; Appointment and Vacancy.

I. There is hereby created a state commission on the status of men, hereinafter called the commission, consisting of 7 members.

II. All members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor and council for terms of 3 years each, provided that the initial appointees to the commission shall serve the following terms:

(a) the first 2 persons appointed shall serve one-year terms.

(b) the second 2 persons appointed shall serve 2-year terms.

(c) the last 3 persons appointed shall serve 3-year terms.

III. At least one member shall be invited from the university system of New Hampshire.

IV. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the governor and council shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

19-I:2 Compensation. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation and shall not be entitled to reimbursement for expenses but shall be entitled to reimbursement for mileage at the same rate provided for state employees.

19-I:3 Officers. The governor and council shall designate the chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and treasurer of the commission.

19-I:4 Duties. The duties of the commission shall include, but not be limited to:

- I. Examining issues and effects of cultural biases and stereotyping beginning with childhood experiences and progress in public schools, and extending to include a study of male suicide and adult concerns such as family relations, promoting education and policies which bring fathers and children closer together.
- II. Studying health problems unique to men or which predominantly affect men, and making appropriate recommendations.
- III. Promoting initiatives and programs that will enable men to develop career skills and continue their education so that they become productive and responsible citizens.

19-I:5 Cooperation. The commission shall cooperate with any state or federal agency or any private organization in conducting investigations and studies in the area of the status of men. All state agencies shall assist the commission in carrying out its duties.

19-I:6 Report. The commission shall submit a biennial report of its activities on or before November 1 to the governor and council, the commissioner of administrative services, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house. The report shall include any recommendations the commission finds for the general court to consider.

19-I:7 Authority to Accept Gifts. The commission may accept any gifts, donations, or grants from any source whatsoever provided the gifts, donations, or grants so received shall be used exclusively in the furtherance of the duties of the commission.

19-I:8 Records. The commission shall file and keep its records in space and facilities made available for such purposes in the offices of the secretary of state by the secretary of state.

19-I:9 Administratively Attached. The commission shall be administratively attached to the department of administrative services.

3 Prospective Repeal of Chapter. RSA 19-I, relative to the state commission on the status of men, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2009.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission on the status of men to address issues of cultural bias and stereotyping, health problems unique to men, and methods for encouraging personal growth. The commission is terminated on September 1, 2009.

2001-0940h

Floor Amendment to HB 759-FN-A-LOCAL

Proposed by Rep. DiFruscia

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

AN ACT ordering a statewide valuation of property.

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

1 Valuation Ordered. In accordance with part 2, article 6 of the New Hampshire constitution, which permits the general court to order valuations, the general court hereby orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

2001-0943h

Floor Amendment to HB 766-FN-A-LOCAL

Proposed by Rep. DiFruscia

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

AN ACT ordering a statewide valuation of property.

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

1 Valuation Ordered. In accordance with part 2, article 6 of the New Hampshire constitution, which permits the general court to order valuations, the general court hereby orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

2001-0942h

Floor Amendment to HB 767-FN-A-LOCAL

Proposed by Rep. DiFruscia

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

AN ACT ordering a statewide valuation of property.

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

1 Valuation Ordered. In accordance with part 2, article 6 of the New Hampshire constitution, which permits the general court to order valuations, the general court hereby orders a statewide valuation of property to be completed by December 31, 2002.

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