State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

Second Year of the 168th General Court

Calendar and Journal of the 2024 Session

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Vol. 46 Concord, N.H. Friday, March 1, 2024 No. 9

Contains: Amendments; Committee Reports; Bills Laid on Table; Ethics Advisory Opinions; House Bills Amended By Senate; House Deadlines; Meetings and Notices; Revised Fiscal Notes.

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

I hope you are enjoying a quiet, restful week. Our first session in March will be on Thursday, March 7th, starting at 9:00 a.m. Please hold all Thursdays in March for possible session days.

Your safety and security are a high priority in and around the State House Complex. To report a security concern, please visit the nearest Protective Services post, or call 603-271-2200. If there is an emergency situation, dial 9-1-1 first.

Pursuant to House Rule 44(d), if any House business is canceled due to inclement weather, notice will be posted on the General Court website at gencourt.state.nh.us. In addition, email notification will go out to affected committees and staff.

Please note, there will be no House business scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th, Town Meeting Day; however, the State House complex will remain open.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

There is no chair/ vice chair meeting scheduled at this time. The next meeting of the chairs and vice chairs will be announced in an upcoming Calendar.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, March 7th at 8:00 a.m.** in the State House Cafeteria.

Rep. Matt Wilhelm, 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:	**AVAILABLE ON:**
Wednesday, March 6, 2024	Friday, March 8, 2024
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	Friday, March 15, 2024
Wednesday, March 20, 2024	Friday, March 22, 2024

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2024 HOUSE DEADLINES

Second Year Session Deadlines

Thursday, March 21, 2024	Last day to report House Bills not in a second committee
Thursday, March 28, 2024	Last day to act on House Bills not in a second committee
Thursday, April 4, 2024	Last day to report all House Bills
Thursday, April 11, 2024	CROSSOVER – Last day to act on all House Bills
Thursday, April 25, 2024	Last day to report Senate Bills going to a second committee
Thursday, May 2, 2024	Last day to act on Senate Bills going to a second committee
Thursday, May 16, 2024	Last day to report all Senate Bills

Thursday, May 23, 2024	Last day to act on all Senate Bills
Thursday, May 30, 2024	Last day to form committees of conference
Thursday, June 6, 2024	Last day to sign committee of conference reports (4:00 p.m.)
Thursday, June 13, 2024	Last day to act on committee of conference reports
Tuesday, September 3, 2024	First day for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information
Friday, September 13, 2024	Last day prior to the General Election for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information
Friday, October 25, 2024	Last day to file 2024 Interim Study reports
Wednesday, November 6, 2024	First day for all Representatives to file LSRs with complete information
Friday, November 22, 2024	Last day to file LSRs with complete information (4:00 p.m.) Ten-day signoff begins
Thursday, January 2, 2025	Last day to sign-off on all LSRs (12:00 p.m.)
Friday, January 24, 2025	Last day to introduce House Bills Last day to amend House Rules by majority vote

NOTICE

Please note that all streaming videos of standing committee meetings and joint committees can be found at the NH House of Representatives YouTube channel. The link to the YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/c/NHHouseofRepresentativesCommitteeStreaming

NOTICE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee has voted to issue the following advisory opinion, which is printed below in its entirety.

Advisory Opinion 2024-1

Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion
from Representative Judy Aron
(January 29, 2024)

Representative Judy Aron has submitted a request for an Advisory Opinion about whether, consistent with applicable statutes and the Ethics Guidelines, it would be "reasonable" for her, as chair of the House Committee on Environment and Agriculture, to ask her committee members if they were solicited by or accepted campaign donations from the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF) and, if so, suggest that they should recuse themselves from voting on bills that are supported by the Humane Society.

Background

In completing its consideration of Representative Aron's request, the Committee reviewed the facts set forth in the written request. In addition, at the Committee's invitation, Representative Aron appeared before the Committee and provided direct testimony.

In her email, dated January 11, 2024, Representative Aron stated that in late November 2023, she received a $500 donation in the form of a check from the Humane Society Legislative Fund. According to her email submission, the check was included with a letter from Kurt Ehrenberg, the NH State Director of HSLF. The letter stated:

> "Dear Candidate, Please find the enclosed contribution from the Humane Society Legislative Fund of New Hampshire PAC. HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal levels, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office. Thank you for all you do to protect animals in your community."

Representative Aron expressed concern that accepting a donation from HSLF and voting in favor of legislation promoted by HSLF could appear as a "quid pro quo situation" and said she "would not want any of my committee members to be accused of quid pro quo actions or to seem that such a contribution 'bought their vote.'" She asked, "Since quid pro quo is outlined as a prohibited activity in item number 3 of the ethics guidelines should my committee members be alerted to the possibility of an ethics violation and therefore protect themselves by recusal when exec'ing these bills? With regard to the possibility of ethics violations, what is your recommendation here?"

Relevant Statutory Provisions

Ethics Guidelines Section 3 -- Prohibited Activities.

II. Legislators shall not solicit, accept, or agree to accept anything of value from another for themselves or other persons, if the legislator receives such thing of value:

(a) Knowing or believing the other's purpose to be the influencing of an action, decision, opinion, recommendation, or other official activity.

(b) Knowing or believing that the giver is or is likely to become subject to or interested in any matter or action pending before or contemplated by the legislator or the General Court.

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(d) In return for introducing legislation, testifying before any legislative committee or state agency, voting in committee or in House or Senate session, or otherwise participating in, influencing, or attempting to influence any decision of the legislature, county delegation, or any state agency.

Ethics Guidelines Section 4 -- Permitted Activities; Permitted Gifts.

I. Nothing in section 3, Prohibited Activities, shall be construed to prohibit the following:

(a) Giving or receiving campaign contributions made for the purpose of defraying the costs of a political campaign in compliance with RSA 664 or the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

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II. The following shall not be considered gifts for the purposes of these Guidelines:

(a) A political contribution as defined in RSA 664.

RSA14-C:2 Definitions.

IV.(b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), "gift" shall not include:

(1) A political contribution as defined in RSA 664.

Committee Analysis

The Committee acknowledges that campaign contributions are sometimes made by individuals or organizations with the hope that the legislator receiving the contribution will look favorably upon legislation the donor supports or opposes. The Committee is sympathetic with Representative Aron's concern that such situations can create at least the appearance of impropriety. However, the Legislature, in adopting the Ethics Guidelines and RSA 14-C, specifically exempted political contributions from the definition of a gift and permitted the giving or receiving of such contributions. There is an expectation that legislators will carry out their responsibilities as legislators regardless of who has provided political support. Individual legislators may decide not to accept political donations if they disagree with the donor's positions or are concerned about the donor's intent.

Conclusion

As the Ethics Guidelines are currently established, it is not an ethical violation to accept a campaign contribution. We advise Representative Aron that it is the responsibility of her committee members to decide for themselves whether they should accept legal campaign contributions from individuals or organizations who may support or oppose legislation that could come before them. The members of her committee would not be required to recuse from voting or otherwise participating in official activities relating to legislation HSLF has supported or opposed solely on the basis of having received a campaign contribution from HSLF.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Honorable Edward M. Gordon, Chairman
Honorable Donna Sytek, Vice Chairman
Senator Cindy Rosenwald
Senator Ruth Ward
Representative Janet G. Wall
Representative Bob Lynn
Honorable David W. Hess

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

NOTICE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee has voted to issue the following advisory opinion, which is printed below in its entirety.

Advisory Opinion 2024-2

Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion
from Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann
on Behalf of Senator Sharon M. Carson and Senator Daniel Innis
(January 29, 2024)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann has submitted a request for an Advisory Opinion on behalf of Senator Sharon M. Carson and Senator Daniel Innis about whether, consistent with applicable statutes and the Ethics Guidelines, the Senators are required to recuse themselves from participating on certain bills that are of interest to their employers. In completing its consideration, the Committee reviewed the facts set forth in the written request and received testimony from Attorney Lehmann.

Background

According to the information submitted by Attorney Lehmann in his letter to the Committee dated January 17, 2024, Senator Carson is an adjunct professor who teaches at the Nashua Community College and Senator Innis is a tenured professor at the University of New Hampshire. The Senators receive their wages from the Community College System of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire, respectively, both of which are public entities.

Attorney Lehmann referenced several decisions and advisory opinions issued by the Committee over the past decade and stated that "a rule has emerged that Section 3, II(b) of the Ethics Guidelines requires legislators to recuse themselves from matters on which their employers lobby, testify, or otherwise attempt to influence the outcome (of) legislation." He asserted that the Ethics Guidelines and relevant statutes treat employment by state entities differently than employment by private entities, citing Section 4, I(h) of the Ethics Guidelines as providing a "safe-harbor that removes any transactions that are permitted under RSA 14-C from the prohibitions contained in Section 3" of the Ethics Guidelines. He cited RSA 14-C:2, IV(b)(8) as expressly excluding from the gift prohibition, "[w]ages...paid to the person by the state, a county, or the United States of America related to performance of official duties." He argues that "[m]oney received by Sen. Carson and Sen. Innis is paid to them by the state and is related to the performance of their official duties for their employers. Accordingly, because Sen. Carson and Sen. Innis are not prohibited from accepting their salaries under RSA 14-C, their participation in matters in which their employers lobby, testify, or seek to influence the outcome is not prohibited by Section 3 of the Guidelines."

Committee Analysis

The Committee engaged in a long discussion of the facts and circumstances presented and the applicable statutory guidelines and standards set by prior precedent. While Senators Carson and Innis are employed by the University System and the Community College System, in their positions as instructors, they clearly are unable to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of those organizations. While that language is not spelled out in statute, the Committee viewed RSA 14-C:2, IV(b)(8), as argued by Attorney Lehmann, and RSA 14-C:2, IV(b)(7) as provisions directed at exempting certain employees from the financial limitations which may otherwise require recusal. The Committee spent a considerable amount of time attempting to understand the intent behind the two provisions and to eliminate the ambiguity in their terms. While the Committee members may have differences over which of the two provisions may apply, all members were in agreement that, by virtue of their employment, one of the provisions exempted Senators Carson and Innis from recusal from matters on which their employer takes legislative positions.

Conclusion

Given the nature of their employment, the Committee found that Senator Carson and Senator Innis may participate in matters in which their employers, the Community College System of NH or the University System of NH, lobby, testify, or seek to influence the outcome of the matter under consideration.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Honorable Edward M. Gordon, Chairman
Honorable Donna Sytek, Vice Chairman
Senator Cindy Rosenwald
Senator Ruth Ward
Representative Janet G. Wall
Representative Bob Lynn
Honorable David H. Hess

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

BILLS LAID ON TABLE

HB 147, relative to membership of the advisory committee on the education of students with disabilities. Pending question: No pending question.

HB 232-FN, adopting section 1910 OSHA standards for public sector employees in New Hampshire. Pending question: Amendment (2429h).
HB 267, relative to criminal records checks in school employment. Pending question: Refer for Interim Study.
HB 301, relative to recusal by members of the general court for conflicts of interest. Pending question: Amendment (2326h).
HB 369, establishing a task force to provide energy relief on farms. Pending question: No pending question.
HB 375-FN, relative to the licensure of nonresident aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.
HB 437-FN, relative to a reading assessment and intervention program. Pending question: Refer for Interim Study.
HB 439-FN, relative to the duty to provide an education and contracts with private schools. Pending question: No pending question.
HB 499-FN, requiring the rules of evidence to apply in family court cases and relative to the admission of certain evidence in family court proceedings. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.
HB 505-FN, relative to comprehensive mental health education in schools. Pending question: No pending question.
HB 546-FN-L, relative to the school building aid program. Pending question: No pending question.
HB 553, relative to school district information on personnel salaries. Pending question: No pending question.
HB 570, relative to Real ID compliant New Hampshire driver's licenses. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.
HB 577-FN-L, relative to state aid for special education pupils. Pending question: No pending question.
HB 651, authorizing the department of education and local school districts to contract with transportation network companies to provide school transportation services. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.
HB 1522-FN, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation. Pending question. No pending question.
HB 1560-FN-A, relative to unassigned moneys in the education trust fund. Pending question: Ought to Pass.
HB 1644-FN, requiring the department of energy to initiate an investigation of the benefits and key considerations regarding support for clean or non-carbon emitting power generation. Pending question: Committee amendment.
HB 1686-FN, relative to requiring excess revenues raised through the statewide education property tax to be remitted to the education trust fund and prohibiting the department of revenue administration from setting negative local and county tax rates on real property. Pending question: No pending question.
HCR 8, applying to congress for a limited national convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution relative to elections. Pending question: Ought to Pass.
SB 218-FN-A, establishing an early educator professional development grant. Pending question: No pending question.

2024 HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

HB 135-FN, (Second New Title) relative to requisites for a criminal search warrant. (SJ 2/8/2024)
HB 154, (New Title) relative to electronic ballot counting devices. (House Concurs 2/15/2024)
HB 261, (New Title) relative to rights of tenants in cases of domestic violence. (SJ 2/8/2024)
HB 596-FN, prohibiting the use of racial profiling in law enforcement activities and in sentencing. (SJ 2/15/2024)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

CONSENT CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

CACR 25, relating to the rights of children and parents. Providing that parents and children have the right to control their health, education, and welfare. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Patrick Long for Children and Family Law. The committee was faced with two parental rights bills. This resolution's language included "control of children," which would create problems with child neglect statutes. The committee decided to debate CACR17 instead. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1261, relative to voluntary services under the CHINS program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Debra DeSimone for Children and Family Law. The committee heard testimony from attorneys from the Office of the Child Advocate and from the Division of Children, Youth, and Families who agree with the committee that this issue is already addressed in statue. Therefore, this bill is not necessary. **Vote 16-0.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1039-FN, relative to alternative sentencing for primary caregivers. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. Amanda Bouldin for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill seeks to ensure that courts consider whether an offender is also a primary caregiver, and further, seeks to provide courts with the discretion to alter sentencing on an individual basis so as to avoid disrupting the lives of dependents. The committee agreed that this legislation needs more work to fine tune the terminology in pursuit of its intended purpose. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1197, relative to criminal background checks. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. David Meuse for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill expedites the hiring process for New Hampshire employers by authorizing more state agencies to take fingerprints of those undergoing non-criminal related federal background checks. Under current law, fingerprints must be taken by the Department of Safety or a local police department. The bill further establishes a multi-agency task force designed to review the need for Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal History Record Information checks across employment and volunteer positions in the state, to evaluate whether checks should be continued for current positions, and to identify whether any additional positions should be covered. The bill was supported by the Department of Safety. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1214, relative to establishing a committee to study best practices for the development of a restorative justice model for misdemeanor-level behavior and hate crimes committed by juveniles under the age of eighteen. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Loren Selig for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill creates a short-term study committee to look at best practices for the development of a restorative justice model for misdemeanor level behavior and hate crimes committed by juveniles under the age of 18. The committee will consider existing programs in New Hampshire and models in other states to identify any potential areas for improvement or development, as well as program needs. The prime sponsor discussed the increase of hate crimes committed across the state as one reason the study is timely. **Vote 18-2.**

EDUCATION

HB 1109, relative to requiring student identification cards to include the helpline for the National Alliance for Eating Disorders. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Katy Peternel for Education. This act shall be known as the Matthew Brown Act. This bill requires student identification cards for students in grades 6-12 to include the helpline for the National Alliance for Eating Disorders. After a similar bill was vetoed last year, another organization came forward with evidence that their helpline would be staffed and available hours would be increased. It was recognized that the title of the Suicide Helpline had changed. The committee found it to be in the best interest of student safety and crisis prevention to amend the bill by amending RSA 193-J:2-a to include that change. **Vote 19-1.**

HB 1185-FN, relative to sexual education instruction. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education. This bill established standards for sexual education instruction. The committee found issues with the language and possibly the area of statute. Therefore, the committee recommends Interim Study so that members could look at revisions for future legislation. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1235, relative to high school students serving as school board members. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Corinne Cascadden for Education. This bill, as amended, provides flexibility in the number of school board meetings student representatives need to attend. Requiring students in smaller districts to attend all school board meetings poses hardship to find students who can or want to participate. This bill removes the word "all" from RSA 194:23-f, IV; to read in part: "The duties of a student school board member shall include: (a) Attending school board meetings..." **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1356, relative to the use of children's names and pronouns by public school employees. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Alicia Lekas for Education. This bill prohibits public school employees and contractors from using students' preferred names and pronouns, absent permission from the parents or guardians. The committee feels that this is way too broad. Some students are not fond of their given name and choose to use their middle name or a nickname. This bill would include nicknames given by coaches, which is a common practice and supports team spirit. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1473, relative to social-emotional learning in public schools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. This bill attempts to prohibit the teaching of curriculum for social emotional learning in public schools. Within statute, school boards are required to establish policy that enhances learning achievement and promotes skills associated with listening and following directions, accepting responsibility, staying on task, managing time wisely, showing initiative, and being cooperative. In addressing school safety,

school boards are responsible for establishing behavior programs that promote safety and respect for others. It's not uncommon for students to arrive in the classroom carrying "social" baggage, and even as adults, we know that one learns best without this stress. It's the job of a teacher to help every child to be ready for the day's learning activities, and hopefully, unpack some of the baggage. Kindergarten teachers spend a good part of their days teaching "social" skills: how to share, how to listen, being thoughtful, helping others, and much more. The old saying, "All I really need to know, I learned in kindergarten," says it all. Yes, these social skills are absolutely taught, and should be taught in our schools. **Vote 19-1.**

HB 1496, relative to the state's duty to protect children in public schools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Mel Myler for Education. This bill would use the concept of "*in loco parentis*" demanding that public schools act as temporary guardians for the protection of children while in schools. This bill is not needed. State statutes currently enable school officials to determine safety policies for students. It is the responsibility of school officials to create safety procedures and protocols to protect not only students but school personnel. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1643-FN-LOCAL, requiring school districts to make curriculum and instructional materials available on their web pages. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Mel Myler for Education. This bill would have required a school district to place any material used for instruction, including but not limited to all textbooks and other reading materials, videos, digital materials, websites, and online applications on their district's web page. Currently, school districts do place education and curriculum material on their web pages for the community to review. Parental access to these resources is encouraged. The volume of material and the effort needed to comply with this bill was felt to be excessive by the committee. **Vote 18-2.**

HB 1692-FN, relative to public high school graduation requirements. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. This bill revises the requirements for public high school graduation by adding a requirement to earn a minimum score on the statewide assessment administered in high school. The SAT is the statewide assessment administered at the high school level in grade 11. The test is intended to assess students' readiness for college, and is not aligned with high school curriculum. The committee, therefore, recognizes that this assessment is not an adequate measure of high school course curriculum and competencies. There is no other statewide assessment administered at the high school level; the graduation requirement identified in this bill cannot be achieved without considerable expense for the purchase or development of another assessment that is aligned to local curriculum and course offerings. **Vote 20-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 1132, relative to permits for the siting of new landfills. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Jacob Brouillard for Environment and Agriculture. While the thought of proposing that any new landfills should be sited on existing brownfield sites in NH seemed to make sense, the idea did present a number of problems. Of the existing 313 brownfield sites in NH, many are located in places unsuitable for landfills because of nearby settlements, close proximity to bodies of water, unsuitable geological composition, and conflicts with current NH Department of Environmental Services rules regarding landfill siting. Most of the brownfields were also not large enough parcels of land. The committee did acknowledge that these brownfield sites could be repurposed in the future in other meaningful ways, for example places to put recycling centers or solar arrays. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1170-FN, requiring public benefit and community impact assessments from the department of environmental services. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. Megan Murray for Environment and Agriculture. The committee felt that the concept of public benefit, and net public benefit and community impact has merit to be further explored when looking at several factors around solid waste permitting and their relationship to human impacts. The committee would like to explore concepts around quantifying impacts to communities, including public health, community input and involvement, and assessment as it relates to the Department of Environmental Services. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1376-FN, relative to prohibiting certain packaging from carrying the recycling logo. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill was responding to the perception that plastic packaging that carries the chasing arrows recycling symbol is deceptive because only a fraction of the plastic gets recycled. The committee was sympathetic to this issue, but felt that having the recycling numbers leads to more recycling, even if the total percentage recycled needs improvement. In addition, the choice of including the chasing arrows symbol on packaging is well beyond the purview of the state. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1386-FN, relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries found in cell phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices. When they are improperly disposed of the protec-

tive pouch around the battery can be punctured or damaged leading to chemical reactions that can cause fire or explosion. The fires caused by these batteries burn hotter and longer, and are difficult to extinguish. This bill prohibits the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities and incinerators because they have already been known to cause fires and create great damage to existing facilities in NH. The bill also cleans up and expands the definition of electronic devices prohibited in NH landfills. The amendment clarifies that no one will be held liable for disposing banned lithium-ion batteries accidentally. Several trade associations, Waste Haulers, NH Association of Fire Chiefs (NHAFC), and the NH Fire Marshall's office support this bill. This bill is also consistent with the NH Solid Waste Management Plan adopted in 2022. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1490, relative to the solid waste management act. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill was a request from the Department of Environmental Services to amend parts of RSA 149-M. The bill is a statute housekeeping bill which modifies the existing definitions of "abutter" and "end-of-life motor vehicle," corrects a drafting error from the 2019 legislative session, and adds the term "termination" to the list of possible actions in the administration of the permit system. **Vote 13-0.**

HB 1620-FN, relative to suspending the issuance of new landfill permits until 2031. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill will suspend the issuance of new landfill permits until July 1, 2028. The Department of Environmental Services shall continue to accept and investigate applications. The period of this suspension will allow for more time for the legislature to consider rules and procedures that assure that landfills in the state will be sited properly, meet the need of public benefit, and advance New Hampshire's solid waste goals. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1681-FN, relative to sale of products labeled as biodegradable or compostable. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill was written to make sure that take-out containers labeled as compostable are truly compostable to maintain the integrity of our composting programs. The bill proposed third party verification using American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards to make sure that items are truly compostable. The Department of Environmental Services pointed out to the sponsor that the section of law referenced by the bill as submitted would not work, and suggested that Chapter 339, a commerce law, would be more appropriate. The committee felt that the bill with the suggested amendments would be good, but we were advised that an amendment that placed the bill in a chapter of law outside our committee's purview would be deemed non-germane. For this reason, we had to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1687-FN, relative to disposal of construction and demolition debris from state construction projects. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Megan Murray for Environment and Agriculture. Even though there are already best practices in place around hazardous waste disposal and hazardous materials disposal on state construction projects, the amendment and the underlying bill further define the disposal of hazardous waste and hazardous materials as enumerated in the statute. This bill is relative only to state contracts and New Hampshire University System contracts. The bill, as amended, strengthens state contractual positions and will improve compliance with regard to disposal of construction and demolition debris from state construction projects. **Vote 18-0.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1331-FN, relative to dentists licensed in another country. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Tony Lekas for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would create a new class of license which is not well defined in the bill. While the committee heard testimony indicating that there is a problem with the amount of time it takes for dentists who have immigrated to the United States to get licensed, this bill does not present a workable solution. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1548-FN, relative to recommendations of the joint committee on employee classification. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Tony Lekas for Executive Departments and Administration. The authority for setting the salaries of state employees rests with the New Hampshire General Court. However, there is a need to set or adjust salaries outside of the regular legislative calendar. RSA 14:14-c created the Joint Committee on Employee Classification (JCEC) and gives it the duty of reviewing such requests and setting a temporary salary or salary range. From RSA 14:14-c III(b) "The committee shall propose legislation recommending permanent salary levels for each position for introduction in the next regular session of the general court." This bill includes the recommendations of JCEC since the last such bill went through the legislature. The Executive Departments and Administration committee recommends that the New Hampshire House confirm the JCEC recommendations. **Vote 17-0.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 1042, relative to eliminating specific requirements of pharmacy continuous quality improvement programs beyond the establishment of such programs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Gary Merchant for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy ("the Board") supports the underlying bill. Per the letter from the Board, "after thorough review and consideration, it has become evident that certain provisions within the RSA do not allow pharmacies to utilize the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program to best safeguard their patients as effectively as intended due to variations in practice settings. Furthermore, the New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy has not documented one case where this RSA has improved quality or prevented errors." This bill as amended repeals the RSA to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden placed on pharmacists. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1171, extending the commission to study environmentally-triggered chronic illness. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill extends the Commission to Study Environmentally-triggered Chronic Illness from November 1, 2024 to November 1, 2029. The amendment removes an out-of-date charge for the Commission and clarifies that the required report regarding data sharing processes between the Department of Environmental Services and the Department of Health and Human Services will be annual. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1318, relative to the duties of the opioid abatement advisory commission. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. For over 100 years, it has been a goal to create an opioid policy which respects both the needs of those who suffer from opioid addiction and those who require these medications to treat their pain. The pendulum of such policy attempts persistently misses this sweet spot, and the measures taken to address the most recent opioid crisis are no different, causing unnecessary harm to those who suffer pain. From its inception, the New Hampshire Opioid Abatement Trust Fund and those in other states, by design, perpetuate this imbalance by redistributing billions of dollars from one group, i.e. those in pain, to another group, those with addiction. The purpose of this bill as amended, is to bring a balance to the trust fund by reducing opioid-related harms and addressing the needs of both groups. The bill recognizes two important issues. First, as a direct result of CDC policy, there has been an epidemic of non-consensual opioid dose reduction, detoxification, or outright abandonment, which has harmed too many patients who have responded well to opioid therapy. To provide a safe haven for them, HB 1318 would allow opioid abatement funds to be used for medication-assisted treatment type centers to care for those who have been subjected to such treatment. This step will prevent the adverse effects of abandonment without increasing opioid prescribing in the community. Second, in virtually every policy statement published on this issue since 2016, providers are encouraged to provide non-opioid therapies as an alternative. Yet, there is little to no access to such therapies, perpetuating the need for opioids. This bill allows the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund to support programs which increase access to comprehensive, integrative pain care as an alternative to opioid therapy, something sorely needed. Each of these two approaches has substantial evidence-based support, and is consistent with Exhibit E, the List of Remediation Uses, in the Opioid Settlement Agreement. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1349-FN, relative to generalized anxiety disorder as a qualifying condition for the therapeutic cannabis program. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee unanimously concurs with the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board recommendation relative to generalized anxiety disorder as a qualifying condition for the therapeutic cannabis program. We find there is abundant anecdotal and empirical evidence to support the use of therapeutic cannabis as a part of a multi-disciplinary regimen for these conditions. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1350-FN, relative to therapeutic cannabis possession limits. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would increase the quantity of cannabis which may be possessed by a patient or caregiver from two to four ounces, which is unanimously supported by the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board (TCMOB). This will be of huge benefit to patients, especially oncology patients who require a higher dose. Because the edibles sold at Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) are very expensive, many patients make their own. The batching process for making edibles requires a large amount of cannabis, and the current two ounce limit risks placing patients in violation of the possession limits. Access is also a problem for patients living in the rural areas of the state where the round trip may be up to two hours. This is a burden for older patients and those in pain, and doubling the possession limit will cut these trips in half. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1393, relative to the inclusion of pediatric cancer in the state health improvement plan. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Committee members were unanimous in their concern that pediatric cancer be appropriately considered and addressed. However, no other medical

conditions are mentioned in the statute creating the state health improvement plan, and committee members believe that to refer to one specific condition in the statute would be to open the floodgates to other statutory amendments in the future. The issue of pediatric cancer has already been discussed with members of the State Health Advisory Council charged with the development of the plan, and we have been assured that the issue will continue to be considered in the future. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1581, relative to cultivation locations for alternative treatment centers. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee believes that enabling alternative treatment centers to operate additional cultivation locations, subject to administrative rules and local zoning laws, is beneficial for two major reasons. First, enabling cannabis to be grown in greenhouses as opposed to indoor grow houses allows for natural sunlight which impacts the growth characteristics of the plant and the resulting therapeutic cannabis product. The second is that it enables alternative treatment centers to be more responsive to market demands. Cannabis cultivated in response to characteristics valued in the therapeutic market, versus those valued in the adult-use market, may help to incentivize therapeutic cannabis patients to continue utilizing the program for the best strains and the best solutions for their medical needs, rather than turning to products intended for general non-therapeutic use in adult-use retail outlets. **Vote 18-2.**

HB 1604-FN, relative to the use of electronic medical records. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. While the committee agreed that the electronic medical record (EMR) has the potential to provide improvement of care through better communication, that is not what has happened in practice. As evolved, EMR has done quite the opposite to the detriment of patient care in terms of cost, access, communication, and efficiency, with a focus on billing and data collection and not on why the patient is actually there. Furthermore, it has harmed communication between providers, so called fragmentation, inevitably harming those with complex health care problems. It has also irreparably harmed small private practice, the bedrock of American health care, by unnecessarily increasing the cost and complexity of practice beyond the ability of health care providers of all disciplines to manage, forcing them to sell out to corporate providers with their focus on bottom-line care. Finally, it is the leading cause of provider burn-out, early retirement, and provider shortages. The purpose of this bill was not to eliminate the EMR, but rather to refocus on its original intent by giving the provider the option of whether to use it and how. It also eliminates the data collection requirements that take up valuable, direct patient contact time, and interferes with the care of the patient. This bill will allow providers to focus on the patient, not the computer, while empowering private practitioners of all types. While it is unfortunate that this bill will only apply to New Hampshire insurers, it is the experience of the prime sponsor that the problem of EMR is a national problem, and that this bill has the potential to light a spark that will spread well beyond our borders and create meaningful health care reform nationally. **Vote 19-1.**

JUDICIARY

HB 1020, relative to establishing a commission to study the legal implications of insanity and restoration of competency. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Katelyn Kuttab for Judiciary. As amended, this bill establishes a committee to study insanity and restoration of competency. The committee heard testimony about the substantial increase in the number of individuals being ordered to have competency evaluations over the past five years. In NH, there is currently no formal treatment system for individuals found incompetent to stand trial. The desire is neither to dismiss punishment for those who committed crimes nor to let people languish with untreated mental illness, but to find a system that gives both justice to victims and help to those who suffer mental illness. Various advocacy groups spoke to the need for this bill to pass. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1104-FN, relative to the review of decisions in cases involving judicial misconduct. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. This bill, as amended, creates a process for a litigant who believes that a decision rendered in his or her case by a judge found to have committed judicial misconduct was improperly affected by the misconduct may obtain further review of the decision. It allows such a person to file a petition with the chief justice or administrative judge of the court in question, and sets time limits within which the petition must be filed. If the chief justice or administrative judge finds a reasonable likelihood that the judicial misconduct had a causal bearing on the ruling, the decision will be vacated and the case remanded for a new hearing before another judge. The bill also specifies the manner in which appeals can be taken in these cases. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1169-FN, creating a private cause of action for discrimination based on hairstyles relative to a person's ethnicity. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Charlotte DiLorenzo for Judiciary. This bill is modeled on 2022 legislation known as the "Crown Act," which was passed on the federal level and on state and city levels in many jurisdictions. The bill is necessary

because students and workers have sometimes been penalized for wearing natural hairstyles. The bill prohibits discrimination in the workplace and in schools when a worker or student wears a natural hairstyle or one that is "protective" based on hair texture relative to their ethnicity. Those hairstyles include Afros, braids, locs, tight coils or rolls, twists, and head wraps. A famous case of hair style discrimination took place at a New Jersey high school when a league official forced a star athlete to trim their braids or forfeit the game. Rather than see their team suffer a forfeit the student heroically allowed a team trainer to cut their braids and the athlete won the match for their school. Similar incidents have taken place elsewhere. **Vote 17-2.**

HB 1475-FN, relative to preventing strategic lawsuits against public participation. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. This bill would establish certain special court procedures for handling so-called strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP). These are lawsuits generally filed by well-healed organizations or individuals against generally less well-healed individuals who exercise their First Amendment rights to protest some action or inaction taken by the former organizations or individuals. Although the proponents of the bill asserted its substantive merits, a close examination shows that, in the main, the bill makes procedural changes to court rules that arguably would allow such cases to be resolved somewhat more quickly by requiring the claimant to produce its evidence at an earlier stage of the case than would normally occur. The bill makes no substantive changes to the law. The committee was unpersuaded that SLAPP suits were a significant problem in New Hampshire or that current procedures are ineffective in addressing abusive litigation. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1603-FN-LOCAL, relative to unlawful discriminatory practices. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Walter Stapleton for Judiciary. This bill would prohibit municipalities from discriminating or "distinguishing" among people based on race or sex. What exactly "distinguishing" is supposed to mean and how it is different from "discriminating" is not explained, but from the sponsor's testimony, apparently the purpose was to undermine a NH Supreme Court decision that upheld an ordinance that prohibited women from exposing their breasts in public. The committee felt the bill is unnecessary because true racial and gender discrimination is already adequately covered under existing statutes. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1672, relative to tenants in section 8 public housing. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. This bill would require that in Section 8 or other public housing a family member who has satisfactorily completed a substance abuse treatment or rehabilitation program shall be allowed to be a tenant. However, during the hearing it became clear that the bill is unnecessary because federal law and/or regulations already allow tenancy under these circumstances. **Vote 14-1.**

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 1023-FN, relative to requiring employers to provide notice of resources available to support veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. William Infantine for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill request that employers provide written notices of resources available to support Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. There is a similar bill in the Senate and the committee would like to refer this bill for Interim Study to review the merits of the bill should there be an issue with the Senate bill. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1226-FN, relative to employment protections for freelance employees. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. William Infantine for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill seeks to provide employment protection for freelance employees. The committee did not
agree with the sponsor's desire to create law that would allow freelance employees to receive some
of the benefits they were looking for. However, it was brought to the attention of the committee that
there are certain organizations that offer membership and benefits for certain industries that utilize
freelance workers. The committee felt it was worth learning more about this issue and these organizations.
Vote 19-0.

HB 1375, relative to severance agreements requiring employees to broadly waive labor law rights. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Lino Avellani for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill seeks to redefine how severance agreements are entered into and sets limits on what conditions can be made part of these agreements. The committee felt that changes to current law were not needed. **Vote 19-0.**

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB 1030, relative to terminating legislative study commissions that do not meet or report. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Vanessa Sheehan for Legislative Administration. This bill was always intended to be amended with any additional committees or commissions that were identified to be scrapped. While no additional extraneous

committees or commissions have been identified, the amendment adopted unanimously by the committee replaces all the language in HB 1030 with the identical language from Senate Bill 84 that passed the House on consent in January. SB 84 sits currently attached to a House message, sent across the wall, that has not yet been acted upon. Amending this bill now with the exact same language as SB 84 will require a hearing to be scheduled and some action to be taken. Both bills, SB 84 and now HB 1030, would repeal the following task forces, study committees and study commissions: Task Force to Conduct Feasibility of Re-establishing Rail Service Line (Session Law 2001 HB 258); Advisory Committee on State Procurement (RSA 21-I:14-d); County-State Finance Commission (RSA 28-B:1); Air Pollution Advisory Committee (RSA 125-J:11); Committee to Study the Laws Relating to Condominium and Homeowners' Associations (RSA 356-B:70); and Commission on the Status of Health Coverage Markets for Individuals and Small Employers (RSA 404-J:1).The amendment also repeals a requirement that House and Senate committee services staff jointly prepare an annual index of all commissions (RSA 14:49,II(e)). The requirement was repealed because new software changes allow anyone to print an index of desired commissions directly from the General Court website at any time. Additionally, the amendment repeals the John G Winant memorial commission (RSA 4:9-l) and places the maintenance of that memorial in the hands of the Joint Legislative Historical Committee who handles all maintenance requirements of memorials and artifacts within the statehouse complex. Finally, the amendment extends the reporting date to November 1, 2024 for a newly-established study committee of the Department of Environmental Services Appeals Process (RSA 21-O). **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1343, prohibiting the use by the governor of emergency orders concerning elections procedures without the written consent of the majority and minority leaders of the house of representatives and senate. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Deb Hobson for Legislative Administration. This bill seems to confer veto authority to just the majority and minority leaders of the General Court during a declared state of emergency. The emergency orders that were enacted in March of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic seemed endless and life today is different as a result of that emergency. In the last term, improvements to emergency order procedures were modified greatly to put protections in place. RSA 4:45 gives the legislature, as a whole, and the Governor concurrent authority to declare or terminate a state of emergency. This bill, although well intentioned, has constitutional issues that members of the committee have concerns with. As outlined in the 1981 Opinion of the Justices, 121 NH 552, "The State Constitution further provides that neither the house of representatives, nor the senate may act in the absence of a specific quorum. Left unstated, yet implicit in this constitutional scheme, is the requirement that the legislative authority of the government may be exercised only by a quorum of the two bodies of the General Court." Mason's manual outlines this point further. "A legislative body cannot delegate its powers, duties or responsibilities to any other person or group, including a committee of its own members, in as much as those powers, duties and responsibilities are delegated to the legislature by the people through the constitution." In light of the foregoing, this bill raises the question of whether the majority and minority leaders possess the constitutional authority to counteract a governor's declaration of a state of emergency on election matters. And what about the chief elections officer, the Secretary of State? **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1518, relative to the legislative ethics committee. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Janet Wall for Legislative Administration. The sponsors of this legislation failed to show up for the scheduled hearing or make arrangements, so a committee member introduced the bill. It is a bill that makes a number of changes to the make-up of the Legislative Ethics Committee, but the committee had no indication of why the changes were suggested/recommended. When the time came for the scheduled executive session and no information was forthcoming, the committee had no choice but to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 14-1.**

HR 25, resolving to return to the historical intent of the express trust indenture, the New Hampshire Constitution, specifically Part 1, Article 11 and Part 2, Article 32. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. Nikki McCarter for Legislative Administration. The committee heard extensive testimony of the goals of the sponsor(s). Unfortunately, the goals did not match the form of the presentation. The sponsors clearly intended to file a House and Senate Concurrent Resolution rather than just a House Resolution. It was clear from the language of the resolution this was their aim. Regardless, the testimony mirrored the complaints of the plaintiff in a current NH Supreme Court appeal. At issue is the belief that absentee ballot counting machines were inappropriately allowed to be used by cities and towns in NH and are therefore unconstitutional. In addition, the sponsors also take issue with the manner by which absentee ballot qualifications were liberalized and suggest that, too, was unconstitutional. The Rockingham County Superior Court judge in *Richard v. Goonan* was crystal clear in his decision that the legislature acted appropriately and ruled for the defendants. It is the belief of the majority of this committee the NH Supreme Court will uphold the lower court ruling. The unanimous recommendation of Interim Study will provide the committee ample time to allow the court to reach their decision and at that time perhaps additional legislation will be recommended. **Vote 15-0.**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1302, relative to elected conservation commissions in towns. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Diane Pauer for Municipal and County Government. This bill as amended is enabling legislation that allows the legislative body (i.e. the voters) of a town to elect the members of a conservation commission. Current law requires that commission members be appointed by the selectmen. The bill language is analogous to current enabling statute providing for the election of planning board members and zoning board of adjustment members by the voters. If a town adopts the provision to elect its commission members, then any resident who qualifies to run for office can place their name on the official ballot as a candidate for an open seat on the conservation commission. Notably, the warrant article to adopt the election of commission members shall specify how the transition from appointed to elected commission members shall happen. Either the members shall be elected at the next town election or the open positions shall be filled on a staggered basis over the subsequent three years as the term of an appointed member expires, until each member of the commission is an elected member. When the entire conservation commission is comprised of elected members, the commission is authorized to appoint its alternate members. Also, once adopted, towns may vote to rescind the provision of elected commission members, returning to the appointment of members by the selectmen. Today, across the Granite State, conservation commissions play an increasingly important role in the preservation of our natural and watershed resources. Significantly, this bill provides towns with the option to elect its conservation commission which has an important responsibility of recommending multi-million dollar conservation land acquisitions. **Vote 16-3.**

HB 1449, relative to prohibiting the board of tax and land appeals from ordering retroactive re-appraisals outside of the years in question or relying on the department of revenue administration to provide investigative services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Matthew Hicks for Municipal and County Government. This bill was brought forward on behalf of a tax assessor who believes the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) and the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) have too much discretionary power to investigate and extend retroactive property tax reappraisals once an appeal has been filed. Particularly, the concern is that the BTLA will extend retroactive reappraisals beyond the year designated on the form used to initiate an appeal. Both the BTLA and the DRA objected to the bill. The Municipal and County Government committee did not see a need for this bill. **Vote 18-1.**

HB 1478, prohibiting a person from membership on the school board and select board concurrently. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Richard Brown for Municipal and County Government. The prime sponsor of this bill did not appear before the committee to speak to the bill. The committee believes the bill is not written well. The content of this bill will be addressed in HB 1124. **Vote 19-0.**

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 1196-FN, relative to requests for easements for the purpose of laying sidewalk along class I-IV highways. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The committee appreciates the spirit of the bill offered by the sponsor whose primary mode of transportation is walking. Sidewalks create more connectivity and allows more people access to their local community. The bill had technical concerns; it would have allowed sidewalks to be created on highways (Class I roads), scenic state roads (Class II roads), and recreation forest roads (Class III roads). Questions about unfunded mandates were also raised by the committee. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1464, establishing a committee to study revenue alternatives to the road toll, road toll registration charges, and revenue alternatives to vehicle registration fees, including electric vehicle registration fees. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Mark McConkey for Public Works and Highways. The committee had in its possession HB 1631 that extends a commission to study a similar matter. A commission is preferable because it has a longer duration and more stake-holders. Public Works and Highways committee has amended HB 1631 and incorporated the changes from this bill including examining vehicle registration fees and electric vehicle registration fees. **Vote 19-0.**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1268-FN, relative to prohibiting the issuance of large groundwater withdrawal permits for the commercial sale of bottled or bulk water. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Tanya Donnelly for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill lacks scientific evidence that groundwater withdrawals for commercial sale of bottled or bulk water have a negative impact on New Hampshire's groundwater resources. If passed, this bill would remove the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) from the approval process for any groundwater withdrawal exceeding 57,600

gallons over a 24-hour period. In addition, this bill was not supported by NHDES for the following reasons: 1. Existing water users and resources have been protected under state laws and regulations since 1998, ensuring that new, larger groundwater withdrawals do not adversely impact them. 2. The current permitting process is effective, as four out of six entities that had applied for bottled or bulk water projects never proceeded with their plans. 3. The bill fails to address other consumptive and discretionary uses of water, such as irrigation for golf courses. 4. The proposed legislation could infringe on property rights, potentially leading to legal disputes and complications. 5. The bill could negatively affect municipalities that sell water to beverage manufacturers and some public water systems with large groundwater permits, impacting local economies and essential services. Due to these concerns, the bill was unanimously rejected, demonstrating a commitment to preserving the state's water resources and ensuring fair and effective regulation of groundwater withdrawals. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1277, establishing a committee to study alternatives for funding the operation, maintenance, and repair of state owned dams. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Jessica LaMontagne for Resources, Recreation and Development. A more comprehensive, bipartisan bill, SB 549, that includes such a study committee, has been passed in the Senate. The prime sponsor of this house bill testified in committee that with passage of the senate bill, this bill would no longer be necessary. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1314-FN, relative to the comprehensive state development plan. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Suzanne Vail for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill amends the Comprehensive State Development Plan (SDP) to include a subsection on the evaluation of "drinking water aquifer identification, and protection, safeguarding lakes, rivers, estuaries, forests, wetlands, shoreline uplands, coastal marshlands, and wildlife habitat" in the natural resources section. Additionally, it adds a new section that focuses on environmental threats. The original SDP was written 25 years ago, and therefore, we need to update it to include the emerging environmental crises we face in 2024 to make it useful. Today, the emerging environmental toxins and imbalances that threaten water supplies and all life forms, brought to NH both by industry, by weather, and by occurrences beyond our control, requires a concerted approach that articulates what the public vision for NH entails. **Vote 19-1.**

HB 1360, relative to emergency authority on the public or coastal waters of the state. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Dan Wolf for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill allows the commissioner of the Department of Safety to declare a no wake zone on public waters in the event of environmental or weather conditions for a period not to exceed 10 days. Last summer's heavy rains pushed many of our lakes over capacity and boat speed needed to be reduced to prevent injury or damage. This legislation allows the commissioner to do that. The amendment replaced "maximum speed limit" with "no wake zone." **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1415, relative to PFAS facility liability. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Rosemarie Rung for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill amends RSA 147-B:10 to require owners and operators of PFAS facilities that have caused water contamination in excess of 100 parts per trillion (ppt) of regulated PFAS chemicals to ensure that, upon facility closure or decommissioning of equipment, the facilities and equipment are properly decontaminated. The bill also clarifies that PFAS facilities upon closure, must meet the core federal requirements applicable to hazardous waste generating facilities. Under these provisions, PFAS facilities must ensure that closure minimizes or eliminates the release of PFAS chemicals to groundwater, surface water, air and soil to the extent necessary to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill. **Vote 20-0.**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 1431, relative to utility requirements for integrated distribution planning. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Tony Caplan for Science, Technology and Energy. The bill resets a requirement that electric and gas utilities file long term plans encompassing the rate payer's need for reasonable and fair electric rates with reliability, resilience and diversity of energy sources as well as energy efficiency and concerns for the safety and health of citizens. This new plan requirement replaces a much larger and more expensive one that was repealed in 2023. The planning process provides an opportunity for public input and gives the utilities the assurance of stability while providing a transparent assessment of the state's future energy needs. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1600-FN, relative to participation in net energy metering. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Thomas Cormen for Science, Technology and Energy. As amended, this bill says that when the electrical power generated by a municipal host serves a municipal or county aggregation such as community power, rather than individual customer accounts, then the municipal host becomes a customer of the municipal or

county aggregation rather than being on default service. As a result, that power would reduce the overall load requirements of default service. With a lower default service load, that power might not need to go over transmission lines, which could reduce transmission costs for all ratepayers. The amended bill also includes a housekeeping measure referring to the correct RSA in relation to customer data. **Vote 18-0.**

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1063-FN, relative to motor vehicle speed within 10 miles per hour of the speed limit. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This bill would make it lawful for a driver to go up to 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. The committee felt that this bill if passed would pose a "slippery slope." Drivers might feel emboldened to push the limit to above 10 miles per hour. The Department of Transportation was against this bill as they felt 10 miles per hour over the speed limit would be unreasonable in many situations. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1123, relative to the registration of title exempt vehicles without disclosure of personal information beyond name and address. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. This bill removes the requirement of providing a current or previous registration when registering a vehicle that is exempt from needing a title. It would require using a vehicle identification number form which needs to be verified by a member of law enforcement. The committee does not see how this would benefit our citizens. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1247, relative to requiring the display of certain information concerning Selective Service registration at driver licensing and school military recruiting locations. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. John Sellers for Transportation. This bill was trying to bring transparency to the military recruiting by requiring locations that issue state driver's licenses and schools hosting military recruiters to post how many soldiers were killed and wounded along with how many civilians died during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The posted document would only show the negative side of the military which could be viewed as misleading, but not the positive side of all the benefits that are available to recruit. Today, no person is required to join the military, it is all volunteer. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1354, relative to special number plates for surviving spouses of veterans. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Charles Foote for Transportation. This bill looks to extend the usage of veterans license plates for surviving spouses of deceased veterans, as a way of maintaining the pride and honor that helps endure the legacy of the deceased veteran. Currently, the surviving spouse is required to surrender the plate to the DMV after one year. As proposed, surviving spouses could indefinitely keep veterans plates unless remarried, as is consistent with military traditions of a surviving spouse, and aligns with federal statutes. Active military plates are not included in this bill. If an active duty member passes, the spouse may receive a standard veterans plates. License plates included in this bill are standard veterans plate, national guard plate, and veterans decal plate. We heard testimony from the New Hampshire State Veterans Advisory committee who supports this bill. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1467-FN, relative to child passenger protection. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. The committee feels that this bill, while well intentioned, is too broad. According to this bill, anyone under 18 years of age and shorter than 57 inches tall would require a booster seat unless they meet certain criteria that are difficult to enforce and subjective. Additionally, the bill states that no child under the age of 13 may sit in the front seat. Given that almost all of us know a 12 year old who is six feet tall and can safely fit in a seat with a standard seat belt, we believe this decision should be left to the parents. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1550, authorizing municipalities to reduce speed limits seasonally. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This bill allows a municipality to reduce speed limits in areas that are seasonally congested. To begin this process, at least ten residents must petition the municipality. The governing board of the municipality would consider the request upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation. If approved, one seasonal speed limit is permitted with the seasonal speed limit not being less than 20 miles per hour or exceed four months. Also, the municipality may specify the time of day for the reduced seasonal speed limit would be in effect. The municipality would bear the cost of any signage. The signage shall be approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. **Vote 19-0.**

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 116-FN, (New Title) eliminating the fee to file as a candidate for the office of state representative. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Fred Plett for Ways and Means. The fee in question does not go to the State of New Hampshire but is instead a reimbursement to town or city clerks to offset the cost of handling the registration paperwork. The fee is quite modest. **Vote 18-0.**

HB 1179-FN, relative to state park system fees for retired members of the armed forces. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Fred Plett for Ways and Means. This bill would waive fees for retired members of the armed forces. This is a well deserved break for those who risked their lives to protect our country. It applies only to New Hampshire residents. The testimony we heard is that the fiscal impact is on the order of $5,500, which most people would agree is very low. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1203, relative to prohibiting the charging of rent to charities by charitable gaming facilities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Fred Plett for Ways and Means. This bill, as amended, removes rental charges by gaming facilities to charities. The committee heard from the gaming industry that rents are no longer needed by the gaming industry due to increases in allowable bets since the inception of charitable gaming law. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 1255, relative to the historic horse racing moratorium. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Nicole Leapley for Ways and Means. This bill would extend the moratorium on issuance of new historic horse racing licenses from 2024 to 2026. The committee supports a complete moratorium on new licenses at this time and has amended SB 112 to that effect. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1278-FN, relative to qualifying medical conditions for purposes of therapeutic cannabis. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Susan Almy for Ways and Means. This bill creates greater access to cannabis for medicinal uses, and thereby adds up to $70,000 in increased revenue. The committee learned that any increase in revenue will be offset by reductions in fees, either for some diagnoses or for all patients. The program is totally self-funded. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1389, relative to authorizing persons who win the state lottery to remain anonymous. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Thomas Schamberg for Ways and Means. This bill as drafted has potential unidentified ramifications which could lead to unintended consequences. The Ways and Means committee suggested a consult with the Lottery Commission to consider if any more legislation is needed. The Lottery Commission already has a form whereby winners can remain anonymous. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1525, relative to historic horse racing game operator employer licensing. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. As amended, this bill asserts the Ways and Means Committee position of a moratorium on further historic horse racing expansion. It also allows for any applicants who applied by October 18, 2023 to remain eligible. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1549, relative to buy-in amount deductions collected during the operation of games of chance. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. This bill caps the amount collected for games of chance to a minimum of 20 percent or $250 of the buy-in amount collected from players, whichever is less, with 35 percent of the total amount deducted paid to the charity. The committee decided that capping the amount collected from players could eventually lead to larger bets being placed and thus ultimately more tax collected for the state and more money for charities. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1626-FN-A, relative to the repeal of certain designated funds and relative to the apportionment of dog license fees. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Susan Almy for Ways and Means. This bill repeals five funds whose usefulness has ended, with some still containing money lapsing it to the appropriate programs. For instance, the pesticides training program was moved to the state university, along with the ability to collect the fees. The dog license fee remains the same, along with the split between town and state, but the state portion is revised to provide more money to the state veterinary laboratory, which has been doing less testing as costs grew, and less to the spay-neuter program, which has been so successful that there is less need for it. **Vote 19-0.**

THURSDAY, MARCH 7
REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

CACR 17, relating to the rights of parents. Providing that parents shall have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their minor children. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Peter Petrigno for the **Majority** of Children and Family Law. The majority of the committee believes this constitutional amendment is unnecessary as it doesn't confer any additional rights which parents don't already have. Federal and state statues, as well as numerous court cases, have affirmed parental rights. Good parents are already protected under the law. It would be best for parents to be advised to proper recourse should they believe their rights have been violated. The majority believes that this amendment may enable parents who don't have the best interest of their children at heart, such as forcing children to quit school to go to work or neglect proper health care. The committee is charged with protecting the best interest of children. **Vote 10-6.**
Rep. Mark Pearson for the **Minority** of Children and Family Law. The minority disagrees with the allegation that this proposed constitutional amendment would take away children's rights by giving bad parents greater cover for abuse. Although the amendment would more fully enshrine in our constitution the rights of parents against ever-creeping state authority, it would not interfere with the Division of Children, Youth and Families or with the Office of the Child Advocate in their roles of safeguarding physical and psychological abuse, according to expert legal opinion presented to the committee. While no law or constitutional amendment can ever get anything completely right, the minority believes the scales are somewhat askew and a more balanced articulation of parental rights is still needed.

HB 1006-FN, relative to creating a family access motion for the enforcement of parenting plans. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Alicia Gregg for Children and Family Law. As amended, this bill creates a "family access motion" as a tool to enforce parenting time, as ordered in parenting plans in the Family Division of the Circuit Court. The Special Committee on the Family Division of the Circuit Court heard testimony that when parenting time isn't being complied with, it is difficult to get enforcement. Local law enforcement refers parents to the court, who then refer parents to file a contempt motion, which can then take over a year. This bill requires parents to be served notice within 10 days upon the filing of this new motion which requires the final disposition of the motion to be within 60 days, unless found to be not in the best interest of the child. **Vote 14-0.**

HB 1189, relative to criteria for reporting child support delinquencies to federal agencies. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Patrick Long for the **Majority** of Children and Family Law. This bill is recommended Inexpedient to Legislate because it requires an adjustment to the automated federal reporting system which requires a financial appropriation, and places in jeopardy non-compliance with federal requirements. **Vote 10-6.**
Rep. Debra DeSimone for the **Minority** of Children and Family Law. This bill seeks to right a wrong that happens all too often. Child support obligors are penalized because their support payments fall behind due to a salary payment made every two weeks instead of weekly, which sparks NH Bureau of Child Support Services to report that the account is in arrears. At the time of reporting, federal agencies may take action, such as revoking or denying a passport which can result in loss of employment.

HB 1263-FN, relative to parenting coordinators in high-conflict cases. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Patrick Long for Children and Family Law. Parenting coordinators have proven they can aid parties in high conflict divorces by encouraging them to agree and to resolve quickly regarding parenting time. This bill would be beneficial for both parties in divorces as well as save time for the Family Division of Circuit Court. **Vote 14-0.**

HB 1266-FN, relative to permitting recordings of open family court proceedings by parties. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Lorie Ball for Children and Family Law. This bill will allow parties to record proceedings that are open to the public in the Family Division of the Circuit Court. The committee agreed that there are circumstances where an individual recording would be valuable, either for reference by the party or when the court recording is unavailable or insufficient. The right is limited to the party's proceeding and the equipment shall not interfere with the court process. Recordings or transmission of private communication of others, including bench and side-bar conferences, conferences between counsel, and conferences between counsel and client are prohibited. **Vote 8-6.**

HB 1308, relative to parent access to children's library records. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Heather Raymond for the **Majority** of Children and Family Law. This bill is an unfunded mandate for governmental surveillance of minors. Public libraries do not keep comprehensive records regarding use of

library materials or services. This bill would require libraries to invest in databases and staff at an unknown cost to the taxpayers. Further, this bill opens the door for abusive parents who do not have the right to contact information or to access this information via library records, potentially placing children and domestic violence victims in danger. Libraries are public facilities; they should not be put in the middle of custody and parenting plans. Further, libraries are not babysitting services. Parents have an obligation to supervise children in public places including libraries. One of the fundamental responsibilities of parenting is to have meaningful conversations with children and guide them to developmentally appropriate media, activities, and reading choices. Parents who feel their children are not responsible enough to check out books on their own already have the option of checking out books on the parent's library card, a record to which parents already have unfettered access. **Vote 13-2.** Rep. Sandra Panek for the **Minority** of Children and Family Law. The minority suggests this bill because we know there is pornographic material in the children's section of our public libraries. This material is being hidden from parents and guardians, and obstructing parental rights. There are groups of parents who have gone to our public libraries to gather book titles that are inappropriate for minor children.

HB 1392, relative to consideration of the opinion of the child in determining parenting time. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Patrick Long for the **Majority** of Children and Family Law. This bill intends to have judges consider information from children deemed mature by a therapist. Current statute already allows the judge to consider the child's input. **Vote 10-5.** Rep. Candace Gibbons for the **Minority** of Children and Family Law. According to standing case law, a child has the right to be heard in court in child custody proceedings, but they often are not. When a child is approximately middle school age, the language is unclear if they are mature enough to be able to give their opinion to the court. It is the child's life, and it would be in the best interest of the child if their opinion, regarding when they spend time with which parent was heard. The studies generally show that it can potentially be traumatic and stressful to a child to bring them into the court to give said opinion. With that in mind, now we have a cost vs benefit risk assessment. The judge has to bring the child in to assess their level of maturity; if the judge determines they are not mature enough to give their opinion, then harm was caused with no benefit. This bill, therefore, is aimed at getting an outside assessment completed to give to the court, because if the judge understands that a professional has determined that the child is mature enough to give their opinion, then they can bring the child in to hear them--thereby respecting the child's rights--without causing any harm. The committee then discussed that if the child testifies in the privacy of the judge's chambers, it may cause grounds for appeal, because the parents would not have access to all the evidence presented in their case, despite the point being so the child would feel comfortable answering the judge's questions without the influence of either parent, and without pitting the parents against one another. The prime sponsor asked a lawyer, who asked several family law judges, for input. It was recommended to amend the language so that the parties consent to allowing the judge to speak to the child privately. The prime sponsor then asked the lawyer, "What would happen if one party consents and the other doesn't?" The lawyer recognized this possibility, but stated it would look very bad on the part of the party who refuses, and the judge would be aware of who consented and who refused. Therefore, the lawyer does not anticipate that happening. The lawyer and family law judges affirmed the language of this bill as written with amendment. They stated that this addresses an issue that is pervasive in family law cases. Some families have access to a guardian ad litem (GAL) who can act as a liaison to advocate for the child in court. However, due to cost, many families don't have access to a GAL, which is not publicly funded, so if they can't afford one, they can't access those services. This bill would be useful to these types of families.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1527-FN, relative to criminal trespass. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jason Janvrin for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority of the committee believes that this bill would complicate posting property rather than make it more simple. Currently a sign must be posted visibly around a property at specific distance intervals. The bill proposes to substitute a written notice of what activity is restricted on the posted lot with a purple paint rectangle. Property owners can currently prohibit very specific activities on their property such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, OHRV use, and snow machine use. The purple paint would be an absolute prohibition of all activity. New Hampshire inhabitants have enjoyed using private property for passive recreation since its colonial times. Passing this bill would effectively chill that enjoyment. NH Fish and Game and the NH Timber Association testified in opposition to the bill. **Vote 10-8.**

Rep. Amanda Bouldin for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill would expand the methods by which property owners could deter trespassing. As an alternative to the currently mandated polyethylene signage, This bill would permit the application of purple paint on trees. The minority of the committee believes that choice is essential to ensuring that property owners of all abilities and economic situ-

ations are able to clearly mark their property boundaries and thereby provide notice to potential trespassers. Furthermore, testimony was heard that polyethylene signage has been physically removed by bad actors seeking to violate property rights. Paint appears to be an ideal alternative in such situations, as it is much more difficult to remove. In support of private property rights, and in support of choice in the method of protecting such property, the minority of the committee recommends the passage of this bill.

EDUCATION

HB 1437, relative to the membership of the state board of education. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**
Statement in support of Ought to Pass with Amendment: This bill, as amended, changes the membership of the State Board of Education. The membership of the board has not been substantially changed since 1919, but the scope and complexity of New Hampshire's education system and Department of Education has changed significantly. The current membership includes five members; one from each Executive Council district and two at-large citizens. This bill increases the membership to 11 by including two parents, one retired public school classroom teacher, a member of the NH School Administrators' Association, and a student who will be a non-voting member. The bill also changes the terms from four years to three and consecutive terms from three to two. All members will be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Executive Council. The current State Board of Education is dealing with an increasing number of reports, new programs, oversight, as well as the increased charter schools and alternative educational opportunities. A new expanded State Board of Education will increase input from citizens whose composition better represents all citizens involved with our public school system while maintaining the current, original positions as required from 1919.

Rep. Linda Tanner

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill flips the historical intent of the Board of Education on its head. With the original intent of the board to be staffed by non-professional members of the public; this alters the concept of a "government of, by, and for the people," and would eliminate a mechanism of checks and balances. By inserting these new positions to be staffed by professional educators and administrators, the bill proposes packing the Board of Education towards professional control wherein those professionals would be tasked with regulating themselves; a practice broadly frowned upon as being against best practices in many fields, from pharmaceuticals to finance. It creates perverse incentives to prioritize professional interests over those of the public. This would create an unacceptable moral hazard.

Rep. Mike Belcher

HB 1695, relative to the release of student personally identifiable information. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**
Statement in support of Ought to Pass with Amendment: The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows for students to share confidential student information with third parties under certain circumstances. This includes contractors who perform an institutional service or function for the school. The bill recognizes this statute but requires the school to simply notify parents when and why their child's information is being released. The amendment clarifies that this does not apply to the transfer of student data between schools and the Department of Education.

Rep. Glenn Cordelli

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill will require written consent from parents each time student personally identifiable information (PII) is transferred from school districts to third parties. Maintaining student privacy is of the utmost importance and school districts currently participate in the NH Data Privacy Consortium to protect student data privacy. Moreover, usage of PII already requires parental consent and is heavily regulated through federal laws like the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), NH RSA 189:65-68, as well as the NH Department of Education Minimum Standards for Privacy and Security of Student and Employee Data. This bill, as written, may have unintended consequences such as not allowing school district special education directors to share student information with private contractors providing speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services to special education students in charter schools, in violation of federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements. An amendment was introduced but did not address the underlying issue of what specific information is being shared. It is unclear what exactly this legislation will accomplish except presenting an unnecessary burden to school district personnel and an unfunded mandate for extra hours required to complete paperwork.

Rep. Peggy Balboni

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

CACR 14, relating to the environment and natural resources. Providing that the state shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment for present and future generations. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jim Creighton for the **Majority** of Environment and Agriculture. The majority of the committee recognizes the importance of maintaining a safe and healthy environment but does not feel that this constitutional amendment is the way to do it. We also feel that the wording of this amendment can be open to many interpretations and is therefore problematic. The NH Department of Environmental Services' mission statement already clearly specifies that: "The protection and wise management of the state's environment are the main goals of the agency." The majority of the committee agreed that the state's policies and actions are adequate enough to protect the Granite State environment and that this proposed amendment to the state's constitution is not necessary at this time. **Vote 13-7.** Rep. Nicholas Germana for the **Minority** of Environment and Agriculture. This proposed constitutional amendment would commit the state government to providing "adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources." The minority of the committee contends that there is no more fundamental right than the right to a clean and healthy environment. Statements of fundamental rights enshrined in both the US and New Hampshire constitutions are always, by their very nature, general statements. It is the role of representative government to interpret, protect, and apply those rights through legislation and litigation. The minority believes that we must begin by committing ourselves to the principle and then follow through with adequate protective measures for the natural environment and the people of New Hampshire.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

CACR 11, relating to the retirement age for sheriffs. Providing that sheriffs attaining the age of 70 years during their elected term in office shall be permitted to complete their current term. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution would allow elected county sheriffs who attain 70 years of age to finish their term. Currently, these sheriffs must retire and another county sheriff is appointed by the county. The majority of the committee felt that this rule is established and those running for county sheriffs should take this into consideration when filing to run for this office. **Vote 10-4.** Rep. Sherry Gould for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The bipartisan minority disagrees with the majority that this constitutional amendment is not just about the one New Hampshire county that currently has a four year term for sheriffs; but rather would apply to all counties. All other counties have two year terms for sheriff. Nearly all holders of this office are former law enforcement officers who have run for this office after retiring from careers in this field. That means they take on this job later in life, and bring many years of valuable experience and leadership skills to it. It was also stated that this age limitation has discouraged many qualified individuals from seeking election or re-election. When sheriffs are elected to fill vacancies and then turn 70 before their term ends they must resign, leaving counties scrambling to fill yet another vacancy. Life expectancy and quality of life have certainly changed since this article of the constitution was created in 1792. The minority therefore feels that the people should be allowed to decide this question and recommend passage to place it on the ballot.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

HB 1029, relative to exempting certain persons from requiring a New Hampshire landing license if such persons are not landing for the purpose of the sale of the lobster or crab they have caught. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for the **Majority** of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill would exempt certain persons from the requirement of obtaining a New Hampshire landing license if such persons are not landing for the purpose of the sale of the lobster or crab they have caught. The majority believes that the bill did not address many complicated issues such as how this exemption would impact those licensed in neighboring states yet landing in New Hampshire. In addition, by not requiring a landing license, there would be no way for Fish and Game to track much needed reporting statistics. This bill is not supported by Fish and Game because fee structures for licensing comes under their purview. The majority of the committee believes there is an easier and more efficient way to handle it. **Vote 10-9.** Rep. Jonathan Smith for the **Minority** of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The minority is of the strong opinion that the amended version of the bill satisfied all the concerns in the committee and should have passed with amendment. The bill's purpose was to allow residents of NH to catch lobster or crab in federal waters without having to purchase a landing license as long as the catch was for personal consumption only. Current law requires the catching of lobster and crab for personal consumption in federal waters to purchase a landing license to bring the catch on shore. This landing license is an unnecessary and burdensome tax upon the person who catches lobster and crab for personal consumption.

HB 1100, relative to coyote hunting. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mike Ouellet for the **Majority** of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill would suspend the open, year-round coyote hunting season during the months coyotes are whelping. The majority felt open hunting season dates and animal management was best left up to the experts at Fish and Game and not to legislators. **Vote 14-5.** Rep. Ellen Read for the **Minority** of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The minority of the committee feels very strongly that this bill should be passed. This bill simply closes coyote hunting, not trapping for purposes of defense or property, season during the weeks of coyote pup-rearing, in line with all other fur-bearing species of the state, including the red and gray fox. The only other attempt at this bill was in 2019, after the Fish and Game Department's own wildlife biologists had recommended to the Commission the closing of the coyote season during whelping/denning. At that time, the commission testified that these seasons should remain in rules. However, despite repeated petitions and rulemaking proposals by biologists and citizens to close the coyote season during pup rearing over the last 5 years, the commission has remained staunchly intransigent and unresponsive to the public and to its own biologists, citing on record rationale clearly based on antiquated stigma against the species, like "have you ever seen a coyote kill, it's gruesome" and "coyotes are vicious, they have no moral compass." These arguments clearly are emotional and ignore science and the importance of an apex predator's role in the ecosystem. The biologists argue the need to close the coyote hunting season because coyotes in particular engage in "responsive reproduction," whereby they biologically respond to the stress of pack members being killed by creating more offspring. This happens both by the fact that all females will go into estrus if the typical one breeding female is killed, and when any pack member is killed, all the females produce stress hormones that increase litter numbers. Further, while killing adults during the denning season frequently results in the cruel starvation death of pups, the pups who do survive do not learn proper food sourcing as they normally would, and in turn become the nuisance coyote that come into conflict with humans. This explains why, even though the department reports that populations have remained stable despite hunting during whelping, anecdotally coyote-human conflicts have risen. This is also why eradication efforts in the west have resulted only in increasing numbers of coyotes. As the current apex predator in NH, coyotes serve an important role. The majority of coyote prey is rodent species that are often the carriers of tick-borne illnesses, and so coyotes are instrumental in helping keep the spread of diseases like Lyme in check. While coyotes do occasionally take deer, this is typically only the weak, young, or sick individuals and usually only at certain times of the year, effectively serving to make deer herds healthier and more robust, verified by the fact that rather than causing declining deer numbers, deer takes by hunters have increased nearly three fold over the last several decades. Finally, there is no legitimate reason to hunt coyotes during pup-rearing. Killing for the protection of property is always allowed, and trapping is unaffected by this bill. Coyote meat is not eaten, and their pelts are worthless during the pup rearing months of spring and summer, and only winter pelts are valuable. The only reason they remain the only fur-bearing species that does not have a closed season to raise young is because of archaic and unscientific fears and cultural bias. Ironically, hunting them during this time increases numbers of coyote-human conflict and disrupts their natural, very beneficial, role in the ecosystem. So, after 5 long years of petitions and rulemaking proposals falling on the deaf ears of the commission, it is time for the legislature to ensure that the commission fulfills its legal responsibility to the "conservation, protection, and management of wildlife populations and habitat."

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 1194, relative to the definition of noncommunicable disease. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark McLean for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill removes the word infectious from the definition of a non-communicable disease as it relates to the requirement for immunization, and clarifies that a non-communicable disease is a disease that is not transmissible from person to person. Many diseases are infectious, but are not transmissible from person to person. Removing the word infectious from the definition allows for mandated immunizations for transmissible diseases to continue, such as for measles and mumps, as it recognizes that this is necessary for the purpose of providing herd immunity, but it leaves decisions about immunizing for non-transmissible diseases to the individual. The majority of the committee felt that this language serves the compelling interest of the state, while still preserving medical freedom. The committee amendment carved out an exception to preserve the immunization mandate for tetanus given the great benefit and long history of that particular vaccine. **Vote 11-8.** Rep. James Murphy for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Removing the word infectious from the definition of non-communicable disease would result in requiring immunization against only those diseases that are transmissible from person-to-person. The amendment improves the bill, as it recognizes that tetanus is not spread from person to person but still presents a real danger if an individual is not vaccinated against it. However, diseases contracted from viruses and bacteria are not always communicated from person-to-person. For example, the Covid virus is able to survive for an extended period of time on non-biologic surfaces and could be transmitted without direct person-to-person contact. Though we have not seen malaria in the US for some time, it is a mosquito-borne infectious disease not transmitted from person-to-person and for which

there is a very effective vaccine. It would therefore be inappropriate to not require a malaria vaccine if the general population were at risk with a malaria outbreak. Given the potential impacts of climate change and the likelihood of many currently dormant infectious diseases becoming manifest in the population, we will likely encounter more infectious diseases that are not transmitted person-to-person and for which vaccines may be developed and be beneficial in eliminating these diseases from the general population.

HB 1213-FN, relative to immunization requirements for private schools and child care agencies. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Leah Cushman for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill as amended repeals the vaccination record-keeping requirement for licensed daycares. All children in this state are required to receive a number of vaccinations per RSA 141-C, subject to medical or religious exemptions, regardless of whether they go to school or daycare. Childcare agencies have been required to obtain vaccination records, or the exemption forms, for all children enrolled. Testimony during the hearing from people on behalf of childcare agencies cited this requirement as a burden. They reported it takes time, and therefore money, to chase down records from parents. If they fail to obtain all records or exemptions in lieu of records, they face penalties when they're inspected by the Childcare Licensing Unit for licensure, thereby threatening their ability to continue doing business. There exists a shortage of childcare agencies in New Hampshire, a problem for which millions of dollars in aid has been allocated for employee recruitment, retention, and training. Removing barriers and burdens for these businesses and their employees is a priority at this time. The majority of the committee therefore recommend Ought to Pass as Amended to remove this unnecessary record-keeping burden for these small businesses. **Vote 10-9.** Rep. William Palmer for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would remove the requirement that private schools and all childcare centers keep records of immunizations for school age children. This would leave these facilities, and parents of attending children, no idea of a child's immunization status. According to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), this would put New Hampshire out of compliance with federal requirements. While the amendment improves the bill by removing the exemption for private schools, childcare centers, public or private, would no longer be required to maintain immunization records. This is not a good public health measure and could also result in fewer children being vaccinated.

HB 1240, relative to eating disorders as a qualifying condition for the therapeutic cannabis program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. David Nagel for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee concurs with the recommendation of the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board (TCMOB) that there is insufficient anecdotal or empiric evidence to include the broad spectrum of eating disorders as an indication for therapeutic cannabis. These disorders share the need of the patient to suppress appetite by any means necessary to maintain a disordered body image. The treatment of these disorders is complex and multi-disciplinary. It is recognized that the artificial stimulation of appetite by cannabis in these individuals, if not timed properly or overseen by a provider, has the potential to harm the patient by creating an unwanted or unplanned weight gain. It was also recognized that eating disorders need to be differentiated from the symptom of anorexia which is a suppressed appetite as a side effect of an illness such as cancer. Management of this symptom is very different, and is included in statute now, and can be important therapy in helping the patient maintain lean body mass. Finally, it was recognized that individuals who suffer from eating disorders also suffer from psychiatric comorbidities such as post traumatic stress disorder or other anxiety disorders that may be amenable to therapeutic cannabis. It is the belief of the committee that the decision to use cannabis in these individuals should be directed to these comorbidities, and not the eating disorder itself, and that medical oversight is necessary in these situations to avoid harm. **Vote 14-5.** Rep. Seth King for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill would add eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, avoidant restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID), and other specified feeding and eating disorders (OSFED) to the list of qualifying conditions for the medicinal use of cannabis. The majority argued that scant, if any, scientific evidence supports the therapeutic efficacy of cannabis for eating disorders. The minority points out, however, that just because few studies have researched the effectiveness of cannabis for eating disorders does not mean that no link exists. Anecdotal evidence should not be discounted. Furthermore, as the list of qualifying medical conditions increases for non-life-threatening ailments, we should bear in mind that the threat of unsuccessfully treated eating disorders can lead to death, whereas cannabis, even if potentially ineffective as a therapy, is relatively safe medicinally. In other words, the rewards of successfully treating an eating disorder greatly outweigh the risks of cannabis use. Lastly, if a patient wants to begin using, or already is using, cannabis to alleviate eating disorder symptoms, they should not be put into a position where they feel they need to lie to their doctor by claiming a different ailment in order to legally get the medicine they need.

HB 1482, relative to the sale of human blood and organs. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Seth King for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill intends to introduce the buying and selling of human blood and organs into the marketplace for the purpose of blood and organ transplants. The opponents of this bill are twofold. There are members of the committee who oppose the intent of the bill while others support the intent of the bill but feel the bill is poorly crafted. **Vote 18-1.** Rep. Yury Polozov for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The minority believes that this bill is an important step to solve the shortage of donor blood and organs and to save lives. It addresses the challenging situation where donors are not only unfairly compensated, but often punished by problems such as having to pay for their own recovery and facing negative changes in their life insurance. The current system is so challenged that the federal government is trying to fix it through major changes, including a move away from the power entrusted to the United Network for Sharing Organs (UNOS). The supply of blood plasma today is supported by the ability to compensate donors, highlighting the multiple ways to address the current shortages. Of note, the initial prohibition of blood sale was an over-reaction to the emergence of HIV.

HB 1660-FN, relative to coverage of certain procedures for minor children under the state's Medicaid program. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This bill would establish that gender reassignment surgery shall not be covered under the state's taxpayer-funded Medicaid program for individuals under 18 years of age. With the passage of HB619, the House has already taken the position that certain gender reassignment procedures should be prohibited for minors in our state, as they are irreversible and the long-term consequences of performing them on minors is unknown. Many private healthcare plans do not cover such procedures currently, so concerns that this would establish a "two-tiered healthcare system" are unwarranted.

Rep. Jim Kofalt

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill prohibits Medicaid payment for all gender reassignment surgery for minors. Those favoring the Inexpedient To Legislate (ITL) position, believe that it is, in general, best for individuals to wait until the age of 18 before undergoing gender reassignment surgery. Such surgeries are exceedingly rare in the State of New Hampshire, if they are performed at all. However, no rule fits all situations, and those favoring ITL believe it is best to leave these decisions to the medical best practice, based on the circumstances and needs of each unique individual, with decisions made after thoughtful consultation between the individual in question, their parents or guardians, and their medical providers. Those favoring ITL believe that a blanket prohibition of Medicaid coverage risks creating a two-tiered medical standard, with one standard for more affluent families and another for those less affluent. Finally, those favoring ITL believe that this prohibition is part of a larger fabric of legislation aimed specifically at the LGBTQ+ community, and that, as such it is inherently discriminatory and damaging to members of this community.

Rep. Lucy Weber

HB 1706-FN, relative to notice required prior to circumcision procedure. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Leah Cushman for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Infant circumcision is the only elective surgical procedure that is routinely offered and administered to newborns, and professional medical organizations outside of the United States do not recommend it. It carries certain risks and a debatable level of potential benefit. Committee members agree that thorough, informed consent is essential prior to these procedures being performed. However, there are some logistical issues with the bill that require more work, and the majority of the committee wishes to continue working on the bill's subject matter after the conclusion of the regular legislative session. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. David Nagel for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. It is the opinion of the minority of the Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs committee that this bill not proceed to Interim Study. While the reasons for this conclusion were varied among the members of the minority, it was a consensus that this bill should be inexpedient to legislate. While the minority was sensitive to the issues raised by the sponsors and those who testified, particularly with regard to the process of informed consent and the inadvertent harm suffered by a small group, we had strong concerns about the notion of creating an informed consent for one particular medical intervention in statute. There are thousands of medical procedures with different consents, and creating a statute for one would create a slippery slope that was not meant for the legislative process. It was also our belief that a better mechanism already exists. Oversight is better delegated to the appropriate board, in this case the Board of Medicine, which is composed of experts in the appropriate field. There was general agreement between both the majority and the minority that the sponsors of this bill raised an important concern about the current practice of informed consent that warrants further discussion by a multi-stakeholder group, either on an ad hoc or other basis. The minority did not believe this bill was the appropriate vehicle to accomplish this.

JUDICIARY

CACR 12, relating to the definition of the word "cherish." Providing that the 1784 word "cherish" shall be replaced by the 2024 word "cherish." **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. This amendment intended to replace the word "cherish" that appears in New Hampshire's 1784 constitution with the word "cherish" as defined in 2024. The sponsor clearly stated his purpose was to negate the decision by the Supreme Court of New Hampshire that the language of Pt. 2, art. 83 of the NH Constitution established the state's obligation to support public education. A proposed amendment to the bill would have accomplished this more explicitly. While acknowledging the disparate views concerning the state's responsibility to public education, and understanding the sponsors' intention, the committee concluded that amending the constitution in this way was either not warranted or not appropriate for consideration at this time. **Vote 16-4.**

HB 1037, relative to repealing limited liability for manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Refer for Interim Study: This bill repeals the statute that provides limited liability to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition. An effort was made, without success, to amend the bill by providing a qualified civil liability action for manufacturers and others under certain circumstances. Interim Study would provide the committee with the opportunity to explore ways to shape legislation that would hold accountable those who should bear responsibility for access to firearms by those who for identifiable reasons should not have been permitted access.

Rep. Marjorie Smith

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill would repeal RSA 508:21, the statute that affords limited immunity to firearms manufacturers, distributors, and dealers in firearms and ammunition from being held civilly liable for the criminal misuse of a firearm by another person unless the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer has been convicted of a criminal offense that played some causal role in the injuries suffered by the claimant. The New Hampshire Supreme Court very recently upheld the validity of this statute. Committee members supporting Inexpedient to Legislate are of the view that the immunity statute is of critical importance to protecting the viability of the firearms industry, which is a major player in our state's economy and provides many jobs for our citizens. Additionally, we oppose Interim Study because we believe that the idea of holding a manufacturer or dealer liable for the lawful sale of a firearm based on the criminal behavior of the buyer or other downstream transferee based on theories of negligence or strict liability is fundamentally unjust and threatens Second Amendment rights, and we do not see any possible changes to the bill that would be worthy of support.

Rep. Bob Lynn

HB 1089, relative to the statute of limitations on civil actions involving PFAS. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. This bill, as written, removed the six-year statute of limitations on civil actions involving PFAS. The committee, juggling the reality of how widespread PFAS contamination is, the steadily increasing understanding of the complexity of the contamination, and recognizing that a major source of PFAS contamination in New Hampshire has left the state, concluded that we needed more time to balance the competing pressures. We support the principles of accountability and also believe that removing the statute of limitation was excessive. With additional time, we hope to be able to strike an appropriate balance. We considered Inexpedient to Legislate and Ought to Pass motions before settling on Interim Study. **Vote 14-6.**

HB 1220-FN, relative to abolishing the collection of racial and ancestral data for use in a marital application worksheet. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ben Ming for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill removes the requirement to collect personal race and ancestry information on marriage application forms. The legislation was filed at the request of the Attorney General's Office, which highlighted successful court challenges of similar data request requirements in other states. The requirement to collect this type of data creates a chilling effect on the full access to marriage. The US Census already collects this type of data, and no state agencies use the data, creating data privacy concerns with no governmental benefit for retaining the collected information. For these same reasons, the majority supported an amendment that also removed information regarding educational attainment from the data collection requirements of marriage applications. **Vote 17-2.** Rep. Kristine Perez for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This bill would remove race, ancestry and education from the state required marriage application. This information is not utilized for any specific record or given to any group or organization. It is just on the marriage application. It is the ancestry elimination that one might find harmful. Ancestry is our personal history. It is defined as "the origin of your family," a "line of descent." The "intent of marriage" documents allow generations in the future to access public records to view their ancestry, their family history. Names change with marriage but not your lineage (a group of individuals tracing descent from a common ancestor). Eliminating this statistical information, that is optional, will also make it difficult to follow years from now, information that might lead to medical issues or breakthroughs for future generations. We need to maintain our ancestral information as it is vital for future generations.

HB 1412-FN, relative to court reporters. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**
Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This bill repeals state licensing of court reporters. This licensing was enacted in 2007, following the judicial branch's decision to discontinue using court reporters and replace them with tape recording of judicial proceedings. Court reporters now are used privately to take and transcribe things like depositions. The arguments advanced by the court reporters for continuing to be regulated, i.e., the need to protect the accuracy and integrity of the record, are exactly the same arguments they advanced 15 years ago in opposing the decision to discontinue using them in courts. The past 15-year history shows that the use of recordings in court has worked well. Members supporting the Ought to Pass motion felt attorneys and others using stenographers could evaluate their qualifications on their own, when selecting whom to hire for the job, and that state licensing was unnecessary and served primarily to limit free market competition.

Rep. Katelyn Kuttab

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill repeals the requirements for licensure and regulation of court reporters. Those supporting an Inexpedient to Legislate motion are cognizant that this bill is part of a broader effort to reduce licensing regulations in NH, and appreciate the value of considering the matter on a case by case basis. Under current law, licensed court reporters must demonstrate appropriate training and expertise, and licensing includes the ability to swear in witnesses by means of a Limited Notarial Function. There is an insurance bond requirement, as well as continuing education requirements, all of which serve as protections for the public. Court reporters currently act in many environments including but not limited to depositions and other legal proceedings. Those who support an Inexpedient to Legislate motion have had opportunities to review court transcripts that were not prepared by licensed court reporters and were replete with errors and omissions. We have an obligation to protect the public, knowing how important these documents are to NH citizens.

Rep. Marjorie Smith

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB 1629-FN, relative to attorney general's duties concerning legislators residing in different districts than they represent. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**
Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This bill simply provides that when the Attorney General has probable cause to believe that a legislator no longer resides in the district they represent, the Attorney General shall inform the presiding officer, minority leader, and the clerk of the body of that fact. No information need be given as to ongoing investigations of a criminal nature. The purpose of the notification is simply so that the House may pursue its constitutional mandate that it determines the qualifications of its members. The determination of probable cause is a readily understood legal standard, and the Attorney General's Office has notified the House when concerns have arisen in the past. The statute clarifies for future attorneys general who received the notification, and makes clear that both the majority and the minority as well as the clerk must receive notification.

Rep. Stephanie Payeur

Statement in support of Refer for Interim Study: This bill is a very short, three-sentence bill. Ideally, it should perhaps be a much longer bill because a great many unanswered questions arise from the issue it raises. The bill simply says when the Attorney General has probable cause to believe that a member of the legislature has ceased to be a resident in the district, it shall immediately notify the presiding officer, the minority leader, and the clerk of that fact. That's the entire bill except for the effective date. Presumably, the Attorney General sends a letter, which it should be pointed out he/she could do currently, that says, "I have probable cause to believe Representative/Senator Hill doesn't live in district" and that's all. Why doesn't a registered letter from anyone in the state directed to the same people mentioned in the bill trigger the exact same response? It's not clear. Some of the additional questions that the committee felt demanded deeper exploration in an Interim Study were, in no particular order: What if the subject of the belief is one of those who are identified as being notified? Wouldn't the Attorney General prefer not alerting the subject if he or she is involved in an Attorney General investigation? What if the presiding officer is already performing an investigation of his/her own? Should the knowledge of the possible Attorney General's investigation stop any investigation as our own Ethics Committee does presently? Or should the knowledge of the belief of the Attorney General trigger the presiding officer to begin their own investigation? The bill is silent on that. What if simultaneous investigations by the Attorney General and the presiding officer yield entirely opposite conclusions? Which prevails? And finally, but certainly not the final question, what about this small matter of independent, co-equal branches managing their own affairs? Part 2, Article 22 of the NH Constitution reads, "The House of Representatives shall choose their own Speaker, appoint their own officers, and settle the rules of proceedings in their own House; and shall be the judge of the returns, elections, and qualifications, of its members as pointed out in this Constitution." Any one of these questions are enough to promote the Interim Study recommendation in our opinion.

Rep. Gregory Hill

HR 29, declaring an economic justice bill of rights. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**
Rep. Stephen Pearson for the **Majority** of Legislative Administration. This bill seeks support from the House of Representatives to enshrine in our NH state constitution a broad reach of topics and issues of interest to all peoples of NH as an economic justice bill of rights. Whether these belong enshrined in our constitution seems to be the major concern of the committee. Some areas outlined are highly controversial and far from universally accepted; climate-friendly transportation being one example. It should be recognized that many of these issues are already getting a great deal of attention throughout the General Court and it should be noted that two special committees, on housing and child care, were created specifically because of the importance placed on finding solutions to complex problems including the cost. Testimony from the sponsor indicated a desire to create a caucus of like-minded individuals to propose further solutions and bring attention to the ideals. That seems a much better course of action than this resolution. **Vote 9-6.** Rep. Janet Wall for the **Minority** of Legislative Administration. The minority of the committee felt strongly that this bill should be referred for Interim Study. While we agreed that the language was somewhat broad and needed to be refined, and that the proper format would be a CACR, the whole of the committee discussed that some of the rights listed were things that we all could agree that every NH resident should be entitled to, and that there was both state and federal precedent for the value of establishing a bill or rights in the constitution. The minority would like the opportunity to discuss this concept further as a committee and see if agreement can be reached for recommended future legislation.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1086, relative to public notice of zoning board of adjustment hearings. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill allows municipalities to post public notice of zoning board of adjustment (ZBA) hearings on a municipality's website, if one exists, in lieu of publication of the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area. This bill is a reintroduction of 2023 HB 184-FN which was recommended by the Municipal and County Government committee as Inexpedient to Legislate by a vote of 18-1. This bill as written, while well intentioned, unfortunately presents a number of serious concerns. First, in an effort to provide checks and balances, a government entity should not be permitted by law to become the exclusive publisher of its public notices. Second, public notices must be broadly accessible to the public as not all residents have internet access or possess digital literacy. Furthermore, not all municipal websites are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Unquestionably, the elimination of the publication of such notices by a newspaper in print and/or digital form reduces accessibility of such information for residents. Third, preservation and archival of the record of public notice in a secure and accessible format for historical purposes as well as to substantiate the fact of publication in legal proceedings is imperative. Municipal websites do not provide a such a record. Finally, it is important to note that, at present, there is nothing preventing municipalities with a municipal website from posting public notice of a ZBA hearing on their website in addition to the publication in a print newspaper. Therefore, the majority of the committee deems this bill both problematic and unnecessary. **Vote 13-6.**
Rep. Jim Maggiore for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill adds a new subsection to RSA 676:7, I to allow municipalities to post zoning board public hearing appeal notices on the town website instead of in a newspaper of general circulation. If a municipality chooses to post the appeal on their website, they may do so not less than 5 days before the date for the hearing and the notice would remain on the website until the conclusion of the appeal. The minority of the committee believes this bill will significantly reduce operating budget expenses for planning and zoning postings while increasing the likelihood of abutters and residents seeing the public hearing notices. All but five municipalities in New Hampshire have town websites.

HB 1120, repealing the provision that requires the reflection of municipal body votes on warrant articles. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Richard Brown for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill would prohibit the notation of the governing body vote tally regarding a warrant article being voted on. This prohibition would deprive residents of the insight and due diligence that they expect from their elected and appointed officials. **Vote 15-4.** Rep. Josh Yokela for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. The minority of the committee finds that electioneering in the polling booth can be a serious issue and that requiring the publishing of votes of boards on the ballot can be considered a form of electioneering. There are other methods of finding the votes and recommendations of the board, such as in board meeting minutes or through the creation of a voter's guide available at the town hall. Both methods might be a better way to solve the information issue, rather than posting board votes on ballots.

HB 1125, relative to requiring public notice and comment at all county commissioner and delegation meetings. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to add County Delegation and Commission meetings in the public access and comment components of RSA 91-A. In its amended form, it is a simple addition to that RSA stating that county residents shall be allowed at least three minutes of public comment by the Chair of the Commission or Delegation during a period so designated by the Chair and specifically designed for such comment. It mirrors current practice among governmental bodies covered under RSA 91-A but represents an important addition since that law does not specifically cite meetings at the county level. The amendment to the bill, which was passed unanimously by the committee, seeks to boil down the original bill to its essence, which is that the same level of public comment and participation be required at County Commission/Delegation meetings as other meetings of governmental bodies. **Vote 16-3.** Rep. Josh Yokela for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. The minority of the committee is concerned about putting the language "No person shall ask questions of any commission or delegation member" in our right to know law. Nothing requires any questions to be answered but limiting the speech of people including representatives from posing questions to commissioners about the issue is a first amendment issue and one that is not encouraging the responsiveness required by Part 1, Article 8 of the New Hampshire Constitution. If an amendment is proposed to remove this language, the main concerns of the minority will be addressed.

HB 1242, relative to the establishment of county-wide communication districts. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill allows a single county to initiate the process to establish a county-wide communication district, involuntarily including all municipalities within a county and requiring the governing bodies of the municipalities to opt-out of the process. The majority of the committee deem the bill unnecessary as current law allows the governing bodies of two or more municipalities, at their discretion, to chose to engage in the process of forming a communication district. In 2023, 16 towns in Carroll County chose to participate in the process of forming a communications district and each voted to successfully form the Carroll County Communication District. Moreover, the formation of a county-wide communication district that includes all municipalities within a county is already enabled under the current statute. Hence, the majority of the committee does not support altering the current process of forming a communications district which works effectively. Therefore, the legislation is unjustified and not needed. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Jim Maggiore for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill is enabling legislation that provides expansion of RSA 53-G:1 for establishing municipal communications districts to include county-wide communication districts. Currently a communications district can be comprised of two or more municipalities. This bill could expand those districts to a much larger area if other public bodies opted to join. The minority of the committee believes this legislation would provide counties with greater potential to expand broadband and internet to residents throughout the county at competitive rates due to economy of scale. Municipalities from outside of a county may still join a communications district in another county without removing their autonomy because they would be provided with district representatives to the corporate body under RSA 53-G:7 and outlined in RSA 53-G:5.

HB 1250, enabling the creation of certain village districts. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Laurel Stavis for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill permits the creation of village districts that span municipalities for the purpose of protecting New Hampshire's water bodies. Lakes and ponds, particularly large ones, often encompass more than one municipality. As such, those lakes and ponds are subject to chemicals and pollutants from businesses and residents located on them, regardless of what town those residents call home. Municipalities across New Hampshire are threatened by issues such as cyanobacteria blooms that imperil our drinking water and cost our state many millions of dollars to remediate. Providing legislation that allows different communities to come together over a shared responsibility for the welfare of those lakes, allows for greater concentration of resources devoted to their protection. We believe that the village district option, a time-honored tradition in New Hampshire, will be another tool in the toolbox for protecting our lakes and the water we all depend upon. **Vote 12-5.** Rep. Tim Cahill for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. There is concern for the ability of these newly created districts to impose fines, levy new taxes, and diminish individual property rights. On bodies of water where one town doesn't have as much land mass as other towns in the district, such towns will never be able to truly represent their constituents fairly. Additionally, there are no provisions to prevent gerrymandering of the created districts.

HB 1297-FN, relative to the authority of municipalities to enforce ordinances related to health and safety. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Len Turcotte for Municipal and County Government. This legislation would upend zoning regulations throughout the entire state. It would require municipalities to conform to a "central planning" state mandate rather than continue with ordinances each municipality has developed over decades. Each municipality would therefore be required to rewrite their entire zoning regulations to meet the new nebulous terms outlined by the bill. **Vote 16-3.**

HB 1359, relative to appeals of certain zoning decisions by abutters. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Len Turcotte for the **Majority** of Municipal and County Government. There are two parts to this bipartisan legislation. The first removes vague language that can allow an unlimited list of individuals to unnecessarily delay an applicant's planning approval by using or abusing the appeal to the Board of Adjustment process. The second part adds a new and very specific definition of "directly across the street or stream" to the abutter definition, removing any doubts as to interpretation. Testimony in support was given by the Business and Industry Association New Hampshire, New Hampshire Home Builders Association, New Hampshire Housing, and New Hampshire Municipal Association. The appeal process would not change the ability of anyone believing they are aggrieved or affected to testify in the initial planning phase or during the appeal process. A proposed amendment in committee would have made our RSAs actually less restrictive than the existing RSA by permitting any municipality resident the ability to appeal without being directly affected or aggrieved. As an example, in a large town, someone ten or more miles away could file an appeal to unnecessarily delay something as simple as a small subdivision, without qualification, without any direct impact on themselves. Ultimately, this bill will reduce regulations and prevent frivolous appeals by unaffected parties. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Diane Pauer for the **Minority** of Municipal and County Government. This bill changes the parties allowed to appeal to a local board of adjustment and alters the statutory definition of an abutter. Current statute allows for any person aggrieved or any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality affected by any decision of the administrative officer of a local board of adjustment to the right of an appeal by the board. The bill removes "any person aggrieved" from the RSA and adds the applicant and an abutter as redefined in RSA 672:3 as parties granted the right to appeal. While the minority of the committee agrees with the majority in that the bill rightly eliminates any vague and open-ended language and further clarifies the definition of an abutter, the bill is overly restrictive due to the fact that it grants only the applicant, abutters, and the aforementioned municipal officials the ability to appeal a decision of a local board of adjustment. Thus, this legislation unequivocally excludes a non-abutting property owner in the municipality, who is affected by a decision of the administrative officer, from making an appeal to the board of adjustment. As such, this bill unjustly denies an aggrieved nonabutting property owner their due process rights at the local level. Unfortunately, the majority of the committee did not recognize that property owners within a municipality, who may not fall under the revised definition of an abutter, may in fact be demonstrably affected by a zoning decision made by a local board of adjustment. Consider the case in which a development project approved by a local board of adjustment is situated on a known underground aquifer, and the project may be demonstrated to negatively affect the precious water resources of non-abutting property owners with existing private wells. Under this bill, the only recourse that remains for an aggrieved non-abutting property owner in the municipality is a legal process through the court system, resulting in an unquestionably protracted and expensive appeal process. Ironically, by denying an aggrieved non-abutting property owner the straightforward appeals process to the local board of adjustment, the unintended consequence of this bill will be both a greater delay and expense to all parties involved, contrary to the efficiency that this legislation purports to achieve. Therefore, the minority of the committee firmly believes that this bill is detrimental to all property owners within the municipality as well as to the appeals process.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 1253, renaming the Blair State Forest in Campton as the Jane Kellogg State Forest. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The committee recognizes and celebrates Jane Kellogg's 25 plus year leadership and stewardship in environmental conservation and preservation. She has been a member of the Campton Conservation Commission since 1999 where she has been a leader in conservation and environmental education in her town, and continues to educate local residents on appropriate environmental stewardship in an ecologically friendly and sustainable way. Jane is also the mother of New Hampshire's Conservation and Heritage License Plate program - the "Moose" plate - which has raised over $30 million dollars to date in support of a myriad of conservation, heritage and preservation programs here in the Granite State through sales of the moose plate through the Department of Motor Vehicles. The committee is in full agreement that Jane should be honored for her contributions to Campton and the Granite State. However, the committee is mindful that it has retained a long standing practice of not naming artifacts after living people. The committee learned that the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands is still actively managing the Blair State Forest and would sustain additional administrative costs for the proposed name change. We also learned that there are other properties in Campton, owned by the town, that are better suited and more appropriate for naming in honor of Jane Kellogg. **Vote 19-0.**

HB 1510, establishing a commission to identify barriers to and solutions for electric vehicle sales and use. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This bill was authored to create a commission committed to addressing the emergence of electrical vehicle (EV) technology and the challenges impacting the EV industry. The committee received testimony from the bill's sponsor urging approval for its creation expressing a desire to collect data and build stakeholder engagement in this area to foster consensus on an appropriate direction the state should be taking regarding EVs. The committee received testimony from the State Fire Marshal's Office explaining the technical and hazardous challenges first responders address when an EV is involved in an accident. Likewise, the State Fire Chiefs are already collecting data in this area as well as looking to better improve technical expertise and first responder safety in tackling EV collisions. Lastly, a representative from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) presented the department as having "no opinion" on the bill, but expressing the availability of technical expertise in this area from DES along with the anecdote that a regional ISO forecast for 2041 putting EV usage in New Hampshire at roughly 140,000 EV drivers. The committee believes that EVs are the future. There were varying degrees of opinion from the committee members regarding how robust the EV market is currently for future users versus current users. However, the committee does agree that this conversation needs to continue to address the evolving technology that seems to be yielding a newer and better EV. This year, the committee unanimously passed HB 1631 where it is anticipated that these topics of discussion will develop as a consequent of the larger EV discussion HB 1631 creates. Ultimately, the question for some committee members was whether Interim Study versus Inexpedient to Legislate was the appropriate motion to pursue to maintain a positive outlook on EVs. Inexpedient to Legislate supporters felt the bill was duplicative in light of affirmative remarks made by some committee members that HB 1631 is the right vehicle to tackle the EV discussion. **Vote 12-6.**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1142, relative to requirements for relevant work experience before taking the exam to be a septic designer or installer. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Will Darby for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill addresses a concern raised by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) regarding very low pass rates of septic system designer and septic system installer permitting examinations, resulting in a small number of new professionals entering these fields. Applicants retaking exams without adequate experience, take limited exam seats, further exacerbating this issue. This bill, as amended, requires those who fail to demonstrate additional training prior to retaking the exam, as DES indicated, hands-on experience is the best predictor of pass rate. This would encourage apprenticeships, as with practiced by many other trades. The majority of the committee agreed this bill is an important step towards licensing additional septic system designers and installers that are in high demand throughout the state. **Vote 18-2.**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The minority of the committee agrees with the majority that the state needs to address the large failure rate of examinees taking the septic installer and designer license exams. However, the minority believes that this bill does not address a core concern surrounding this issue, namely the coordination between contracted preparation courses and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) designed exam. We believe more time is needed to gather information from all stakeholders before presuming this bill is a solution.

HB 1208-FN, relative to permitting requirements before timber harvesting operations in a wetland. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Dan Wolf for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill, as introduced, requires persons conducting a timber harvest in wetlands, under penalty of law, must verify compliance with and maintain in their records all permitting requirements necessary to allow the cutting to be done. This bill would make the contractor the responsible party rather than the property owner. Presently, prior to cutting, most contractors provide a contract, to be signed by both parties, to the landowner stating that it is the landowner's responsibility to obtain all the necessary state and local permits. This bill interferes with the right of contract between two consenting parties. It also became apparent during the hearing that there was confusion as to where this bill and its enforcement requirements, would fit in among the many diverse statutes governing timber harvesting, wetlands, shorelands and buffers. This bill proposed its requirements be added to RSA 227-J: Timber Harvesting. The Division of Forests and Lands spoke against the bill and testified the bill was unclear as to what entity is responsible for enforcement. The majority of the committee agrees that this bill was in the wrong section of law and this bill attempts to relieve the landowner of responsibility for complying with wetlands ordinances. **Vote 12-8.** Rep. Suzanne Vail for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The proposed bill offers that the residential tree cutter would simply check to see if the homeowner has any required permits for cutting trees in protected areas, particularly when removing trees near the water. If permits are needed, the owner would obtain them, and the tree cutter would obtain copies. Although the version of the bill presented in the committee faced opposition, it was mainly due to concerns

about unintended consequences in the area of statute that governs the timber industry, and an enforcing state agency was not identified. The minority of the committee believed that all concerns that were raised could be addressed by more time with the bill and had hoped to identify the best approach to owner notification about cutting in protected areas.

HB 1483, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Robert Harb for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. Although this bill proposes enabling legislation, the committee discussed if it was necessary, and could subdivision regulations of municipalities already be adopted to provide for regulations concerning water supply The potential cost to developers in a market where housing is drastically needed is also a concern if this bill were passed. The committee also discussed water supply and quality testing requirements prior to issuance of an occupancy permit for a new residential home. Written testimony was received from Robert R. Scott, commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, that a Commission to Study Issues Relative to Groundwater Withdrawal, which was extended by HB 1353 in 2008, found that among its commission members, which represented a diverse group of stakeholders, there was not a consensus of whether local regulation of groundwater withdrawals was appropriate or necessary. For these reasons, a bipartisan majority of the committee voted for Interim Study.**Vote 11-9.**

Rep. Suzanne Vail for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill is the result of last year's bill on using hydrologic measures to determine whether or not a property has sufficient water supply when subdivisions are created for the development of new homes. In testimony, we heard that when new developers come in, they can take the presence of adequate water supply for granted. When this happens, the eventual homeowner may find they have to restrict their normal use of water supply. Homeowners may have unknowingly bought a lemon. In reality, local planners should be able to ascertain that water resources are available on site, during the initial development phase. As written, this bill puts forth enabling legislation that puts these decisions in the towns' hands. It enables city and town planning boards to address a real problem that is affecting homeowners in some areas, today. A town does not have to enact this, and for that reason there is bipartisan support from communities where this legislation will make a difference.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 1036, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass with Amendment: In 2022, HB 549 asserted legislative authority over the System Benefits Charge, an electricity tax used primarily to fund energy efficiency, including home weatherization, which many argue constitutes a questionable use of electricity ratepayer dollars. The language of HB 549 also codified the use of two specific methodologies for evaluating the costs versus benefits of these programs. In applying this statute to the evaluation of the 2024-2026 triennium NHSaves program, the majority of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) questioned whether the statutorily specified tests might be augmented by other or better tests. This bill simply gives the PUC the option of looking at alternative methods of evaluating cost effectiveness for energy efficiency programs. The existing method would remain in use until at least 2026. After that time the PUC, through a full adjudicative process may consider, but not be mandated to implement, changes in how to best evaluate cost effectiveness. The committee heard testimony that the current tests can be manipulated to produce a desired outcome and many agreed that striving for neutrality in such tests was good public policy. The amendment spelled out more clearly how the commission might consider other options, and the timeframe for adopting them.

Rep. Michael Harrington

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill was presented as providing flexibility for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to modify cost effectiveness tests being used to approve the three-year NHSaves plan. The tests being used have been agreed to by all stakeholders and placed in statute to provide clarity and consistency to the joint utilities who are charged with running NHSaves. Current law gives the responsibility to the Department of Energy and the joint utilities to "assure program funds are optimized to deliver ratepayer savings" RSA 374-F:3, VI(5) and provides a funding allowance to ensure that the PUC receives a professional, energy-specific cost benefit analysis. This bill contradicts existing statutory language and brings confusion to a long-established process as to where authority rests for that cost benefit analysis. Achieving maximum effectiveness in our energy efficiency programs requires consistent actions from our joint utilities and our PUC. That is why the legislature stepped in three years ago to set clear guardrails protecting NHSaves funding, quantifying its growth, and limiting the PUC's authority to undermine the intent of the state's energy efficiency programs, when we passed HB 549 in this body 343-0.

Rep. Kat McGhee

HB 1623-FN, relative to the state energy policy. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**
Statement in support of Ought to Pass with Amendment: The headlong charge to fix our planet's climate produces many short-sighted national and regional public policies that often have unexpected consequences. For example, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and many of the country's Regional Transmission Operators (RTOs) have been warning that closing existing power plants before suitable replacements are online jeopardizes the reliability of the grid. When those premature closures affect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of New Hampshire, the state has a duty to protect its population and needs the tools to do so. This bill provides a tool to provide that protection while enshrining in state climate policy that all forms of energy "without preference toward technology type" shall be valued. It also asserts that NH will allow market forces to drive the efficient deployment of energy resources and will pursue energy efficiency using cost-effective fiscal policies, while balancing energy reliability, affordability, and utility financial stability. Importantly, the bill further provides that the state can exercise its 10th Amendment sovereign rights to fight any regulatory overreach that could endanger NH's in-state energy resources. Such regulatory overreach, as numerous judicial actions have shown, can imperil an in-state electricity producer with involuntary closure. The bill allows a generator facing mandates that make its "continued operation economically infeasible" to notify the Department of Energy (DOE), which shall then open an investigatory proceeding to determine the effect of an involuntary closure on the reliability and affordability of the state's energy resources. The DOE could subsequently recommend that the attorney general consider joining or initiating a legal proceeding to protect the generator. The amendment replaced the original bill as introduced and made numerous language changes.

Rep. Michael Vose

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: Half of the committee feels that this bill discards a long-standing, well-balanced general statement of energy policy priorities and replaces it with a specific focus on large generation stations as the lynchpin of future energy security in New Hampshire. Specifically, the bill omits any mention of the value of a diversity of energy resources to the state, as well as the importance of maximizing the cost-effective use of energy efficiency and other demand side resources. In its place, the bill asserts an unrealistic notion of New Hampshire's energy independence and ignores the reality of our interdependence in a regional energy market that operates under federal jurisdiction. Furthermore, the bill asserts a level of authority over the operations of private sector electric generating facilities that is unsupported by the capacity of our state regulators.

Rep. Tony Caplan

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1118, relative to the issuance of drivers' licenses for aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Steven Smith for the **Majority** of Transportation. This bill cleans up RSA 263:39-a which sets criteria for granting driver's licenses to aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire. Criteria for identification, proving the ability to drive, and identification of eligible people was scattered through the statute. These are now grouped together in topic sections. The bill also sets the term of the license to be concurrent with the length of residence. The committee amendment sets policy that the director must use one of the prescribed methods to determine if someone knows how to drive. The amendment also clarifies that these licenses are not valid for voting and will contain markings to make them recognizable by clerks. The amendment further clarifies that people seeking asylum will be granted licenses once their application has been granted. **Vote 10-9.** Rep. George Sykes for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill purports to clarify when aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire will qualify to obtain a driver's license. While the bill does take away some requirements and modifies others, importantly it also adds some new requirements. One of the modifications was to now require the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to have some of the requirements; using the language "shall" as opposed to "may." The committee received strong testimony from the DMV opposing this language. Two new requirements added by the amendment included language which contradicts current DMV practice to issue a driver's license once a refugee or asylee is given a work permit. This will make it even more difficult for persons seeking work to get work after they receive their work permit. Work permits are typically issued after one year, while permanent status, as called for in the amendment, can take years and years. A second change in the amendment will require the driver's license issue pursuant to RSA 263:40 to have an indication of citizen status. The House has consistently voted down such a requirement principally on the basis of well founded privacy concerns.

HB 1244, prohibiting smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Ted Gorski for the **Majority** of Transportation. This bill would prohibit smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger under the age of 16 is in the car. The majority felt that this bill infringes on a

person's civil liberties. To have the state tell you what you can or cannot do in your own vehicle is a slippery slope. In addition, the fine for this offense is a secondary offense. The driver would not be fined unless they are stopped by law enforcement by another offense. Therefore, a driver can smoke or use e-cigarettes with someone under the age of 16 as long as they are not pulled over. Thus, this bill still allows smoking and does not protect children. It does the opposite of what the prime sponsor intended. **Vote 11-8.** Rep. Daniel Veilleux for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill prohibits smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger under the age of 16 is in the vehicle. This bill is consistent with laws that require passengers under the age of 18 to wear seatbelts and children to use safety restraints consistent with their size and age. It is well established that secondhand smoke, either from tobacco or e-cigarettes, is dangerous for anyone who is exposed to it, but children are especially vulnerable. Children are helpless in a vehicle with an adult smoker and cannot necessarily advocate for themselves. This bill does not necessarily pertain only to the smoker's child. Most people would not want anyone to smoke in a vehicle with their children.

HB 1329-FN, relative to creating special number plates for fire departments. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Daniel Veilleux for Transportation. This bill creates special license plates for fire departments. This bill would allow municipal fire departments to issue special plates to municipal fire vehicles, similar to those issued to municipal police vehicles. This law change would offer municipal fire departments an alternative to the standard municipal plate. This change would be most relevant for fire vehicles that are otherwise unmarked, such as vehicles used by fire chiefs and other fire officials who use unmarked municipal vehicles. **Vote 11-8.**

HB 1332-FN, relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking garages. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Thomas Walsh for the **Majority** of Transportation. The bill prohibits electric vehicles (EVs) from parking in parking garages. This is not a new concept. We are learning more about EVs as their numbers increase and some states have already started to take action. Pennsylvania and Georgia, for example, allow this practice for two reasons. One is the weight. The battery packs make EVs considerably heavier than their internal combustion counterparts while newer garages were designed to carry less weight per foot. More importantly are EV fires. When the battery packs go into what's called thermal runaway, the fire can burn for hours at temperatures reaching 3000 degrees fahrenheit. It is not uncommon for tens of thousands of gallons of water to be needed to put these fires out. In a parking garage, there are a few places for the toxic gases and water to go. Structural damage by the heat is another concern. It has been reported that a parking garage in New York City collapsed due to an EV fire. The majority of the committee believes we should act before it happens here. **Vote 10-9.**
Rep. Catherine Rombeau for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill would prohibit parking electric vehicles (EVs) in any parking garage in the state. While the majority cited to fears regarding EV batteries and weights contributing to fires, there was no evidence to dispute the Department of Environmental Services testimony that out of approximately 12,000 EVs currently in New Hampshire, there have been two car fires; all vehicles are heavier now than they were in years past, not just EVs; thus, banning EVs from parking garages will not significantly impact increased vehicle loads on garages. To the extent there are concerns about vehicle fires in garages, they relate to vehicle weights, flammability of tires, garage access for firefighters and open-air and sprinkler systems in garages. This bill singles out EVs without any data to support prohibition.

HB 1403, relative to temporary vehicle emission control equipment. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. John Sellers for the **Majority** of Transportation. This bill as amended will allow 120 days to corrected OBD II check engine light instead of the current 60 days. When a vehicle is fixed and before it can get re-inspected, it usually needs to be driven 50 or 100 miles to reset the OBD II check engine light and then the vehicle owner must schedule another visit with the repair shop to finalize the inspection which all takes time. This waiver is only for those who can show an economic hardship which the department will define in the rule-making process. **Vote 12-7.** Rep. Daniel Veilleux for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill extends the repair period for vehicles that fail the OBD II to 120 days. The Department of Environmental Services testified that this change would require at least 16 months to gain approval from the Department of Environmental Protection to change the rules. Applying to the DEP for a permit change may also trigger enforcement of new federal regulations, which New Hampshire has been grandfathered from, that require roadside testing or laser testing. Owners may already apply for an exemption from compliance for up to one year while repairs are made to the OBD system.

HB 1416-FN, relative to prohibiting parking of non-electric vehicles in spaces designated for charging electric vehicles. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. John Sellers for the **Majority** of Transportation. This bill would allow a person to snap a picture of a non-electric vehicle parking in a public or privately owned parking space designed to charge electric vehicles, then present the picture as evidence to law enforcement which could issue a ticket from that picture. The bill required mandatory signage or changes in signage but did not allocate any money for the purchase of them, therefore violated Part 1 Article 28-a of the NH Constitution. **Vote 10-9.**

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill would create a fine for parking a non-electric vehicle (EV) in a space designated for charging an electric vehicle, similar to the current enforcement mechanism for handicapped parking spaces. The committee heard bipartisan testimony that when drivers park non-EVs in spaces designated for EVs, thereby blocking access to EV charging stations, it prevents business owners from recouping their significant investment in installing EV charging stations on their private property. Blocking EV parking spaces also prevents drivers of EVs from access to charging their vehicles, particularly as New Hampshire currently has limited EV charging station availability, thereby further impeding EV owners' ability to use their own vehicles and discouraging further EV usage in the state. This bill seeks to protect personal property rights and to prevent infringement on private business interests.

WAYS AND MEANS

CACR 15, relating to taxation. Providing that a 2/3 vote is required to pass legislation imposing new or increased taxes or license fees, or to authorize the issuance of state bonds and providing that the general court shall appropriate funds for payment of interest and installments of principle of all state bonds. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: The proponents are in favor of achieving a consensus amongst the stakeholders regarding the need for and imposition of taxes and fees upon our constituents. As was pointed out in a recent unanimous consent speech, it is the duty of residents to pay taxes, but that same constitutional article contains the provision that the taxes must be acceptable and beneficial to all. Complying with that mandate is the purpose of this bill. Demanding that our tax and fee schedule is agreed to by a super-majority, rather than a bare majority of one or five, is the best practice to protect our neighbors who pay the taxes and fees.

Rep. Jordan Ulery

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This CACR would take only a third of the legislature to kill any new taxes, increased taxes, and new or increased professional fees, and any new bonding. This is likely to require that the entire budget pass by a two-thirds majority. A one-third minority could stop new bonding for the reauthorizations of transportation and other capital items already approved. The treasurer's reissue of bonds to achieve lower costs would be severely impeded, and her department actions slowed by the need to submit all bond payments to a simple 51% majority vote. The bill allows a small minority to stop the issuance of funds for any new profession's license fees, and for the increase due to inflation needed for existing license fees. While no more federal stimulus money is coming in, inflation still simmering, and revenues beginning to decline, it stops any future revenue adjustments that may be required to maintain existing services. The minority could deny payment for lawsuits against the state, both already won and pending, possibly triggering a constitutional crisis.

Rep. Susan Almy

HB 1054-A, relative to the Northern Border Alliance Program fund. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This program was established last year in HB 2 with an appropriation of $1.4 million funded from the biennial budget that ended June 30, 2023. Since it was set-up as non-lapsing, the appropriation immediately rolled into the current biennial budget. The committee heard that the program was intended to be a one-time project. As of February 1st, 98% of the communications equipment budget had been encumbered and 25% of the state police budget had been spent. All the local law enforcement grant applications were approved, obligating 54% of that budget. Assuming the state police will spend all their budget, this still leaves about $350,000 that could go unspent. Since this is a one-time project, we recommend letting the June 30, 2025 balance lapse, so it can be used for other important needs.

Rep. Sallie Fellows

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill would make a change to the Northern Border Alliance Program fund that was established as a result of last year's HB 2, changing it from a non-lapsing fund to a lapsing fund. The rules of the program were only established in November 2023 and the program only started its patrols in December 2023. It is within the purview of the Ways and Means Committee to examine lapsing versus non-lapsing funds, but at this point, it's premature to make these types of changes. A change such as this would be more appropriate after a full year of implementation.

Rep. David Rochefort

HB 1254-LOCAL, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass with Amendment: Most of the committee understands the dilemma of municipalities that attract more visitors than they have permanent residents, at certain times of year or during the day all year round. Whether it be tourism, a job center, or major shopping and services, these towns and cities spend much more per capita on public safety, especially police, fire, and emergency medical services, than the surrounding towns. This translates into higher property taxes for their residents.

This bill, as amended, provides partial relief for those magnet towns that opt to use it, allowing them to levy and collect a fee, up to $2 per room per night, on hotels and other transient lodgings, specified as to what public safety items will be funded by the fee. It is not a final solution to the problem, but provides substantial help to the magnet towns with some form of transient housing.

Rep. Susan Almy

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill proposes to allow, for the first time, a municipality to collect a "public safety assessment" on hotel occupancy but does not define that term or set a cap. The amendment clarifies that the fee could "be collected as a daily charge of up to $2 per occupancy per 24-hour period" for visits of up to 30 days. The bill requires that collected revenues must be deposited in some sort of undefined non-lapsing fund, which "shall be used to augment funding for the cost of municipal services associated with the increase in tourism and transient traffic." Municipal leaders representing Conway and Portsmouth provided a chorus of support for this mechanism. Conway spokesmen, indicating their community has about 3,000 hotel rooms available with approximately 50% occupancy rates, described a variety of ways in which tourist destinations are under pressure to bolster police, fire, and other emergency services to accommodate the surge of visitors. Portsmouth's mayor testified that: "The City of Portsmouth derives benefits from being a destination location and invests considerable resources annually to welcome and support visitors." But he added: "The city's portion of the meals and rooms distribution does not fully support the costs related to the impact of tourism on our community." The testimony received makes a credible case that in communities with significant hotel space a crush of visitors can add a further burden to local property tax rates, despite the property taxes assessed against the hotels themselves, and that the meals and rooms tax generates more revenue to the state than is returned via the 30% municipal revenue sharing. Despite a sympathetic case having been laid out, half of the Ways and Means Committee has concluded that the bill, even as amended, should not be advanced until further study has been done regarding similar burdens on other communities caused by visitor surges that do not derive from overnight stays and the ways in which these might be dealt with more comprehensively within the framework of our existing fabric of state taxes. Advocates failed to distinguish the manner in which overnight guests burden their communities relative to the various ways in which other communities may be impacted by a daily or seasonal surge derived from being diners' destinations, or city centers, or employment centers, or retail hubs, or border towns, or beach towns, or lake towns, or second-home communities, or a nexus for skiing or hiking, or hosts of hospitals, universities, county seats, courthouses, and other public services. Though this "assessment" was represented as merely a "fee" and not a "tax," it clearly represents a new form of local tax, regardless of how it is labeled, thus raising concern as to how it fits into New Hampshire's existing taxation scheme. Fees like this, applied in isolation by community, would allow development of a quilt work pattern of lodging tax. A checkerboard of local taxation solutions applied to an assortment of activities, cuts against the grain in low-tax New Hampshire, and sets the stage for a growth in kind. Perhaps municipalities should be engaging in further reflection on their master plan and the building permits they grant. Perhaps a local surcharge on the meals and rooms tax might be workable, or perhaps revenue sharing might be allocated differently. In a state in which it might be said that no two communities are just alike, New Hampshire is comprised of more variety than just tourist destinations and sleepy bedroom communities, so a statewide policy that reflects this diversity of circumstances would be preferable. This issue deserves further work and a better solution.

Rep. Walter Spilsbury

HB 1391-FN, allowing new vehicles purchased in the model year or before to be inspected in the second year after purchase. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. This bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee on February 1st, after the House voted Ought to Pass 241-123, for consideration of any questions relating to the fee structure and revenue impact to the state. By exempting vehicles from inspection for two years after they are sold new by a licensed dealer, it is estimated that NH drivers may save approximately $3.3 million per year. This common-sense bill rests on the logic that little is gained by requiring inspection of an automobile that has been sold new presumably without defects, that traditionally has been delivered with a warranty, that is subject to regular dealer contact, that typically returns to the dealer network for routine service during the warranty period, and that has not generally had a lot of opportunity for wear, tear, and abuse in its first two years. The Department of Safety registered its opposition to the bill, as they had before the Transportation Committee, indicating there is inevitably a chance that a vehicle safety problem could cause an accident even within that first two years. But vehicle inspection records for 2018-23 indicate that, in contrast to a general failure rate of about 16% for all vehicles inspected, only 477 of 778,962 first year inspections conducted in 2023 found a deficiency and a mere 271 failed for safety, or 0.34%. More than three-quarters of all deficiencies found were based primarily on "vehicle info" followed by glass or tires, with occasional wiper or taillight issues. As noted in the fiscal note: "Inspection stickers cost $3.25, with revenue split between three accounts: $2.75 to the highway fund, $0.25 to the general fund, and $0.25 to the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund." Using an assumed 83,000 fewer inspection stickers per calendar year, the total revenue

decrease to the state is estimated at $269,750 annually. As 12% of highway fund road toll and motor vehicle revenue is distributed to municipalities, local revenue would decrease by about $27,390 per year from those state collections. The majority recognizes that inspecting fewer vehicles will necessarily result in decreased fee-based income going into the highway fund, which often struggles for revenue, but believes that the state is not in the practice of inspecting vehicles for the purpose of generating state revenue but rather to protect public safety. The benefits to this small class of owners of avoiding redundant and unnecessary inspection greatly outweighs the resulting decreased state revenues. A question arose whether the $3.25 sticker charge should be increased, in part to reflect the reduced pool of funds to pay an outside contractor and in part to reflect inflationary factors since the last adjustment, but the majority believes that question should be addressed separately when the department is prepared to make a presentation as to why an adjustment is warranted and by how much, and that this is not the appropriate occasion to consider raising fees for all other vehicle inspections. **Vote 11-8.** Rep. Richard Ames for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. The effect of this bill is to eliminate mandatory vehicle inspection for periods of up to 30 months, depending on the purchaser's birth date, after the date of purchase of a new vehicle regardless of the distance traveled by, or the wear and tear experienced by, the vehicle during that pre-inspection time. Recorded testimony given to the Transportation Committee in the original public hearing on this bill reveals that many such uninspected vehicles may have been driven as much as 70,000 miles before the date of the first required inspection. Although tires, brakes, steering mechanisms, and exhaust control devices may all fail during this time, there is no mechanism or fee provided for by this bill that would ensure early detection of these safety issues nor that would allow placement on these vehicles of authorized stickers that would enable and indirectly pay for identification by public safety officials of the pre-inspection status and potential public safety issues presented by these vehicles. Data provided during the original public hearing of this bill revealed that vehicle inspections of vehicles in their first or second year of use often identify life safety or emission failures, but that many of these failures do not show on most data reports because these life safety problems have been immediately corrected during the inspection process. The minority believes this bill needs more work.

HB 1536-FN, relative to increasing the amount of the expense deduction allowed against the business profits tax. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**
Rep. Cyril Aures for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. This bill allows for assets put into service as of January 1, 2025 to be expensed up to $1 million. Current law established a $500,000 amount in 2015 and $100,000 in 2010. The bipartisan majority of the committee agreed that $1 million was more in line with current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limits and therefore made sense. **Vote 16-4.**
Rep. Susan Almy for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. This state has never kept up with the ever-changing vicissitudes of the federal expense deduction. We raised it in 2018, only six years ago. Now we're raising it again a great deal more than the ensuing inflation. Forgoing more revenue that we will need to 2025 and beyond is unnecessary and harmful to our younger generations in need of greater educational, mental health, and job supports than we can afford.

NOTICE

Pursuant to House Rule 44 (b), executive session on bills may be taken up during the day in which they are heard.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
FRIDAY, MARCH 1

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), NHDES, Room 208C, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord
9:00 a.m. Source water protection subcommittee work session.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

COMMISSION TO STUDY OFFSHORE WIND AND PORT DEVELOPMENT (RSA 374-F:10), NHDES, Pease Office, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth
4:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF RECENT CHANGES MADE TO CHARITABLE GAMING LAWS, INCLUDING THE NEWLY AUTHORIZED HISTORICAL HORSE RACES (RSA 284:6-c), Room 100, SH
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

EDUCATION, Room 205-207, LOB

9:00 a.m. ***HB 1608-FN,*** relative to providing an induction program for new teachers.
9:45 a.m. ***HB 1605-FN,*** relative to alternative education programs for granting credit leading to graduation.
10:30 a.m. ***HB 1592-FN-L,*** relative to the use of education freedom account funds in religious schools.
11:00 a.m. ***HB 1084,*** relative to qualifications for the commissioner of education.
12:30 p.m. ***HB 1610-FN,*** relative to standardized assessment data for participants in education freedom accounts.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (DCYF), Room 203, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1013,*** relative to amending the definition of temporary alimony; ***HB 1192-FN,*** relative to contempt actions in domestic relations matters; ***HB 1269-FN,*** relative to the use of child restraints in schools; ***HB 1659-FN,*** relative to interference with child custody and shared parenting.

EDUCATION, Room 205-207, LOB

9:00 a.m. ***HB 1015-FN,*** relative to requirements for literacy skill development in elementary grades.
10:00 a.m. ***HB 1654-FN,*** relative to review of education freedom account service providers.
11:00 a.m. ***HB 1650-FN,*** relative to the approval of alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation.
1:00 p.m. ***HB 1093,*** prohibiting mandatory mask policies in schools.
1:45 p.m. ***HR 30,*** urging a robust climate education in schools including current environmental and economic information.
2:30 p.m. Executive session on ***HB 1087,*** establishing a commission to study information literacy and media literacy instruction in public schools; ***HB 1418,*** relative to the use of education freedom account funds to purchase school uniforms; ***HB 1458-FN,*** relative to authorizing parents to remove children from the English Language Learner Program.

ELECTION LAW, Room 306-308, LOB

9:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1085,*** relative to public inspection of absentee ballot lists; ***HB 1126,*** relative to candidate requests for absentee ballot information; ***HB 1134,*** relative to inventory controls for paper ballots; ***HB 1157,*** relative to overvoted and undervoted ballots; ***HB 1348,*** relative to polling places at which total ballot counts exceed the total number of registered voters; ***HB 1381-FN,*** relative to required training on election procedures; ***CACR 19,*** relating to redistricting. Providing that an independent redistricting commission shall be established to draw boundaries for state and federal offices; ***HB 1098,*** relative to ballots delivered to elder care facilities; ***HB 1200-FN,*** relative to controlled and secured storage of printed paper ballots; ***HB 1310-FN,*** relative to meetings of supervisors of the checklist; ***HB 1384,*** relative to noncompliance by a town or ward moderator and clerk; ***HB 1523,*** revising the moderator's worksheet for counting votes in elections; ***HB 1557-FN,*** requiring the secretary of state to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center; ***HB 1146,*** relative to the removal of a voter from the checklist; ***HB 1150,*** relative to identification of political advertising; ***HB 1091,*** relative to the financing of political campaigns; ***HB 1133,*** relative to enabling UOCAVA voters to email back completed ballots; ***HB 1264-FN,*** relative to the definition of accessible voting systems; ***HB 1313-FN-L,*** relative to access to the voter checklist by candidates; ***HB 1364,*** relative to intimidation of election officers, improper influence over the electoral process, and tampering with electronic ballot counting devices; ***HB 1569-FN,*** relative to eliminating voter identification exceptions.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 301-303, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1221,*** relative to including solid waste landfills in the definition of development of regional impact; ***HB 1351,*** prohibiting the sale and use of adhesive-based rodent traps; ***HB 1325-FN,*** relative to allowing private ownership of small tailed monkeys, raccoons, foxes, otters, skunks, and kangaroos; ***HB 1505,*** establishing an animal abuse offender registry.
10:45 a.m. Full committee work session on ***HB 1316,*** relative to co-ownership of dogs; ***HB 1173-FN,*** relative to the disposition of vicious dogs; ***HB 1501-FN-L,*** repealing the requirement to register dogs annually; ***HB 1556-FN,*** relative to exemptions from the rabies vaccine; ***HB 1504-FN,*** relative to architectural paint recycling.
1:00 p.m. ***HB 1102-FN,*** relative to the definition of animal cruelty.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:30 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1032-FN,*** relative to certificate of title exemptions for vehicles 20 or more years old.

10:55 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1304-FN-L,*** relative to vessel registration and boat fee decals.

11:20 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1570-FN-A-L,*** requiring the department of education to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools.

11:45 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1202-FN,*** relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways.

1:00 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1288-FN,*** relative to establishing certain due process rights for students, student organizations, and faculty members facing disciplinary actions by state institutions of higher learning.

1:25 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1330-FN,*** relative to establishing an emergency medical services disciplinary review panel, and relative to procedures for removal of records of discipline.

1:50 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1339-FN,*** relative to background checks during motions to return firearms and ammunition.

2:15 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1466-FN,*** relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster.

2:40 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1468-FN-A,*** directing the department of transportation to develop a Conway Branch rail line master plan.

3:05 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1583-FN-A,*** relative to the per pupil cost of an opportunity for an adequate education.

3:30 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1656-FN-L,*** relative to adequate education grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services.

JUDICIARY, Room 104, LOB

9:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1082,*** relative to professional limited liability company (PLLC) assistant manager status.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on ***HB 2024,*** relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement plan.

11:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 2024,*** relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement plan.

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

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

9:30 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2024-0870h to HB 1158, relative to establishing an exception to vessel registration. The amendment exempts from vessel registration certain small vessels that sell foodstuffs or nonalcoholic beverages to the public, provided the owner of such vessel does not derive more than $5,000 in gross receipts from such sales during a calendar year. This bill also changes the examination requirements in order to operate commercial vessels. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.

10:30 a.m. Full committee work session on ***HB 1158,*** relative to establishing an exception to vessel registration; ***HB 1273-FN,*** relative to the protection of personal information in driver licenses; ***HB 1457-FN,*** establishing penalties for driving over covered wooden bridges in vehicles that exceed posted limits and for vehicular damage to covered wooden bridges; ***HB 1637,*** relative to reducing requirements for vehicle inspections.

1:00 p.m. Executive session on ***HB 1158,*** relative to establishing an exception to vessel registration; ***HB 1273-FN,*** relative to the protection of personal information in driver licenses; ***HB 1457-FN,*** establishing penalties for driving over covered wooden bridges in vehicles that exceed posted limits and for vehicular damage to covered wooden bridges; ***HB 1637,*** relative to reducing requirements for vehicle inspections.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

10:00 a.m. ***HB 1410-FN,*** relative to certain professional licenses.

10:30 a.m. ***HB 1655,*** relative to establishing an educator certification fund for fees paid to the department of education.

10:45 a.m. ***HB 1198-FN,*** relative to liquor stores.

11:00 a.m. ***HB 1293-FN,*** relative to the use of certain fertilizers on turf.

11:30 a.m. ***HB 1303-FN,*** relative to the estate of Tekeste Berhanu.

11:45 a.m. ***HB 1517-FN,*** relative to the statewide education property tax and excess revenue from games of chance.

12:00 p.m. ***HB 1565-FN,*** relative to the definition of potentially hazardous food.
12:15 p.m. ***HB 1709-FN,*** establishing the forest carbon commission.
12:30 p.m. ***HB 1611-FN,*** relative to establishing a child care workforce fund.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1365,*** relative to substitution of biological products by pharmacies; ***HB 1155,*** relative to insurance coverage for living organ donors.
10:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1018,*** relative to on-premise and off-premise liquor licenses; ***HB 1076-FN,*** relative to wine manufacturer licenses; ***HB 1358,*** relative to contract manufacturers of beer, wine, and liquor; ***HB 1380-FN,*** relative to brew pub licenses; ***HB 1540-FN,*** relative to the definitions of full course meals and full service restaurant for purposes of alcohol licensing; ***HB 1591-FN,*** relative to fines for prohibited sales of tobacco.
1:15 p.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1241,*** relative to regulation of money transmitters; ***HB 1444-FN,*** relative to local regulation of digital mining; ***HB 1507,*** relative to innovative financial services; ***HB 1537,*** relative to credit card notifications; ***HB 1538,*** relative to credit card late fees and interest; ***HB 1559-FN,*** repealing the chapter relative to cash dispensing machines; ***HB 1694,*** relative to establishing a committee to study a New Hampshire public bank.

EDUCATION, Room 205-207, LOB

9:30 a.m. Continued executive session on any remaining bills from March 5th, 2024.
Executive session on ***HB 1084,*** relative to qualifications for the commissioner of education; ***HB 1093,*** prohibiting mandatory mask policies in schools; ***HB 1205,*** relative to women's school sports; ***HB 1298-FN,*** relative to the definition of part-time teachers; ***HB 1476-FN,*** relative to charter school memorandums of understanding; ***HB 1592-FN-L,*** relative to the use of education freedom account funds in religious schools; ***HB 1605-FN,*** relative to alternative education programs for granting credit leading to graduation; ***HB 1608-FN,*** relative to providing an induction program for new teachers; ***HB 1610-FN,*** relative to standardized assessment data for participants in education freedom accounts; ***HB 1616,*** relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program; ***HB 1625-FN,*** relative to school health services; ***HB 1646,*** relative to chartered public schools; ***HB 1650-FN,*** relative to the approval of alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation; ***HB 1654-FN,*** relative to review of education freedom account service providers; ***HB 1682-FN,*** relative to the civics test graduation requirement; ***HB 1691,*** relative to the definition of an adequate public education; ***HR 30,*** urging a robust climate education in schools including current environmental and economic information; ***HB 1014,*** relative to the registration of high school students to vote; ***HB 1552,*** relative to the duties and responsibilities of superintendents of school administrative units; ***HB 1452-FN,*** relative to credentials for the position of superintendent of schools and school business officer; ***HB 1382-FN,*** relative to special education support for military-connected students.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 301-303, LOB

9:00 a.m. Subcommittee meeting: DES Rules Update.
10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on ***HB 1102-FN,*** relative to the definition of animal cruelty; ***HB 1145-FN,*** prohibiting the private ownership of landfills; ***HB 1632-FN,*** relative to out-of-state solid waste.
11:00 a.m. ***HB 1463,*** establishing a committee to study the effects of laws relative to the production of beef, pork, and poultry.
11:15 a.m. ***HB 1628,*** relative to regulatory authority for apples, coal grading, potatoes, cider, milk, and lumber.
1:00 p.m. ***HB 1578,*** relative to organic food certification and labeling.
1:30 p.m. ***HB 1529,*** relative to the use of unpasteurized eggs.
2:00 p.m. ***HB 1574-FN,*** removing regulations on the direct sale of raw milk to consumers.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306-308, LOB

9:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1095,*** relative to the official pronunciation of "New Hampshire" and "Concord."
10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1188-FN,*** relative to qualifications for licensed nursing assistants.
10:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on ***HB 1622-FN,*** relative to administrative rulemaking and license renewals by the office of professional licensure and certification.
1:30 p.m. Executive session on ***HB 1059,*** relative to the state building code; ***HB 1387,*** relative to revisions to the state building code; ***HB 1486,*** relative to proxy carbon pricing in state procurement;

HB 1411-FN, relative to requiring agencies and their contractors to accept cash payments; ***HB 1606-FN,*** relative to contact information on agency web pages; ***HB 1190-FN,*** relative to adopting the interstate social work licensure compact; ***HB 1222,*** relative to physician assistant scope of practice; ***HB 1271,*** relative to the conversion, combination, and reorganization of boards and advisory boards; ***HB 1272-FN,*** relative to occupational license reciprocity; ***HB 1285,*** relative to merging the board of podiatry into the board of medicine; ***HB 1408,*** relative to the merger of and reorganization of various occupational boards.

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, LOB

10:15 a.m. Division work session on retained ***HB 318-FN-A,*** relative to bail commissioners and making appropriations to the judicial branch.

10:50 a.m. Division work session on retained ***HB 1005-FN,*** relative to judicial training.

11:15 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1199-FN-A,*** relative to services of the office of the child advocate for youth experiencing homelessness and making an appropriation therefor.

1:00 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1279-FN-L,*** relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.

1:25 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1323-FN-A,*** making an appropriation for the printing costs of the New Hampshire state constitution.

1:50 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1355-FN,*** relative to the New Hampshire National Guard recruitment and reenlistment incentive program.

2:15 p.m. Division work session on ***SB 252-FN,*** relative to the release of a defendant pending trial, directing the establishment of an electronic monitoring program for criminal defendants released on bail, and making an appropriation therefor.

2:40 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1178-FN,*** relative to an employee's unused earned time.

3:05 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1307-FN,*** providing a supplemental appropriation for members of the retirement system receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB

1:00 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1588-FN,*** relative to court jurisdiction over persons receiving special education.

1:30 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1598-FN-A,*** relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments and veterans benefits for children in foster care.

2:00 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1573-FN,*** relative to oversight of and criteria for residential placement of children.

2:30 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1593-FN,*** making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to support recreational activities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

3:00 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1669-FN,*** relative to restricting data sharing through the state immunization registry.

3:30 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1282-FN,*** relative to the duration of child support; ***HB 1564-FN,*** relative to the child support guidelines; ***HB 1595-FN,*** relative to adjustment of the child support guidelines based on parenting time, medical support, and child care expenses.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 201, LOB

9:30 a.m. ***HB 1712,*** renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.

10:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1010,*** relative to expanding maternity options and midwifery access; ***HB 1028,*** relative to the definition of mental illness for purposes of the New Hampshire mental health services system; ***HB 1280,*** relative to informed consent and patient rights; ***HB 1300,*** relative to terminal patients' right to try act; ***HB 1347,*** relative to administration of the New Hampshire refugee resettlement program; ***HB 1568-FN,*** relative to Medicaid reimbursement for non-transport emergency medical services calls; ***HB 1585,*** relative to medication administration by direct care staff in residential care facilities; ***HB 1607,*** relative to expanded safe haven protections; ***HB 1615-FN,*** relative to the autism registry; ***HB 1638-FN,*** relative to requiring case reviews and remedial measures for any department of health and human services employee who improperly performs their job; ***HB 1663-FN,*** relative to the confidentiality of medical records and patient information; ***HB 1683-FN,*** relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan; ***HB 1712,*** renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.

JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1283-FN,*** relative to end of life options; ***HB 1002,*** relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law; ***HB 1082,*** relative to professional limited liability com-

pany (PLLC) assistant manager status; ***HB 1115,*** relative to the termination of tenancy at the expiration of the tenancy or lease term; ***HB 1353,*** relative to authorizing the commissioner of the department of education to issue subpoenas; ***HB 1368,*** prohibiting termination of a tenancy based on a tenant's failure to pay rent that was increased by certain price fixing programs; ***HB 1432-FN,*** relative to prohibiting certain uses of artificial intelligence and creating a private claim of action; ***HB 1497-FN,*** restricting trial courts in criminal matters from imposing certain sentences following a plea bargain; ***HB 1602-FN,*** relative to the authority of the housing appeals board; ***HB 1614-FN,*** relative to judicial review of department of environmental services decisions; ***HB 1640-FN,*** relative to qualified immunity standards; ***HB 1664-FN,*** relative to legal remedies for individuals who receive medical detransitioning; ***HB 1684,*** relative to loss of consortium.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 305, LOB

1:00 p.m. Executive session on ***HB 1007-FN,*** relative to notice of terms and conditions of remote work arrangements; ***HB 1051,*** relative to prohibiting certain deductions from wages of restaurant employees; ***HB 1110,*** relative to requiring certain employers to use the federal E-Verify system of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; ***HB 1201,*** relative to payment of wages for deceased employees; ***HB 1246,*** relative to allowing for payment of wages in gold or silver; ***HB 1519,*** relative to a minor's available work hours; ***HB 1648,*** relative to electronic payments to employees debit cards.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 203, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1080,*** relative to the legislative youth advisory council; ***HB 1388,*** relative to recusal by members of the general court for conflicts of interest; ***HB 1479-FN,*** relative to prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 307, LOB

9:30 a.m. ***HB 1181,*** relative to solid waste districts.

9:45 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1124,*** relative to limiting conflicts of interest and excessive concentration of power for municipal board and committee members; ***HB 1180,*** relative to the scope of the homestead exemption; ***HB 1459-FN,*** relative to policies that municipalities are preempted from enacting; ***HB 1414-FN,*** relative to the Gunstock Area Commission and ski resort; ***HB 1001,*** relative to exempting the land and buildings of Masonic lodges and associations from property taxation; ***HB 1317-FN-L,*** relative to municipal filings made by charitable organizations exempt from taxation.

10:00 a.m. ***HB 1101,*** establishing a committee to study a potential state program to make loans to low-to-moderate income households for the purpose of buying a home or for the purpose of consolidating student loans.

10:45 a.m. ***HB 1460-FN,*** relative to the sale of county property.

1:00 p.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2024-0805h to HB 1223, relative to governing body members of the budget committee. The amendment gives municipalities the option to operate historic horse racing machines and games of chance. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Reps Hall, SH

9:00 a.m. ***HB 1562,*** relative to personal watercraft.

1:00 p.m. ***HB 1390,*** relative to regulating wakeboating and wakesports.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDCARE, Room 104, LOB

10:00 a.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2024-0760h to HB 1056, relative to administration of the child care scholarship program. This amendment would amend the definition of a child day care agency by removing the 13-hour per day maximum. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.

11:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1056,*** relative to administration of the child care scholarship program; ***HB 1567-FN,*** relative to zoning provisions concerning family and group family child care uses; ***HB 1409,*** relative to review by the advisory council on child care of child care center licensing violations; ***HB 1584,*** relative to home day care licensing requirements.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

9:30 a.m. Full committee work session on ***HB 1514-FN-A-L,*** relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for the use of school districts; ***HB 1563-FN,*** relative to the education property tax and the authority of political subdivisions; ***HB 1517-FN,*** relative to the statewide education property tax and excess revenue from games of chance; ***HB 1193-FN,*** relative to the establishment of a child care tax credit program; ***HB 1429-FN-A,*** establishing a procedure for the department

of environmental services to transfer ownership of dams to municipalities or others, including making loans; ***HB 1470,*** establishing a study committee on the feasibility and impact of a low-income housing tax credit; ***HB 1613-FN,*** establishing a trust fund for money from soil and water environmental contamination court settlements; ***HB 1410-FN,*** relative to certain professional licenses; ***HB 1655,*** relative to establishing an educator certification fund for fees paid to the department of education; ***HB 1198-FN,*** relative to liquor stores; ***HB 1293-FN,*** relative to the use of certain fertilizers on turf; ***HB 1303-FN,*** relative to the estate of Tekeste Berhanu; ***HB 1565-FN,*** relative to the definition of potentially hazardous food; ***HB 1709-FN,*** establishing the forest carbon commission; ***HB 1611-FN,*** relative to establishing a child care workforce fund.

1:30 p.m. Executive session on ***HB 1514-FN-A-L,*** relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for the use of school districts; ***HB 1563-FN,*** relative to the education property tax and the authority of political subdivisions; ***HB 1517-FN,*** relative to the statewide education property tax and excess revenue from games of chance; ***HB 1193-FN,*** relative to the establishment of a child care tax credit program; ***HB 1429-FN-A,*** establishing a procedure for the department of environmental services to transfer ownership of dams to municipalities or others, including making loans; ***HB 1470,*** establishing a study committee on the feasibility and impact of a low-income housing tax credit; ***HB 1613-FN,*** establishing a trust fund for money from soil and water environmental contamination court settlements; ***HB 1410-FN,*** relative to certain professional licenses; ***HB 1655,*** relative to establishing an educator certification fund for fees paid to the department of education; ***HB 1198-FN,*** relative to liquor stores; ***HB 1293-FN,*** relative to the use of certain fertilizers on turf; ***HB 1303-FN,*** relative to the estate of Tekeste Berhanu; ***HB 1565-FN,*** relative to the definition of potentially hazardous food; ***HB 1709-FN,*** establishing the forest carbon commission; ***HB 1611-FN,*** relative to establishing a child care workforce fund.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORKS (RSA 127:12), NH Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.
Join Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82731252212?pwd=Q3pvYncvcW55Zkg0ZVVNQW5USGlsZz09
Meeting ID: 827 3125 2212 Passcode: 392939

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, Room 302-304, LOB

9:00 a.m. ***HB 1291,*** relative to accessory dwelling unit uses allowed by right.

11:00 a.m. Full committee work session on ***HB 1065,*** relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings; ***HB 1168,*** establishing a committee to study the impact of the housing crisis on people with disabilities; ***HB 1215,*** relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits; ***HB 1291,*** relative to accessory dwelling unit uses allowed by right; ***HB 1361,*** relative to municipal land use regulation for manufactured housing and subdivisions; ***HB 1399,*** allowing municipalities to permit 2 residential units in certain single-family residential zones; ***HB 1400,*** relative to the required maximum number of residential parking spaces.

1:00 p.m. Executive session on ***HB 1065,*** relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings; ***HB 1168,*** establishing a committee to study the impact of the housing crisis on people with disabilities; ***HB 1215,*** relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits; ***HB 1291,*** relative to accessory dwelling unit uses allowed by right; ***HB 1361,*** relative to municipal land use regulation for manufactured housing and subdivisions; ***HB 1399,*** allowing municipalities to permit 2 residential units in certain single-family residential zones; ***HB 1400,*** relative to the required maximum number of residential parking spaces.

STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 126-A:88), UNH Law, Room 103, 2 White Street Concord

11:30 a.m. Regular meeting. https://unh.zoom.us/j/98011299433?pwd=Q0pzeXJwREcxMXE5YWE2WkM0SFRBZz09

MONDAY, MARCH 11

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (RSA 188-E:10-b), Room 101, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES (RSA 135-C:68), Room 103, SH

1:00 p.m. Organizational meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF THE SECURED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER (RSA 169-B:48), Room 100, SH

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Department of Safety, 33 Hazen Drive, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 126-A:85), Dept of Justice, 1 Granite Pl., South Concord

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 762 964 6757 Passcode: 782701 https://nhdhhs.zoom.us/j/7629646757?pwd=dUJnaTVCOEk1bnZMTEpDZEkrOGk4QT09&omn=83760052265

NH BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 137-K:2), REMOTE

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84327646605?pwd=R0lwOWFVK0w2U2FKYTVybXM1MjNhdz09 Meeting ID: 843 2764 6605 Passcode: 731679

NH COLLEGE TUITION SAVINGS PLAN ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 195-H:2), University System of NH, 5 Chenell Drive, Suite 301, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. This meeting will end at 12:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 202-204, LOB

9:30 a.m. ***HB 1046-FN,*** requiring a boat owner who is not the operator to notify law enforcement and file an accident report in certain circumstances.

10:00 a.m. Executive session on ***HB 1366-FN,*** relative to penalties for the negligent or reckless operation of boats; ***HB 1539-FN,*** relative to annulling, resentencing, or discontinuing prosecution of certain cannabis offenses; ***HB 1711-FN,*** authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306-308, LOB

10:00 a.m. Continued executive session on ***HB 1075,*** relative to abolishing daylight saving time; ***HB 1474,*** relative to the commission on Native American affairs.

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, LOB

10:00 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1394-FN-A,*** relative to licensure and regulation of music therapists and making an appropriation therefor.

10:30 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1577-FN,*** relative to digital images of ballots.

11:00 a.m. Division work session on ***HB 1647-FN-A,*** relative to the calculation of group II retirement benefits in the retirement system.

1:00 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1465-FN,*** relative to studies of nuclear energy technologies and renaming the office of offshore wind industry development.

1:30 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1649-FN,*** relative to prohibiting certain products with intentionally added PFAS.

2:30 p.m. Division work session on ***HB 1633-FN-A,*** relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.

JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB

9:00 a.m. Presentation by the World Affairs Council.

10:00 a.m. Continued executive session on any bills remaining from March 6th.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Room 306-308, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTALLY-TRIGGERED CHRONIC ILLNESS (RSA 126-A:73-a), Merrimack Town Hall, 6 Baboosic Lake Rd, Merrimack

3:00 p.m. Public hearing. Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 861 1781 8803 Passcode: 669915 https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86117818803?pwd=cWRXdlgwQnQvc2ZRbkNObGhGc3M0dz09

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Room 210-211, LOB
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 21-V:10), Room 100, SH
9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, 1 Sullivan Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040
8:00 a.m. Tour of ISO-NE.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, Room 302-304, LOB
9:00 a.m. Continued executive session on any remaining bills from March 8th, 2024.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206-208, LOB
1:00 p.m. ***HR 31,*** urging support of the dignity through prosperity act.
1:15 p.m. Executive session on ***HR 31,*** urging support of the dignity through prosperity act.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 17-N:1), Room 212, LOB
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22), Room 103, SH
2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1), NH Hospital Association- 125 Airport Road, Concord
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

NH LAND AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (RSA 227-M:4), Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord
2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2), Edward Cross Training Center Facility 722 Riverwood Drive Pembroke
5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2), Room 201, LOB
9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE (RSA 17-M:1), Room 201, LOB
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4), NH Fish and Game, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord
10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORKS (RSA 127:12), 98 Smokey BearBlvd, Concord
1:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: Meeting ID: 827 3125 2212 Passcode: 392939
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82731252212?pwd=Q3pvYncvcW55Zkg0ZVVNQW5USGlsZz09

REVISED FISCAL NOTES

The following bills have a revised fiscal note: HB38, HB 91, HB 116, HB 135, HB 194, HB 272, HB 276, HB 282, HB 300, HB 318, HB 345, HB 436, HB 439, HB 447, HB 449, HB 462, HB 463, HB 527, HB 533, HB 535, HB 537, HB 559, HB 560, HB 565, HB 566, HB 571, HB 593, HB 606, HB 608, HB 614, HB 616, HB

618, HB 620, HB 622, HB 627, HB 628, HB 645, HB 652, HB 1005, HB 1046, HB 1179, HB 1274, HB 1293, HB 1294, HB 1304, HB 1330, HB 1386, HB 1410, HB 1422, HB 1426, HB 1429, HB 1466, HB 1492, HB 1522, HB 1561, HB 1563, HB 1566, HB 1567, HB 1570, HB 1571, HB 1579, HB 1582, HB 1589, HB 1592, HB 1593, HB 1594, HB 1597, HB 1598, HB 1599, HB 1600, HB 1608, HB 1610, HB 1614, HB 1615, HB 1619, HB 1623, HB 1629, HB 1630, HB 1632, HB 1633, HB1634, HB 1636, HB 1639, HB 1640, HB 1641, HB 1644, HB 1645, HB 1647, HB 1651, HB 1654, HB 1656, HB 1660, HB 1663, HB 1665, HB 1675, HB 1677, HB 1681, HB 1682, HB 1686, HB 1687, HB 1689, HB 1702, HB 1706, HB 1709, HB 1710, HB 1711, SB 97, SB 106, SB 151, SB 176, SB 177, SB 180, SB 235, SB 249, SB 252, SB 267, SB 303, SB 306, SB 317, SB 345, SB 399, SB 447, SB 454, SB 465, SB 467, SB 470, SB 490, SB 492, SB 514, SB 540, SB 549, SB 580, SB 596.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

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The Coos County Delegation will meet on **Monday, March 4, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at Coos County Nursing Home, located at 364 Cates Hill Road, Berlin, NH.

Rep. Corinne Cascadden, Clerk

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The **Grafton** County Executive Committee will meet **Monday, March 25, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Grafton County Administration Building, 3855 Dartmouth College Hwy in North Haverhill, NH.

Rep. Heather Baldwin, Clerk

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There will be a public hearing for **Merrimack** County before the County Delegation at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024** at the Old Courthouse, 2nd floor conference room, 163 North Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire. The purpose of the meeting is as follows: 1. Hear presentation on the proposed Community Power Plan for Merrimack County. 2. Presentation on the 2024 budget appropriations for Merrimack County. 3. Review of the annual grant resolution. 4. Review of Sheriff's fees. 5. Consider any other business that may appropriately come before them. At this time, any member of the public may present oral or written testimony regarding the 2024 budget estimates as proposed by the Merrimack County Executive Committee. Immediately following the public hearing there will be a meeting for Merrimack County before the County Delegation at the Old Courthouse, 2nd floor conference room, 163 North Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire. The purpose of the meeting is as follows: 1. Adoption of Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan. 2. Adoption of the 2024 Merrimack County proposed budget. 3. Adoption of annual grant resolution. 4. Adoption of Sheriff's fees. 5. To consider any other business that may appropriately come before them.

Rep. Dianne Schuett, Chair

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Notice is hereby given that the Executive Committee with the Full **Strafford** County Delegation has been scheduled for **Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** The Executive Committee meets to receive reports and review the Subcommittees' recommendations and any other business that may legally come before the Committee at that time. Location: Cafeteria Conference Room, Lower Level, Justice and Administration Building. Public access via Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81429396215?pwd=JZraRRgtBIu2a0anaVkWbpLC6GjMGY.1
Meeting ID: 814 2939 6215 Passcode: 500668 Dial by your location: +1 305 224 1968 US
If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact Janet Hilber, Administrative Assistant at 603-516-7100.

Rep. Peter Schmidt, Chairman

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Notice is hereby given that the Full **Strafford** County Delegation Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**(snow date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.) The Delegation meets to review Executive Committee recommendations and to adopt final budget for 2024, and to discuss any other business with may legally come before the Delegation. Superior Courtroom I, Justice and Administration Building. The budget must be approved by April 1st, or the Commissioners' Proposed Budget will be in effect. Public access via Zoom:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89611842722?pwd=bulXb3oKQwYYUhaRErtXnThLAcIJqa.1
Meeting ID: 896 1184 2722 Passcode: 312030 Dial by your location: +1 1 646 931 3860 US

Rep. Peter Schmidt, Chairman

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.

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All Representatives are invited to a Bible Study and Prayer, during the Lunch Break on Session Days. We will meet in LOB 104 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. Deb Hobson

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Most occupational licensing boards have members of the public serving on them. Those board members are intended to represent the public, the customers of the professions being licensed. The Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) has difficulty filling those positions because most people don't even know they exist and OPLC does not have a good way to advertise. As representatives we know many people in our districts, so Representatives are asked to let citizens who might be interested in serving on a board to contact Lindsey B. Courtney, Executive Director, at lindsey.b.courtney@oplc.nh.gov. Alternatively, they may apply online at https://www.oplc.nh.gov/interested-becoming-oplc-board-member.

Reps. Tony Lekas and Jaci Grote

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The Secular Values Legislative Caucus will meet during the lunch recess in the Clerk's conference room on session days in March for members and prospective members to socialize, share ideas, and relax. Bring your lunch.

Rep. Sherry Dutzy

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Pursuant to Executive Order 2023-06, the Public Higher Education Task Force to Study the Strategic Alignment of Public Higher Education in New Hampshire will meet at 25 Hall Street, Concord, NH 03301 on the following dates:
Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
Friday, March 8, 2024; 12:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Rep. Rick Ladd

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The annual Water's Worth It! legislative breakfast is set for **Wednesday March 6, 2024** at the Holiday Inn on Main Street in Concord. Check in for the event begins at **7:00 a.m.** with a breakfast buffet. Water quality professionals will present information on drinking water and wastewater treatment challenges in New Hampshire. This year Tilak Subrahmanian, Vice President, Energy Efficiency at Eversource and Sharon Nall, NHDES Water Energy Efficiency Program will be speaking to the importance of energy efficiency to the water community, and why Water's Worth It. In addition, Water Division staff for NH-DES will also address the audience. All legislators and staff are invited to enjoy a hearty breakfast and learn more about New Hampshire's water infrastructure. This event is free.
Please RSVP to info.nhwpca@gmail.com by February 23rd to reserve your seat at this important breakfast. The breakfast is sponsored by the NH Water Pollution Control Association in conjunction with a wide-ranging coalition of other NH non-profit water organizations. There is no cost for enjoying breakfast with your legislative peers and attending this event.

Rep. Tom Buco

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The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network – NH will be hosting a Legislative Luncheon on **Thursday, March 7, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in the State House cafeteria. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network volunteers and staff will be on hand to discuss pending legislative priorities as well as what services the American Cancer Society provides to NH residents.

Rep. Wayne MacDonald

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Please join the NH Oral Health Coalition in celebrating the 1-year birthday anniversary of the successful roll-out of NH's Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit, NH Smiles. This open-house style program highlights the bipartisan collaboration that helped to make NH one of the nation's healthiest states. Get an update on the benefit, the rollout, and the impact on the people of NH, *your constituents*. Talk to the team that led the rollout, Mr. Tom Raffio, Dr. Jay Maillet, Dr. Sarah Finne, and Mr. Ed Lorch. Hear from the Institute on Disabilities Oral Health Consumer Task Force that created a beneficiary-facing brochure. Find out about the "Sealing Smiles Across NH" school-based pilot. **Thursday, March 28 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the State House Cafeteria. *Take a Break and Eat Cake!* RSVP to gbrown@nhoralhealth.org or 603-415-5550.

Rep. Tom Buco

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All legislators are invited to join NH's disability organizations on **Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. at the State House Cafeteria** to learn about and discuss how policy can impact the lives of people with disabilities. Hear how these organizations can be a resource for our decision makers. This event is co-sponsored by the NH Bipartisan Disability Caucus and is in memory of champion advocate, Jeff Dickinson. Refreshments will be served. For any questions contact: Vanessa.A.Blais@ddc.nh.gov or call 603-271-7040.

Rep. Gaby Grossman

AMENDMENTS

(LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

Amendment to HB 1006-FN
(2024- 0448h)
Proposed by the Committee on Children and Family Law–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Judicial Enforcement of Parenting Plan. RSA 461-A:4-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

461-A:4-a Judicial Enforcement of Parenting Plan; Family Access Motion.

I. In the event of noncompliance with a court approved parenting plan under this chapter, relative to denying or interfering with parenting time without good cause, the aggrieved parent may file a family access motion for enforcement of the parenting plan. The motion shall state the specific facts which constitute a violation of parenting time from the parenting plan.

II. The court shall develop a simple form for pro se motions by the aggrieved person, which shall be provided to the person by court staff. The cost of filing the motion shall be the standard court costs otherwise due for instituting a civil action in the circuit court.

III. Within 10 business days after the filing of the family access motion pursuant to paragraph I, the clerk of the court shall issue a summons pursuant to applicable state law, and applicable local or supreme court rules. A copy of the motion shall be personally served upon the respondent by personal process server as provided by law or by any sheriff.

IV. Upon a finding by the court pursuant to a motion for a family access order or a motion for contempt that its order for parenting time has not been complied with, without good cause, the court shall order a remedy, which may include, but not limited to:

(a) A compensatory period of visitation at a time convenient for the aggrieved party, of not less than the period of time denied;

(b) Participation by the violator in counseling to educate the violator about the importance of providing the child with a continuing and meaningful relationship with both parents;

(c) Assessment of a fine of up to $500 against the violator payable to the aggrieved party;

(d) Requiring the violator to post bond or security to ensure future compliance with the court's access orders; and

(e) Ordering the violator to pay the cost of counseling to reestablish the parent-child relationship between the aggrieved party and the child.

V. The reasonable expenses incurred as a result of denial or interference with parenting time, including attorney's fees and costs of a proceeding to enforce parenting time, shall be assessed, if requested and for good cause, against the parent or party who unreasonably denies or interferes parenting time. In addition, the court may utilize any and all powers relating to contempt conferred on it by law or rule of the court.

VI. Final disposition of a motion for a family access order filed pursuant to this section shall take place not more than 60 days after the service of such motion, unless waived by the parties, or as determined to be in the best interest of the child.

VII. If the case is closed at the time relief is sought, an equivalent family access petition for enforcement of the parenting plan may be filed. Motions or petitions filed pursuant to this section shall not be deemed an independent civil action from the original action pursuant to which the judgment or order sought to be enforced was entered.

Amendment to HB 1020
(2024-0703h)
Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary–c

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study restoration of competency.

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

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

I. Individuals with severe mental illness are at increased risk of interacting with the probate court on civil commitments as well as with the criminal justice system in 2 important areas: trial competency and competency restoration.

II. As is evidenced by the number of individuals ordered for competency evaluations, the need for these evaluations has increased substantially over the last 5 years, with some state jurisdictions reporting 70 to 100 percent increases. Accordingly, New Hampshire experienced a 75 percent increase in the number of competency orders since 2015. In 2019, there was an average of 66 court orders for trial competency evaluations each month. With increases of the numbers of competency evaluations, there are more individuals court ordered for competency restoration. An individual ordered into competency restoration is expected to improve and return to court to face his or her charges upon restoration of his or her competency. Analysis of 56 published studies from 1975 to 2013 showed that nationwide, 81 percent of individuals ordered to inpatient competency restoration treatment were able to return to court.

III. In New Hampshire, there is no formal, existing system to provide treatment for individuals found incompetent to stand trial. In stark contrast to these national numbers, fewer than half of the individuals ordered into a competency restoration period are able to return to court and complete their criminal cases. Specifically, in 2019 only 44 percent of individuals were found to have their competency restored.

IV. Numerous state jurisdictions have sought to reform their respective competency restoration systems. The Council of State Governments and the National Center for State Courts have published useful guidance for state-level improvements. New Hampshire is currently planning to build a new forensic hospital. Creation of a study committee will allow legislators, with the assistance of informed stakeholders, to review the existing statutes, examine the current competency and restoration needs of New Hampshire, and utilize national resources to develop needed improvements.

2 New Subdivision; New Hampshire Hospital and Insane Persons; Committee to Study Restoration of Competency; Established. Amend RSA 135 by inserting after section 48 the following new subdivision:

Committee to Study Restoration of Competency

135:49 Committee to Study Restoration of Competency; Established. There is hereby established a committee to study restoration of competency.

I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as regular, voting members, and one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as an alternate who may become a voting member in the absence of a regular, voting member. Of the regular, voting members, 2 shall be from the majority party and one from the minority party. The alternate may be from either major party.

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

III. The committee shall study:

(a) Methods to streamline and improve the system of care for individuals with severe mental illness who have been deemed not competent to stand trial.

(b) Restoration of competency and the development of a plan for a comprehensive restoration program for those individuals deemed not competent but restorable. The plan would include:

(1) Review of organizational alignment of the office of forensic examiners;

(2) Best practices for inpatient and outpatient competency restoration;

(3) Improvement of current judicial review process;

(4) Identification of a central repository and management entity for the competency restoration process;

(5) Quality improvement elements for competency restoration; and

(6) Any other aspect the committee deems appropriate.

IV. The committee may solicit input from any person or entity the committee deems relevant to its study, including, but not limited to:

(a) The commissioner of the department of health and human services;
(b) The commissioner of the department of corrections;
(c) The chief executive officer of the New Hampshire hospital;
(d) The chief medical officer of the New Hampshire hospital;
(e) The chief forensic examiner of the office of the forensic examiner;
(f) The attorney general's office;
(g) The New Hampshire public defender's office;
(h) A county attorney;
(i) A superintendent of a county correctional facility;
(j) The New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association;
(k) The judicial branch;
(l) The National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Hampshire (NAMI NH);
(m) The Disability Rights Center; and
(n) The New Hampshire Psychiatric Society.

V. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The committee shall submit an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation 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 on or before November 1, 2024. The committee shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025.

3 Repeal. RSA 135:49 and the subdivision heading preceding RSA 135:49, relative to the committee to study restoration of competency, are repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2025.

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

2024-0703h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study restoration of competency, provides duties and requirements for the committee, and provides for the committee's repeal.

Amendment to HB 1029
(2024-0519h)
Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources–r

Amend RSA 211:49-d as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

211:49-d Landing License; Lobster and Crabs. Any person who is not licensed under RSA 211:18, RSA 211:49-a, or RSA 211:49-b and wishes to transport in state waters lobsters and crabs taken by ***any legal means*** outside the jurisdiction of the state via ship, vessel, or similar craft in state waters for the purposes of landing the lobsters and crabs in the state must first procure a landing license. This shall allow the licensee to sell lobster and crab landed under such person's license. The fee for annual licenses for residents and nonresidents shall be set by the executive director pursuant to RSA 206:10, I. ***A New Hampshire resident who is not landing for the purpose of sale of the lobster or the crab shall be exempt from the requirements of this section.***

Amendment to HB 1030
(2024-0558h)
Proposed by the Committee on Legislative Administration–c

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

AN ACT repealing certain task forces, study committees, and study commissions , repealing the John G. Winant memorial commission and making the maintenance of the memorial a duty of the joint legislative historical committee, and establishing a committee to study the appeals process administered by the environmental councils established under RSA 21-O.

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

1 Air Pollution Advisory Committee; Cross Reference Removed. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 125-O:21, VI to read as follows:

VI. The department of environmental services and the department of energy shall report on an annual basis to [~~the air pollution advisory committee under RSA 125-J:11,~~] the chair of the house science, technology, and energy committee, and the chair of the senate energy and natural resources committee on the status of the implementation of RGGI in New Hampshire, with emphasis on the prices and availability of RGGI allowances to affected CO2 sources, consumer protection mechanisms, and the trends in electric rates for New Hampshire businesses and ratepayers. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

2 Air Pollution Advisory Committee; Cross Reference Removed. Amend the introductory paragraph RSA 485:16-b, II to read as follows:

II. In addition to the provisions of paragraph I, the commissioner, after consultation with the commissioner of health and human services, shall limit to the greatest extent practicable, with the approval of the governor and council, the concentration of MTBE allowed in any gasoline sold in all or part of the state after first holding a public hearing on the issue and [~~certifying to the air pollution advisory committee established in RSA 125-J:11~~] ***determining*** that gasolines which meet such limit are:

3 Department of Environmental Services; Appeals Process Study Committee Established.

I. There is hereby established a committee to study the appeals process administered by the environmental councils established under RSA 21-O.

II. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

III. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

IV. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Study the appeals process of the environmental councils established in RSA 21-O with a focus on expediting appeals resolutions;

(b) Improve the cost effectiveness of the appeals process; and

(c) Consult with the chairmen of the 4 environmental councils to accomplish these goals.

V. The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2024.

4 New Paragraph; Joint Legislative Historical Committee; Responsibilities. Amend RSA 17-I:2 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

X. Overseeing the maintenance of the John G. Winant memorial.

5 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. 2001, 271:1, relative to the task force to conduct an ongoing study of the feasibility of re-establishing the Lawrence, Massachusetts to Manchester, New Hampshire rail service line and the Concord to Lebanon northern passenger rail service line.

II. RSA 21-I:14-d, relative to the advisory committee on state procurement.

III. RSA 28-B:1, relative to the county-state finance commission.

IV. RSA 125-J:11, relative to the air pollution advisory committee.

V. RSA 356-B:70, relative to the committee to study the laws relating to condominium and homeowners' associations.

VI. RSA 4:9-l and 4:9-m, relative to the John G. Winant memorial commission

VII. RSA 14:49, II(e), relative to the annual index of commissions, is repealed.

VIII. RSA 404-J:1, relative to the commission on the status of health coverage markets for individuals and small employers.

6 Effective Date.

I. Section 5, paragraph V of this act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

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

2024-0558h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Repeals the requirement that house and senate committee services staff jointly prepare an annual index of all commissions.

II. Repeals task forces, study committees, and study commissions.

III. Establishes a committee to study the department of environmental services appeals process.

IV. Repeals the John G. Winant memorial commission and makes the maintenance of the memorial a duty of the joint legislative historical committee.

Amendment to HB 1036
(2024-0763h)
Proposed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Restructuring Policy Principals. Amend RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(4) to read as follows:

(4) Cost effectiveness. [~~For the purpose of the March 1, 2022 filing, and future plan offerings,~~] The commission's review of the cost effectiveness shall be based upon the latest completed and available Avoided Energy Supply Cost Study for New England, the results of any Evaluation, Measurement, and Valuation studies contracted for by the department of energy or joint utilities, incorporate savings impacts associated with free-ridership for those programs and measures where such free-ridership may have a material impact on savings figures[~~, and use the~~]. ***When reviewing cost effectiveness for program years through and including 2026, the commission shall*** use the Granite State Test as the primary test, with the addition of the Total Resource Cost test as a secondary test. The ***commission may consider modifications to the Granite State Test and different or additional tests developed through an adjudicative process and approve them by order prior to the commencement of any triennium period beginning with program year 2027, provided such order is issued no less than 12 months prior to the beginning of the triennium period to which the test is to be applied. In any review, the*** commission shall use benefit per unit cost as only one factor in considering whether the utilities have prioritized program offerings appropriately among and within customer classes. In no instance shall an electric utility's planned electric system savings fall below 65 percent of its overall planned annual energy savings.

Amendment to HB 1042
(2024-0717h)
Proposed by the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–c

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

AN ACT repealing the requirement that each pharmacy establish a continuous quality improvement program.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Repeal. RSA 318:45-a, relative to continuous quality improvement in licensed pharmacies, is repealed.

2024-0717h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the requirement that each licensed pharmacy shall establish a continuous quality improvement program.

Amendment to HB 1104-FN
(2024-0707h)
Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary–c

Amend RSA 490:30-b, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. A litigant who qualifies to seek relief pursuant to paragraph I may file a petition for such relief with the chief justice or administrative judge of the court of which the judicial officer found to have committed misconduct was a member at the time the ruling, decision, or judgment was entered. If the judicial officer found to have committed misconduct is the chief justice of the supreme court, the chief justice of the superior court, or the administrative judge of the circuit court, the petition shall be filed with the most senior associate justice of the court in question. The petition shall be served upon all other parties to the litigation, who shall be given reasonable time to file an answer to the petition. After considering the submissions of all interested parties, the chief justice, administrative judge, senior associate justice, or their replacement, as provided herein, shall determine, with or without hearing, whether there is a reasonable likelihood that the misconduct of the judicial officer had a causal bearing on the challenged ruling, decision, or judgment. If there is a determination of no reasonable likelihood that the misconduct had a causal bearing on the ruling, decision, or judgment, the petition shall be dismissed. Such ruling shall be considered final and may be appealed immediately pursuant to law and judicial rules. If there is a determination of a reasonable likelihood that the misconduct did have a causal bearing on the ruling, decision, or judgment, the chief justice, administrative judge, or senior associate justice shall vacate the ruling, decision, or judgment and remand the matter for rehearing before a judicial officer other than the one found to have committed misconduct. Such ruling shall be considered interlocutory and may not be immediately appealed. However, in any appeal of the final ruling by the newly assigned judicial officer, the aggrieved party may raise as an issue a claim of error in the decision to vacate the original ruling, decision, or judgment.

Amendment to HB 1109
(2024-0403h)
Proposed by the Committee on Education–c

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

AN ACT relative to requiring student identification cards to include the helpline for the National Alliance for Eating Disorders and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following and renumbering the original section 3 to read as 4:

3 Public School Identification Cards; 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Amend RSA 193-J:2-a to read as follows:

193-J:2-a Public School Identification Cards.

I. Each school district and chartered public school that serves any students in grades 6 through 12 that issues student identification cards shall include on either side of the cards the telephone number for the [~~National Suicide Prevention~~] ***988 Suicide and Crisis*** Lifeline.

II. The requirement in paragraph I shall apply to any student identification card issued for the first time or for replacement cards issued for damaged or lost student identification cards after the effective date of this section.

III. Public schools and charter schools issuing student identification cards pursuant to this section shall annually and prior to the start of each school year certify to their respective governing bodies that the contact information being included on student identification cards for the [~~National Suicide Prevention~~] ***988 Suicide and Crisis*** Lifeline is accurate and up to date.

IV. The [~~National Suicide Prevention~~] ***988 Suicide and Crisis*** Lifeline shall be labeled on student identification cards [~~and include the telephone number: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 or 988~~] ***to read: Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call 988***.

2024-0403h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires student identification cards for students in grades 6-12 to include the helpline for the National Alliance for Eating Disorders. This bill also replaces the reference to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on student identification cards with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Amendment to HB 1118
(2024-0637h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Transportation–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Drivers' Licenses; Nonresident Aliens. Amend RSA 263:39-a to read as follows:

263:39-a License for Aliens Temporarily Residing in New Hampshire.

I. ***Notwithstanding RSA 263:40-a,*** the director may issue a New Hampshire driver's license to a nonresident alien who is living in New Hampshire on a temporary basis:

(a) For the purposes of attending a public or private educational institution which has a regular faculty, curriculum, and organized body of pupils or students in attendance and is enrolled in such education institution;

(b) For the purposes of engaging in lawful employment, occupational, or business activity, and is engaged in such activity; or

(c) Who is the spouse or child of an alien licensed under this section.

II. The director [~~may~~] ***shall*** require [~~any of~~] the following:

(a) Certification from the foreign government regarding the person's driving record and licensing status***, or proof of previous vehicle operation in the foreign country or proof of completion of an approved driver education course acceptable to the director, or written or other testing;***

(b) Submission of social security number, or, if the person does not qualify for such a number, the submission of certification to that effect as is acceptable to the commissioner[~~.~~]***;***

[~~(c) Written or other testing~~.

~~(d)~~]***(c)*** Proof of compliance with the conditions set forth in paragraph I[~~.~~]***; and***

[~~(e)~~]***(d)*** Proof of identification as may be acceptable to the director.

[~~(f) Proof of previous vehicle operation in the foreign country or proof of completion of an approved driver education course acceptable to the director.~~]

II-a. A driver's license issued to a nonresident alien under this section shall not be considered valid identification of identity or residence for state voter registration or any other purpose related to local, state, or federal voting.

III. The term of the license shall be no longer than 5 years from the date of issuance, and the director may set a lesser term in accordance with the length of the person's residence in New Hampshire.

IV. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the director from denying a license if the director determines that licensure of the person may be contrary to the public safety. Once licensed, the individual shall be subject to the same provisions of the law as all other licensees. When the person no longer meets the conditions specified in paragraph I, the person shall forthwith return the license to the director and the license shall become invalid.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 4:

2 New Section; Driver's License Issuance to Nonresident Aliens: Asylees and Refugees. Amend RSA 263 by inserting after section 263:39-b the following new section:

263:39-c Driver's License Issuance to Nonresident Alien Asylees and Refugees. Notwithstanding RSA 263:39-a, the commissioner shall not issue a driver's license to a person granted refugee or asylee status by United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) until that person's application for adjustment of status to be a lawful permanent resident of the United States has been granted, regardless of any prior employment authorization.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

3 New Paragraph; Form of License; Nonresident Aliens. Amend RSA 263:40 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Nonresident alien drivers' licenses issued pursuant to RSA 263:39-a shall bear the name, address, date of birth, gender indicated as "M" for "male," "F" for "female," or "X" for "other," organ donor status (optional), picture, and signature of the applicant. The driver's license card shall bear a marking indicating that it is a nonresident alien driver's license.

2024-0637h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill further delineates requirements regarding issuance of nonresident alien drivers' licenses.

Amendment to HB 1125
(2024-0784h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Municipal and County Government–r

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

1 New Section; County Commissioner and Delegation Meetings; Public Notice and Comment. Amend RSA 91:A by inserting after section 2-b the following new section:

91-A:2-c County Commissioner and Delegation Meetings; Public Notice and Comment.

I. In addition to all requirements set forth in RSA 91-A:2, county commissions and delegations shall allow public comment from county residents during a period specified by the chair of the delegation.

II. Any person who resides in the county for which the meeting is being held shall be permitted, within the parameters of this section, to participate in public comment session as designated by the chair. Every county resident wishing to provide spoken comment at a meeting shall be granted at least 3 minutes to speak. The allotted time for comment shall be the same for every person. No person shall ask questions of any commission or delegation member.

III. Notice for all non-emergency county commission and delegation meetings shall be posted as required in RSA 91-A:2.

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

Floor Amendment to HB 1125
(2024- 0854h)
Proposed by Rep. Stavus –r

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

1 New Section; County Commissioner and Delegation Meetings; Public Notice and Comment. Amend RSA 91:A by inserting after section 2-b the following new section:

91-A:2-c County Commissioner and Delegation Meetings; Public Notice and Comment.

I. In addition to all requirements set forth in RSA 91-A:2, county commissions and delegations shall allow public comment from county residents during a period specified by the chair of the delegation.

II. Any person who resides in the county for which the meeting is being held shall be permitted, within the parameters of this section, to participate in public comment session as designated by the chair. Every county resident wishing to provide spoken comment at a meeting shall be granted at least 3 minutes to speak. The allotted time for comment shall be the same for every person.

III. Notice for all non-emergency county commission and delegation meetings shall be posted as required in RSA 91-A:2.

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

Amendment to HB 1142
(2024-0653h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development–r

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

AN ACT relative to eligibility for permits for the septic system designer program.

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

1 Sewage Disposal Systems; Permit Eligibility; Exemption. Amend RSA 485-A:35, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) All applications, plans, and specifications submitted in accordance with this chapter for subsurface sewage or waste disposal systems shall be prepared and signed by the individual who is directly responsible for them and who has a permit issued by the department to perform the work. The department shall issue a permit to any individual who applies to the department, pays a fee of $80, and demonstrates a sound working knowledge of the procedures and practices required in the site evaluation, design, and operation of subsurface sewage or waste disposal systems. The department shall require an oral or written examination or both to determine who may qualify for a permit. ***Individuals who do not pass the examination shall be required to demonstrate additional training in the trade of septic system design to be eligible to take the examination again.*** Permits shall be issued from January 1 and shall expire December 31 of every other year, subject to the grace periods specified in subparagraphs (c) and (d). Permits shall be renewable upon proper application, payment of a biennial permit fee of $80, and documentation of compliance with the continuing education requirement of subparagraph (b). A permit issued to any individual may be suspended, revoked or not renewed only for just cause and after the permit holder has had a full opportunity to be heard by the department. An appeal from a decision to revoke, suspend, or not renew a permit may be taken pursuant to RSA 541. All fees shall be deposited in the subsurface systems fund established in RSA 485-A:30, I-b.

2 New Paragraph; Rulemaking; Permitted Septic System Designer Program. Amend RSA 485-A:35 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the administration of the permitted septic system designer program.

3 System Installer Permit. Amend RSA 485-A:36, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) No individual shall engage in the business of installing subsurface sewage or waste disposal systems under this subdivision without first obtaining an installer's permit from the department. The permit holder shall be responsible for installing the subsurface sewage or waste disposal system in strict accordance with the approved plan. The department shall issue an installer's permit to any individual who submits an application provided by the department, pays a fee of $80 and demonstrates a sound working knowledge of RSA 485-A:29-35 and the ability to read approved waste disposal plans. The department shall require an oral or written examination or both to determine who may qualify for an installer's permit. ***Individuals who do not pass the examination shall be required to demonstrate additional training in the trade of septic system installation to be eligible to take the examination again.*** Permits shall be issued from January 1 and shall expire December 31 of every other year. Permits shall be renewable upon proper application, payment of a biennial permit fee of $80, and documentation of compliance with the continuing education requirement of subparagraph (b). The installer's permit may be suspended, revoked or not renewed for just cause, including, but not limited to, the installation of waste disposal systems in violation of this subdivision or the refusal by a permit holder to correct defective work. The department shall not suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a permit except for just cause until the permit holder has had an opportunity to be heard by the department. An appeal from such decision to revoke, suspend or not renew a permit may be taken pursuant to RSA 21-O:14. All fees shall be deposited in the subsurface systems fund established in RSA 485-A:30, I-b.

4 New Paragraph; Rulemaking; Permitted Septic System Installer Program. Amend RSA 485-A:36 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the administration of the permitted septic system installer program.

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

2024-0653h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires individuals who do not pass the sewage or waste disposal system installer permit examination to demonstrate additional training in the trade of septic system installation to be eligible to take the examination again.

Amendment to HB 1171
(2024-0213h)
Proposed by the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–c

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following and renumbering the original section 3 to read as 5:

3 Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness Reestablished. Amend RSA 126-A:73-a, III(a)(11) through (15) to read as follows:

[~~(11) Reviewing results of stages 1, 2 and 3 of the pilot study recommended by the previous commission established by 2017, 166 and identifying changes to subparagraphs (8), and further identify items in (9) and (10).~~]

[~~(12)~~] ***(11)*** Identifying technology system changes necessary to carry out the charge of the commission.

[~~(13)~~] ***(12)*** Collaborating with the National Institutes of Health, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop protocols for the department of health and human services to educate and provide guidelines for physicians and other advanced health care practitioners to identify and evaluate appropriate diagnostic screening tests to assess health effects from exposure to emerging contaminants.

[~~(14)~~] ***(13)*** Collaborating with the National Institutes of Health, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop protocols for programs to streamline education and outreach to health care providers about how to implement the guidelines specified in subparagraph [~~(13)~~] ***(12)***. The protocols shall include education relative to methods to reduce further exposures and to eliminate the contaminants, if effective methods are available.

[~~(15)~~] ***(14)*** Recommending legislation, as necessary, to carry out the charge of the commission.

4 Data Sharing Between the Department of Environmental Services and the Department of Health and Human Services. Amend RSA 126-A:76, III to read as follows:

III. On or before September 1, 2019, and [~~at a minimum~~] every year thereafter, the commissioners of the department of environmental services and the department of health and human services shall submit a report regarding the data sharing practices required under paragraph I to the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the state library, the commission on the environmental and public health impacts of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances, established in RSA 126-A:79-a, and the commission to study environmentally-triggered chronic illness.

Amendment to HB 1194
(2024- 0809h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Immunization; Definition of Noncommunicable Disease. Amend RSA 141-C:20-a, III to read as follows:

III. Nothing in this section shall require an immunization/vaccination requirement for diseases that are noncommunicable***, other than tetanus***. Noncommunicable disease means a disease that is not [~~infectious or~~] transmissible from person-to-person.

Amendment to HB 1197
(2024-0597h)
Proposed by the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety–c

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

1 Purpose.

I. New Hampshire has several state laws that require a national Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) record check for certain employees and volunteers. These requests are processed through the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact (the "compact") adopted by the general court pursuant to RSA 106-B:14, III(a).

II. All CHRI record check requests must be submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI requires that all requests submitted to it must be processed and transmitted by authorized law enforcement agencies.

III. Pursuant to RSA 106-B:14, III(c), the commissioner of the department of safety is responsible for administering and implementing the compact on behalf of the state and may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, with respect to non-criminal (e.g., employment and volunteer) purposes. All requests for CHRI record checks for non-criminal purposes require that the applicant submit a release form and a complete set of fingerprints.

IV. Fingerprint images are captured by one of two methods:

(a) By applying ink to the fingers and the impressions placed on a fingerprint card; or,

(b) By digital capture via a LiveScan device.

V. Capturing fingerprint impressions by LiveScan device is the preferred method as it is the most accurate way to capture fingerprint impressions. The LiveScan device will capture both fingerprint images and demographic information and electronically transmit that data to the New Hampshire department of safety, criminal records unit, for further processing. The New Hampshire department of safety, criminal records unit, reviews, processes and transmits all CHRI requests to the FBI.

VI. Under current New Hampshire state statutes, for most employment and volunteer positions, all applicants requiring a CHRI initiate the criminal background check process through the government agency overseeing those positions (school board, licensing board, etc.). At their state agency, applicants complete a CHRI request form, pay the appropriate fee and receive a fingerprint card or instructions on being fingerprinted by a LiveScan device. The applicant is then responsible for making arrangements to be fingerprinted and returning either the inked fingerprint card or the LiveScan form received from the LiveScan operator

to the applicant's state agency. Under current state statutes, fingerprints must be taken by a "qualified law enforcement agency or an authorized employee of the department of safety." Even in situations where fingerprints can be taken by other entities (for example by school district administrators for school district positions), all CHRI record checks must currently either submit all required documentation by mail to the criminal records unit for further processing by them, or direct individuals to one of seven LiveScan device sites and one mobile facility around the state maintained by the department of safety.

VII. When an CHRI record check has been completed by the FBI, the FBI sends its results back to the New Hampshire department of safety's criminal record unit. The criminal record unit then notifies the applicant's state agency. That agency then notifies the entity wishing to hire that applicant. In no circumstances are the results of a CHRI record check request provided to any non-governmental entity.

VIII. These CHRI record checks are required by New Hampshire statute to protect the public. However, New Hampshire is facing a workforce crisis, and it has become increasingly difficult to fill in a timely manner many of the positions where these national CHRI record checks are required.

(a) For school district positions, RSA 189:13-a already provides that a complete set of fingerprints may be taken by a qualified law enforcement agency or an authorized employee of the school administrative unit, school district, chartered public school, or public academy. RSA 361-A:2 also provides that a complete set of fingerprints may be taken by a qualified law enforcement agency or an authorized employee of the banking department for banking industry employees requiring a CHRI record check.

(b) However, only law enforcement agencies and the New Hampshire department of safety are authorized to take finger prints for a large number of other positions and the department of safety currently maintains only seven applicant LiveScan device sites and one mobile facility around the state. This creates significant backlogs. Candidates for a position are accepting other positions before the national CHRI record checks can be completed and volunteers are often required to complete multiple background checks when volunteering in multiple jurisdictions.

(c) Positions currently requiring a national CHRI record check fall under the purview of the following New Hampshire state departments:

(1) New Hampshire department of education.
(2) New Hampshire banking department.
(3) New Hampshire department of health and human services.
(4) New Hampshire department of safety.
(5) New Hampshire department of revenue administration.
(6) New Hampshire office of professional licensure and certification.
(7) New Hampshire lottery commission and charitable gaming commission.

(d) In addition, there are numerous municipal and county positions that also require a national CHRI record check.

IX. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that national CHRI record checks for employment and volunteer positions currently noted in statute are still appropriate and, where appropriate, those record checks are completed as expeditiously as possible.

2 Department of Revenue Administration; General Provisions; Background Checks. Amend RSA 21-J:3-a, II to read as follows:

II. A candidate for employment in a position in the department or a current employee required by the commissioner to submit to a background investigation and a criminal history records check shall submit to the commissioner a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the release of the person's criminal records, if any. The candidate or employee shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a ***qualified*** law enforcement agency***, an authorized employee of the department of safety, or an authorized employee of the department of revenue administration, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety*** [~~as directed by the commissioner~~]. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern and a second set of fingerprints is necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check, any conditional offer of employment shall remain in effect. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the commissioner may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where a candidate or employee has lived during the past 5 years.

3 Department of Safety; General Provisions; Employee Candidate Background Checks. Amend RSA 21-P:15-c, II to read as follows:

II. A candidate for employment in a position which the commissioner determines requires a background investigation and a criminal history records check shall submit to the department a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the release of the person's criminal records, if any. The candidate shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a ***qualified*** law enforcement agency ***or an authorized employee of the department of safety, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety*** [~~as directed by the commissioner~~]. In the event that

the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern and a second set of fingerprints is necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check, the conditional offer of employment shall remain in effect. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the department may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where a candidate has lived during the past 5 years.

4 County Commissioners; Employee Candidate Background Checks. Amend RSA 28:10-c, II to read as follows:

II. A candidate for employment in a position that the county commissioners determine requires a background investigation and a criminal history records check shall submit to the county a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the release of the person's criminal records, if any. The candidate shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a ***qualified*** law enforcement agency***, an authorized employee of the department of safety, or an authorized employee of the county, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety*** [~~as directed by the county commissioners~~]. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern and a second set of fingerprints is necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check, the conditional offer of employment shall remain in effect. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the county may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where a candidate has lived during the past 5 years.

5 Powers and Duties of Towns; Miscellaneous; Background Checks for Certain Vendors. Amend RSA 31:102-b, II to read as follows:

II. For a state and federal criminal records check, the municipality shall request that such person submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency***,*** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the department of safety***, or an authorized employee of the municipality, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety***. The municipality shall submit the criminal history records release form and inked fingerprint card to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Fingerprints taken digitally by Live Scan or similar device shall be transmitted directly to the New Hampshire division of state police. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the municipality may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 10 years. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the local law enforcement agency of the municipality which shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this section. The municipality may charge a fee to recover the costs of such investigation.

6 Choice and Duties of Town Officers; Selectmen; Employee Candidate Background Checks. Amend RSA 41:9-b, II to read as follows:

II. A candidate for employment in a position which the governing body or town manager determines requires a background investigation and a criminal history records check shall submit to the town a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the release of the person's criminal records, if any. The candidate shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a ***qualified*** law enforcement agency***, an authorized employee of the department of safety, or an authorized employee of the municipality, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety*** [~~as directed by the governing body or town manager~~]. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern and a second set of fingerprints is necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check, the conditional offer of employment shall remain in effect. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the town may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where a candidate has lived during the past 5 years.

7 Use of Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes; Alternative Treatment Centers; Requirements. Amend RSA 126-X:8, IV-a(a) to read as follows:

(a) A person applying to be an alternative treatment center agent shall submit directly to the department of safety a criminal history records release form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, authorizing the release of any felony convictions to the department. The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of electronic fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency***,*** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the department of safety***, or an authorized employee of the department of health and human services, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety***. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid for whatever reason, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the department may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances showing no felony convictions from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years. The division of state police shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records

and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall report to the department whether or not there are any felony convictions. The department shall maintain the confidentiality of criminal history record information received pursuant to this section. The applicant shall bear the cost of a criminal history records check.

8 Nursing Home Administrators; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 151-A:6-a, II to read as follows:

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

9 Residential Care and Child-Placing Agency Licensing; State Registry and Criminal Records Check for Child Care Institutions and Child Care Agencies. Amend RSA 170-E:29-a, I-a to read as follows:

I-a. The persons described in paragraph I shall [~~complete a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the biometric identification system through~~] ***submit a complete set of fingerprints taken by*** a qualified law enforcement agency**,** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the [~~division of state police,~~] department of safety***, or an authorized employee of the department of health and human services, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety,*** and authorize the release of the person's criminal records, if any, to the department. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the department may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

10 Games of Chance; Background and Criminal Records Checks. Amend RSA 287-D:12, III to read as follows:

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

11 State Licensed or Certified Real Estate Appraisers; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 310-B:6-a to read as follows:

II. The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency**,** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the [~~office~~] ***department*** of safety***, or an authorized employee of the office of professional licensure and certification, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety***. The office shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the office may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, conduct the national background check based on personal information.

12 Dentists and Dentistry; Examinations and Licenses; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 317-A:8-a, II to read as follows:

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

13 Nurse Practice Act; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 326-B:15, II to read as follows:

II. The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency**,** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the department of safety***, or an authorized employee of the office of professional licensure and certification, approved by the commissioner of the***

department of safety. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the board may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

14 Physician Assistants; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 328-D:3-a, II to read as follows:

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

15 Naturopathic Health Care Practice; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 328-E:9-a, II to read as follows:

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

16 Allied Health Professionals; Licensing Provisions; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 328-F:18-a, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency**,** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the department of safety***, or an authorized employee of the office of professional licensure and certification, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety***. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the office of professional licensure and certification may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances.

17 Board of Registration of Medical Technicians; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 328-I:7, II to read as follows:

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

18 Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 328-J:7-a, I(a) to read as follows:

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

19 Physicians and Surgeons; Examinations and Licenses; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 329:11-a, II to read as follows:

II. The applicant shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency**,** [~~or~~] an authorized employee of the department of safety***, or an authorized employee of the office of professional licensure and certification, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety***. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be necessary in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after

2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the board may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

20 Psychologists; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 329-B:14-a, II to read as follows:

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

21 Mental Health Practice; Processing License Applications; Criminal History Record Check. Amend RSA 330-A:15-a, III to read as follows:

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

22 Alcohol and Other Drug Use Professionals; Criminal Record Checks. Amend RSA 330-C:20, II to read as follows:

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

23 Assistance and Documentation Required.

I. The department of safety shall provide each agency listed in sections 2 through 22 of this act with documentation and guidelines to follow when taking and transmitting a complete set of fingerprints within 120 days after the effective date of this act.

II. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this act, each of the state agencies identified in sections 2 through 22 of this act shall develop and communicate procedures that it will follow in order to assist any public (local, county, or state) agency or authority or private or non-profit entity that falls under its purview and which by statue is required to obtain a criminal history record check as a condition of employment or volunteer service.

24 New Section; The State Police; Multi-Agency Task Force Established. Amend RSA 106-B by inserting after section 14-c the following new section:

106-B:14-d Multi-Agency Task force Established.

I. There is established a multi-agency task force to study the need for Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) record checks for employment and volunteer positions in the state of New Hampshire.

II. The task force shall:

(a) Conduct a review of all employment and volunteer positions referenced in statue where an FBI CHRI record check is currently required.

(b) Recommend whether such record checks will continue to be required.

(c) Identify any new positions where an FBI CHRI record check is currently not required but where it should be.

(d) Identify other additional specific steps and recommendations that should be taken to ensure that employment related FBI CHRI record checks are processed as expeditiously as possible. These recommendations may include among other things:

(1) Developing and promulgating secure processes and procedures to facilitate the electronic transfers of all CHRI record check requests between public and private entities employing individuals where a CHRI record check is required, the public agencies having statutory oversight of those positions, and the New Hampshire department of safety criminal records unit.

(2) The purchase and deployment of additional software, hardware, and equipment to public and private entities involved in the hiring and/or processing and review of individuals where a CHRI record check is required.

(3) Hiring additional staff, providing additional training, and/or outreach to all affected state, county, and local entities on what the most expeditious way to process CHRI record check requests for employment will be going forward.

(e) Consult with other stakeholders such as the New Hampshire Municipal Association, New Hampshire Association of Counties, New Hampshire banking department, and New Hampshire School Administrators Association as appropriate to obtain their input.

III. The task force shall consist of the following members:

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

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

(c) The commissioner of the department of revenue administration, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

(e) The executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification, or designee.

(f) The commissioner of the lottery commission and charitable gaming commission, or designee.

IV. The task force shall be chaired by the commissioner of the department of safety or designee. The first meeting of the task force shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section.

V. The task force shall report its initial findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2024.

VI. The task force shall report its final findings and additional recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before September 1, 2025.

25 Repeal. RSA 106-B:14-d, relative to a multi-agency task force, is repealed.

26 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 through 23 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 2025.

II. Section 25 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2025.

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

Amendment to HB 1203
(2024-0682h)
Proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Games of Chance; Facilities. RSA 287-D:19 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

287-D:19 Facilities.

I. If a charitable organization operates games of chance itself, such games of chance shall be conducted within a facility that is:

(a) The charitable organization's primary meeting place; or

(b) Used by the charitable organization without payment or any compensation;

II. No rent for the use of a facility shall be charged by a game operator employer to a charitable organization.

III.(a) If a charitable organization contracts for services from a game operator employer licensed under RSA 287-D:8, the game operator employer shall provide equipment and shall not charge the charitable organization for such equipment.

(b) Any service agreement entered into by the charitable organization shall be submitted with the charitable organization's license application for review by the lottery commission.

(c) Under no circumstances shall a charitable organization sustain any loss from games of chance, such that its share of the gross revenues minus any prizes paid is less than zero dollars, during a license period with a single game operator.

(d) All contracts between a game operator employer and a charitable organization to conduct games of chance under this chapter shall contain the following language: "This agreement represents the entire agreement between the parties. No charge or fee of any kind that is not contained in this agreement shall be paid by the charity."

(e) No fee for any service which is required by or provided by the game operator employer or primary game operator shall be allowed.

(f) No charitable organization shall receive less than 35 percent of the gross revenues from any games of chance minus any prizes paid.

Amendment to HB 1213-FN
(2024-0810h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–r

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

AN ACT relative to immunization requirements for child care agencies.

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

1 Immunization; Optional for Child Care Agency. Amend RSA 141-C:20-a, II to read as follows:

II. No child shall be admitted or enrolled in any school [~~or child care agency, public or private~~], unless the following is demonstrated:

(a) Immunization under paragraph I;

(b) Partial immunization relative to the age of the child as specified in rules adopted by the commissioner; or

(c) Exemption under RSA 141-C:20-c.

2 Records. Amend RSA 141-C:20-b, II to read as follows:

II. Schools [~~and child care agencies~~] shall keep immunization records for all enrolled children. Such records shall be available for inspection during reasonable hours upon request by the commissioner or his designee.

3 Immunization Reports. Amend RSA 141-C:20-e to read as follows:

141-C:20-e Immunization Reports. Schools [~~and child care agencies, whether public or private,~~] shall make an annual report to the commissioner relative to the status of immunization of all enrolled children.

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

2024-0810h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes the immunization requirements for child care agencies.

Amendment to HB 1220-FN
(2024-0415h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Judiciary–r

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

AN ACT relative to statistical information collected on the marital application worksheet.

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

1 Vital Records; Marriage Registration Form; Race and Ancestry. Amend RSA 5-C:41, III to read as follows:

III. The clerk of the town or city shall complete the following statistical and legal information on the marriage application worksheet for both the bride and groom with information supplied by the bride and groom: the number which represents of the currently intended marriage; if previously married, whether a civil annulment occurred or the marriage ended by death or divorce; the date of civil annulment or that the last marriage ended; [~~their race and ancestry; their level of education;~~] any waivers presented by the groom or the bride, either for time or age pursuant to RSA 457:4 through RSA 457:9 or RSA 457:26 and RSA 457:27; whether proof of age of the bride and groom was demonstrated using identification with photograph; if applicable, the divorce decree; and, if applicable, the death record of the former spouse.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

2024-0415h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill abolishes the collection of data regarding race, ancestry, and education for use in a marital application worksheet.

Floor Amendment to HB 1220
(2024- 0793h)
Proposed by Rep. Perez–r

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

AN ACT abolishing the collection of racial and educational data for use in a marital application worksheet.

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

1 Vital Records; Marriage Registration Form; Race and Education. Amend RSA 5-C:41, III to read as follows:

III. The clerk of the town or city shall complete the following statistical and legal information on the marriage application worksheet for both the bride and groom with information supplied by the bride and groom: the number which represents of the currently intended marriage; if previously married, whether a civil annulment occurred or the marriage ended by death or divorce; the date of civil annulment or that the

last marriage ended; [~~their race and ancestry; their level of education;~~] any waivers presented by the groom or the bride, either for time or age pursuant to RSA 457:4 through RSA 457:9 or RSA 457:26 and RSA 457:27; whether proof of age of the bride and groom was demonstrated using identification with photograph; if applicable, the divorce decree; and, if applicable, the death record of the former spouse.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

2024-0793h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill abolishes the collection of racial and educational data for use in a marital application worksheet.

Amendment to HB 1235
(2024-0646h)
Proposed by the Committee on Education–c

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

1 High School Student as School Board Member. Amend RSA 194:23-f, IV(a) to read as follows:

(a) Attending [~~all~~] school board meetings except as specified in paragraph V;

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

2024-0646h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the requirement that high school student school board members attend all school board meetings.

Amendment to HB 1254-LOCAL
(2024-0681h)
Proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means–r

Amend RSA 353:11, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. The legislative body of a municipality may vote to collect a public safety assessment on each occupancy, as defined in RSA 78-A:3, XI, of each hotel, as defined in RSA 78-A:3, VII, for the purpose of establishing funding for municipal services as described in paragraph II. No occupant shall be charged for more than 30 days during a single visit. Under this section:

(a) "Hotel" means inns, motels, lodging homes, rooming houses, boarding houses, and hostels; and

(b) "Occupant" means the same as defined under RSA 78-A:3, XII.

Amend RSA 353:11 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. As authorized by the legislative body vote, the fee may be collected as a daily charge of up to $2 per occupancy per 24-hour period, or as a percentage of the price of the occupancy, provided that the rate shall not exceed $2 per occupancy per 24-hour period. If the average daily price of the occupancy does not exceed $40, the occupancy fee shall not be collected. The vote by the legislative body shall specify the number of consecutive days to which the occupancy fee applies, provided that the maximum number of consecutive days for which the fee may be collected for each occupancy shall not exceed 30 days. Enforcement powers for nonpayment shall be the same as those provided under RSA 31:39-c, RSA 31:39-d, and RSA 47:17-B, relative to enforcement of ordinances.

Amendment to HB 1263-FN
(2024-0476h)
Proposed by the Committee on Children and Family Law–r

Amend RSA 461-A:6-a, II(d) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) Participate in 24 hours of training in fields related to the developmental stages of children, the dynamics of high conflict families, the stages and effects of divorce, problem solving techniques, mediation, domestic violence, and legal issues.

Amend RSA 461-A:6-a, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. The appointed parenting coordinator shall disclose to each party, the attorneys of record, and the court any familial, financial, or social relationship that the appointed person has or has had with the child, either party, the attorneys of record, or the judicial officer and, if a relationship exists, the nature of the relationship. A party shall have 7 days from the date of the disclosure to object to the appointment based upon information contained in the disclosure. If a party objects to the appointment, the court shall appoint a different person within 7 days after the date of the party's objection. If no party timely objects to the appointment, then the appointment shall be deemed confirmed.

Amendment to HB 1302
(2024-0505h)
Proposed by the Committee on Municipal and County Government–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Composition of Conservation Commission. Amend RSA 36-A:3 to read as follows:

36-A:3 Composition of Commission.

I. The commission shall consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 members ***as determined by the local legislative body***. In a town which has a planning board, one member of the commission may also be on the planning board. In a city which has a planning board, one member of the commission may be on the planning board. In cities, the members of the commission shall be appointed by the mayor subject to the provisions of the city charter, and in towns the members of the commission shall be appointed by the selectmen***, or elected as provided in paragraph II.*** Alternate members may be appointed in a like manner and when the alternate serves in the absence or disqualification of a regular member, the alternate shall have full voting powers. When a commission is first established, terms of the members shall be for one, 2, or 3 years, and so arranged that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed***, or elected in a town that has adopted the provisions of paragraph II,*** for terms of 3 years each. Any member of a commission so appointed may, after a public hearing, if requested, be removed for cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment***, or according to paragraph IV if the commission is elected***. Members of a conservation commission shall be residents of the city or town which they represent. Members of a conservation commission also may serve on other municipal boards and commissions, including, but not limited to a historic district commission established under RSA 673:4, and a heritage commission established under RSA 673:4-a.

II. The local legislative body of a town may decide, by majority vote at the town meeting, that commission members shall be elected according to either the procedure in subparagraph (a) or in subparagraph (b). The official ballot shall be used on every referendum for the adoption of elected members under subparagraphs (a) or (b), and every subsequent rescission of such adoption pursuant to subparagraph (c). The wording on the official ballot of any referendum for the adoption of subparagraphs (a) or (b) shall specifically state which procedure for electing commission members is being voted upon. Following the majority vote at town meeting, commission members shall be elected as follows:

(a) The commission positions shall be filled at the next regular town elections pursuant to RSA 669:17. Thereafter, a commission member shall be elected for the term provided under paragraph I; or

(b) The commission positions shall be filled on a staggered basis at the subsequent regular town elections pursuant to RSA 669:17 as the term of an appointed member expires, until each member of the commission is an elected member. When each commission member is an elected member, such member shall be elected for the term provided in paragraph I.

(c) A local legislative body which has voted to elect commission members may, by majority vote at town meeting, decide to rescind that action and have the commission appointed in the manner set forth in paragraph I. The vote to have commission members so appointed shall take effect upon adoption by the town meeting, and the selectmen shall forthwith appoint members in accordance with paragraph I. The commission shall, however, continue in existence, and the elected members in office at the time of town meeting vote to appoint members may continue to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.

III. An elected commission in a town may appoint alternate members up to the number of positions on the commission for a term of 3 years each, which shall be staggered in the same manner as elected members pursuant to paragraph I.

IV. An elected commission in a town, in the case of a member vacancy, shall appoint a member to serve until the next town election when the voters of the district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term. In the case of a vacancy of the entire membership of the commission, or if the remaining members are unable, by majority vote, to agree upon appointment, the selectmen shall appoint members by majority vote.

Amendment to HB 1308
(2024-0585h)
Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Children and Family Law–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 New Paragraph; Library User Records; Confidentiality; Access to Library Records of Minors. Amend RSA 201-D:11 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. All library records related to a minor's use of printed library materials and audio-visual materials, such as DVDs and CDs, shall be available to the parent or guardian of the minor when requested by the parent or legal guardian of record.

Amendment to HB 1318
(2024-0424h)
Proposed by the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission; Duties. Amend RSA 126-A:86, I(b)(16) and (17) to read as follows:

(16) Support for public and non-public school programs and services for students with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues or who have been affected by OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues within their family; [~~and~~]

(17) Support secondary and tertiary prevention through harm reduction programs[~~.~~]***;***

(18) Support medication assisted treatment (MAT) type services which support the pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical needs of patients with chronic pain, and/or those with pain who are in hospice and/or palliative care who have responded well to opioid therapy as defined in RSA 318-B:41, II(d)(7), yet have been subject to non-consensual dose reduction, detoxification, and/or abandonment by their providers; and

(19) Support services which increase access to comprehensive, integrative pain management services as an alternative to opioid therapy for those with acute and/or chronic pain and/or those with pain who are in hospice and/or palliative care.

Amendment to HB 1360
(2024-0492h)
Proposed by the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development–c

Amend RSA 270:12-a, VI(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) The commissioner of the department of safety may establish a safety and security zone***, including the establishment of a no wake zone for a period not to exceed 10 days due to weather or environmental conditions,*** on any public or coastal waters of the state in case of an emergency requiring prompt action.

2024-0492h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the department of safety to establish an emergency no wake zone on public and coastal waters for up to 10 days due to weather or environmental conditions.

Amendment to HB 1386-FN
(2024-0497h)
Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture–c

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

1 Refuse Reduction; Wet-Cell and Lithium-Ion Batteries. Amend RSA 149-M:27, II to read as follows:

II.[~~No wet-cell batteries shall be disposed of in a solid waste landfill facility or composting facility or incinerator, whether in a waste-to-energy facility or otherwise.~~]***(a) No person shall dispose of any wet-cell batteries, lithium-ion batteries, or electronic devices in any solid waste landfill facility or incinerator in New Hampshire.***

(b) Owners or operators of such facilities shall not be found to have knowingly disposed of wet-cell batteries, lithium-ion batteries, or electronic devices, if the facility has implemented mechanisms to avoid such disposal. These mechanisms shall include, at a minimum:

(1) Posting informational signs at the facility giving notice of the disposal prohibition; or

(2) Providing written notification to, or entering into agreements with, the facility's customers regarding the disposal prohibition.

(c) Municipalities, solid waste districts, and owners or operators of solid waste landfill facilities and incinerators shall make available educational materials on safe handling and recycling of wet-cell batteries, lithium-ion batteries, and electronic devices. Such entities should provide recycling opportunities for such batteries and devices, as possible.

2 Electronic Device; Definition. RSA 149-M:4, VIII-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

VIII-a.(a) "Electronic device" means computer, computer monitor, computer peripheral, printer, device containing a cathode ray tube, television, wireless telephones, copiers, fax machines, and video display device, video display media recorder/player, or any other electronic device specified by rule promulgated by the department.

(b) "Electronic device" does not include the following, unless removed from larger piece of equipment or appliance of which it is a part for recycling:

(1) Any motor vehicle or any component part of a motor vehicle, including replacement parts thereof.

(2) A device, including a touch screen display, that is functionally or physically part of a larger piece of equipment designed and intended for use in:

(A) Industrial, governmental, commercial or research and development settings;

(B) Security, sensing, border control or counterterrorism equipment;

(C) Monitoring, diagnostic or control equipment; or

(D) Commercial medical equipment that contains a video display device that is not separate from the larger piece of equipment.

(3) A device that is contained within a:

(A) Clothes washer or dryer;

(B) Refrigerator, freezer or refrigerator and freezer;

(C) Microwave over or conventional oven or range;

(D) Dishwasher;

(E) Room air conditioner, dehumidifier, or air purifier; or

(F) Exercise equipment.

3 Responsibilities and Authority of the Department. Amend RSA 149-M:6, VII-a to read as follows:

VII-a. Collect and prepare information regarding opportunities for citizens and businesses to recycle materials, including electronic ***devices*** [~~waste~~], and develop an outreach campaign to disseminate that information including, as appropriate, information on the department's website, brochures, posters, mailings and e-mailings, press releases, and other appropriate means of communication.

4 Definitions; Computer. RSA 149-M:4, IV-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

IV-b. "Computer" means a laptop computer, desktop computer, tablet computer, or central processing unit of a computer that conveys electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high-speed data processing device performing logical, arithmetic, storage functions. "Computer" does not include an automated typewriter, typesetter or other similar device.

5 New Paragraphs; Computers; Definitions. Amend RSA 149-M:4 by inserting after paragraph IV-b the following new paragraphs:

IV-c. "Computer monitor" means a display device without a tuner that can display pictures and sound and is used as a computer.

IV-d. "Computer peripheral" means a keyboard, mouse or any other device sold exclusively for external use with a computer that produces input or output into or from a computer.

6 Repeal. RSA 140-M:27, IV, relative to prohibited disposal, is repealed.

7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2024-0497h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the disposal of wet-cell and lithium-ion batteries and electronic devices in any solid waste landfill facility or incinerator in New Hampshire. The amendment also requires towns, solid waste districts and owners/operators of landfills and incinerators to make educational materials available on the prohibition.

Floor Amendment to HB 1392
(2024-0827h)
Proposed by Rep. Gibbons–r

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

1 Determination of Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Preference of a Mature Minor. Amend RSA 461-A:6, II to read as follows:

II. If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a minor child is of sufficient maturity to make a sound judgment, the court may give substantial weight to the preference of the mature minor child as to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities. Under these circumstances, the court shall also give due consideration to other factors which may have affected the minor child's preference, including whether the minor child's preference was based on undesirable or improper influences. ***If the child has a therapist and the therapist has an opinion relative to the minor's maturity to make a sound judgment and that opinion is shared with the court, the court shall give consideration to the therapist's input when determining whether the child is of sufficient maturity to make a sound judgment before determining the weight to give the child's preference as to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities. If the child does not have a personal therapist, but the child's school counselor has an opinion relative to the minor's maturity, the school counselor's opinion shall be considered by the court in the same manner as that of a therapist. With the consent of the parties, the judge may interview the child separately.***

2 Modification of Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Preference of a Mature Minor. Amend RSA 461-A:11, I(e) to read as follows:

(e) If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a minor child is of sufficient maturity to make a sound judgment, the court may give substantial weight to the preference of the mature minor child as to the parent with whom he or she wants to live. Under these circumstances, the court shall also give

due consideration to other factors which may have affected the minor child's preference, including whether the minor child's preference was based on undesirable or improper influences. ***If the child has a therapist and the therapist has an opinion relative to the minor's maturity to make a sound judgment and that opinion is shared with the court, the court shall give consideration to the therapist's input when determining whether the child is of sufficient maturity to make a sound judgment before determining the weight to give the child's preference as to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities. If the child does not have a personal therapist, but the child's school counselor has an opinion relative to the minor's maturity, the school counselor's opinion shall be considered by the court in the same manner as that of a therapist. With the consent of the parties, the judge may interview the child separately.***

Amendment to HB 1403
(2024- 0612h)
Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Transportation–r

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

AN ACT relative to temporary waivers for vehicle emission control equipment.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Motor Vehicles; Emission Control Equipment; Waiver Period Extended. Amend RSA 266:59-b, V to read as follows:

V. If a vehicle fails the EPA OBD II test and it passes all other inspection requirements under this chapter, then it shall be issued a temporary waiver that permits its operation for [~~60~~] ***120*** days from the date of issuance, in order to make required repairs. A vehicle shall be eligible for only one such waiver during its inspection cycle. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, that have the effect of establishing the broadest possible waivers for consumers consistent with 40 C.F.R. sections 51.350 through 51.373. It is the intent of the legislature to provide appropriate waivers to persons for whom the making of OBD II repairs would constitute economic hardship. The committee established in paragraph VII shall make recommendations for such waivers and the department shall consider such recommendations during the rulemaking process required by this paragraph.

2024-0612h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends the repair period for vehicles that fail the OBD II test to 120 days.

Amendment to HB 1431
(2024-0663h)
Proposed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy–c

Amend RSA 378:38, III - VI as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. An assessment of distribution infrastructure necessary to ensure a reliable and resilient electric system capable of meeting the forecasted customer demand.

IV. An assessment of potential non-wires solutions, consistent with the utility's non-wires alternative framework on file with the commission.

V. An assessment of the plan's integration and consistency with the state energy strategy authorized under RSA 12-P.

Amend RSA 378:39 - 378:40 as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

378:39 Submission of Integrated Gas Distribution Plans to the Commission. Each gas public utility, as defined by RSA 362:2, shall file an integrated gas distribution plan, which includes the utility's planning processes, standards and methodologies, that serve as the foundation to establish all the applicable programs necessary to improve cost effectiveness, reliability, and resilience, and to achieve the state energy policy of RSA 378:37. Plans must be filed with the commission within 5 years of the previous plan's approval. Such plans shall include:

I. A comprehensive forecast of 10-year gas demand for the utility's service area.

II. An assessment of demand-side energy management programs, including energy efficiency programs authorized by RSA 374-F:3, VI-a, and other energy efficiency, conservation, and load management programs, with the intent of maximizing the benefits of such programs.

III. An assessment of supply options including owned capacity, market procurements, and renewable energy.

IV. An assessment of infrastructure necessary to ensure a cost-effective, reliable, and resilient gas system capable of meeting the forecasted customer demand and the state energy policy of RSA 378:37.

V. An assessment of potential non-pipelines solutions.

VI. An assessment of the plan's integration and consistency with the state energy strategy authorized under RSA 12-P.

378:40 Integrated Distribution Plans Required; Commission Review.

I. The commission shall conduct an adjudicative proceeding for the purpose of reviewing an integrated distribution plan under this subdivision. For this purpose, the commission shall within 10 days of receiving such a plan, provide the public notice requires of such proceedings pursuant to RSA 541-A:31, III. The commission shall either approve, reject, or modify the plan in no more than one year after the plan is filed. Should the commission reject a plan it will provide sufficient specificity as to how the plan does not meet the requirements of this statute and give the utility adequate opportunity to remedy the plan. The utility will have 3 months to amend and resubmit the plan for approval, and the commission shall approve, reject, or modify the amended plan within four weeks of resubmission. This process using this timing will repeat until a plan is approved. Until the new plan is approved the previously approved plan will remain in effect.

II. The commission, by order, may waive for good cause any requirement of this subdivision upon written request by a utility.

378:41 Standard for Approval. The commission shall after notice and hearing accept and approve an integrated distribution plan upon a finding that the plan satisfies the requirements set forth in RSA 378:38.

Amendment to HB 1437
(2024-0666h)
Proposed by the Committee on Education–r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 State Board of Education. Amend RSA 21-N:10, I-III to read as follows:

21-N:10 State Board of Education.

I. There is hereby established the state board of education consisting of [~~7~~] ***11*** members ***and one non-voting member*** who shall serve without pay [~~and shall not be technical educators or professionally engaged in school work~~]. The members shall be paid for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties out of moneys appropriated for the department of education.

II. The education committee of the house of representatives or the education committee of the senate may, by majority vote of its members, propose areas of study to the board, which shall be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the board for its consideration and response.

III. The governor [~~and~~]***, with the consent of the executive*** council***,*** shall appoint the members of the board. Five of the members shall be selected one each from the 5 executive [~~councilor~~] ***council*** districts***,*** [~~and~~] 2 members shall be selected from the public at large***, 1 retired public school classroom teacher, 2 parents of current public school students, 1 member from the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, and 1 student as a non-voting member who serves or has served on a public school board shall be selected***. Terms of office of members shall be for [~~4~~] ***3*** years from the January 31 on which the terms of their predecessors expired. Annually, on or before January 31, the governor shall name a member of the board who shall serve as chairperson for one year and until a successor is appointed. No member of the board shall serve more than [~~3~~] ***2*** consecutive full terms.

Amendment to HB 1525
(2024-0711h)
Proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Pari-Mutuel Pools on Historic Horse Races; Licensed Facilities; Eligible in 2024. RSA 284:22-b, II is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

II. A game operator employer licensed under RSA 287-D licensed after July 1, 2024 may sell pari-mutuel pools on historic horse races provided the licensee's application was received by the lottery commission prior to October 18, 2023 and was deemed eligible for a game operator employer license by the commission, and provided such sales are within the enclosure of the facility at which the licensee holds its licensed activities under RSA 287-D. A licensee seeking to offer wagers on historic horse races shall apply for a license pursuant to RSA 284. An application that is approved by the lottery commission, and a license that is granted shall not be permitted to be transferred or sold. A game operator employer whose application was received by the commission prior to October 18, 2023 and was deemed eligible for a game operator employer license by the commission shall be eligible for licensure to sell pari-mutuel pools on historic horse races in the municipality where the licensee held said license.

Amendment to HB 1550
(2024-0651h)
Proposed by the Committee on Transportation–c

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

1 New Paragraph; Rules of the Road; Speed Limitations; Alteration of Limits. Amend RSA 265:63 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI.(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I and RSA 265:60, II, or any other law to the contrary, the governing body of a municipality, or its designee, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, may act on its own, or in response to a petition of at least 10 residents of that municipality, to reduce any prima facie speed limit to provide reasonable and safe conditions upon any part of the highway system in that municipality that is seasonally congested by pedestrian or bicycle traffic.

(b) The resident petition submitted to the governing body of the municipality, or its designee, for the municipality's assessment of a seasonal speed limit request shall designate the area of the highway system to be affected and the reasons for the reduction in the speed limit request. The municipality, or designee, may recommend a seasonal decrease in the posted prima facie speed limit based upon an assessment in response to a resident petition, and upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation.

(c) There shall be only one seasonal speed limit permitted, but in no case shall the seasonal speed limit be less than 20 miles per hour, or exceed a maximum duration of 4 months, in any 12-month period.

(d) A municipality may specify the time of day when the reduced seasonal speed limit would be in effect.

(e) A municipality, or designee, approving a seasonal speed limit shall bear the cost of signage. The design, construction, and installation of any seasonal signage shall be approved by the commissioner of the department of transportation.

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

Amendment to HB 1600-FN
(2024-0764h)
Proposed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy–c

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

1 New Paragraph; Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities and Counties; Regulation. Amend RSA 53-E:4 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. When a municipal host, as defined in RSA 362-A:1-a, II-c, consents to use its generation to offset the group load of a municipal or county aggregation, and not one or more individual retail customer accounts, then it shall be a customer of a municipal or county aggregation and not on utility default service, with compensation for their output made pursuant to RSA 362-A:9, II.

2 Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities and Counties; Regulation; Reference Change. Amend RSA 53-E:4, VI to read as follows:

VI. Municipal or county aggregations shall be subject to RSA 363:38 as service providers and individual customer data shall be treated as confidential private information and shall not be subject to public disclosure under RSA 91-A. An approved aggregation may use individual customer data to comply with the provisions of RSA 53-E:7, [H] ***III*** and for research and development of potential new energy services to offer to customer participants.

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

2024-0764h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that when a municipal host offsets the group load of a municipal or county aggregation, rather than individual customer accounts, then it shall be considered a customer of the municipal or county aggregation and compensated for its output.

Amendment to HB 1604-FN
(2024-0728h)
Proposed by the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–c

Amend RSA 332-I:14, II - III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. No public or private health carrier governed by state law and when there is no conflict with federal law shall:

(a) Require a health care provider to use an EMR.

(b) Withhold any portion of a provider's fee for not using an EMR.

(c) Require any specific format of EMR.

(d) Require any specific information in the EMR other than certain demographic information required to identify the patient, the purpose of the health care interaction, and treatment rendered.

2024-0728h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits health carriers from requiring that providers use electronic medical records.

Amendment to HB 1620-FN
(2024-0738h)
Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Solid Waste Management; Department of Environmental Services; Applications for New Landfills Suspended. In order to ensure that any new landfills are sited properly, meet the need of public benefit, and are aligned with New Hampshire's solid waste goals, the statutory process for issuing permits for the construction of a new landfill under RSA 149-M:9 are hereby suspended until July 1, 2028. The department shall continue to accept and investigate applications, provided that any time frames for required action by the department under RSA 149-M are also suspended.

2024-0738h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the suspension of approval of new landfill permits by the department of environmental services until 2028.

Amendment to HB 1623-FN
(2024- 0782h)
Proposed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy–r

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

1 Findings. The general court finds that:

I. Affordable, reliable, and secure energy resources are important to the health, safety, and welfare of the state's citizens.

II. The state has created an environment hospitable to the investment of substantial resources for the development of affordable, reliable, and secure energy resources within the state.

III. The early involuntary retirement or decommissioning of an in-state electric generation facility that provides affordable, reliable, and secure energy poses a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the state's citizens.

IV. The state's police powers, reserved to the state by the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, provide the state with sovereign authority to make and enforce laws for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the state's citizens.

V. The state has a duty to defend the production and supply of affordable, reliable, and secure energy from external regulatory interference. The state's sovereign authority with respect to the involuntary retirement of an in-state electric generation facility for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the state's citizens is primary and takes precedence over any attempt from an external regulatory body to mandate, restrict, or influence the early involuntary retirement of an electric generation facility in the state.

2 New Hampshire Energy Policy. RSA 378:37 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows: 378:37 New Hampshire Energy Policy.

I. It is the policy of the sovereign state of New Hampshire and purpose of this chapter, to promote affordable, reliable, and secure energy resources for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

(a) New Hampshire shall promote the development of resources to achieve the purpose of this chapter without preference toward technology type, with an emphasis on reliable, on-demand, and firm resources.

(b) New Hampshire shall promote the development of resources, tools, and infrastructure to enhance the state's ability to ensure the state's energy independence by removing regulatory barriers to innovation to ensure that the state can procure affordable, reliable, and secure energy resources.

(c) New Hampshire shall allow market forces to drive prudent use of energy resources. Government intervention to economically advantage one technology over another should be time- limited, narrow, and necessary to achieve a specific policy goal.

(d) New Hampshire shall pursue energy conservation and efficiency according to market principles and in accordance with cost-effective fiscal strategies as authorized by the legislature.

(e) New Hampshire shall maintain an environment that allows for accurate market signals while balancing low consumer prices, price stability, energy reliability, and the financial stability of utilities and energy suppliers.

(f) State regulatory processes shall balance economic costs with the level of review necessary to ensure protection of the state's various interests, and where federal action is required, New Hampshire will collaborate to encourage expedited federal review and action.

II. Loss of In-State Electrical Generation Capacity.

(a) An in-state electricity generator that receives notice of any external regulatory action that makes continued operation economically infeasible or may result in the involuntary retirement or decommissioning of the generator's facility shall inform the commissioner of the department of energy of the notice and regulation within 30 days after the receipt of said notice.

(b) After being informed of a generator's involuntary retirement or decommissioning as described in RSA 378:37, II(a), the department of energy shall open an investigatory docket to determine how such an involuntary retirement or decommissioning would affect the reliability and affordability of the state's energy resources and to recommend any action necessary to defend the generator, including appealing to the attorney general to file an action in court or to participate in administrative proceedings.

(c) The department of energy and the department of justice may seek funding from the legislative fiscal committee to conduct any actions described in RSA 378:37, II(b).

III. Any act or omission by a state agency inconsistent with this section shall not form the basis of any civil suit including, but not limited to, those seeking equitable relief or claiming damages.

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

2024-0782h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises the state energy policy to promote affordable, reliable, and secure energy resources for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

Amendment to HB 1687-FN
(2024-0759h)
Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture–c

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 New Paragraph; Requirements for State Construction Contracts. Amend RSA 21-I:81-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III.(a) The contract shall include a requirement that all hazardous material, as defined in RSA 147-B:2, VIII, and hazardous waste, as defined in RSA 147-B:2, VII, be separated from construction and demolition debris at the construction site, prior to transport to the approved facility. For purposes of this paragraph, "construction and demolition debris" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 149-M:4, IV-a.

2024-0759h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that state construction contracts include a requirement that hazardous material and hazardous waste be separated from construction and demolition debris at the construction site, prior to transport to a recycling facility.

Amendment to HB 1695
(2024-0641h)
Proposed by the Committee on Education–r

Amend RSA 189:66, IV(c)(2) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(2) If student personally identifiable data is released to a third party, parents of the student shall be informed within 14 school days of the release date, to whom the data was released, what information was released, and the education purpose for which the information will be used. For the purposes of this section, the release of student data to a third party shall not apply to the transfer of student information between the department and school districts or chartered public schools.