



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

Second Year of the 168th General Court

Calendar and Journal of the 2024 Session

Web Site Address: www.gencourt.state.nh.us

Vol. 46

Concord, N.H.

Friday, November 8, 2024

No. 40

Contains: House Deadlines; Meetings and Notices, Interim Study Reports; New LSR Filing and Management Procedures.

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

As a reminder, pursuant to Part II, Article 3 of the New Hampshire Constitution, the 169th Session of the General Court will Organize on the first Wednesday in December (December 4, 2024) at 10:00 a.m. In accordance with Part II, Article 3, the opening day of the 2025 Session, Convening Day, will be on the first Wednesday following the first Tuesday in January (January 8, 2025).

For Representatives-Elect, congratulations on your win. I look forward to working with you. Please be attentive to communication from your caucus leader's office pertaining to the date, time, and location of the partisan caucus elections this month. Please also note that the New Legislator Orientation Program is scheduled for November 19th, 20th, and 21st.

The official notices for County Conventions will be published in an upcoming Calendar.

As a reminder, all state offices will be closed on Monday, November 11th for Veterans' Day. As we honor our Veterans for their service, spirit and great sacrifice, including our own past and present Legislative Members who have served, we also salute our men and women currently stationed around the world. We are forever grateful for their service and sacrifices.

For planning purposes, state offices will also be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving break. Please note that there will not be a Calendar printed on November 22nd. Instead, due to the holiday, it will be published on Tuesday the 26th and mailed on Wednesday the 27th. That Calendar will have a listing of temporary seating assignments for Organization Day.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

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

CLOSES AT 3:00 p.m. ON:

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

AVAILABLE ON:

Friday, November 15, 2024

Friday, November 22, 2024

Friday, November 29, 2024

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

NOTICE

Non-returning members of the House are respectfully requested to return your building access cards and your EZ-Pass transponders to the General Court Administrative Office, located on the first floor of the State House. They can also be mailed to General Court Administrative Office, NH State House, 107 North Main Street room 114, Concord, NH 03301

NOTICE

NEW LSR FILING AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Last session, the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) received a record number of drafting requests. To meet the increasing volume of legislative service requests with our limited staff, we are restructuring our office operations to be more member accessible, enhancing our drafting and administrative operations, and improving the quality of service for legislative members and staff.

In August, **the AskOLS email inbox was discontinued** and OLS no longer accepts intakes, sign-offs, withdrawals, or redraft requests via email. For the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, members will be able to sign into their General Court House Portal (GC House Portal) on the General Court website to submit and manage their LSRs. As always, you may contact the office at (603) 271-3435, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for assistance. Additionally, members and staff may contact the front office at OLSLegal@leg.state.nh.us for non LSR-management inquiries.

New! GC House Portal Features! Click on the My GCNH Portal link on the General Court Homepage found here: [The General Court of New Hampshire \(state.nh.us\)](https://www.gcnh.state.nh.us)

- **New! Early Incumbent Filings Update:** This year, per the House Calendar, the 10-day deadline countdown for early incumbent filings will not *begin* until November 22nd (the last day of the regular filing period) making your deadline for redrafts, signatures, and co-sponsor changes, December 2nd, 2024. (If your first draft is completed *after* November 22nd your 10-day deadline countdown will not begin until the draft is finished and sent to the prime sponsor.)
- **New! LSR Intake Form:** LSR Filings can now be submitted through the GC House Portal using the LSR Request link on the Legislative Data page. The LSR Intake Form will only be accessible online during the filing period, starting November 6th at 12:00 a.m. and closing November 22nd at 4:00 p.m.
- **New! Sponsor Management:** Both prime and co-sponsors can now sign off on LSRs by logging into their GC House Portal. Prime sponsors can now also *add* or *edit* their own co-sponsor lists on the Portal.
- **New! Support Resources:** To assist with this transition, the OLS Legal Division will provide written and video tutorials through the GC House Portal, as well as office in-person assistance during business hours. Click these links to access the LSR intake form tutorial video and companion PDF:

[LSR intake form tutorial presentation video](#)

[LSR intake form tutorial presentation PDF](#)

2024 HOUSE DEADLINES

Second Year Session Deadlines

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

2024 INTERIM STUDY STATEMENTS

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 1269-FN, relative to the use of child restraints in schools. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Mark Pearson for Children and Family Law. We spent considerable time looking at all the issues surrounding children exhibiting troubling behavior in school and found that further legislation could have a positive impact on all involved. **Vote 10-0.**

HB 1590-FN, relative to training regarding child abuse and neglect for licensed physicians, advance practice nurses, and physician assistants. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Patrick Long for Children and Family Law. Due to the minimum of physicians currently taking the available training and with the continued advancements regarding the recognizable distinction between injuries caused by abuse and/or neglect compared to accidental injuries, it is in the best interest of the child that early detection is essential from all professionals in assuring proper best practice development for said child. **Vote 10-0.**

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 73-FN, relative to the repair of home appliances. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Brian Cole for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in the current form is not workable. Therefore, the committee voted unanimously that this bill is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 225-FN, relative to prohibiting the use of currency that could be detrimental to privacy rights. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill aimed to prohibit currencies, including Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), that could threaten privacy rights. The committee found the bill's language too vague for passage and recommends better definitions in any future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 242-FN, relative to banning PFAS in food packaging. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As a result of committee hearings, the provisions of this bill were included in HB 1649 (Ch. 349, Laws of 2024), relative to prohibiting certain products with intentionally added PFAS and relative to civil actions for PFAS contamination, and relative to settlement of lawsuits against manufacturers of PFAS for impacts to public drinking water systems. HB 1649 has been signed by the governor. No further action should be considered for this bill. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 303-FN, relative to insurance coverage for pain management services. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. A similar bill, HB66 (Ch. 3, Laws of 2023) with the same sponsors, was handled by the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee. Its aim was to establish a pilot program that supports and encourages non-pharmacological treatment options. HB 66 was signed by the governor. Any further legislation should build on the results of that pilot program. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 465-FN, restricting use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in certain consumer products. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As a result of committee hearings, the provisions of this bill were included in HB 1649 (Ch. 349, Laws of 2024), relative to prohibiting certain products with intentionally added PFAS and relative to civil actions for PFAS contamination, and relative to settlement of lawsuits against manufacturers of PFAS for impacts to public drinking water systems. HB 1649 has been signed by the governor. No further action should be considered for this bill. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 513-FN, relative to affordability and safety of clinician administered drugs. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Tim McGough for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. After much work, testimony, discussion and interim study, this bill in its current form is not recommended by the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee for future legislation. However, the subject matter warrants significant examination by future legislators in both bodies. The matter of affordable and safe pharmacy benefits in all settings should be carefully considered for action in the next biennium. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 544-FN, legalizing cannabis for retail sale. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jared Sullivan for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in this bill is not workable in its current form. As it exists, the bill is too broad in scope and should be rewritten. Should a new bill regarding this subject be presented, then it will be considered. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1117, relative to creating a committee to study the protection of business operators against requests to accommodate customers with fraudulent or untrained service animals. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Brian Cole for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in the current form is not workable or enforceable. Therefore, the committee voted unanimously that this bill is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1183-FN, relative to prohibiting the sale of agricultural land and land essential to critical industries to China. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Lilli Walsh for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in this bill is not workable in its current form. As it exists, the bill is too broad in scope and should be rewritten. Should a new bill regarding this subject be presented, then it will be considered. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1207-FN, relative to single-use disposable plastic foodware accessories. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This legislation would be overly burdensome to NH businesses and consumers due to increased costs, operational complexities, and excessive fines for non-compliance. The blanket ban on single-use plastic foodware accessories may not effectively address waste reduction and creates an uneven playing field for large and small businesses. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1225, relative to prescription drug affordability board conflicts of interest. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Susan Porcelli for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill attempted to regulate conflicts of interest applicable to members of the prescription drug affordability board. During the hearings there were questions regarding evaluation and resolution of this specific conflict of interest was ambiguous and difficult to enforce. Several amendments did not resolve the identified issues. The procedural details for removal must be determined to move the bill forward. The bill in the current form is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1232, prohibiting state or local governments from using central bank digital currency. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Like HB 225, this bill would have prohibited Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), explicitly prohibiting the state treasurer, state agencies, and political subdivisions from accepting them. The bill needs better definitions to move forward. A similarly focused bill (NC HB 690/SL 2024-48) recently passed the North Carolina legislature in a bipartisan override of their governor's veto. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1306, relative to special assessments for capital improvements in condominiums. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Brian Cole for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in the current form is not workable. Therefore, the committee voted unanimously that this bill is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1374-FN, relative to liquor licenses for restaurants. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jared Sullivan for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee voted unanimously to not recommend future legislation. While the topic should be explored by future legislators, the bill as written was not ready to be recommended. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1395, relative to home heating oil and propane contracts. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Brian Cole for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in the current form is not workable. It did not take into account the seasonal changes in NH restricting access to underground tanks. Therefore, the committee voted unanimously that this bill is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1444-FN, relative to local regulation of digital mining. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. New Hampshire is unfavorable for digital asset mining due to its high electricity costs. The committee suggests a future bill to address the issue of self-custodying digital assets. **Vote 16-0.**

HB.1507, relative to innovative financial services. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Susan Porcelli for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill attempted to grant the Banking Department authority to allow businesses to trial new products, services, and business models while bypassing laws and rules unsuited for their innovative idea and would have established the financial services regulatory sandbox fund. Several issues remain in question regarding this bill. Significant staff is required to set up and monitor the sandbox. Generally, financial services sectors are hesitant to use the sandbox concept since proprietary products would become public due to oversight requirements. Another issue with the bill as drafted related to consumer harm which needs to be explicitly detailed. The bill in the current form is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1571-FN, relative to requiring insurance coverage for glucose monitoring devices for people with diabetes. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill requires health carriers to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitoring equipment for anyone with any type of diabetes or hypoglycemia. The bill includes provisions detailing the requirements for qualifications, caps on out of pocket expenses and coverage under Medicaid. As it exists, the bill is too broad in scope with no way to bound the costs. It is recommended that the bill be rewritten to only include persons diagnosed with type 2 diabetes on therapies other than insulin (glucose monitoring is already provided for those on insulin) and covered under fully insured plans in the New Hampshire large and small group markets. Requirements for Medicaid recipients should be handled

in a separate bill. Caps should be eliminated. Data shows that caps often drive up the cost of medical devices paid for by insurance carriers. Based on data received from the Insurance Department, across type 1 diabetics, there is very little cost sharing with respect to continuous glucose monitoring equipment. Again, based on the findings (from data regarding type 1 patients) presented by the Insurance Department and their assumptions regarding the number of type 2 patients willing to accept such monitoring equipment the expected impact to insurance costs would be fairly low. However, these costs would be mitigated by a reduction in the severe, often critical outcomes of diabetes on patients who do not correctly monitor their glucose levels. **Vote 14-2.**

HB 1582-FN, relative to allowing for the consumption of alcohol in artist performance areas. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jared Sullivan for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee voted unanimously to not recommend this bill for future legislation because the issue this bill seeks to address was addressed in another bill passed in this session. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1621-FN, requiring the liquor commission to distribute certain information in liquor stores. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would require the Liquor Commission to distribute certain information in liquor stores. The committee was unable to find a reason to continue legislation with this bill and voted it not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1636-FN, relative to creating the New Hampshire container deposit, refund, recycle, and reuse system. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Anita Burroughs for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This is a well-meaning bill that seeks to create a New Hampshire container deposit, refund, recycle and reuse system. It establishes a producer responsibility organization (PRO) to implement a beverage container recycling redemption refund program to issue redemption refunds to consumers for beverage containers. However, the bill mandates drop-off facilities, material recovery facilities, distributors and importers to submit information about the amount of recyclable material sold. It also requires them to join a responsibility organization. The bill establishes annual redemption and recycling targets for beverage containers and sets penalties for non-compliance. The subcommittee believes that these mandates are arduous and costly for these businesses, and unfairly puts the burden of recycling on them. The committee votes not to recommend moving forward with this bill. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1645-FN, establishing a condominium dispute resolution board. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Anita Burroughs for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would establish a condominium dispute resolution board to resolve matters involving condominium associations and unit owners. This board would have been composed by two members of the NH House of Representatives, three members appointed by the governor who are residents of three different executive council districts, and two members appointed by the governor who are members of a condominium association board in New Hampshire nominated by the New England chapter of the Community Associations Institute. This structure is perceived to be overly complex. The issue of whether or not to have a condominium resolution board should be pursued and studied in conjunction with reinstituting the Manufactured Housing Board that existed under the NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1674-FN, relative to establishing the New Hampshire legal tender act and establishing a state bullion depository. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill was initially broad in scope and proposed declaring gold and silver as legal tender, setting up a bullion depository within the state treasury, and issuing digital tokens as redeemable receipts for bullion. However, the bill was scaled back to focus solely on making gold and silver legal tender in New Hampshire, removing the depository and digital token sections. Municipalities expressed concerns about being required to handle, store, and trade precious metals if they are made legal tender. Any future efforts may want to start with the scaled-back version (amendment 2024-0373h) and study how other states have implemented the legal tender portion. A list of similar legislation has been adopted in other states and is available on the National Council of State Legislatures website. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1702-FN, relative to oversight of liquor commission funding and repealing the liquor commission fund. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill was relative to oversight of liquor commission funding and repealing the liquor commission fund. The committee was unable to find a reason to continue legislation with this bill and voted it not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 64, establishing a study committee on resident-owned manufactured housing park disputes and oversight of resident-owned manufactured housing parks. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Anita Burroughs for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This is a bill that has been studied for a significant amount of time with little movement towards a solution to resolving disputes in resident owned manufactured

housing. However, there are a significant number of individuals in both resident owned and privately owned manufactured housing with serious concerns regarding decisions made by the boards in these communities; they see little recourse for effective resolutions. As a result, a bill will be introduced in the next legislative session to bring back a new iteration of a manufactured housing board that will hear disputes for both resident owned and privately owned parks. There is evidence that the Manufactured Housing Board saw few complaints due to the limited scope of their oversight. **Vote 13-3.**

SB 97-FN, relative to the use of animals in product testing. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Anita Burroughs for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill as initially proposed would prohibit the use of animals in certain product testing. However, the committee felt that there was little evidence of animal testing in New Hampshire, rendering the bill unnecessary. However, the bill sponsors have related that there was an agreed-upon amendment with the stakeholders which unfortunately, was finalized too late for consideration. Both Dartmouth College and The Humane Society have agreed to language that would ensure that unnecessary testing on animals does not take place in New Hampshire. Alternative test methodologies would be utilized when available. When this is not feasible, the least number of animals would be tested and would reduce the level of stress or suffering to the greatest extent possible. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 180-FN, (New Title) relative to product labeling and information guide requirements for cannabis products and the prohibition of the sale of hemp products containing certain levels of THC. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Lilli Walsh for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee does not recommend this bill for future legislation because the text did not align with the testimony. Since the committee was unsure what problem it was solving, this bill as written is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 201, relative to resale of event tickets. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Anita Burroughs for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would make the resale of event tickets by a person who is not the venue or an authorized agent of the venue without prominent display and acknowledgment of that condition an unlawful act under the consumer protection regulations. New Hampshire already has a number of consumer protection laws on the books, including making it illegal to sell events for more than the original price charged by the primary venue ticket provider, with some exceptions for charitable organizations. Ticket brokers can only sell tickets through their permanent office or location, and not sell more than 1% of tickets to an event. If there is evidence that the current consumer protection laws in place are not adequate to protect venues from a misleading display and acknowledgment from a ticket broker, future legislation should be pursued. **Vote 15-0.**

SB 235-FN, relative to services provided through a primary care behavioral health model. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee does not recommend this bill for future legislation because the text did not align with the testimony. Since the committee was unsure what problem it was solving, this bill as written is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 332, limiting re-disclosure of consumer reports requested in connection with a credit transaction involving an extension of credit secured by real estate. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Dick Thackston for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill attempted to provide additional restrictions on the use of credit reports by lenders for evaluation of buyers in real estate transactions by amending RSA 359-B:4. Several issues remain in question regarding this bill. Significant oversight on both the state and federal levels currently existing with regard to this subject and passage would be deleterious to the public interest by further complicating the regulation and oversight of lenders in New Hampshire making lending in the state both more expensive and less attractive. The bill as drafted provides no clear public benefit and any future bill should explicitly detail same. The bill in the current form is not recommended for future legislation. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 353-FN, relative to insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder and Down syndrome. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill seeks to add Down Syndrome to the list of biologically based mental illnesses listed in RSA 417-E in order to gain access to certain behavioral therapies. However, Down Syndrome itself is not a mental disorder; it is a genetic condition that includes intellectual disability. Down Syndrome individuals can certainly have accompanying mental disorders. For example, it is estimated that approximately 20% also have some form of autism spectrum disorder. Based on discussions with the medical director of the largest health insurance provider in the fully insured market in NH, those Down patients diagnosed with exhibiting symptoms of autism and who are correctly "coded" as such by their doctor, have full access to applicable therapies. Several organizations including the NH Insurance Department were asked if there are any records of complaints or individuals being turned down for treatment. While one

person did come forward, they were covered under a self-insured plan over which the legislature has no control. The concern is that those patients that may need help are not seeking it. And while this bill is problematic as written, a better written bill accompanied by actionable data could be evaluated in the future. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 365, relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters, or personal electric mobility devices. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Since many of the batteries for the types of devices listed are sourced from countries outside of the US, it was felt by the committee that the appropriate International Standards Organization (ISO) standard should be included as part of the testing/approval label. This bill was too vague on the subject of testing standards, leaving it open to interpretation. **Vote 16-0.**

SB 477, relative to establishing a commission to review and make recommendations regarding technology-based start-up business support from the state of New Hampshire. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee acknowledges this bill's good intentions; however, many state commissions already exist, and finding volunteers to serve on them all has been challenging. **Vote 16-0.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1039-FN, relative to alternative sentencing for primary caregivers. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Amanda Bouldin for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority of the committee recommends this subject matter for future legislation. While the specific structure of this bill was unsatisfactory for some stakeholders, the underlying goal, to balance the reformative purpose of the criminal justice system with the obligations of a primary caregiver, is worthy of legislative pursuit. **Vote 9-8.**

HB 1428-FN, relative to inmate illness or emergency. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jonathan Stone for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. It is the opinion of the majority of the committee that this bill as written, is not viable to move forward at this time. It should be noted, the prime sponsor of this bill had stated this bill requires additional work. **Vote 13-4.**

HB 1462-FN, relative to requirements for reporting hate crimes. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that this legislation should not be recommended for future legislation. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 1500-FN, relative to prohibiting the unlawful distribution of misleading synthetic media. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee is in agreement that artificial intelligence is a complex subject matter that needs to be taken seriously. There are several bills that are currently in other committees that addresses different aspects of this fast approaching technology. After talking with the Chairman of Judiciary, the committee decided to interim study this legislation in the hopes of being able to look at the proposed bills together in order to address the subject at large rather than individual bills piece by piece. **Vote 15-2.**

HB 1566-FN, relative to the review of police investigations. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jonah Wheeler for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that this bill should be recommended for future legislation although there was agreement that the matter should be looked into in a broader way that better informs the public of available means of redress for dissatisfaction with the outcomes of investigations by law enforcement when the appearance of articulable bias is present. **Vote 9-8.**

SB 248-FN, relative to bail for a defendant. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee unanimously agreed that this bill should not be recommended for future legislation because significant legislation was passed this term. This legislation should be allowed to be implemented, and the results evaluated prior to any further modification of the statutes. **Vote 17-0.**

SB 321-FN, relative to the release of a defendant pending trial. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee unanimously agreed that this bill should not be recommended for future legislation because significant legislation was passed this term. This legislation should be allowed to be implemented, and the results evaluated prior to any further modification of the statutes. **Vote 17-0.**

SB 415-FN, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Nancy Murphy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority of the committee felt that this bill should not be recommended for future legislation, although the minority vehemently disagreed and felt that stronger measures were required for the punishment of fentanyl dealers in New Hampshire. The minority concurred with the majority regarding not punishing addicted people more than they already were, but the minority felt those contributing to that addiction should most certainly face harsher penalties than they currently do. **Vote 9-8.**

SB 425, relative to bail commissioner fees. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee unanimously agreed that this bill is not recommended for future legislation because significant legislation was passed this term. This legislation should be allowed to be implemented and the results evaluated prior to any further modification of the statutes. **Vote 17-0.**

SB 464-FN, to prohibiting the nonconsensual dissemination of synthetic sexual images. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that this should not be recommended for future legislation as a version of it was just passed this year. **Vote 17-0.**

SB 578-FN, relative to criminal pre-trial services and monitoring. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority of the committee agreed that this bill should be recommended for future legislation. **Vote 9-8.**

EDUCATION

HB 623-FN, establishing a teacher candidate loan forgiveness program. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1176, establishing a commission to study current funding for special education and potential other funding sources. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1185-FN, relative to sexual education instruction. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Hope Damon for Education. The bill is not needed as we already have a harmful to minors statute and an opt-out for parents. **Vote 12-8.**

HB 1216, relative to cross-district bullying and cyberbullying. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1383, relative to cooperative school board district elections. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1402-FN, establishing a procedure for a high school proficiency exam waiver of mandatory school attendance. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Patricia Cornell for Education. Passing one test does not demonstrate competency; it measures ability to take a test. The bill is unclear about what opportunities would be available to the children not attending school. This bill would also be costly to the state and communities. The Department of Education testified that it would need extra staff to administer, testing space, reception area, testing room, new network computers, and video monitoring. Estimated costs totaled up to \$113,000 in 2026 and \$116,000 in 2026. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1443, relative to special education dispute resolution. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Peggy Balboni for Education. There are currently many options available to resolve disputes in special education. In March 2024, a comprehensive performance audit report of the Department of Education Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes identified several areas in need of improvement. Any future legislation should consider the specific recommendations identified in this report. **Vote 19-1.**

HB 1458-FN, relative to authorizing parents to remove children from the English Language Learner Program. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee unanimously agreed that this should not be recommended for further legislation due to the resolution of the case involved and possible federal law implications. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1481, relative to appointments to fill vacancies to at large cooperative school board seats. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1493, relative to the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1509-LOCAL, prohibiting spending of special education moneys for any other purpose and requiring reporting of fund balances to the school board. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. According to the NH Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education does allow schools to use these funds to support a number of non-special education purposes such as: 1. services provided K-3 students not having an individualized education program, who need additional academic and behavior supports to succeed in general education; 2. to help fund reading and mathematics specialists to work with non-disabled students who have not reached grade-level proficiency in those subjects; and 3. to fund after-school tutoring for non-disabled students who score below proficiency on statewide assessments. As written, the bill conflicts with federal law. **Vote 18-2.**

HB 1516-FN, relative to enrollment in public schools by children of school district employees. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Muriel Hall for Education. Although the committee recognized the intent of the bill, the committee identified a number of concerns including, but not limited to, local control, and voted to Not Recommend for Future Legislation. **Vote 16-4.**

HB 1534-FN, relative to establishing a program to earn tuition credits for state of New Hampshire higher education institutions through community service. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Hope Damon for Education. The committee believes the concept of the bill has merit. It needs further development and fiscal analysis to be practical. **Vote 17-3.**

HB 1555, relative to special meetings for changes in education funding. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. David Luneau for Education. The bill is directed to simplify the process when the state adequacy grant changes after a school district budget has been approved by voters. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1586-FN-A-LOCAL, establishing a foundation opportunity budget program for funding public education. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1608-FN, relative to providing an induction program for new teachers. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1625-FN, relative to school health services. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education. The majority of the committee voted that there should be future legislation related to school nurses being licensed by the Board of Nursing rather than being certified by the Department of Education due to expertise and costs. **Vote 16-4.**

HB 1642, relative to the role of cooperative school district board member representatives on school district budget committees. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1646, relative to chartered public schools. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1657-FN, relative to prohibiting hazing at educational institutions. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1670-FN-LOCAL, relative to including all special education costs under state education grants. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1682-FN, relative to the civics test graduation requirement. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education. The committee was unable to reach a consensus of whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1691, relative to the definition of an adequate public education. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education. The committee unanimously agreed that this should not be recommended for further legislation as further work is needed and due to court cases involving education funding. **Vote 20-0.**

SB 375, relative to biological sex in student athletics. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education. A House Bill on this subject was already signed into law, but is currently in the courts. Members of the committee agreed that the bill should not be recommended for future legislation. **Vote 20-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 1170-FN, requiring public benefit and community impact assessments from the department of environmental services. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill would have required that public benefit assessments for permits evaluate both potential benefits and potential harms and determine the net benefit. While the bill as presented did not have clear enough criteria for performing these assessments, such analyses have been performed at the federal level for decades and we can use federal statutes as a model for revising this bill. We therefore recommend future legislation. **Vote 7-6.**

HB 1351, prohibiting the sale and use of adhesive-based rodent traps. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. The subcommittee studying this bill was not able to find a legislative solution that would mitigate the recognized problems with rodent glue traps while still allowing their use in targeted rodent control programs where other methods are not workable. The majority of the committee felt that we should not prohibit the sale and use of glue traps in NH as a non chemical means of rodent control. We therefore do not recommend further legislation using the approach in this bill. **Vote 8-5.**

HB 1685-FN, redefining “homestead foods” as “artisan foods,” creating an artisan food operations exemption, establishing artisan food products sales venues, and allowing the production and sale of artisan food products requiring refrigeration. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. There are flaws in the current homestead food statutes, and areas where language should be clarified, as well as also allow for expansion of homestead food producer offerings. After meeting with both Department of Health and Human Services Food Safety Division representatives and other stakeholders, it was decided that further legislation is needed. **Vote 13-0.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1271, relative to the conversion, combination, and reorganization of boards and advisory boards. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would convert a number of boards to advisory status, combine others, and clean up various statutory conflicts. Pieces of this content have been included in other bills this session, and the committee believes that the OPLC needs time to digest and implement the multiple statutory changes passed this session before undergoing another round of changes. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1324-FN, relative to green burials and authorizing the natural organic reduction of human remains. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Dianne Schuett for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill proposes a new method of disposal for human remains, Natural Organic Reduction. Numerous questions were raised during the hearing by the state Funeral Directors Association and Cemetery Association, such as whether the resulting product should be considered soil, compost, or human remains; and whether disposition of any of these would require permits and which governmental agencies should be involved. Most municipalities would need to enact changes to their cemetery ordinances to address this new concept. There were also concerns about the disposition of the large amount of remains this process creates. Furthermore, the few states which have adopted this process are having difficulty in creating rules for it. Vermont approved the process two years ago but has yet to create rules for handling these issues. The committee formed a subcommittee and then sent the bill to interim study; however no resolutions to these questions have been reached. More traditional forms of green burials are already permitted in statute, so the committee does not recommend legislation going forward with this proposal until much more research, clarification, and models are available to improve the legislation. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1333-FN, relative to prohibiting state agencies from buying or leasing fleet electric vehicles for 10 years. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. The committee realizes that this legislation could be related to climate change but to limit state agencies to this mandate seems unreasonable due to the possible future changes in electric vehicle technology and the needs of the agencies. This year, SB 430 created a council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries on first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection. This study needs to be completed before legislation to ban or boost electric vehicles could properly be completed. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1408, relative to the merger of and reorganization of various occupational boards. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would merge a number of boards and reorganize others; many of the pieces have been included in other bills this session. The mergers have largely been rejected by the committee as providing no significant advantage in efficiency and making it harder to appoint volunteers to these boards. However, the Board of Foresters has requested a change to the makeup of the board that some members of the committee believe is an improvement. Since such a change requires legislation, and will be thoroughly vetted before implementation, the committee recommends further legislation on that issue. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1420, relative to communications between agencies and citizens. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would require all state agencies to respond to citizen communications within three days. While this is a laudable goal, tracking compliance and enforcement would be burdensome and expensive. The committee feels that this is more a management issue than a legislative one, the governor and the agencies are responsible for their employees' performance. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1653-FN, relative to determination of earnable compensation for certain group II retirement system members. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Matthew Simon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill proposes changes to the calculation of group II employees' earnable compensation who had commenced service prior to July 1, 2011 and who had not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012. This committee has done extensive work to address the conflicting opinions and interests surrounding this issue in order to find a compromise that would be agreeable to all affected parties. The result of this work was HB 1647, legislation that is a reflection of the study, work and compromise required to get this complicated and expensive issue resolved. With the passing of HB 1647 the content of this bill has been addressed and any further legislation in this area would be cost prohibitive and would undermine the bipartisan efforts already accomplished. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1673-FN, relative to average final compensation for certain group II members. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Matthew Simon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill proposes changes to the calculation of Group II employees' final average compensation who had commenced service prior to July 1, 2011 and who had not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012. This committee has done extensive work to address the conflicting opinions and interests surrounding this issue in order to find a compromise that would be agreeable to all affected parties. The result of this work was HB 1647, legislation that is a reflection of the study, work, and compromise required to get this complicated and expensive issue resolved. With the passing of HB 1647 the content of this bill has been addressed and any further legislation in this area would be cost prohibitive and would undermine the bipartisan efforts already accomplished. **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1676-FN, establishing a sunset commission to evaluate various occupational boards and commissions, and sunset various boards and commissions. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. Since the introduction of this bill several changes have taken place in the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. The committee thinks that the agency needs to settle with the new management and personnel before further action is taken on board structure and outcome. The committee recommends no further legislation is needed at this time. **Vote 10-0.**

HB 1679, relative to changing to Atlantic Standard Time. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. The consensus of the committee was that it is imprudent to make any change until the federal government makes a change. While we all agree that the current time change twice a year no longer serves the public well, we need to have consistency across borders with our neighboring states. Many New Hampshire residents live here, but work over the border in a neighboring state. Others attend appointments in one of our neighboring states. There is much interstate commerce that is conducted here. It is important our calendar stay in sync with our neighbors. Therefore it

is not in the best interest of New Hampshire residents for New Hampshire to try to jump out of sync with the majority of the nation. Our recommendation is that New Hampshire will change when there is a change approved at the federal level **Vote 11-0.**

HB 1689-FN, relative to the use of personal identifying information by state agencies. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. The committee is concerned with privacy of identifying information within state agencies but is also concerned that this bill conflicts with the legislative requirements on agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Service that collects data on births and childhood development. The committee feels that before further legislation is put forward, that the nature of this legislation on agencies be well analyzed and understood by sponsors of further bills. **Vote 11-0.**

FINANCE

HB 1595-FN, relative to adjustment of the child support guidelines based on parenting time, medical support, and child care expenses. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Maureen Mooney for Finance. HB 1595-FN was voted not recommended for future legislation today during the House Finance Committee executive session. **Vote 9-8.**

SB 239-FN, (New Title) relative to the use of harm reduction services to treat alcohol and other substance misuse. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. J.R. Hoell for Finance. The Finance Committee does not recommend SB 239-FN for future legislation. There are still unresolved issues on the definition of the broad term ‘harm reduction,’ until those issues are agreed upon and worked out, there is no point in expanding these services. **Vote 9-8.**

SB 453-FN-A, making an appropriation to the statewide voter registration system. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. J.R. Hoell for Finance. The Finance Committee does not recommend SB 453-FN for future legislation. The bill allocated \$450,000 to be used before June 30th, 2025, and therefore is no longer necessary. Any future funding requests can be included in next year’s budget. **Vote 9-8.**

SB 553-FN, (New Title) requiring the investment advisor for the public deposit investment pool to maintain funds in a particular manner. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for Finance. The Finance Committee unanimously agreed to not recommend this bill for future legislation since the relevant provisions became law as part of a different bill. **Vote 17-0.**

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

HB 1024, relative to the use of air rifles for hunting game. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Mike Ouellet for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The committee unanimously supports and recommends future legislation to allow air rifles to be used for hunting game. **Vote 10-0.**

HB 1148, relative to the fish and game commission. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Jonathan Smith for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The current commission works efficiently, there is no reason to change it. **Vote 8-2.**

HB 1530-FN, requiring fish and game officers to wear body cameras. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This is a bill that would require fish and game officers to wear body cameras. The bill was originally sent to interim study. The unanimous vote of the committee was that further legislation is needed because the bill did not provide funding for the cameras. **Vote 10-0.**

HB 1532, relative to land owner rights and responsibility pertaining to game cameras and tree stands. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Cathryn Harvey for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This is a bill that would allow land owners to remove game cameras and tree stands from their personal property. The bill was originally sent to interim study. It was the unanimous decision of the committee that further legislation was needed because the original bill was not specific enough in the legal ramifications of such a bill. **Vote 10-0.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 554-FN, relative to treatment alternatives to opioids. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee met and has recommended further legislation on this bill. A subcommittee reviewed the bill in depth and conducted public hearings. The conclusion was this bill provides a needed increase in access to alternative therapies for pain management as

an alternative to opioids or invasive therapies and a potentially more cost-effective approach than traditional methods. The subcommittee believed that there should be a focus on therapies provided by licensed therapists and that the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC), commercial insurers, and the Insurance Department be involved in the creation of future legislation. The subcommittee went further and began amending the current version of the bill. The subcommittee voted 6-0 to pursue further legislation. Based on that report, the full committee voted unanimously to recommend future legislation. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 580-FN, establishing a children's vision screening initiative within the state Medicaid program. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee does not recommend this bill for future legislation. In recent years, there has been a move to shift health care into schools which is of great concern to the majority of the committee. **Vote 9-6.**

HB 608-FN, establishing a pilot program to support the bureau of developmental services redesign. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill was introduced during a time of great uncertainty regarding the redesign of the bureau of developmental services. It was retained by the committee to continue the discussion surrounding the implementation of the redesign, and a subcommittee met in both the spring and fall of 2023 on this issue. The recommendation for Interim Study kept the forum alive, should it be needed. This particular language is no longer needed as the redesign is well under way. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1010, relative to expanding maternity options and midwifery access. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill seeks to remove barriers to midwives attending home births. An attended home birth is safer than an unattended home birth, and neighboring states provide greater scope of practice for midwives. Future legislation to increase access to midwife-attended home births is recommended, and the committee recommends that data and outcomes from states with more permissive midwifery laws and regulations be presented to the committee. **Vote 8-7.**

HB 1067, relative to a patient's right to sterilization treatment. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill sought to remove barriers to sterilization treatment for consenting adults, and to provide protection for those who provide this treatment. Through this bill and others, it has become apparent that the Patient's Bill of Rights in RSA 151 only applies to care in certain health care facilities in the state and not to patient rights in general. Future legislation should place protections for access to sterilization treatment in a different section of law. **Vote 12-3.**

HB 1347, relative to administration of the New Hampshire refugee resettlement program. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Joe Schapiro for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The prime sponsor of this bill has acknowledged that as written, it was deeply flawed and was inconsistent with his intention to initiate a broader discussion about the effects of immigration in our state and country. The NH Refugee Resettlement Program within the Department of Health and Human Services, coordinates and assists private non-profit refugee resettlement organizations operating with our state. It is fully funded by federal dollars. Therefore, the bill's suggestion that general funds should be diverted to citizens on waiting lists for state services is neither workable or relevant. **Vote 14-1.**

HB 1661-FN, relative to immunization reporting requirements. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Lucy Weber for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. While ongoing information about the efficacy and safety of immunizations is important, the majority believed that adding an immunization reporting requirement to the death certificate was not a helpful means of gathering information. The information gathered would be based on the vaccine registry, currently a voluntary opt-in data bank. As to death certificates without immunization records, there would be no way of knowing if that individual had not been vaccinated, or had been vaccinated and had not been entered in the registry. Several thousand practitioners who certify deaths in New Hampshire but who have no current need for access to the vaccine registry would have to be authorized for access. The statistical reporting raised the possibility of re-identified data. In summary, lack of statistical usefulness of the data, an increased in required bureaucracy and the potential risks to privacy all lead the majority to recommend against future legislation. **Vote 8-7.**

HB 1663-FN, relative to the confidentiality of medical records and patient information. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill sought to provide protections and clarity regarding medical record confidentiality through a repeal and replace method. Substantial testimony opposing facets of current law as overly restrictive suggests that there is significant need to assess

New Hampshire's protections of patient privacy in a more rigorous manner, particularly given the expanded public awareness surrounding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA was assumed to be a privacy protection law, when in reality it facilitates easier sharing of patient records. Federal law permits states to be more protective of patient privacy, and therefore this is recommended for future legislation. **Vote 11-4.**

HB 1693-FN, relative to the use of psychedelics for therapeutic purposes. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. New Hampshire state law currently prevents research and/or treatments which use psychedelic drugs, despite the expanding research into this area. The Veteran's Administration and Massachusetts General Hospital are currently conducting research for a number of disorders, and the FDA has granted breakthrough therapy designation for some psychedelics. We recommend future legislation to permit patients access to clinical trials or other therapy without the need to cross state lines for care. **Vote 14-1.**

HB 1706-FN, relative to notice required prior to circumcision procedure. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee has met and has voted to not recommend future legislation on this bill. The committee believed that the action recommended in this bill was concerning for two reasons. First, it was presented by a small minority of dissatisfied individuals which would have a detrimental effect on the 97% of individuals who are satisfied with the procedure. Second, the committee believed that it was inappropriate to place an informed consent for a single medical procedure in statute. This would create a slippery slope where the tens of thousands of medical procedures may need to be so legislated. Furthermore, this would have the effect of the legislature dictating medical practice. The committee did feel this bill raised important concerns about informed consent practice in health care that warranted further discussion. However, the committee believed this bill was not the appropriate mechanism to accomplish this. **Vote 13-2.**

SB 400, relative to patient access to medical records. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill reduces the maximum cost for medical records when requested by a patient's personal representative, attorney, or individuals authorized to access the patient's records through a valid power of attorney, and requires that they be provided electronically upon request. Federal HIPAA law caps the amount that can be charged when a patient requests their records electronically at \$6.50. However, when a patient's attorney makes the request on the patient's behalf, there is no cap. This can result in the patient's attorney or representative potentially being charged thousands of dollars for records that would have cost the patient a maximum of \$6.50. This bill would level the playing field and charge all requestors a maximum \$6.50 fee. However, because \$6.50 is inadequate to cover the costs of providing these records, passage of the bill as written would essentially drive the data records companies that fulfill the records requests out of business, and force hospitals and other providers that contract with these companies to pull the work in-house. While the solution offered in the bill was not workable, the committee recommended the bill for future legislation in the hope that a workable solution could be found. Subsequent to the committee vote, it was discovered that a solution to the problem was incorporated into the final amended version of HB1245 (Ch. 265, Laws of 2024), which passed into law. **Vote 12-3.**

SB 458, relative to the dispensing of certain medications. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee met and voted to not recommend this bill for future legislation. The Board of Pharmacy has drafted rules that are currently being reviewed by the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC). This resolves the issues raised by the bill. **Vote 15-0.**

SB 495, relative to certification of alcohol and other drug use treatment facilities. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill directs the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop rules establishing a certification process for substance use treatment programs and facilities and requires that no programs or facilities be established or operated without the requisite certification. The bill also establishes an office of the ombudsman to investigate and resolve complaints within the jurisdiction of substance abuse treatment. Supporters of the bill felt that it would strengthen patient protections and ensure access to consistent, high-quality services. The primary concern expressed was that state regulators have no oversight or record of the majority of outpatient providers. The committee chose to study the bill because the majority of the committee agreed that the problem is real, and that increased oversight is needed, but had concerns that the language was too broad and confusing and might lead to burdens and limitations being placed upon support services such as Alcoholics Anonymous. During the interim study, the sub-committee developed preliminary language removing the inclusion of resi-

dential facilities and statements of blanket inclusion to present a more limited and defined scope. While the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) provides oversight for individual practitioners, there is no oversight of the facilities themselves unless they operate within the realm of Medicare or Medicaid. Concern was expressed that this kind of regulation might inhibit innovation, but Medicaid providers such as Granite Recovery testified that the Medicaid rules have still left the road to innovation wide open, and they therefore do not anticipate that rules for non-Medicaid providers would choke off the introduction of new and exciting modes of treatment. The new ombudsman position would also be ineffective without rules to establish a standard. The committee therefore recommends the bill for future legislation. **Vote 11-4.**

JUDICIARY

HB 1089, relative to the statute of limitations on civil actions involving PFAS. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. Without in any way endorsing or not endorsing the elimination of the statute of limitations for these claims, the Judiciary Committee recommends that the legislature give future consideration to legislation regarding PFAS contamination and the manner of handling claims arising from such contamination. **Vote 16-1.**

HB 1602-FN, relative to the authority of the housing appeals board. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. Although the Judiciary Committee recognizes that serious problems exist, and must be addressed by the legislature, regarding the issue of the availability and affordability of housing in New Hampshire, the committee does not recommend that the approach proposed by this bill for handling such issues – that is, to expand the jurisdiction of the Housing Appeals Board (HAB) to review the decisions of state boards and agencies – should be the subject of future legislative consideration. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 1614-FN, relative to judicial review of department of environmental services decisions. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for Judiciary. Without expressing any opinion on the specific terms of the changes to the appeals process for environmental cases proposed by this bill, the Judiciary Committee recommends that the appeals process for decisions made by the Department of Environmental Services should be the subject of future legislative consideration. **Vote 16-1.**

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 1007-FN, relative to notice of terms and conditions of remote work arrangements. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Andrew Prout for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill was proposed to address a shortfall in regulation regarding remote workers by requiring written terms and conditions specifically for remote workers. The fact is, while more people work remotely now than in the past, the concept is not new. Existing labor law applies as it would to any other employee. While formal agreements with employees may be desirable and even best practice, the kind of regulation proposed in this bill may restrict the flexibility necessary to adapt to business needs. The committee does not feel that this bill is needed at this time. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1023-FN, relative to requiring employers to provide notice of resources available to support veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill's language was submitted to both the House and the Senate. The sponsor requested that efforts be put into the passage of the Senate version. As SB588 (Ch.261, Laws of 2024), this language passed both bodies and became law in September. There is no longer a need for this legislation. **Vote 13-2.**

HB 1226-FN, relative to employment protections for freelance employees. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The sponsor of this bill explained that his concept is "not ready for prime time." As written, the bill blurs the line between independent contractors and employees. This risks reversing progress made to avoid employee misclassification. The committee agreed to recommend this bill not be submitted as future legislation. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1597-FN, relative to the maximum weekly unemployment benefit amount. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill was created to change the way New Hampshire Employment Security handles part-time work. Currently, once part-time wages exceed a weekly threshold, additional wages earned reduce unemployment payments dollar-for-dollar. The bill eliminated this all-or-none cut off, proposing to reduce benefits by 40 cents on the dollar. The majority of the

committee took issue with the bill's language, both in some of its details as well as with its complexity. The majority recommends this not be submitted as a separate bill in future sessions and, instead, this part-time-work threshold should be considered in conjunction with any rework of the unemployment benefit tables, raising the threshold or keeping it so as to make sense in the larger context. **Vote 15-0.**

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB 157, relative to the joint committee on legislative facilities and sexual harassment policies. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan for Legislative Administration. During testimony, our chief operating officer said that the House and Senate would be working on a joint sexual harassment policy and procedures. We are told that is in its final stages and therefore no further legislation along these lines would be necessary. **Vote 12-0.**

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. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan for Legislative Administration. We followed the Supreme Court decision in *Richard v. Governor*, 2024 N.H. 53 very closely which was related to this resolution and the court wasn't particularly moved by the arguments. The court sent the case back to a lower court, but only on the equal protection issue. **Vote 12-0.**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1034, relative to enabling municipalities to adopt a homestead property tax exemption. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Len Turcotte for Municipal and County Government. This legislation, like the dozen plus other property tax exemptions that currently exist, would redistribute the property tax burdens within those municipalities who choose to adopt. Like many legislative ideas, though conceptually thought helpful, unintended consequences lurk. The majority of the committee believes the idea warrants further consideration and potential legislation. **Vote 10-6.**

HB 1040, relative to including interest in an abated property tax refund at the rate determined by the department of revenue administration. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Len Turcotte for Municipal and County Government. While the bill's intent may have produced minor positive implications, overall the inability to implement the proposed changes were made clear to the committee by all parties testifying. The prime sponsor also acknowledged the difficulties. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1461-FN, relative to live-streaming all properly noticed meetings and hearings of elected and appointed municipal bodies. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Len Turcotte for Municipal and County Government. The committee recommends that further legislation could be explored. There are many unknowns that need discovery regarding just how many municipalities are currently doing what the legislation proposes. Additionally, state mandates such as this legislation proposes, must know what, if any, costs are being forced onto municipalities who currently do not live-stream their meetings. **Vote 11-5.**

HB 1544, relative to indemnification for municipalities adopting policies to address homelessness. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Len Turcotte for Municipal and County Government. The committee believes this proposed legislation was fraught with unintended consequences. Among them, a municipality opening up nearly all their entire public spaces to the homeless population would have a magnet effect for those municipalities doing so, with the burden of public services being borne by the taxpayers of that municipality. The committee believes any similar legislation should be avoided. **Vote 15-1.**

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 110, prohibiting the use of state funds for new passenger rail projects. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Martin Jack for Public Works and Highways. This bill was an act to prohibit the use of state funds for new passenger rail projects. The committee agreed that the bill should not be recommended for future legislation. The committee avoids appropriating transportation funds outside of the Ten Year Transportation Plan. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 606-FN, requiring construction of state buildings or state-funded projects to contain electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The committee supports the concept of electric vehicles and having charging infrastructure available in the state especially at state-owned properties and buildings.

However, the committee believes that this bill is broad in scope and does not meet the intended target. The committee agrees that a more focused bill should be introduced in the next session to create and have the desired impact. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1488-FN, relative to hazard mitigation funding. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.** Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. The committee supports the concept of having a dedicated fund in our state budget for local communities to draw upon in times of crisis for disaster relief and hazard mitigation. We also recognize the prime sponsor and the ranking minority member's sense of urgency on this challenge impacting their constituency. However, the proposed legislation was presented off budget cycle. The committee believes presenting the bill during a budget cycle would allow for better vetting and planning in our state budget, and permit an appropriate allocation that would get this relief program in place for municipalities to utilize in a time of need. **Vote 14-1.**

HB 1547, requiring mileage-based exit numbers on Tier I highways. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. Simply put, while we support the concept, the committee believes that this issue should be incorporated with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's Ten-Year Plan for budgeting and planning purposes. **Vote 16-0.**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1229, relative to the purchase and sale of any interest in real property abutting public waters. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for Resources, Recreation and Development. The committee voted unanimously to not recommend this bill for future legislation. The sponsor believes there is a non-legislative remedy or other opportunities to increase education among property owners within the shoreline protection zone of their responsibilities under the shoreline, water quality protection act. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 1483, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill would allow municipalities' planning boards to adopt subdivision regulations requiring a water supply study and on-lot private well testing to ensure a sufficient water supply, and regulations requiring applicants to pay the cost of abutter notifications. The committee heard testimony of instances where new subdivisions with numerous well-water homes dramatically affected abutters existing water supplies. The bill was supported by the NH Municipal Association. The NH Department of Environmental Services provided model ordinances drafted following a similar bill in 2023 to illustrate how municipalities might implement such regulations. Some committee members expressed concerns about key terms in the bill including the subdivision size and the definition of a water supply study, others stated the cost of hydrological studies might introduce another barrier to new development, which could hamper goals to increase affordable housing, and other members believe the authority exists in existing statute making the bill "as is" unnecessary. The majority of the committee recognize that safe, adequate water supplies are essential to human health and property values, and believe this bill can be revised with slight modifications to address the committee's concerns, and therefore recommends the bill for future legislation. **Vote 8-7.**

SB 345-FN, relative to state park fees for state residents. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Suzanne Vail for Resources, Recreation and Development. Well-maintained, modern state parks attract visitors, create jobs, support local businesses, and enhance the quality of life for NH residents. This bill proposed separate entry fees for out-of-state visitors at NH state parks, a practice common in other states. While the committee acknowledged that NH residents could benefit from having lower fees, officials from state parks raised the issue of operational challenges. Specifically, verifying residency at park entrances would be difficult for staff with the current system. Moreover, state parks are already reviewing state park entrance fees under the oversight of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee. Many state parks are undergoing capital improvements funded by federal and state resources to both modernize and repair storm damage. Changes in fees are imminent. The committee voted overwhelmingly to not recommend for future legislation, having learned more about how park fees are set, and with the understanding that adding additional legislative oversight could be disruptive at this time. **Vote 14-1.**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 509, relative to the phasing out of the minimum electric renewable portfolio standard. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Rebecca McWilliams for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill proposes phasing out the Renewable Portfolio Standard, which is a state energy policy currently providing market price signals for installing and using renewable energy. The committee discussed the fact that under the current market, municipal and

county facilities, including schools and nursing homes, have installed biomass heating and currently receive credit for doing so. Currently, studying the market impacts of changing the renewable portfolio standard, rather than ending the market altogether, seems to be the prudent approach. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 1398, relative to utility recovery of costs associated with net energy metering. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill sought to extend to New Hampshire's other regulated utilities the net metering cost recovery mechanism (called stranded cost recovery) used by the state's largest utility. This extension was envisioned to provide trackability and transparency to net metering costs and to ensure that all customers paid those charges, not just default service customers. Committee deliberations centered around testimony that purported to claim that alternative energy suppliers and aggregators would be competitively disadvantaged by the bill's passage. But this alleged disadvantage exists today because regulated utilities contest the notion that load settlement for net metering costs should include wholesale load reductions and/or avoided transmission costs. Utilities believe such reductions cannot be captured with the current ISO-NE load settlement protocols and metering. State regulators are currently engaged in this complicated debate, so the committee ultimately decided that the bill and its subject matter be deferred. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 1508, requiring fiber optic communications service providers to prioritize service restoration for public safety and public health organizations. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. While this bill does attempt to address a real issue, prioritizing the restoration of communication services for first responders, it has some real problems. First and foremost, it attempts to have the state regulate fiber optic communication services, which are regulated by the federal government through the Federal Communications Commission. It is doubtful as to whether the state has the authority to regulate the restoration process of privately owned companies. These companies are not public utilities. Secondly, a better approach would be to have the various first responders reach out to their communication provider and arrange for prompt restoration of service. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 1617-FN, relative to energy procurement agreements for default service. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill permits utilities to procure power supply agreements using contracts of varying lengths and terms, including laddering of agreements rather than only pursuing six month contracts. The bill's purpose was to reduce the risk premium from these contracts bringing them closer to average market rates. The Public Utilities Commission is currently evaluating this issue and the Department of Energy is also studying it. It is best to wait for their decisions and reports before taking any legislative action. **Vote 17-0.**

SB 540, requiring the department of energy to investigate behind the meter and utility scale energy storage. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Thomas Corman for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill asks the Department of Energy to investigate energy storage, both behind the meter (i.e., at customer sites) and utility scale. Not only is storage a key component to grid reliability, it also can help reduce the amount of energy that needs to be generated at peak times. Indeed, Schiller Station in Portsmouth and Merrimack Station in Bow will be converting from coal-fired generation to battery storage facilities. Furthermore, a project in Maine will install batteries capable of 8.5 gigawatt-hours of long-term storage. Batteries present a significant change to energy technology and to market forces. They may deserve further study. **Vote 17-0.**

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1041, relative to establishing a commission to investigate the USS Liberty incident and its aftermath. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee voted to recommend this bill related to the USS Liberty incident, which had earlier been held for interim study, for future consideration and future action. **Vote 14-0.**

HB 1485, establishing a committee to study the totality of circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 epidemic. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee recommended this bill for future consideration and future action which had earlier been held for interim study. **Vote 13-1.**

TRANSPORTATION

HB 55-FN, relative to driver education. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. Parents have a vested interest in their children's driver's education. We should empower parents to have a larger role in their children's driver's education. No one knows a child better than a parent, and having them play a larger role in driver education, backed by Division of Motor Vehicle evaluators, would make our roads safer. **Vote 9-8.**

HB 646-FN, eliminating the vehicle inspection mandate for non-commercial vehicles. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This legislation would have removed the vehicle inspection program. The committee felt that this bill was a bridge too far. The vehicle inspection program does provide value and helps make New Hampshire roads safer. **Vote 14-3.**

HB 650-FN, relative to prohibiting suspension of driver's licenses due to nonpayment of fines or fees. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Alvin See for Transportation. This bill may conflict with other statutes in how fines and fees are enforced for infractions unrelated to the specific statutes. This can result in unintended consequences. The Division of Motor Vehicles has explained that license suspension is the last of several steps that they take to resolve a case. **Vote 11-6.**

HB 1273-FN, relative to the protection of personal information in driver licenses. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This bill would provide some guard rails on protecting an individual's personal information. Although this bill has some flaws, the concept is worth pursuing. Therefore, the committee felt that adjusting and modifying would be beneficial for future legislation. Overall, the bill does have merits. **Vote 11-6.**

SB 465-FN, (New Title) relative to motorist duties when approaching highway emergencies involving a stopped or standing vehicle. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. John Sellers for Transportation. This bill is not recommended because it is unenforceable because it leaves interpretation to the driver and officer to know if a vehicle is off to the side of the road for a breakdown or for something else entirely. Also, our state would not be consistent with other states where they have move over laws for red, blue and yellow lights and this bill would cause confusion with those who visit or vacation in New Hampshire. **Vote 10-7.**

SB 581, relative to temporary drivers licenses and non-driver identification cards. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. A common constituent complaint is when you renew your driver's license, you only receive a paper copy of your new license. This shouldn't be the case, and this bill addresses a symptom of that problem rather than focusing on solutions to the real issue of people not leaving the Division of Motor Vehicles with their actual license. Legislative efforts on future solutions should fix the root problem, not the by-product of the symptom. **Vote 9-8.**

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 15-FN, relative to the rate of the business enterprise tax. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. John Janigian for Ways and Means. The committee was unable to reach a consensus on whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 100-FN-A, to repeal the interest and dividends tax. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. The committee was unanimous in no need for further legislation as this has been addressed in another legislative action. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 133-FN, relative to repealing the communications services tax. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Rep. John Janigian for Ways and Means. The committee was unable to reach a consensus on whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 569-FN, relative to the state education property tax and the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief program. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Ways and Means. This is one of three bills the committee voted in Interim Study to Recommend for Future Legislation in order to ensure there are alternative vehicles available in the coming term to find a resolution to the contentious issues surrounding the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT). This bill would reform the SWEPT by (1) substantially expanding upon its provision of property tax relief for low and moderate income homeowners, (2) providing for retention by each municipality of 3% of the amount of SWEPT collected from municipal taxpayers to cover the costs of collection and outreach to potential beneficiaries of the tax relief program, (3) requiring remission by each municipality of all SWEPT proceeds net of the 3% retention to the state education trust fund, and (4) establishing a study committee to consider extension of relief to renters, development of a new property tax deferral program, and identification of data needed to better evaluate and develop effective property tax relief. It follows in the footsteps of HB 504-FN from the 2021-22 session, which resulted in the same recommendation. In light of appeals pending before the NH Supreme Court in the so-called *Rand* and *Con Val* decisions, the topic of state education fund-

ing support generally and the SWEPT device particularly will need to be revisited. A variety of options should be encouraged for careful consideration in the next legislative session, in cooperation with the Education and Finance Committees, as future legislation will certainly be necessary. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1422-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to the rates of the business profits tax, business enterprise tax, communications service tax, and meals and rooms tax. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. The committee was unanimous in its opinion that this bill should be broken down into its individual components and recommends no further legislative action on this particular bill. **Vote 20-0.**

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. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

HB 1492-FN, relative to the rate and exemptions of the interest and dividends tax. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

Rep. John Janigian for Ways and Means. The committee was unable to reach a consensus on whether to recommend further legislation or not. **Vote 10-10.**

HB 1514-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for the use of school districts. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Ways and Means. This is one of three bills the committee voted in Interim Study to Recommend for Future Legislation in order to ensure there are alternative vehicles available in the coming term to find a resolution to the contentious issues surrounding the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT). This bill would restore statutory language repealed in 2011, to require those municipalities that collect more in SWEPT than they are due in state adequacy aid to remit "excess SWEPT" funds to the state for deposit in the Education Trust Fund. In light of appeals pending before the NH Supreme Court in the so-called *Rand* and *Con Val* decisions, the topic of state education funding support generally and the SWEPT device particularly will need to be revisited. A variety of options should be encouraged for careful consideration in the next legislative session, in cooperation with the Education and Finance Committees, as future legislation will certainly be necessary. **Vote 20-0.**

HB 1563-FN, relative to the education property tax and the authority of political subdivisions. **RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Ways and Means. This is one of three bills the committee voted in Interim Study to Recommend for Future Legislation in order to ensure there are alternative vehicles available in the coming term to find a resolution to the contentious issues surrounding the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT). This bill would repeal SWEPT entirely. Under an amendment brought to the committee, SWEPT would be replaced with a new statutory recognition of certain existing local school tax revenues as "local contributions," enabling recognition of a limited amount of existing local school tax revenues as a replacement form of state funding. The sponsor indicated an intention to continue refining this approach, which dovetails in certain ways with HB 1586, which lies in Interim Study with the Education Committee. In light of appeals pending before the NH Supreme Court in the so-called *Rand* and *Con Val* decisions, the topic of state education funding support generally and the SWEPT device particularly will need to be revisited. A variety of options should be encouraged for careful consideration in the next legislative session, in cooperation with the Education and Finance Committees, as future legislation will certainly be necessary. **Vote 20-0.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF PERFLUORINATED CHEMICALS (RSA 126-A:79-a)

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting. This meeting will take place by remote conference. Please register for the meeting on November 8, 2024, 2:00 PM EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3930626968887633502>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. By phone: Call in Number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access Code: 844-418-127 Webinar ID: 884-757-171

The following email address will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: Amy.E.Rousseau@des.nh.gov. You may also call Amy Rousseau at 603-271-8801.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN FIRST RESPONDERS (RSA 281-A:17-e), NH Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Classroom 1, Concord

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SIEC) (RSA 21-P:48, IV), New Hampshire Fire Academy, Classroom 5 & 6, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2), Room 201, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION ON NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVICS (RSA 21-N:8-c), Conference Room 302 (3rd Floor), Department of Education, 25 Hall Street, Concord

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

EDUCATION FREEDOM SAVINGS ACCOUNT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 194-F:12), Room 100, SH

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (RSA 17-I:1), Room 103, SH

11:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OPERATING BUDGET HEARING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027, Room 210-211, LOB

9:00 a.m. Opening Session - Governor Sununu

Department of Revenue

Department of Justice

9:45 a.m. Human Rights Commission

Employment Security

NH Retirement System

Liquor Commission

11:00 a.m. Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

Banking Department

Veterans Home

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Department of Safety

Police Standards and Training

2:00 p.m. Department of Corrections

Adult Parole Board

Department of Administrative Services

Advocate of Special Education

Conservation Land Stewardship Program

Housing Appeals Board

Office of the Child Advocate

NH State Commission on Aging

Personnel Appeals Board

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE (RSA 17-M:1), Room 201, LOB

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

GOVERNOR'S OPERATING BUDGET HEARING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027, Room 210-211 LOB

1:00 p.m. Secretary of State

Right to know Ombudsman

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

Pease Development Authority

Board of Tax & Land Appeals

Judicial Council

Department of Labor

Public Employees Labor Relations Board

- 2:45 p.m. University System of New Hampshire
Community College System of New Hampshire
New Hampshire Lottery Commission
Department of Education
- 4:20 p.m. Adjourn

NEW HAMPSHIRE CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22), Room 103, SH

- 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID RESPONSE EFFICACY, Room 301-303, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. Discussion about COVID protocols, and related items to the committee's mission statement.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 281-A:62), NH Department of Labor, 95 Pleasant Street, Concord

- 1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

GOVERNOR'S OPERATING BUDGET HEARING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027, Room 210-211, LOB

- 8:30 a.m. Office of Professional Licensure and Certification
Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services
Insurance Department
Department of Energy
Public Utilities Commission
Office of Consumer Advocate
- 10:00 a.m. Executive Council
Developmental Disabilities Council
Department of Transportation
- 11:00 a.m. Department of Information Technology
Treasury Department
Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
Community Development Finance Authority
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Fish & Game Department
- 2:00 p.m. Department of Environmental Services
Department of Health & Human Services
- 3:45 p.m. Adjourn

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

CANNON MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 12-A:29-b), Franconia Notch State Park Headquarters, I-93, Exit 34B, Franconia

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

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

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Room 210-211, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3), Dept Natural & Cultural Resources, Gorham Office - 80 Glen Rd., Gorham

- 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (RSA 238-A:2), 7 Hazen Drive, Room 112-113, Concord

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: Passcode: 010641
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86146486325?pwd=ZUgZHhJoJbvG6rCyjqHcoomEPlaiCz.1>

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

- 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18**LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE (RSA 14-B:2), Room 103, SH**

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE RARE DISEASE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 126-A:79), 29 Hazen Dr. Room 311 Concord

12:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Microsoft Teams: Meeting ID: 225 006 774 172 Passcode: VdCP7d

NH LAND AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (RSA 227-M:4), 1 Granite Place South, Suite 211, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

THE DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY BOARD (RSA 170-G:6-a), Classroom 1, 3rd floor, Dolloff Bldg, State Office Park South, Brown Rd, Concord

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER RELATED DEMENTIA (RSA 126-A:15-a), Room 100, SH**

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Room 306-308, LOB**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

CONWAY BRANCH PLANNING GROUP (HB 1468, Chapter 137, Laws of 2024), 1 Moultonville Road, Ossipee

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE-IRELAND TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22-a), Business & Economic Affairs, 100 North Main St., Suite 100, Concord

1:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13), Room 205-207, LOB**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Registration link for remote attendance option:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3435858814888164108>

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

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting. Registration link for remote attendance option:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3435858814888164108>

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2**NEW HAMPSHIRE OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 126-A:85), Dept. of Justice, One Granite Pl., Concord**

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Join Microsoft Teams: Meeting ID: 279 737 604 573 Passcode: zKPHQY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

COMMISSION ON NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVICS (RSA 21-N:8-c), Conference Room 302 (3rd Floor), Department of Education, 25 Hall Street, Concord

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRUG OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW COMMISSION (RSA 126-DD:1), Executive Council Chamber, State House Rm. 207, 107 N. State St., Concord

3:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

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

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

COMMISSION ON NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVICS (RSA 21-N:8-c), Conference Room 302 (3rd Floor), Department of Education, 25 Hall Street, Concord

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

COMMISSION ON NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVICS (RSA 21-N:8-c), Conference Room 302 (3rd Floor), Department of Education, 25 Hall Street, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON SUICIDE PREVENTION (RSA 126-R:2), National Guard Edward Cross Training Center, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Grafton County Delegation Organizational Day will take place on **Monday, December. 9th at 9:00 a.m.** at the Grafton County Complex, 3855 Dartmouth College Highway, North Haverhill, NH. If you are running for re-election, please set aside the day and time for this important work, and if you are successful in that effort, please make every effort to attend.

Rep. George Sykes, 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.

Emerging technologies include things like artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, drones, virtual reality, advanced energy sources, blockchain, robotics, and space technology, which are quickly changing the way we and our constituents live and work. It's important that we develop expertise in the Legislature about the rapidly changing technology landscape. Any member interested in the formation of a bipartisan Emerging Technologies Caucus, please email me at keith.ammon@leg.state.nh.us.

Rep. Keith Ammon

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 (OPLC). Alternatively, they may apply online at <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/interested-becoming-oplc-board-member>.

Reps. Tony Lekas and Jaci Grote

Notice from the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH): A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to Legislators for the "Bringing Back the Trades" event at NHTI-Concord's Community College on **November 15** (doors open at **9:00 a.m.**). Mike Rowe, best known for hosting the TV show "Dirty Jobs", which showcased the value of blue-collar work, will join us for this extraordinary event highlighting the vitality and excitement of skilled trades. This is a wonderful opportunity for students, parents, and job seekers to learn more about careers in New Hampshire trades, from construction to automotive to manufacturing and more! Participants will learn what internships and apprenticeships are available right now, and can ask any questions they have from people who have built their careers in the trades. \$50,000 of scholarships will be given out at the event to NH residents. The event is brought to you by PROCON, Grappone Automotive Group, the Bring Back the Trades organization, and CCSNH. For Legislators wanting complimentary passes please RSVP to cahoefs@ccsnh.edu by Friday, November 1st. Limited tickets are available.

Rep. Rick Ladd

The 32nd annual U.S.-Canada Executive Energy Conference is **November 20th & 21st** as we bring together Canadian and American senior executives, policy makers, regulators, and energy experts to provide their perspectives, share knowledge, and explore energy trade and cooperation. If you are a government employee, in academia, a member of NECBC, or a member of a partner organization make sure to take advantage of the discounted rates available! Visit <https://necbc.org/event/2024NECBCEnergy> to learn more and register and contact info@NECBC.org with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Rep. Janet Wall

It's back! Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group cordially invites all House members and staff to their Welcome Back Reception on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024** at Tandy's Pub & Grille, One Eagle Square (directly across the street from the State House) following the close of session, or at 3:00 p.m. should the session end early.

Speaker Packard and Rep. Matthew Wilhelm

NOTICE

The House Clerk's Office is accepting orders for the **2023 and 2024** hardcover **Permanent House Journals**.

Anyone who was a **New Hampshire Legislator for the 168th General Court** and all state agencies are entitled to one House Journal at no charge, **upon request**. All others interested in obtaining a House Journal, as well as any legislator or state agency requesting additional copies, will be charged for that copy. We estimate the cost for paid volumes to be approximately \$65 each. In addition, if the volume is to be mailed, there will be a \$5.00 shipping & handling charge. Those who order paid copies will be notified **and billed** when the House Journals are ready for distribution. **DO NOT** send any money now.

In an effort to contain costs, the number of House Journals printed will be determined by the number of advance orders received. **Extra copies will not be ordered.**

Please note that by placing an order for a House Permanent Journal for the 168th General Court biennium, it will be for two House Journals, one for the year 2023 and one for the year 2024.

To place an order, please send information via email to: teresa.preston@leg.state.nh.us

or mail to: **Teresa Preston, Journal Clerk**
NH House of Representatives
Room 317, State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

2023 & 2024 HOUSE PERMANENT JOURNAL REQUEST

NAME _____

AGENCY/BUSINESS _____

CONTACT PERSON (If other than above) _____

PHONE/EXT. _____

E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____
