



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 169th General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2025 Session

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Concord, N.H.

Friday, March 14, 2025

No. 16

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

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The House will meet Thursday, March 20th at 10 a.m. The House will also meet on Thursday, March 27th and possibly on Wednesday, March 26th. We will keep you updated as we progress through the remaining House bills and deadlines. Please continue to hold Thursdays as possible House Session days.

Please be attentive to when House bills you have sponsored or other House bills of interest have scheduled public hearings in the Senate so you may introduce and/ or provide testimony on them. Please also be sure to attend Finance hearings on bills referred to a second Committee.

Legislators are also reminded to review testimony submissions from our online portal for bills being considered by your Committees. Simply visit the General Court website at: https://gc.nh.gov/house/committees/remotetestimony/submitted_testimony.aspx, choose your Committee from the drop-down list, and choose the bills you wish to view submissions on. On days your Committee has hearings, you will receive an email at the end of the day which will contain links to all testimony your Committee received through the online portal.

On Tuesday, March 18th, from 12:00 p.m -12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m. in the State House Cafeteria dining area, General Court Health Services Nurse Jennifer Rocheleau and Lindsay Young of the General Court Administrative Office will be joined by a Registered Dietitian for a lunch-and-learn event. This event will focus on shopping for a heart-healthy diet, risk factors for heart disease, label reading and more. Legislators and staff are encouraged to attend.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

Meetings of the chairs and vice chairs are scheduled for every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m. in Rooms 306-308 of the Legislative Office Building.

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

NOTICE

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Thursday, March 20th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

Rep. Jason Osborne, Majority Leader

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, March 20th at 8:30 a.m.** in the State House Cafeteria.

Rep. Alexis Simpson, Democratic Leader

NOTICE

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

CLOSES AT 3:00 p.m. ON:

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

AVAILABLE ON:

Friday, March 21, 2025

Friday, March 28, 2025

Friday, April 4, 2025

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2025 House Deadlines

First Year Session Deadlines

Thursday, March 20, 2025	Last day to report all HBs not in a second committee, except budget bills
Thursday, March 27, 2025	Last day to act on HBs not in a second committee, except budget bills
Thursday, April 3, 2025	Last day to report all remaining HBs
Thursday, April 10, 2025	Last day to report list of retained HBs
Thursday, May 8, 2025	CROSSOVER Last day to act on all bills
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Last day to report Senate Bills going to a second committee
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Last day to act on SBs going to a second committee
	Last day to report all remaining SBs
	Last day to report list of retained SBs
Thursday, June 5, 2025	Last day to act on SBs
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Last day to form Committees of Conference
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Last day to sign Committee of Conference reports (4 p.m.)
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Last day to act on Committee of Conference reports

BILLS LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 159-FN, authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities. Pending question: Ought to Pass as Amended.

HB 264-FN, relative to delegates to an Article V convention. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 306, establishing a commission to study the short and long-term impacts of pending national and regional carbon pricing mechanisms on New Hampshire's citizens, businesses, institutions, and environment. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 425, allowing tax-exempt entities to keep their tax-exempt status while renting facilities or property to entities that share their mission. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 526-FN, establishing a climate change and damage division in the department of environmental services. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 536-FN, relative to a cost of living adjustment in the state retirement system. Pending question: Ought to Pass.

HB 542-FN, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 581-FN, establishing a state retirement plan group for new state employee members of the retirement system. Pending question: No pending question.

HB 583-FN-L, relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 586-FN, establishing an employee assistance program for small town first responders and making an appropriation therefor. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 615-FN, relative to drug forfeiture proceedings. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 637-FN, relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement annuities at age 65 for certain group I retirement system members. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 645-FN, relative to data collection and reporting requirements of the prescription drug affordability board. Pending question: Ought to Pass as Amended.

HB 654-FN, relative to allowing small customer-generators the ability to participate in group-net metering. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 714-FN, creating a single primary ballot. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 744-FN, relative to workers' compensation indemnity benefits percentage. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 762-FN-A, appropriating \$30,000 to the judicial branch for the purpose of hiring a contractor to conduct a manual review of domestic violence and stalking cases and related criminal cases. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 764-FN, prohibiting the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding, weather modification, excessive electromagnetic radio frequency, and microwave radiation and making penalties for violation of such prohibition. Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate.

HR 17, affirming revenue estimates for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027. Pending question: No Pending question.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 CONSENT CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 430, reducing the retention period for records of unfounded abuse and neglect reports by the department of health and human services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. Reducing the retention period for unfounded abuse and neglect reports could hinder child protection efforts, weaken accountability, and limit the ability of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to identify patterns of potential abuse over time. While an individual report may be unfounded, multiple reports could signal risk that would be harder to detect if records are prematurely erased. Retaining these records ensures transparency, allows for proper oversight, and aligns with best practices in child welfare. While privacy concerns are valid, DHHS already had safeguards in place to prevent misuse of information, making retention necessary to protect vulnerable children, and ensuring the integrity of investigations. Instead of reducing record retention, effort should focus on strengthening protocols for access and use to balance privacy with child safety. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 543, establishing a committee to study how the family division customarily treats accusations of domestic violence and to study current family division practices relative to the right to testify and right to submit evidence. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Pearson for Children and Family Law. When the Special Committee on the Family Division of the Circuit Court completed its two years of work, members asked what we should work on next. As we discussed this question, not only among ourselves, but with many others in the legislature, we concluded that two major issues were the family court's treatment of domestic violence and its protocols for the submission of evidence. Many on the special committee had hoped to pick up our work this term with these questions. Although the Speaker did not wish to reconstitute the special committee for two more years, he did suggest a subcommittee of the Children and Family Law Committee could attend to this work. Were the bill to pass, by the time the bill is signed into law and a committee is appointed, some months will have passed. The subcommittee, however, has been appointed and will hit the ground running very soon. For this reason, and for only this reason, the recommendation is Inexpedient to Legislate. Further, this bill is a good bill and the enumeration of items to study given in sections Roman numerals II to VI will inform the subcommittee's work. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 560, relative to parental access to a minor child's medical records. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lori Korzen for Children and Family Law. This bill aims to secure parents' rights to access their minor child's medical files. The committee feels it deserves a vote of Ought to Pass with Amendment due to its critical importance in upholding parental rights and child welfare. Parents need this for compelling reasons. First, it ensures they can make informed decisions about their child's healthcare, particularly where an understanding of past treatments or allergies could be lifesaving. Second, it empowers parents to monitor and address potential mental or physical health issues early, such as detecting signs of illness or emotional distress that a minor might not fully disclose. Third, it strengthens family accountability by allowing parents to verify the accuracy of medical records to ensure their child receives appropriate care tailored to their needs. This bill, as amended, reinforces the fundamental role of parents as guardians, equipping them with the transparency required to protect and nurture their children effectively. **Vote 14-0.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 321-FN, requiring the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days if the driver requests the extension. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, with the replace all amendment will allow for the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations and make pleas and payments online. Any person who enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere on a summons, in lieu of court appearance as provided in paragraph I, and has no unpaid motor vehicle fines or other outstanding motor vehicle violations, may request a fine payment period of up to 90 days from the date of the summons either in person or online. Additionally, a person may request an extension for an additional 90 days upon proof that the driver is unable to make full payment within the period of the first extension. The committee felt strongly that these changes are reasonable considering the person is paying their violation. Given that so many residents are paid an hourly wage, if they have a period that has been negatively impacted, this will allow them the opportunity to avoid a financial hardship. Additionally, with technology making it easier for a person to manage such affairs online versus having to take a day from work, we can see no logical reason to not make these reasonable changes. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 343, relative to reporting regarding the northern border alliance program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Alissandra Murray for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill expands the existing reporting requirements for the Northern Border Alliance to ensure that sufficient data is collected and shared with the legislature. Specifically, the bill codifies certain information that is already being reported, and it requires further reporting on the distribution of program funds, as well as on the nature of Customs and Border Protection related incidents. **Vote 16-0.**

HB 387, relative to balloons being released into the air. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Richard Lascelles for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. It has become fashionable to release into the air, balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases for celebratory purposes. The bill makes such behavior statutory littering that can spread for hundreds of miles and that can remain in the environment for years. Deflated balloons pose a serious threat to the life and well-being of wildlife and marine animals via ingestion or entanglement with attached ribbons. The bill makes releasing twenty or more balloons a violation level offense. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 397, establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the department of safety. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda Harriott-Gathright for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill requests a task force to address the negative issues of our waterways. Outdoor tourism is a significant state industry, \$325 million annually in tax revenue; tourism, \$3.9 billion to the state economy. New Hampshire's lakes and water ways are one of its most important natural resources, however lack of control of issues such as jet skis jumping wakes behind wake surfers, unregistered watercraft, ski craft coming from Massachusetts, which are not permitted on the lake, out of state boats without invasive species decal, and the outcry of lake users at lake associations, on social media, and at public hearings. While most boaters are responsible, there are those who are not. Noticeably when law enforcement is present and/or visible, highway users are more respectful of the laws of NH. A common refrain is that there are not enough marine patrol officers and an increase in law enforcement patrols on NH water bodies is needed. Bottom line we must engage other stakeholders and experts: municipal and county law enforcement that protect public safety on lakes, those representing users of public water bodies, marine trades, NH Lakes, and the Loon Preservation committee. The passing of this bill will bring experts together providing recommendations on how to address the problem of insufficient marine patrols so residents and tourists can fully enjoy NH's treasured lakes and waterways in a safe manner. For these reasons the committee supports ought to pass. The task force will have the best of the best minds at work for the state's waterways. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 405, establishing a committee to study approaches to combat store-front sex trafficking in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill as amended, with a replace all amendment does two things: expands the scope of the underlying bill by changing the study committee to a study commission, and updates New Hampshire's Prostitution Statute, RSA 645:2 in cases where someone knowingly allows a place under their control to be used for acts of prostitution involving sexual contact. The NH Human Trafficking Collaborative Task Force has identified trafficking activity in every county of the state, with victims ranging in age from 3 years old to the elderly. Strong and comprehensive legislative proposals like this amendment are critical to ensuring that we are able to effectively respond to and prevent human trafficking in our state. Currently, it is very difficult to initiate a human trafficking investigation in these situations. A study commission that engages all of the key stakeholders is essential to stop these Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs) from taking advantage of our state and sexually exploiting victims. Unfortunately, many of these victims have been trafficked from other countries and are under the age of 18. The study commission will put together an interim report in November 2025, enabling the legislature to move forward with legislative proposals in 2026, providing a road map for how we can systematically address this issue. IMBs in New Hampshire remain a consistent issue in communities across the state. IMBs are a very specific type of exploitative, organized, commercial-front trafficking venue that have been identified by national organizations, like the Polaris Project, that see implicated over and over in cases reported to the national hotline, including in the Granite State. IMBs do not refer to legal, therapeutic massage businesses. Homeland Security and other agencies working to address human trafficking in NH are regularly identifying new IMBs in NH. However, stronger laws and a more coordinated effort is needed in order to adequately hold these businesses accountable and better protect identified victims of human trafficking. One immediate step that we can take is to increase the penalty under RSA 645:2 in cases where someone knowingly allows a place under their control to be used for acts of prostitution involving sexual contact. This is currently a misdemeanor under the law, and the amendment will increase it to a felony level offense. Massachusetts recently increased the penalty under their statute to a felony. This has resulted in businesses moving from Massachusetts to New Hampshire. Increasing our penalty to a felony will place us in alignment with our neighboring states and deter IMBs from taking root. The penalty for this act is further enhanced to a class A felony in cases that

involve minors, or a victim has been compelled by force or intimidation. This sends a strong message that New Hampshire does not tolerate sexual exploitation and will hold offenders accountable who knowingly allow exploitation to take place under their roof. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 551-FN, repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, as amended will repeal the state required license to sell pistols and/or revolvers in the state by amending RSA 159:8. This license is no longer needed because potential businesses are required to have municipal zoning approval before opening the business operation. Currently, firearm dealers are required to be licensed by the federal ATF. **Vote 16-0.**

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 93, enabling school districts to appoint a school district treasurer. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Melissa Litchfield for Education Policy and Administration. Elected officials are individuals who have been chosen to represent the public through a democratic election process. These officials are generally accountable to the electorate and serve terms defined by constitutional or statutory provisions. Appointed officials are individuals who are selected for governmental positions by a higher authority. Unlike elected officials, appointed officials do not go through a public voting process and may or may not be accountable directly to the electorate.

The main difference between elected officials and appointed officials is that elected officials are chosen by the general populace through democratic elections, whereas appointed officials are selected by a person in a higher position of authority or by a designated committee. Elected officials are directly accountable to the constituents who voted for them and usually serve a fixed term as stipulated by law. This enabling legislation would take a position voted in by the public and change it to an appointed position, where the voting population would lose their voice. **Vote 15-3.**

HB 231, prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical procedures without parental consent. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kristin Noble for Education Policy and Administration. The amendment is to replace all, including the title. The new title is: prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent. This bill with amendment requires school districts to have a policy to prohibit any school district personnel from transporting a minor, or accompanying a minor on a transport for medical, mental health, or any other health-related appointment, without parental consent. This does not include accompanying a minor during an emergency transport by ambulance. **Vote 12-4.**

HB 286, establishing a study committee to investigate if one school superintendent per county is feasible. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. Given the number of study committees the NH House of Representatives is currently conducting, as well as the potential of unintended consequences to recommendations from this study committee, it was felt, unanimously, that this bill is not viable. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 398, requiring holocaust and genocide studies in public schools to include the impacts on people with disabilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristin Noble for Education Policy and Administration. The committee consulted with the Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education who felt that this bill was not necessary because it is already being covered in the curriculum. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 653-FN, establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. The entirety of the committee agreed that exploring alternatives to restraint and seclusion, in a pilot program that allows a beginning and end date, provides a valuable opportunity to collect data to ascertain a better course of action for children. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 752, relative to procedures for the closing of a charter school. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. This bill addresses a transparency issue lacking in the current statutes pertaining to public charter schools. It allows the Department of Education to utilize a solid set of standards while ensuring transparency and due process. **Vote 17-1.**

HB 753-FN, relative to expedited due process hearings to enforce special education rights. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. This bill is intended to make sure the expedited special education due process hearings are expedited and help more quickly than regular due process hearings per federal law. **Vote 17-0.**

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 171, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Gruber for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill places a moratorium or pause on the issuance of permits for new solid waste landfills for a three-year period in order to provide time for the state to develop new regulations, data, technologies, and policies that will protect New Hampshire and its local communities. During this pause, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) may accept applications, evaluate them for completeness, and request more information, but will not issue permits. Recent data from the NHDES documents that there is existing, previously permitted, capacity within landfills in New Hampshire that will meet the needs of New Hampshire during this pause and for at least an additional five years. Anticipated expansion at existing permitted landfills is also likely to provide at least 10 to 20 years of future capacity. This bill does not prohibit the expansion or modification of any landfill facility that is currently permitted in accordance with RSA 149-M:9. **Vote 13-1.**

HB 263, relative to applications to the cost of care fund for livestock care. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. This bill requires that applications made to the cost of care fund for livestock care reimbursement demonstrate that the livestock were properly seized following consultation with an individual experienced in the care of the seized livestock. The committee felt that the language in this bill should be incorporated into another bill that the committee heard regarding seizures of animals in animal cruelty cases (HB 616). Therefore, we decided that the best option was to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill and include the language it contains into the other bill. **Vote 14-0.**

HB 277, relative to the use of the term “foal” and “colt.” **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Molly Howard for Environment and Agriculture. This bill amends RSA 644:8 III (f) and (g) by cleaning up inaccurate language that was in existing statute. It replaces the term “colt” with “foal” in order to include all young horses and it also clarifies language related to foals separated from their dams. **Vote 14-0.**

HB 307, relative to the food production area for homestead food. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. Current statute requires that homestead foods be produced only in the kitchen of a residence. For some producers, having a separate production area where they can produce homestead food out of reach of children, spouse, and pets is more practical. This bill permits the use of such an area and the amendment spells out the necessary sanitation and food safety requirements for that space. **Vote 14-0.**

HB 779-FN, allowing the sale of rabbit meat in intrastate commerce. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. While current state law allows the sale of rabbit meat grown on NH farms to restaurants, there is not a mechanism for NH farmers to sell rabbit meat from their farm, farmstand, or at a farmers’ market. Rabbit is considered a non-amenable species under federal law and therefore does not require US Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection. The USDA simply requires that the production of rabbit meat be consistent with state food safety laws. This bill, as amended, allows the sale of rabbit meat at farms, farmstands and farmers’ markets provided that the rabbits are raised, slaughtered, processed, packaged, and sold within the State of New Hampshire, that producer fulfills the educational requirements in the Department of Health and Human Services rules related to rabbit meat handling, and that the producer registers with the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Foods. **Vote 14-0.**

HR 13, opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. This House Resolution resolves that it is the position of the House of Representatives that no landfill should be located in the vicinity of Forest Lake Park. Forest Lake Park was one of the 10 original state parks, created in 1935. The risks to public health, safety, the environment, tourism, and the economy of the North Country far outweigh any benefit that might come from siting a landfill in the vicinity of the park. **Vote 14-0.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 82, relative to the regulation of various occupations. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. As amended, this bill brings all of the occupations under the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) to the format standards started two years ago. Specifically, it addresses background checks, giving the OPLC the responsibility of administrative functions for the mental health practice, psychologists, manufactured housing installation and allows those licensed under medical imaging and radiotherapy the ability to practice all modalities if qualified. Lastly, it clarifies re-examinations for electricians. **Vote 15-0.**

HB 470, relative to the use of general anesthesia, deep sedation, and moderate sedation in dental treatment. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill clarifies the legislative intent for rulemaking authority of the board of dental examiners and allows for dentists, appropriately licensed, to administer moderate sedation to patients under the age of 13 without a second anesthesiologist. The rule-making process needs more clarity regarding legislative intent and the profession assisted in drafting this legislation. **Vote 14-0.**

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 117, relative to the substitution of biological products. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Linda McGrath for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Biosimilar pharmaceutical products are biological medications that are highly similar to an already approved reference biologic product, with no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety, purity, and potency. The passage of this bill would allow pharmacists, in consultation with their patients, to substitute biological similar products subject to certain restrictions. These medications make up 2% of prescriptions but account for 46% of total prescription cost. Europe already allows for interchange of these medications. **Vote 18-0.**

HR 14, relative to litigation concerning healthcare monopolies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Yury Polozov for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee supports the goals of reducing health care costs and tackling monopolization but believes this resolution is not the right approach for New Hampshire. Antitrust litigation demands significant resources, which are more readily available at the federal level. Monopolization often stems from existing laws and is better addressed through state and federal legislative action rather than litigation led by the Attorney General. Additionally, the practices targeted by this resolution — such as high prices and group pricing — are so widespread that the Attorney General would struggle to objectively determine which entities to sue first. Given that this resolution is unlikely to effectively resolve medical pricing issues, the committee favors exploring more clear and impactful alternatives. **Vote 18-0.**

HOUSING

HB 631-FN, permitting residential building in commercial zoning by right. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ellen Read for Housing. This bill balances the rights of property owners to allow residential use in commercial zones, with the ability of towns to ensure health and safety as well as plan mixed use zones with retail on the ground floor. The current practice of preventing residential use in commercial zones that are otherwise compatible with living makes no sense in the current housing crisis. As amended, this bill creates more housing opportunities immediately by promoting more mixed use areas. The committee enthusiastically agreed that this was a needed and common sense way to easily and quickly create more available housing. **Vote 17-0.**

JUDICIARY

CACR 7, relating to the presumption of innocence. Providing that in all cases and suits of the state against one of the people, the defendant shall be innocent unless proven guilty. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for Judiciary. This bill seeks to amend the New Hampshire Constitution to require that “[i]n all cases and suits of the state against one of the people, whether criminal or civil, and whether in equity or law, and in any court or tribunal whatsoever, the accused shall be innocent unless proven guilty.” The standard of proof required for a criminal conviction in New Hampshire is already proof beyond a reasonable doubt, as criminal cases contemplate the potential loss of liberty or life; the proposed amendment would not make any difference in current state law. This proposal would entirely upend civil proceedings, however, which generally require a preponderance of evidence to establish liability for disputes over property or money. The proposed amendment does not state what the standard of proof should be in such cases, and therefore would create completely unnecessary conflict in very well-settled law. **Vote 16-2.**

HB 268-FN, relative to hearings before the board of tax and land appeals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Zoe Manos for Judiciary. The amendment to this bill will amend RSA 498-A:16 to allow any party to participate in a just compensation hearing under RSA 498-A:24 through electronic or telephonic means consistent with RSA 91-A. It will also allow hearings on appeals to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (the Board) to be held in the county in which the declaration has been filed, unless the parties agree to hold the hearing at the board’s hearing room in Concord. If there is a lack of available space at the local county courthouse (where such hearings have been historically held), as determined solely by the board, then the hearing shall be held in the board’s hearing room in Concord. **Vote 17-0.**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 544-LOCAL, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Gilman for Municipal and County Government. This bill enables a municipality to collect up to \$2 per 24 hour stay in a hotel as defined in RSA 78-A:3, VII which includes apartments. Despite giving authority to the legislative body to set the number of consecutive days of any such occupancy it is not clear if the fee applies per “occupancy” or per “occupant.” There is no provision given for this bill to apply to short-term-rentals. The bill is well intentioned but the inconsistencies need further clarification. **Vote 18-0.**

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 737-LOCAL, creating local options for games of chance. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for Ways and Means. This bill addresses gaming room games of chance (poker, blackjack, craps, roulette), not historic horse racing or video lottery terminals, for local approval. It allows a municipality to opt out of allowing games of chance. However, if games of chance are allowed, a municipality could not change its position to “not allowed” unless the operation was approved and had not started up operation within six years from the time of application approval or had ceased operation for more than four years. The thought behind this timeframe is that an operator would have made a substantial investment and needs time to finish the project and start operation before a municipality might change its mind on approval. The bill sets time limits on both the municipalities and upon the operator to get the project completed or not. The amendment merely was a time limit compromise from four years to six years on the time limit for commencing operation after application approval and a change from two years to four years for any operator that ceases operations. **Vote 15-0.**

TO BE WITHDRAWN

HB 431, establishing a commission to review draft rules related to minimum standards for public school approval and state academic standards developed by the department of education.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 REGULAR CALENDAR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 109-FN, relative to false reports to law enforcement. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill establishes a crime to knowingly falsely allege misconduct or criminal conduct by a police officer acting in the performance of his or her official duty. False reports involving an officer consume valuable resources, divert attention from actual emergencies, and create unrepairable harm to a person's reputation and career. While it is already a crime to knowingly make a false report of a crime against a fellow citizen, the act of making a false claim against a police officer is not. This will create a misdemeanor to falsely make a claim of officer misconduct, and a class A misdemeanor to falsely claim criminal misconduct while in the act of duty. The 1st amendment guarantees our right to speak out against our government, including law enforcement. It does not however give the right to make knowingly false statements to the government with the intent that those false statements be used to cause harm to an innocent person. When false allegations are made against a police officer, all of society is harmed, because during the investigation the officer is not able to fulfill their duties and the public faith in law enforcement is damaged. When an officer is accused it is always front page news, but when they are cleared it is page 5, if it makes the news at all. If we wish to continue to attract the best and brightest to serve in our law enforcement community, and continue to hold them to the highest of ethical standards, it is only proper that when they are falsely targeted, the perpetrator face consequences for their bad acts. It was alleged that this could have a chilling effect on people making legitimate complaints against law enforcement. The majority disagree. In order to charge someone under this, a prosecutor must first be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person knew the allegations that they made were false. That will be a very high bar to reach and ensures that only the most egregious offenders will be charged. **Vote 9-6.**

Rep. Jodi Newell for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill would create additional categories within the statute governing the false reporting of crimes, specifically when the report alleges misconduct or criminal behavior of a law enforcement officer. While the minority certainly agrees that knowingly submitting a false report should be strongly discouraged, there are deep concerns about the chilling effect this expansion of law may have on justifiable reporting overall, particularly considering the power imbalance inherent in this situation. Further, by including allegations of misconduct, offenses that are difficult to prove, but crucial to identifying patterns of behavior, this kind of chilling effect may inadvertently result in truly bad apples from being held accountable.

HB 218-FN, relative to providing victims of crime with a free police report of the investigation. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, as amended with a replace all amendment, will allow all crime victims in New Hampshire to receive a police report at no cost to them. Several police departments around the state already provide this for free, however not all have adopted this procedure. Currently under New Hampshire law, victims of domestic violence crimes have the right to request a free police report in their own case. Passing this bill as amended by the committee will ensure that all victims receive a free report if requested ensuring they have the required documents to access resources. The majority is highly concerned over the minority trying to insert the word alleged. Under the New Hampshire Crime Victims Bill of Rights, there are no alleged victims of crimes. This will undermine a victim's credibility and deter a victim from coming forward. **Vote 12-4.** Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Currently under New Hampshire law, victims of domestic violence crimes have the right to request a free police report in their own case. These reports may be needed for victims to access certain services, including temporary housing, victims compensation, and insurance. What this bill would do is expand this right to all crime victims. While the minority agrees wholeheartedly with the aim of the bill, as written there are major issues with the wording that could lead to a potential conflict with the New Hampshire right to know law that could prevent or significantly delay a victim from receiving a report. The minority feels these issues are easily fixable and are worth fixing.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 10-FN, establishing the parental bill of rights. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Debra DeSimone for the **Majority** of Children and Family Law. This bill establishes a framework regarding education and care of parents' minor un-emancipated children. It ensures that parents are informed about their children's health and well-being and education while in school custody. The provisions of this bill are that parents shall have the right to direct the education, care, upbringing, and moral/religious training

of their children. To enroll their children in public, private, or home-based schools, or other state/federally approved educational system. They have access to and review school and medical records. To consent to biometric scans, DNA records, and video recordings via yearly waiver/consent forms in schools that parents can sign as part of yearly paperwork, and be notified of suspected allegations and criminal offenses against their children. The school board responsibilities are to develop policies to promote parental involvement and provide information on courses, clubs, activities and behaviors. The school board shall allow parents/caregivers to object to instructional materials and withdraw their children from certain health education programs and to inform parents of their rights and responsibilities annually. The healthcare services responsibilities are required to obtain written consent from both parents/caregivers for health care services to include medical procedures except in the case of an emergency. There is no known fiscal impact, no new positions are known to be necessary or authorized. 18 states currently have parental rights statutes. 32 more states and the District of Columbia have proposed new legislation known as parents' bill of rights. **Vote 9-7.** Rep. Heather Raymond for the **Minority** of Children and Family Law. This bill claims to seek to protect the rights of parents in NH. While this is a laudable goal, the language of this amendment creates a number of unsurmountable obstacles. It creates criminal penalties for medical providers and requires written permission before doctors can treat children. Currently parents can provide verbal consent for routine services like prescription refills. This bill will end that practice. The bill makes no allowances for circumstances where the Division for Children, Youth and Family (DCYF) is involved with a family and does not align with other existing federal and state laws governing medical care and medical records. In educational settings, this bill creates a new requirement for school staff to surveil students' romantic and personal relationships for the purpose of answering parents' questions and imposes penalties for teachers who would rather stick to just focusing on education. The public response to this bill was overwhelmingly negative; opposing testimony outnumbered support by a 10 to 1 margin and members of the committee received hundreds of emails in opposition to the bill. The minority strongly opposes the current language and encourages voting Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 433-FN, making 17 the age of consent for marriage if either party is active duty military and removing language regarding age waivers for marriage registration records, since age waivers are no longer issued in New Hampshire. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: When a 17-year-old is in a relationship with a person 18 or older who is an active-duty member of the US Military and they choose to marry, an exception to the current marriage statute RSA 457:5 should be considered. Military members can be moved from one base to another frequently. Leaving a potential spouse and possible children unable to avail themselves of possible base housing could prevent a parent's ability to assist in raising their child, which could seriously affect children since children historically do better with both parents in their lives. The military does not provide any benefits to a non-married partner. This bill also requires written permission from a parent or guardian.

Rep. Debra DeSimone

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: Those that support the Inexpedient to Legislate motion understand that, while the intent of the bill is valid, the outcome will not be what the intent is. There have been many that have shared their stories and many others that showed the isolation the spouses faced. Those on the committee understand the requirements of the military and that there is no clear-defined age limit on the active-duty military member. There are concerns that the recent marriage law hasn't been in effect for long and it is undetermined if this is a real issue. Finally, there are also concerns for those marrying the members solely for the benefits despite there being government programs available.

Rep. Cassandra Levesque

EDUCATION FUNDING

HB 718, requiring the state board of education to report the unfunded financial impact to school districts for rules adopted by the board which exceed state or federal minimum standards. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill requires the State Board of Education to report out-of-pocket costs that local districts must incur to comply with the rules that exceed state or federal special education standards. RSA 186-C:16-c enables the State Board of Education to make special education rules which exceed the minimum requirements for state or federal law, and requires the board to annually report all such rules which exceed the minimum requirements of law. The state board is currently required to include in the annual report the following; 1. the rule number, 2. the nature of the rule, 3. identify any state minimum requirement exceeded, 4. identify any federal minimum requirement exceeded, and 5. the reasons for exceeding minimum standards. The proposed bill adds a sixth requirement that reads, 6. to also report "unfunded financial impact on local districts for rules exceeding state or federal minimum requirements." Although ambiguity associated with state and federal special education law may require clarification through rule making, question is raised when and if rules exceeding law result in additional unfunded costs to local

districts. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 and originally proposed that federal funding would cover up to 40% of the cost of programming for students with disabilities; however, the federal government has historically not fully funded this amount, with current funding significantly lower than the intended 40% mark. States and local school districts have absorbed the federal government's declining fiscal support. This bill simply requires the Department of Education to annually report the additional costs contributed to state rules that exceed federal law. **Vote 10-8.**

Rep. Hope Damon for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill would require the State Board of Education to report the out-of-pocket costs that local districts must incur to comply with rules that exceed state or federal education standards. The bill does not have a fiscal note which seems to overlook the costs incurred by Department of Education staff to research and track rules impact. Costs could be profoundly different across districts depending on the particular rule, the number of students impacted, and the reality that special education is very individualized. It was suggested that if the fiscal notes provided for bills were complete and accurate, those could be the foundation for what this bill requests – but currently many fiscal notes simply say indeterminable cost. The Chair of the State Board noted in his testimony that the board does not employ a statistician, economist, or data analyst on their staff – suggesting they lack capacity to comply with this bill without additional staffing. Further, NH takes pride in providing special education that exceeds the minimum federal standards. The very likely unintended consequence of this bill is to ultimately reduce our special education standards. Minimum should not be the goal – excellent student outcomes should be the goal.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 68, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill remedies the existing process of best interest placements by increasing communication between superintendents and parents, thus increasing transparency. Under current law, parents may request for their student to attend another school within the same district. Since most requests result from unfortunate circumstances, such as extreme bullying, the superintendent typically approves the request. However, when requests for best interest placements are denied, parents deserve to know why. This bill requires superintendents to explain in writing why accommodations were not met within ten days of the decision. Furthermore, this bill requires best interest placements to be approved, absent a valid reason to deny the request. Finally, this bill has neither a fiscal impact nor an impact on districts with only one available school for the grade level. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Megan Murray for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee feels that this bill has many uncertainties and recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Nothing in the bill sets a time limit on how many times an individual can request a move or placement to another school within a district. There is a pre-existing process in place for learners if alternate placements are being petitioned. Additionally, it may become increasingly difficult for districts to plan and budget or develop anticipated census numbers, in addition to new students moving into or leaving within an academic year. This legislation is an affront to locally made decisions and takes away the options decided upon by our local boards.

HB 235, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. We often hear in our committee of the “three-legged stool” of education: students, teachers, and parents. When any part of this shared venture is missing, the stool can't stand up. In the list of responsibilities of educational personnel in RSA 21-N:9, II(cc) (1)(B), only a responsibility to teachers and students is mentioned. This bill seeks to add parents, defined in RSA 193:1, III as “parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child,” to the list. This would amend the Educator Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct to specifically include responsibility to the third leg of the stool: parents. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The New Hampshire Code of Conduct for Educators establishes a set of rules and procedures to guide educators in upholding high standards in the education profession and “make decisions which are, first and foremost, within the best interests of the student.” This bill would require the addition of specific responsibilities to parents and guardians to this document. This legislation is not necessary as parents are already included in four of the six identified obligations to the school community. Moreover, this bill lacks specificity. The bill permits the NH Department of Education to enter the rule-making process without any guidance from the legislature as to what should be included in those “parent/guardian” responsibilities; giving the commissioner and state board of education the ability to arbitrarily determine teacher obligations to parents, and potentially re-write the Educator Code of Conduct. Since violations of the code of conduct can lead to the loss

of an educator's credentials, any changes to the established document should only be made after consultation with and consensus by professional educators. Parents already have strongly established rights in New Hampshire and access to their child's education environment. This bill will not improve students' education and will erode the trust amongst teachers, students, and the parents.

HB 329, relative to school district policies governing air quality and temperature issues in schools. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Paul Terry for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill requires school boards to develop a policy governing air quality and temperature issues in schools, as well as a heat illness prevention and emergency response plan. Proponents of the approach detailed in this bill failed to persuade the majority that providing safe temperatures in schools must be dictated by the state. In fact, the New Hampshire School Boards Association provides a plethora of model policies ranging over a whole host of issues and concerns and could do so for the subject matter of this bill, presumably and preferably in consultation and collaboration with state's school boards. No compelling evidence was presented that there are significant problems temperature regulation that compel state intervention in the form of emergency response plans, specialized training, and annual investigations reportable to the Department of Education. Additionally, and finally, no evidence was presented to us from school boards asking us to do for them what they are fully capable of doing on their own, or with the assistance already available to them. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Stephen Woodcock for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill is a simple two-part change to the existing law that already requires a school principal or designee to annually investigate the air quality of any school house and complete a survey provided by the NH Department of Education. This bill would require the survey to also identify issues and plans for improvement to the temperature in a building. Very few school buildings in NH have air conditioning or HVAC systems created to cool extreme heat. There are multiple research studies that recognize that as the heat in a room increases the ability for students to learn is reduced. Testimony further reinforced the reality that NH's old school buildings easily can reach temperatures between mid-80's, into the high 90's, and often over 100 degrees on the third floor, in classroom spaces during the August-September start of school period as well as the mid-May- June close of school period. This bill would require the school system to respond by identifying spaces that need cooling and/or provide a policy to address the extreme heat issue. In addition, part two of the bill requires that school districts develop and implement a heat illness and emergency response plan and provide appropriate training to staff. Old classrooms do not have proper ventilation and along with decreased learning, and ability to stay focused on the topic, students and staff are put into a dangerous health situation. This common-sense bill requires identification of the issue, policy to correct the issue, and staff safety training to assist in emergency situations.

HB 676, relative to the composition and responsibilities of the parent and education service provider advisory commission, and establishing education freedom account impact and parent satisfaction surveys. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. Last year, during a meeting of the Education Freedom Account (EFA) Oversight Committee, concern was expressed that the Education Service Provider Advisory Commission was not required to meet and there was confusion about the membership. This bill clarifies the membership of the committee and requires quarterly meetings and an annual report. The bill also adds two surveys that are required in the Education Tax Credit Scholarship Program. One would survey parents of a child leaving a public school for an EFA account for their reasons for leaving – an exit survey. The second survey is a parent satisfaction survey to measure satisfaction with the program, if their child is making academic progress, and how much, if any, they had to pay above the EFA funding for the education services for their child. **Vote 9-8.**

Rep. Muriel Hall for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill does nothing to improve the current statute. Rather, this legislation increases the size of the voting membership of the commission, which already consists of only Education Freedom Account (EFA) parents. Furthermore, an added responsibility of the Parent and Education Service Provider Advisory Commission establishes EFA impact and parent satisfaction surveys for which specific leading questions are included in the legislation. These surveys would be administered to only a small percentage of our EFA population, given that it only pertains to those families with children who exited our public schools for EFAs, and not vice versa. The purported intent of these surveys is seemingly to tout the satisfaction of EFA parents and to suggest the need for improvement in our public schools. As such, the data collected will likely have minimal impact, since it is generally considered poor practice to conduct a survey when the results are already known prior to its distribution.

ELECTION LAW

CACR 5, relating to absentee ballots. Providing that no excuse shall be needed by the voter to receive an absentee ballot. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for the **Majority** of Election Law. Absentee voting should be done as a matter of necessity, not of convenience. We strive to make voting accessible to all eligible voters while also

protecting the election process from anything that will increase distrust in elections. NH voters currently have many options for why they may vote by an absentee ballot; if they are absent from their community on election day, if they have a work obligation that keeps them from the polling place, if they are caring for an ill person or caring for a child, if they are incarcerated while awaiting trial (and not serving a sentence for a felony), for religious obligations and for an impending major winter storm. They may vote absentee for what they consider to be a disability. There is no requirement for a note from a doctor, religious leader or employer. No eligible voter is denied an absentee ballot when they request one. They are treated with trust. Our current system of a traditional voting day elections, managed by elected local officials allows for the highest amount of transparency and public observation possible. Absentee ballots are currently processed at local polling places on election day by election officials who are known to voters. This public process creates high levels of voter trust. The majority of the committee believes that eliminating the requirement of a voter to state a reason for voting absentee and potential expanding the practice while also endangering traditional voting day is unwise. **Vote 10-8.**

Rep. Connie Lane for the **Minority** of Election Law. This CACR would allow a registered voter the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot without providing any excuse, such as out of town or being a caregiver or disabled. 29 states allow no excuse absentee ballots, including FL, GA, ID, AZ, WY, ND, SD, MT and NE. Eight other states conduct all mail-in voting, which is in reality no excuse absentee ballot voting. No excuse absentee ballot voting is secure. Over 18 years, Oregonians have cast 50 million absentee ballots with only 2 cases of fraudulent abuse, for a fraud rate of .000004%. You are more likely to be hit by lightning than have a voter commit absentee ballot fraud. Benefits of no excuse absentee voting include: reduction of wait lines at the polls; easier management for election officials; and it does not significantly benefit either major party. Our constituents overwhelmingly want no excuse absentee voting to deal with the fact that they find it difficult, if not impossible, to vote in person at the polls. Upwards of 70% want the choice to vote by absentee ballot. This CACR will allow the people of NH to decide whether to allow no-excuse absentee ballots, rather than the House and Senate. The minority feels that NH voters should have the right to determine if they want the same access and freedom to vote that the vast majority of Americans already enjoy.

HB 136, extending the time period for delivery of an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. to the close of the polls. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Clayton Wood for the **Majority** of Election Law. The current law already supports timely absentee ballot delivery, and changing it may cause delays or confusion for poll volunteers responsible for supporting the final voter registration and proper polling procedures required prior to ballot counting. Given that there is no universal closing of the polls in New Hampshire there would be variance from town to town as to when the deadline would be and the majority feels that one universal deadline creates a better and more consistent process. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Matthew Wilhelm for the **Minority** of Election Law. The minority of the committee believes that the passage of this bill would clear up confusion for voters delivering their completed absentee ballots to their local polling location on the day of the election. The committee heard testimony of voters who were turned away from submitting a completed absentee ballot because they arrived at their polling location after the absentee ballot deadline of 5:00pm, despite polling locations remaining open later into the evening. This bill would amend RSA 657:17, aligning the deadline to deliver completed absentee ballots with the time that polls close at each local polling location and clearing up confusion for those committed to exercising their right to vote.

HB 288, requires that absentee ballots be requested at least 6 months prior to any election for which the absentee ballot is requested. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill as amended limits how far in advance an absentee ballot may be requested. The amendment addresses federal law requirements for UOCAVA voters. UOCAVA voters may complete a new federal official post card no sooner than January in the calendar year in which a federal election occurs. Other applications for absentee ballots are limited to no sooner than six (6) months prior to the election. A review of absentee ballot requests show there were thousands of requests for an absentee ballot in 2024 that were requested over a year before the election itself. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Russell Muirhead for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill as amended would require those who wish to vote absentee to file their application form no earlier than 6 months before the election in which they wish to vote absentee. However, in order to comply with federal law, the bill allows uniformed and overseas citizens to request their absentee ballots anytime after January 1 of the calendar year in which the election occurs, even if it is more than six months before the election. Thus the minority believes the bill creates two classes of voters, each with different privileges: ordinary citizens, and those who are uniformed and live overseas. It would be more fair and more simple to treat all citizens equally. Thus the minority recommends Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 344, enables the processing of absentee ballots before election day. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ross Berry for the **Majority** of Election Law. Pre-processing absentee ballots may seem like a convenience, but it fundamentally alters the integrity and uniformity of our elections. By allowing some voters the

opportunity to “cure” their ballots before election day while others do not get that chance, the majority believes it creates two classes of voters—those who receive a second chance and those who do not. Additionally, moving election processes away from election day opens an extended window for potential inconsistencies, raising unnecessary questions about election security and public confidence in the results. The fact that some towns may opt in while others do not—and that the timeline for pre-processing would vary from location to location—further compounds oversight issues, making it harder to ensure uniform application of election law across the state. Rather than making elections more efficient, this bill risks undermining the very transparency and trust that are essential to our democratic process. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. James Newsom for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill would allow, but not require, a return to the successful procedures used during COVID by allowing moderators who so chose to open absentee ballot outer envelopes up to one week prior to the election, instead of the currently mandated “on election day.” The ballots are not removed from the outer envelope; all security measures remain in place; the bill does not alter the requirements of public notice or the ability of the public to witness. This bill will allow moderators to identify problems with absentee ballots, notify the voter who may be able to cure the deficiency. In person testimony from clerks and moderators were strongly in favor of the bill as it will save time on election day to get all ballots counted easier and earlier and therefore more accurately. Citizens support this bill at a rate of over 6 to 1. The minority thinks it best to listen to our election officials and our constituents and therefore must recommend Ought to Pass.

HB 389-FN, requiring candidates to attest they have not spent more than \$1,000 in an election. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James Qualey for the **Majority** of Election Law. It is the view of the majority of the Election Law Committee that the change proposed by this bill is unnecessary because it is redundant. Under the current statute (RSA 664:7) candidates who do not file a campaign finance report are already attesting, by an act of omission, that they are not required to do so because they have not expended over \$1000.00. This bill would require even those candidates to register with the online campaign finance system and file reports thus imposing an unnecessary administrative burden upon them with no increased benefit to the public. **Vote 10-7.** Rep. Russell Muirhead for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill would require candidates for State Representative who do not receive or spend more than \$1000 during an election cycle to mark a check box attesting to this fact. The simple check box would be inserted in the candidate reporting form supplied by the Secretary of State’s Office and would be on the state’s online campaign finance system. At present, candidates who do not spend or receive more than \$1000 do not need to file at all, which leaves many voters wondering whether candidates are neglecting to file reports when they should. The simple check box would eliminate suspicions and doubts about whether candidates are complying with campaign finance reporting requirements and would make campaign funding in New Hampshire more transparent to voters.

HB 403, relative to weather conditions which enable absentee voting. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Travis Toner for the **Majority** of Election Law. The majority of the committee does not believe that there is a justification for changing the current law related to reasons for a registered voter to request an absentee ballot. The current reasons to justify an absentee ballot associated with weather are: winter storm warnings, blizzard warnings and/or ice storm warnings. In the view of the majority, these reasons sufficiently cover weather events that would make it difficult or unsafe to travel to the polls on the day of an election. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Connie Lane for the **Minority** of Election Law. Currently, we only allow voters to vote by absentee ballot if the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning. This bill enables absentee voting when the National Weather Service declares any severe weather watch or warning – such as flooding or a hurricane, both of which could happen when voting occurs. Primaries occur during hurricane season and severe flooding could occur during town meeting season or in the fall during primaries or city elections. It is common sense to include these weather events as reasons to vote absentee since they are also major weather events that disrupt safety while traveling to the polls. For these reasons, the minority recommends that this bill Ought to Pass.

HB 474, requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Claudine Burnham for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill as amended simplifies who the second witness is during the election processes and is supported by the Secretary of State. By passing this bill as amended, it protects voters’ write-in ballot when it is displayed as a digital image on a counting device and ensures the vote is cast according to the voter. **Vote 10-7.** Rep. Gerald Ward for the **Minority** of Election Law. This well-meaning bill, as amended, is redundant and unnecessary. The tabulation of write-in votes is already undertaken by election officials, normally at least two under the direction of the moderator, who are elected themselves and/or have been sworn-in on the day of the election and thus are allowed behind the guardrail. The single new sentence in the amendment simply addresses the process for a new technology and adds the requirement that the second person be an election official, removing the requirement that they be a

member of the opposite party. Inexplicably, it also does not address the method used for tabulating write-in votes when physical ballots are examined, instead of requiring the same process for the two procedures and thus creates two systems for the same process.

HB 630-FN, preventing the dissemination of deepfake materials of political candidates before an election. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Claudine Burnham for the **Majority** of Election Law. The majority of the committee believes that the current language in statute covers all types of technology by stating “other technology.” Adding more types of technology would begin an ongoing language change to the existing law. Since there are so many variations and as technology continues to evolve, this bill would continuously need updates, when the current language covers “other technology.” This statute has the needed language and it is unnecessary to add further changes.

Vote 10-7. Rep. James Newsom for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill seeks to close a legislative gap that allows deep fake materials to be propagated in elections. Current law prohibits deep fake materials, but only when it is created using artificial intelligence or generative AI. Current law does not prohibit the use of simpler technology such as photoshop or garage band. This bill seeks to prohibit all deep fake materials. The minority believes voting Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill is a vote in favor of and to allow misinformation and nefarious actions that directly and dangerously undermine elections.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 233, requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours, and requiring that questions put to it in writing or at a meeting be answered and posted on its website within 14 days. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Stephen Pearson for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill requires that the meetings of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association, that are currently conducted via Zoom, be recorded and placed on their website for viewing. This will ensure transparency of the organization. The amendment removes a requirement that questions to the board be posted to their site within 14 days. This board does not set policy and the board finds itself answering mostly questions related to policy. It was argued by the board that they were being singled out in this requirement. During public testimony it was suggested that this requirement expand to all boards of this type. The majority reject the claim that they are being singled out, but that they simply are the first under this requirement for better public transparency. **Vote 7-6.** Rep. Jaci Grote for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The minority recognizes that the NH vaccine association (NHVA) is a transactional organization whose sole purpose is to provide an efficient mechanism for insurance reimbursement of immunizations for commercially insured children under 19 covered by a group health plan under NH’s childhood universal vaccine purchasing program. Its plan of operation must be approved by the NH insurance commissioner. NHVA is not a public entity or public agency, is not a quasi-public entity, and is not state chartered. The NHVA does not create vaccine policy or receive state funds. It is a not-for-profit voluntary corporation formed under RSA 292 and created by statute in RSA 126-Q in 2002. Passing this bill not only targets NHVA but could impact all non-profits in NH in terms of intrusive and expensive reporting requirements. Although the minority appreciates the concerns by the majority for transparency, the minority does not think this is the proper manner to achieve this.

HB 278-FN, relative to proxy carbon pricing in state procurement. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The Executive Departments and Administration Committee reviewed this bill, which mandates the Department of Administrative Services to incorporate a proxy carbon price, starting at \$85 per ton in 2026, increasing by \$10 annually until 2050, into procurement decisions for transportation and building project costs. After evaluating testimony and the fiscal note, the committee finds the bill imposes an unclear and potentially burdensome mandate. Existing procurement processes already allow for cost and efficiency considerations, and the indeterminable fiscal impact, coupled with no funding or staffing provisions, risks straining state resources without proven benefits. **Vote 11-5.** Rep. Peter Schmidt for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. Countries around the world are adopting carbon pricing programs. Canada, Mexico, China, and most European countries have, or are in the process, of implementing carbon pricing. These programs will increase the cost of carbon-intensive production in their domestic markets and globally. Private companies who conduct business internationally are preparing for this shift in the global market by implementing internal carbon pricing models. This bill aims to have the State of New Hampshire follow the lead of these businesses and take steps to assure the most responsible use of taxpayers’ money by factoring carbon pricing into state purchasing decisions. This bill pertains only to state purchases, it does not affect private energy consumers in any way, and does not require the state to purchase based on carbon emissions. When all factors are weighed, the state will make purchasing decisions that are most cost efficient for taxpayers.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 732-FN, to enhance informed consent and accountability in psychotropic drug prescriptions for children under Medicaid. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The amendment clarifies the definitions of parents and guardians and addresses Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) concerns regarding cases where a child is no longer in parental custody, ensuring proper consent is obtained. It also refines the definition of psychotropic drugs and sets an effective date of April 1, 2026, allowing time for implementation. This legislation reinforces the fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to be fully informed about the potential risks and side effects of psychotropic medications prescribed to minors, ensuring they can make informed decisions about their child's health and well being. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Tim Hartnett for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. It is the opinion of the minority that this bill is unnecessary. Although paid for by the Medicaid to Schools program, these medications are prescribed at the child's primary care provider's office in the presence of the parent or guardian. It is standard practice for all medical providers to review -- with patients, parents and guardians -- all possible benefits, risks, side effects, dosing, and timelines for positive benefit for such significant medications. The bill requires use of specific FDA materials to explore all risks, potential side effects, and adverse drug reactions. Compliance with the bill may require prescribers to toggle between two specific FDA materials (FDA Medication Guides and Medication Package inserts) to be in full compliance. These materials may not be accessible or suitable for all patient audiences. The bill also applies only to Medicaid beneficiaries. This is unwise; if the bill's concern is worthy of legislation, we should not leave out others simply because their medical care is covered in other ways. Further, it is unclear if the bill satisfies all relevant scenarios that may arise when minors are in state custody, living out of state, and/or involved in unresolved custody disputes.

HCR 7, recognizing abortion as a critical component of comprehensive reproductive health care. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lisa Mazur for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee thinks that we should be prioritizing policies and resolutions that address adoption, prenatal and postpartum care and overall support for women and children rather than specifically highlighting abortion. Focusing solely on abortion in a non-binding House Resolution overlooks other critical aspects such as support for infertility, high-risk pregnancies, preventive care (such as cancer screenings) and more. Singling out abortion as a critical component of reproductive health care while ignoring other pressing medical issues affecting women creates a narrow and politicized approach to women's health. A truly comprehensive resolution should address the full spectrum of medical needs rather than elevating one issue above all others. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Janet Lucas for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The minority recognizes that abortion is a critical component of reproductive health care and that this fact should be affirmed by resolution. Women and their care-givers are choosing where to live, work, and study based upon their perceptions of a state's respect for bodily autonomy and unimpeded access to abortion without infringement. States with abortion bans or restrictions have adverse outcomes including elevated death rates for women of reproductive age, maternity care deserts, departure of specialists to practice in less restrictive states, and declining enrollment in OB-GYN residency programs. It is the opinion of the minority that this issue is of sufficient importance to deserve its own resolution. For these reasons, the minority voted against Inexpedient to Legislate and instead recommends Ought to Pass.

HR 16, recognizing the essential contributions of frontline health workers in assisting the state to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and urging greater attention and support for local frontline health workers. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lucy Weber for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This House Resolution recognizes the critical contributions made by frontline health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the recovery from that pandemic, as well as in other areas of healthcare. The resolution reaffirms the central role front-line health care workers in achieving the goals of state health programs. It acknowledges the role they play in recovery from natural disasters, disease outbreaks and conflicts, and recognizes the personal costs they incur in the course of their work. The resolution urges greater attention to and support for frontline workers, including provisions of the equipment and supplies to perform their work. The resolution concludes by giving affirmative recognition, acknowledgment, and appreciation to New Hampshire's frontline health workforces for their noble and valiant efforts every day, the sacrifices they and their families made personally, and most especially on the days, weeks, months, and years in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Jim Kofalt for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The minority fully supports both the language and intent of the original bill, but believes that it is vitally important to also acknowledge the fact that many frontline workers were fired because they refused to take the COVID-19 vaccine. That rapid shift "from heroes to zeros" was an injustice that we ought to be mindful never to repeat.

HOUSING

HB 351, requiring landlords to give tenants of at-will tenancies at least 60-days notice to evict. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dick Thackston for the **Majority** of Housing. This bill amends RSA 540:3, II to increase the required notice given to at-will tenants from 30 to 60 days. This bill represents a significant impediment to housing providers to re-gain control of their property from an at-will tenancy. The bill, as proposed, when combined with the 90 day discretionary stay, available in all landlord/tenant actions under current law, would effectively bar a housing provider from regaining possession of their property for 150 days or more. The committee finds that current law provides both housing provider and tenant equitable and reasonable options with 30 days notice by either party to either party. This change, if enacted, would likely result in higher rents, due to increased risks and difficulty to the housing provider when seeking to terminate a tenancy while simultaneously incentivizing housing providers to start eviction proceedings more aggressively than current practice. The goal of the Housing Committee in light of the current housing crisis in New Hampshire is to stabilize the housing market by increasing affordability and availability. Increased investment in rental properties will be a requirement of achieving these goals under any scenario. This bill would decrease the willingness of individuals and entities to invest in residential properties in New Hampshire while significantly worsening the situation for at-will tenants. Passage of this bill would damage the residential real estate rental market with no appreciable public benefit. The majority of the committee recommends the bill in the current form as Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Ellen Read for the **Minority** of Housing. This bill would simply establish a 60 day notice of eviction to tenants (except in cases where rent is in arrears, there's been substantial property damage, dangerous tenant behavior, or sexual/domestic violence, which all require only 7 days notice). Considering that a rent increase requires 30 days notice, but eviction ostensibly has much more potential to require sudden relocation, the minority of the committee felt strongly that 60 days notice was very reasonable, especially considering that the current vacancy rate in New Hampshire is approximately 0.8%, making finding alternative living accommodations a lengthy process. Further, as the House recently passed the somewhat related HB 60, which added an additional cause of eviction, but provided a 60 day notice for that cause of eviction *only*, the minority believes that extending that 60 day notice of eviction to all causes of eviction (other than the exceptions listed), made our tenant law more consistent, understandable, and fair. Since finding new housing does not get easier according to the cause of eviction, the length of notice should not be different. While some proponents of the overlapping HB 60 propagated the message that it would provide stability to tenants by providing a 60 day notice for all causes of eviction, the minority believes this bill would actually accomplish this goal of increased tenant security and notification.

HB 558-FN, creating a public county registry of the monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit and prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Dick Thackston for the **Majority** of Housing. The goal of the Housing Committee in light of the current housing crisis in New Hampshire is to stabilize the housing market by increasing affordability and availability. Increased investment in rental properties will be a requirement of achieving these goals under any scenario. This bill requires county registries to create a portal for landlords to annually disclose exact amounts of rent charged to each tenant of a residential housing unit. This bill would likely harm existing tenants who often benefit for lower rents as a result of successful long term tenancies while interfering in the contractual relationship between housing providers and tenants. Normal terms of contracts between individuals and entities and subject to a reasonable degree of privacy which this bill totally undermines. Further, the majority of the committee believes this bill provides an unfunded mandate on county registries to develop a new form of recording and reporting not currently contemplated in their operational structure. Further, the bill provides no additional public benefit or information that is not readily available from entities as diverse as the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, Zillow, Realtor.com, Redfin, Craig's List and/or the local paper while significantly undermining the free flow of commerce by imposing an additional level of reporting on both the private and public sectors. The majority recommends the bill in the current form as Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Ellen Read for the **Minority** of Housing. This bill would provide crucial information to study rent increase trends, as well as price fixing and other predatory rental behaviors, which have been a large contributing factor to skyrocketing housing prices and our ensuing housing crisis. It does this simply by requiring that a landlord report the location, amenities, and rental amounts on each of his or her rented properties-- the same non-sensitive, non-tenant identifying public information available on sites such as Zillow--to each county, to be made publicly available in a database that would be overseen by the county Registry of Deeds office. The office would have six months to establish a database and online portal or other format, which would be inexpensive and largely self-curating since landlords self-report. Enforcement would be provided by the same structure that enforces all other landlord laws, and not a responsibility of the Register of the Deeds. The form would also require that landlords sign an affidavit affirming that they

have not engaged in illegal price-fixing schemes, including those that use software as an intermediary, such as the widely-used site RealPage which has been sued by the federal government for price fixing. While this bill would add a very minor responsibility to the paid Register of Deeds staff, the incredibly vital information gathered (which is consistent with the information reporting requirements placed on a wide range of other necessity-impacting industries such as energy, medical, and food businesses) would be of critical importance for understanding why, with only a 1.8% increase in NH population since 2020, the housing market has gotten to unlivable levels, driving homelessness and the exodus of workers from the state. It would also allow a way to hold bad actors accountable for contributing to the crisis through predatory price fixing. The minority of the committee feels strongly that this information is a very small ask, and absolutely indispensable for addressing the inability of our much-needed workers to secure housing in the state.

HB 628-FN, prohibiting landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants holding certain vouchers under the housing choice voucher program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Calvin Beaulier for the **Majority** of Housing. This bill would attempt to force housing providers to accept a government program and to enter into a contract with a government agency. Under this bill, housing providers that do not wish to accept vouchers would need to increase rents beyond the amount of a voucher, or offer housing that is of insufficient standards so as to no longer qualify for a voucher program. Those housing providers that do accept vouchers would have a perverse incentive to raise rents to the maximum amount of the voucher offered, or pass any costs of compliance on to regular tenants who do not hold vouchers. The net effect would be an almost certain increase in rental prices without an increase of housing supply or quality. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Merryl Gibbs for the **Minority** of Housing. Housing choice vouchers provide improved housing opportunities for New Hampshire residents who have very low income. These residents have income below 50% of the median income in the relevant area. Because a large proportion of voucher holders are generally families with children and people with disabilities, discrimination against voucher holders tends to have a discriminatory effect on the basis of disability and familial status, which covers families with children in the household.

JUDICIARY

HB 88-FN, establishing community property trusts. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill allows married individuals to create community property trusts. Creating such a trust provides tax advantages to the couple under federal tax law. Specifically, it means that in many situations, upon the death of one spouse, the surviving spouse will get a stepped-up date-of-death basis for the entire value of the property in question, whereas if the property was not held as community property the surviving spouse would only get a stepped up basis in the portion of the property representing the deceased spouse's interest. The amendment ensures that a transfer of property to such a trust that would otherwise be subject to the real estate transfer tax remains subject to the tax under this bill; and also makes clear that transferring property to such a trust does not defeat the rights of anyone who has a secured interest in the property. Although in a community property situation, the presumption is that assets will be divided equally between the spouses on dissolution of the marriage, courts in community property states generally are permitted to deviate from such distribution when fairness and equity require as much. More importantly, to the extent adopting such a trust does make it less likely that a court would deviate from a 50-50 split of property between the parties on marriage dissolution, there is nothing that compels anyone to enter into such a trust and, as long as a person does so with full knowledge of the consequences, there is nothing unfair about holding such person to the terms of what he or she agreed to. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Zoe Manos for the **Minority** of Judiciary. The minority of the committee is concerned that this bill, which creates community property trusts, will change the dissolution of marriage law in NH. The minority's concern is that the bill will preclude judges in the Family Division of the Circuit Court from equitably dividing marital assets and debts upon the dissolution of a marriage. Instead, this bill will move NH toward becoming a community property state, such as California. Specifically, the amendment to the bill states, in relevant part, that "[a]n obligation incurred by only one spouse before or during marriage may be satisfied from that spouse's one-half share of a community property trust and such other assets of the spouse not in the community property trust" and "[a]n obligation incurred by both spouses during or before marriage may be satisfied from a community property trust of the spouses." Further, the bill provides that "[u]pon the dissolution of the marriage of the settlor spouses, the community property trust SHALL terminate and the trustee SHALL distribute ONE-HALF of the trust assets to each spouse, with each spouse receiving ONE-HALF of each asset, UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED TO IN WRITING BY BOTH SPOUSES." (Emphasis added). The minority believes that these provisions in the amendment and the bill would disempower a marital judge from equitably dividing the marital property in the community property trust, unless the spouses agreed between themselves to

do so. The minority also believes that the amendment to the bill disempowers a marital judge from equitably dividing the debts of the spouses, whether incurred before or during the marriage and whether incurred by one or both of the spouses. This would be true in all cases, including where one spouse greatly out-earned the other and one spouse contributed in non-monetary ways to the marriage. This moves NH toward becoming a community property state, rather than an equitable division state.

HB 148, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill passed both the House and Senate as HB 396 in 2024. It acknowledges New Hampshire's fundamental commitment to treat all persons without discrimination and with equal respect and dignity. It also acknowledges the fact that there are certain circumstances in which recognition of biological sex may be necessary for the physical safety and privacy rights of an individual, especially when, although not limited to, situations involving minors. There are specific and limited situations where this may be the best practice. The three circumstances in which the bill permits biological sex to be utilized as a basis for classification are limited to (1) multiple use bathrooms, (2) athletic/sporting events of a kind where an advantage to biological males is recognized to exist, and (3) facilities where an individual is committed involuntarily. Even in these limited situations, the bill does not require classification based on biological sex; it merely allows for this to occur if the institution in question determines the same is necessary. Upholding sex-based classifications in athletics protects the integrity of female sports and preserves fair competition. Failure to maintain sex-based distinctions could put federal education and public safety funding at risk. Recent events across the country and in New Hampshire indicate the necessity of this bill. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Eric Turer for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This bill attempts to create exceptions to the sexual or gender identity provisions in RSA 354-A, the "Law Against Discrimination," to allow "classification of individuals based on biological sex" in three circumstances, including the use of restrooms/locker rooms, participation in sports, and housing for jails/prisons. Governor Sununu vetoed similar legislation in 2024, and that veto was sustained by a majority in the NH House. Beyond questions of the need for such legislation, as noted in the Governor's veto message, the bill invites discrimination, abuse, and confusion by purposefully omitting key components required in any responsible legislation. Most notably, the key term 'biological sex', found in the bill's title, is not defined in any way. There are multiple possible approaches to how one's sex can be described biologically, including a person's gonadic features, chromosomal characteristics, hormone levels, or a range of secondary sexual characteristics. Each of these has more than two possible categorizations, and these may be inconsistent at the same point in one's life and at different times in one's life due to natural changes and/or legal medical interventions. Allowing each person and every public or private organization in the state to adopt any standard it chooses is both irresponsible and dangerous. Furthermore, the bill doesn't address the significant privacy concerns raised regarding how an individual might be compelled to demonstrate their "biological sex" in the situations outlined. Lastly, the bill does not prescribe how a person is to be treated once their "biological sex" is ascertained, allowing completely different treatment of the same individual by different entities. Rather than offering some form of needed protection, the bill endangers vulnerable populations and would likely lead to the very situations that it portends to prevent, as has happened in other states where such provisions have been adopted.

HB 199, extending the statute of limitation on civil actions relative to damage caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill extends the statute of limitation on civil actions brought relative to damage caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). By extending the statute of limitations to 20 years, individuals and entities have ample time to discover potential claims and have a fair and reasonable time to seek justice. In certain cases, the harm may not be evident for some time. The 20 year limit allows for thorough investigation and action designed to protect public welfare. It also may serve as a deterrent, discouraging entities to engage in misconduct. This limit balances the right of potential plaintiffs to seek justice while preventing indefinite legal liability for defendants. **Vote 10-8.** Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This bill increases the current 6 year statute of limitations to a 20 year statute of limitations on civil actions involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). While we support the principle of accountability, 20 years is excessive, given that it's not 20 years from the time of exposure, but rather 20 years from when the plaintiff discovers, or reasonably should have discovered, such harm or injury from PFAS. Comparatively, other civil cases have a statute of limitations of 3 years.

HB 254-FN, relative to options for end of life care. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill is similar to last year's (2024) HB 1283, which passed the House but died in the other chamber. RSA 137-J:1 "recognizes that individual persons have the right, founded in the autonomy and sanctity of a person, to control decisions relating to the rendering of their own medical care." Subsequent sections of NH law lay out many options addressing end of life matters. Advance

directives, durable powers of attorney, palliative care and hospice care are just some of the options that are in state law. For more than three decades, myriad versions of medical aid in dying (MAID) have been submitted to the legislature, and while other end of life options have been approved and enhanced, MAID was, appropriately, not added to state law. Previous legislatures were clear that they did not want to add this alternative until there had been significant opportunity to evaluate the experiences in other states. Oregon was the first state to adopt MAID, in 1998, followed by 9 other states and the District of Columbia, so there are now almost three decades of experience in the United States. That experience is particularly relevant because, while other countries may have laws addressing end of life matters, their constitutions, laws, and culture differ from ours. This bill is very narrowly focused. It limits eligibility to those who have had two independent evaluations by medical professionals who have concluded that the individual is terminally ill with likely six months or less to live. These medical professionals must advise the patient of all other care alternatives, including palliative care and hospice. They must assess that the patient is mentally competent, and physically able to administer the medication themselves. They must establish that the patient is not being unduly influenced by others – whatever their relationship to the patient. It is not available to those with painful, debilitating diseases but for whom there is no expectation of death in six months or less. This year's bill specifically states that being disabled or being of advanced age does not make a person eligible for MAID. There are specific reporting requirements and penalties for misuse or noncompliance. While concerns have been raised by some members of the disability community, Disability Rights Oregon reported very few complaints, all of which focused on the concern that the Oregon Act might discriminate against persons with disabilities who would seek to make use of the Act but have disabilities that would prevent self-administration, thereby denying those persons to use the act. The Executive Director of Disability Rights Oregon, states that never to his knowledge has a complaint come forward that a person with disabilities was coerced to make use of the Act. In fact, a survey conducted by the well-respected UNH Survey Center found that more than 70% of Granite Staters favor this legislation, including majorities of both major political parties as well as 75% of people living with disabilities. Many of those who qualify and have received the necessary prescriptions do not fill the prescriptions, but they or their families report that they were comforted by the knowledge that they could take control of their own end of life. These are people who want to live, but are destined to die in a very short time and want to die peacefully, with their family and friends able to be with them to honor their life. There is no substantiated correlation between medical aid in dying and suicide. Suicide is a public health and medical crisis that requires collective efforts to address. Suicide is frequently violent, carried out in isolation, frequently by those with unresolved mental health crises. Those who choose MAID are terminally ill and would much prefer to live, but, destined to die soon, would choose to die peacefully. This alternative is likely to be considered by a relatively small number of people, and acted on by even fewer. But it adds one alternative that, even just knowing it exists, can increase the quality of the end of life. The majority of the committee strongly believes that fully competent but terminally ill individuals who are close to death should have the freedom to make the choice to end their suffering and die with dignity. **Vote 11-7.** Rep. Kristine Perez for the **Minority** of Judiciary. The minority holds that this bill for medically assisted suicide remains flawed and opens New Hampshire to far reaching effects by messaging to individuals of all ages that ending one's life by assisted suicide for terminal illness is acceptable. We already have an overwhelming problem with increasing suicide among young individuals (second cause of death ages 14 to 34), the LGBTQ community, those suffering from depression, and our veterans. By sanctioning the ending of one's life at the state level, are we saying to these individuals that this is an acceptable choice for them as well? Many young people spoke with concerns about losing their friends who feel that their depression is a "terminal" illness. Already in Colorado a psychiatrist has termed anorexia nervosa as a terminal illness and assisted such patients in obtaining "aid in dying medication" to end their lives. This brings to mention some of the concerns about the bill itself and the lack of strong safeguards to prevent a "slippery slope." Other countries including Canada have allowed for the expansion of this bill to include death that is "reasonably foreseeable" or those with serious disabilities as well as "mature minors." This bill allows a medical professional to never meet with the patient in person and neither of the two providers of their "cocktail" are their personal treating physician. There is no residency requirement, no mental health evaluation, no guarantee that the "cocktail" will provide a peaceful death. In as many as 15% of reported cases in Oregon there are reports of seizures, vomiting or the patient waking hours after ingestion. There is no witness requirement and no mention of the disposal of unused medication which was ingested by a non-ill Colorado resident. How many incidents go unreported? We heard from many that support and those that oppose this bill. The majority of those in support were individuals who had witnessed the suffering of their family members or acquaintances but lacked organization support other than one. The majority in opposition were from organizations that fear the future for their members with the potential expansion or just the misinterpretation of this weak bill. We must also consider that for many within our society, this bill is morally and ethically completely unacceptable. No matter what the intent of the bill, the bill itself is a bad bill. This bill would undermine our suicide prevention policies and its acceptance of one taking their own life has the potential of increasing the rates of non-assisted suicide.

New Hampshire deserves better. We deserve a bill that protects the terminally ill patients as well as those with disabilities, depression, PTSD, and the diverse communities in our society. This bill sends a message that we are no longer saying that we should protect all lives from suicide. Is that what we really want to be saying? Especially to our youth?

HB 273, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristine Perez for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This very logical bill allows a parent living in the same household to access current library records of a minor child. These adults are responsible for any financial loss to the library and therefore should at least know what they are paying for if materials are lost or destroyed. This also allows parents to monitor any harmful, inappropriate, or explicit material being accessed. Simply put, it is a parent's responsibility to protect their child, and this bill is one more step in removing any hindrance to that responsibility. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Catherine Rombeau for the **Minority** of Judiciary. Parents currently may fully access their children's available library records by having their children borrow materials through a parent's library card. To the extent parents are concerned about their minor children's choice of library materials, or loss of library materials that may incur replacement fees, they may decline to authorize issuance of a separate library card for their minor child. This bill thus seeks information that is already available to parents and instead imposes a host of practical problems. Where the bill would require library records to be made available to a parent or guardian when requested by the parent or guardian whose address matches that of the minor, it is silent as to how to verify the currency of that address for either the child or the parent, or how to assess if any current court orders or other legal restrictions apply to the requesting parent due to abuse, neglect or domestic violence interventions. The bill also does not identify which library staff member should make that determination, whether further approval would be required, whether the requestor must make the request in person and/or in writing, how much time the library has to verify and comply with the request, and the method by which the library must comply. This bill puts libraries between parents and their children and provides no guardrails for doing so.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 280, relative to wage payments. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Granger for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would simplify the chapter of law dealing with weekly and bi-weekly wages. Currently, this RSA operates as a "whitelist" of allowable means to pay employees. This means that every time new technology comes out, a bill must be submitted to legalize the payment method before it can be used. For instance, when direct deposit was invented, this required a bill to allow NH employees to opt into this payment method. The law, as it currently stands, is fairly onerous and serves as legislative micro-management of what should be a fairly straight-forward agreement between two interested parties. This bill, with the committee amendment, allows the employer and the employee to come together and decide between themselves a proper method of payment. To prevent abuse, the bill also contains a provision that if the method of payment changes, the employee must be notified 90 days in advance. This provides them enough time to either come back with opposition, or to reject the offer. Therefore, the majority of the committee believes this long overdue simplification and housekeeping bill Ought To Pass as amended by the committee. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Daniel LeClerc for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill seeks to allow an employer to inform the employee, in writing, on or before the first day of employment, the manner in which the employee shall be paid. Although this sounds favorable, every way an employee is typically paid has been removed from RSA 275:43, including section 1. (a) In awful money of the United States. This may include non-monetary payment making it difficult for proper record keeping by the employer, and impossible for an employee to buy groceries, pay bills, etc. Although bartering may have been acceptable payment many years ago, lawful money of the United States is the way people are expected to be paid today.

HB 379, relative to youth employment during the school year and at night. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Brian Labrie for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill aims to specify the number of hours minors are allowed to work during the school year and to impose restrictions on their evening work hours while school is in session. The proposed limitations on working hours for minors could potentially reduce their job opportunities, as employers might prefer to hire individuals with more flexible schedules. While employers are generally aware of the considerations involved in hiring young workers, the majority of the committee believes that the restrictions outlined in this bill may be overly stringent for minors seeking employment. Additionally, there are concerns regarding the enforcement of these regulations. The committee notes that there are differences between federal and state perspectives on enforcement, and it is felt that the Department of Labor may face challenges in effectively implementing and monitoring compliance

with the proposed changes. For these reasons, the majority of the committee advises against the passage of this bill and recommends that it be found Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Michael Cahill for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill limits the hours 16 and 17 year-olds may work while enrolled and attending school to 9:00 p.m. on school nights and 11:00 p.m. when there is no school the next day. The goal being to improve their educational outcomes in preparation for a lifetime of work.

HB 386-FN, prohibiting nursing agencies from including non-compete clauses in contracts with health care entities. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Mark Warden for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. There is currently an effective market in New Hampshire for nurse staffing agencies to provide per diem and short term contract labor to hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities. The nursing agency fills an important gap in staffing for providers who need to cover short term vacancies; likewise it offers welcome opportunities for nurses and nursing assistants who prefer to work per diem and not commit to a full time job. This bill would add unnecessary new regulations that would complicate the existing balance among facilities, agencies, and nursing professionals. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Michael Cahill for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would address two issues plaguing healthcare facilities and the nurses that provide care through employment agencies. The agencies have non-compete agreements – not with the nurse but with the facility they are assigned to. This circumvents RSA 275:70, the requirement that employees be notified of non-competes as a condition of employment and receive a copy prior to an offer of employment. Under this arrangement, nurses can be assigned to work a single shift at several facilities and be prevented from being employed directly from them all. This impacts hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities and schools, raising the cost of nursing staff and limiting the availability of this critical workforce. In effect, these agencies (many from out of state) corner the market with higher hourly wages and then prevent direct hire through a non-compete the nurse never saw or signed. A local healthcare agency uses a 13 week period after which the client facility is free to hire the nurse directly; this has worked well for all involved and was included in a amendment which was not adopted.

HB 442, relative to prohibiting payment of subminimum wages. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mark Warden for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would eliminate the ability for NH employers to pay a statutory “subminimum” wage (currently \$3.27/hour), enjoyed primarily by tipped workers who voluntarily agree to the arrangement and predominantly earn well above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour when tips are included. There are myriad compensation agreements that businesses offer to attract and retain employees, and a wholesale change to current arrangements as proposed by this legislation would lead to widespread disruption among our state’s enterprises. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Brian Sullivan for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The minority of the committee feels NH’s subminimum wage of \$3.20/hr is out of date for a modern economy, and that the hard-working tipped wage workers of New Hampshire deserve the same floor of wages as all other NH workers are promised, plus tips on top. This is fairer in a modern economy and shows the value of our hospitality workforce is as a top economic driver within tourism. NH would become the 11th state in the country to take this important step, and those economies have thrived, not stalled. People are NH’s greatest resource and, as such, our workers deserve to be compensated for their labor at a rate that reflects their contributions to the economy. The subminimum wage disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including mothers and people of color, perpetuating inequality and financial instability. By eliminating this wage, we can create a more free, just and sustainable economy where all workers are empowered to support themselves and their families. This will lead to increased productivity, higher morale, and reduced turnover, benefiting both workers and employers in the long run.

HB 726-FN, relative to the state minimum hourly rate. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Samuel Farrington for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would mandate that all employers pay their employees a wage of at least \$15 per hour by 2028. The economic effects of this legislation would actually harm those it seeks to help. Minimum wage laws discriminate against low-skilled workers, such as recent high school graduates, by making it illegal to employ someone whose skills only justify a lower wage. Wages have meaning behind their value. If an employee can only produce \$14 worth of goods per hour, it is completely reasonable that they will be laid off under a \$15 minimum wage. Rather than imposing government mandates on the private sector, we should allow firms and employees to compete for higher productivity and stable wages. The majority of the committee therefore recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Kathy Staub for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The last time New Hampshire raised its minimum wage was in 2008. Our current default minimum wage of \$7.25 is about half of what surrounding states require. Most of our workforce lives an hour or less away from a state where they would be guaranteed a minimum wage of \$14 to \$15 an hour. Our state must raise

our minimum wage to attract new workers and retain young workers. Approximately 60,000 New Hampshire workers, who make less than \$15 an hour would benefit from this bill. They work primarily in retail and food service, and caring for our children and elderly. Their work is important to our economy and the quality of life for all Granite Staters and they deserve to be compensated fairly.

HB 757, relative to tip pooling and sharing and automatic service charges. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lino Avellani for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This version of the bill seeks to undo what was passed back in 2023, adding additional requirements and paperwork for every hospitality employer and employee. Outside of the bills sponsor, we did not hear from any employers that were requesting this additional clarification or another paperwork mandate. For those reasons and more the majority feels this bill is unnecessary. **Vote 11-9.** Rep. Michael Cahill for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill provides restaurant employers and employees with a clear understanding of the tip pooling/sharing method in use in the business including an example in a document signed by the server and retained by the employer. The goal being to reduce misunderstandings and resulting wage claim violations.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 221, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would allow the Public Utility Commission, as part of their rate setting duties, to consider modifications to the Granite State Test and different or additional tests to determine the cost effectiveness of the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC). The SBC is a fee paid by all ratepayers with the idea that spending funds on programs such as energy efficiency will have an overall benefit to all ratepayers. The changes specified in the bill would not be allowed until the program year 2027. Any method for determining a cost benefit analysis should not be fixed for all time as circumstances may change. This bill only allows that the commission may consider changes. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Ned Raynolds for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill concerns one of the most arcane matters of state energy policy possible: the mathematical formula(s) used for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the energy efficiency programs (collectively known as NH Saves) offered by our distribution utilities (Eversource, Unitil, Liberty Utilities), and, importantly, who gets to decide what those formulas are. The programs are funded through the Systems Benefits Charge (SBC), a part of every customer's monthly bill. The programs are longstanding and far from unique to New Hampshire – in fact, those offered by NH's utilities are highly consistent with those in the other five New England states and draw on 25+ years' experience with program design, implementation, and cost-effectiveness evaluation in over 30 states across the country. Nonetheless, three years ago the newly appointed membership of our 3-member Public Utilities Commission (PUC) nearly "blew up" the suite of programs by refusing to approve the triennial renewal of the program package despite rigorous Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) reports – a mandatory aspect of the programs – having consistently shown that every dollar of SBC funds spent produces >\$3 in short and long-term energy savings. The blowback was so big that the legislature had to get involved and enact a law (HB 549) codifying the specific, well-established and well-understood (in the utility, energy efficiency, and energy advocacy fields) mathematical formulas that the Public Utilities Commission should use in conducting its triennial reviews. This bill would go back on that widely supported agreement to now authorize the PUC to open a docket to potentially change the formulas or even develop new formulas.

HB 535-FN, relative to defining the role of the public utilities commission. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill attempts to clarify the policy making and investigative functions of the Department of Energy (DOE) as separate and distinct from the independent adjudicative functions of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In so doing, it requires the PUC to approve without adjudicative review any agreements signed between the utilities and intervening parties including the DOE. This is likely illegal in that it forecloses the PUC's ability to decide whether rates proposed are just and reasonable. It could allow utilities to completely avoid PUC review of rates, charges, tariffs, and services. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Tony Caplan for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. When HB 2 in 2021 created the Department of Energy (DOE), the intent was that the DOE would implement policy and the existing Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would become an adjudicative body primarily focusing on setting rates for the regulated utilities. Unfortunately, much of the existing language in statute leaves the PUC in a position, along with the DOE, to implement policy. This bill would clean up that language, clarifying the DOE's policy and the PUC's adjudicative roles. The primary objection to the bill voiced in executive session by the majority of our committee centered on a section of the bill that says if a case is before the PUC in which the DOE and the Office of the Consumer Advocate are among the parties, and if all parties agree

to a settlement, then the PUC should approve that settlement (unless it is contrary to law). The PUC told our committee that they base their decisions in adjudicated cases only upon the evidence presented to them. The minority of our committee does not understand the majority's objection to this section of the bill, since if all parties agree to a settlement, then all the evidence presented will support the settlement, and the PUC should readily approve.

HB 599, establishing a committee to examine weatherization initiatives for homes in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill seeks to create a committee to study home weatherization. The state Department of Energy oversees several million dollars of home weatherization projects each year and spends \$400,000 each year educating residents about the importance of home weatherization and energy efficiency. NHSaves, operated by the state's utilities, spends \$70-\$80 million each year on energy efficiency, including home weatherization. This subject is well understood and cannot benefit by being studied yet again. **Vote 9-8.** Rep. Wendy Thomas for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Supporting this bill is a crucial step toward reducing energy costs for New Hampshire residents while promoting healthier living conditions. Properly weatherized homes require less energy for heating and cooling, leading to lower utility bills and long-term savings for consumers. Additionally, improved insulation reduces drafts, moisture buildup, and air leaks, creating a healthier indoor environment with better air quality. By studying weatherization initiatives, this committee can identify cost-effective solutions that benefit both homeowners and the environment. Investing in weatherization will not only enhance energy efficiency but also support economic growth and sustainability for communities across the state.

HB 672-FN, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill enables the building of off-grid electricity generation facilities. Such facilities would be exempt from all utility regulation, since an off-grid supplier is not a public utility, except for siting regulation, which primarily serves to protect natural resources. This enabling legislation would spark innovation in the deployment of energy generation that serves a distinct customer base and would be regulated only by the contract developed between the buyer and seller. The most logical application of this capability would be a data center. Such a business could be a boon to the state's economy. The amendment added a reference to the applicability of local municipal and state roadway and safety regulations. **Vote 12-5.** Rep. Wendy Thomas for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill poses significant risks to consumers and the reliability of New Hampshire's energy system. By allowing off-grid electricity providers to operate without regulatory oversight, consumers could be exposed to inconsistent service, higher costs, and potential safety hazards. Without oversight, there is no guarantee of fair pricing, reliable electricity, or adherence to environmental standards. Additionally, the fragmentation of the energy market could weaken the state's overall energy infrastructure, making it less resilient in times of crisis. Instead of deregulating off-grid providers, efforts should focus on strengthening and modernizing the existing regulated grid to ensure stable, affordable, and sustainable electricity for all.

HB 710-FN, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill as amended allows utilities to sign purchase power agreements (PPAs) with advanced nuclear resources for the acquisition of up to 20% of a utility's need for electrical energy. It signals that NH is open for business for nuclear energy. This groundbreaking legislation will put NH on the leading edge of states that recognize the importance of nuclear energy. It builds on 2022's SB 54 that allows long-term energy contracts from new sources by adding advanced nuclear resources to the list of allowable sources. The amendment removed the original bill's provision that allowed utilities to own or invest in advanced nuclear resources, which could be expensive for ratepayers. As amended, the bill avoids this burden while still allowing the acquisition of nuclear power from a willing seller. Its emphasis on new resources opens the door for encouraging the building of small modular reactors in NH. **Vote 14-3.** Rep. Tony Caplan for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The amendment is a vast improvement on the original bill, which would have allowed electric utilities to go into the business of owning nuclear stations, but still falls short of working in the best interests of New Hampshire ratepayers. By not changing the current statutory limit on allowing utilities to purchase long term energy contracts for the next 10 years with any other form of energy except nuclear, this bill will strictly limit our diversity of energy options and shows New Hampshire is not serious about pursuing an all-of-the-above strategy to ensure safe, reliable, low-cost, clean, and diverse energy.

HCR 2, declaring the development of advanced nuclear energy technology to be in the best interest of the state of New Hampshire and the United States. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This resolution calls for policymakers to support nuclear energy initiatives and projects to ensure the United States remains a leader in nuclear

technology. By adopting this resolution, the majority strongly believes it will be a first step to open the door to potential investors; that these investors will see New Hampshire as a place to explore new advanced nuclear technology to do business. It sends a strong message to the federal government that we know this carbon-free technology is important to baseline energy generation and urges the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to prioritize and expedite the review and approval process for advanced nuclear projects to ensure that the United States remains a global leader in nuclear technology. It also encourages the development of educational and workforce training programs to build the highly skilled workforce necessary for advancing nuclear energy technologies and maintaining the state's leadership in this critical industry. By getting behind this resolution, New Hampshire will join other states in adjusting their energy policies to facilitate development of advanced nuclear energy technology. **Vote 16-2.** Rep. Wendy Thomas for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Small modular reactors (SMRs) have proven to be economically unviable in a market-driven economy, relying heavily on government subsidies with no clear path to profitability. The failure of NuScale Power, despite billions in federal funding, demonstrates that SMRs cannot attract private investment due to high costs and financial risks. Additionally, studies indicate that SMRs generate disproportionately higher levels of nuclear waste compared to conventional reactors, further complicating their feasibility. Rather than diverting resources to speculative nuclear projects, New Hampshire should prioritize proven renewable energy solutions like wind, solar, and hydro, which offer immediate economic and environmental benefits without excessive government intervention.

HCR 4, relative to rejecting all offshore wind energy projects in the waters off the coast of New Hampshire and the Gulf of Maine. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Douglas Thomas for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This House Concurrent Resolution asserts that NH stands opposed to offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine until all questions regarding the environmental and economic impacts of such development are fully understood. This understanding requires input from all concerned citizens, particularly the offshore fisheries industry, which has expressed concerns about ocean substations that must be cooled by sea water and chlorine, thereby discharging warmer, toxic water back into the ocean in massive amounts, and by ocean bed disturbances caused by transmission cables extending for long distances, requiring the seabed to be sculpted, with ocean currents producing continuous movement of the cables back and forth and thus disturbing sea life and underwater ecosystems. The resolution states that NH will support offshore wind only when questions about these projects are carefully vetted and verified, without financial risk to the state or its ratepayers. **Vote 9-6.** Rep. Kat McGhee for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The minority opposes having the state pass a resolution to ban a form of clean energy while admitting in the same sentence that we lack a complete understanding of whether the impacts will be good or bad. There are many countries with successful offshore wind installations and that information has been entirely discounted. The resolution fails to recognize that the State of New Hampshire lacks jurisdiction over federally controlled waters, and the recent lease auctions are in waters under the control of the US Department of the Interior. The only way to gain a complete understanding of the issues that will affect our citizens is to have a seat at the table. Finally, banning offshore wind as a potential source of electricity for the regional grid runs counter to our stated preference for an 'all of the above' energy strategy.

HR 15, urging New Hampshire's congressional representatives to advocate for a change in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's policy. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. This is a resolution asking NH's Congressional representatives to take whatever actions are possible to change the method the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) uses to approve costs associated with transmission projects. Presently, FERC operates under a policy of a presumption of prudence where all costs presented by a transmission company are considered just and reasonable unless a third party proves otherwise. All these charges would then be paid for by ratepayers. This is totally different than how distribution system costs are handled in NH. Here, it is the responsibility of the utility who owns the system to prove that costs are just and reasonable. Under existing rules for example, a \$400M cost for a transmission project are presumed to be just and reasonable unless a third party proves them otherwise while a \$4M cost for distribution project are assumed not to be just and reasonable until the utility proves otherwise. There are plans to spend billions of dollars to modify existing and build new transmission projects in New England. NH ratepayers are responsible for 10% of these costs so this is an important message to send now. The amendment added text about the presumption of prudence and listed to whom the resolution will be sent. **Vote 17-0.**

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HR 12, urging Congress to amend the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The 2013 Smith-Mundt Modernization Act repealed the longstanding prohibition on using federal government resources in the State

Department and military to propagandize and conduct information warfare operations against Americans on American soil. Very many of the most controversial political items of the past decade, including the Covid-19 pandemic origin, treatment, and “lockdown” policies, the war in Ukraine, USAID funding, and domestic political coercion are immediately downstream from the lifting of this prohibition on propaganda, which legalized these operations and opened up pathways to funding them with tax dollars. This resolution calls for the reinstitution on this longstanding policy prohibiting propaganda operations against Americans. **Vote 10-7.** Rep. Christine Seibert for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. In 2012 a new law amended the US Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, known as the Smith-Mundt Act. Our media agencies that are still restricted to only operating abroad, can now make their content available in broadcast quality *upon request* within the United States. This change allows for freedom of information requests to be fulfilled, effectively ending the unconstitutional practice of state sanctioned censorship. We should promote transparency and accountability while providing the public fair access if they so choose. The wide distribution of information via the internet makes the information prohibitions of Smith-Mundt largely meaningless or counter-productive. Today, in the age of the internet, enforcing previous restrictions on the domestic dissemination of content has become entirely impossible. Technological advancement has simply overwhelmed the old Smith-Mundt Act restrictions. I would argue that repealing the 2012 amendment would be a violation of the First Amendment, as it restricts freedom of the press. Smith-Mundt had long been outdated, ineffective, disabling, and arguably unconstitutional. It is worth noting that provisions in the current law expressly state that it shall only apply to the Dept. Of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors and to no other department or agency of the Federal Government. This strictly prohibits creation or use of materials by the military, DOD, DHHS, CDC, FEMA, or any other agencies/departments/counterparts. Congress’s 2012 H.R. 5736 clearly states that: “No funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall be used to influence public opinion in the United States.”

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 290-FN, increasing the taxes on cigarettes and electronic cigarettes and establishing a committee to study taxes on tobacco and other nicotine products. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for the **Majority** of Ways and Means. The majority of the members of the Ways and Means Committee agreed that the revenue derived from the sale of cigarettes and electronic cigarettes is a direct result of the low tax structure we enjoy here in New Hampshire. Both NH citizens and citizens from surrounding states are buying in NH because of very reasonable pricing. We also heard testimony that there may be an issue with accounting for appropriate taxation when it comes to electronic cigarettes and vape products. It is our understanding that there may be another piece of legislation in the other body that would directly address this. **Vote 11-8.** Rep. Terry Spahr for the **Minority** of Ways and Means. The State of New Hampshire garners most of its tax revenue through charging a percentage of revenues, sales, income, or profits of products and services produced or sold by New Hampshire businesses and residents. As inflation and economic activity grow each year, the state’s tax revenue increases along with this growth. A very few taxes in the state, like the tobacco tax, are a flat tax that does not increase along with inflation each year. The last time the tobacco tax was raised was 2009, 16 years ago. As a result, the state has lost and will continue to lose money every year from this key source of revenue. This bill would adjust those losses for inflation restoring this tax in line with the majority of New Hampshire’s other taxes. Anticipated inflation adjusted revenue to the state could yield \$40 million to \$87 million annually. The lower figure is based on an analysis by the American Cancer Society as a “worst case” scenario of reduced sales for New Hampshire. The high figure is based on smokers continuing to smoke as usual.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

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. To listen in please follow the instructions below: Please register for the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals meeting on March 14, 2025, 2:00 PM EST at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5671215450474413150> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. You also may join the meeting by phone: Call in Number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access Code: 115-413-777 Webinar ID: 394-884-731 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

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

ELECTION LAW, Room 306-308, LOB

9:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 217**, relative to absentee ballots; **HB 289**, regarding domicile qualifications for voting; **HB 323**, requiring the presentation of a government-issued photographic means of identification in order to vote; **HB 385-FN**, reestablishing voter identification exceptions; **HB 418**, relative to eligibility for absentee voting; **HB 618-FN**, enables election officials to verify the single use of an out-of-state driver's license presented when a person votes by using the centralized voter registration database; **HB 684**, preventing the use of student identification cards as a means to obtain a ballot; **HB 686-FN**, requiring a voter to provide identification when requesting an absentee ballot.

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, LOB

10:00 a.m. Division work session on **HB 187-FN**, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child; **HB 215-FN**, requiring a landfill permit applicant to submit a report listing potential harms and benefits of the project; **HB 566-FN**, requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management; **HB 607-FN**, relative to funding the Hampton Beach area commission and making appropriations therefor; **HB 624-FN-A**, establishing a local river management advisory committee grant program and making an appropriation therefor; **HB 640-FN**, relative to the transparency of federal agency operations within New Hampshire; **HB 723-FN**, repealing the multi-use energy data platform; **HB 66-FN**, relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law; **HB 511-FN**, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

1:15 p.m. Group II Retirement Work Session.

2:15 p.m. Budget Work Session.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

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

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3), Mount Washington Observatory Offices, 2779 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Zoom: Passcode:718312

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84921583803?pwd=jNNjexnNwbEYqANpjiin6H8aQyWotdL.1>

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on Lapse Extensions.

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

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

EDUCATION POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION , Room 205-207, LOB

9:30 a.m. Executive session on **HB 446**, relative to parental notice for non-academic surveys in public schools; **HB 768**, allowing public schools to contract with any approved private school; **HB 741-FN**, allowing parents to send their children to any school district they choose; **HB 292**, establishing a commission to study school administrative unit consolidation; **HB 765-FN-L**, consolidating school administrative units and making school superintendents jobs an elected position; **HB 749-FN**, requiring high schools to include instruction on the nature and history of communism.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

FINANCE, Room 210-211, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. Public hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #2025-0555h to HB 71-FN, prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States. This amendment also requires the department of health and human services to include references to the patients' bill of rights in contracts and contract addenda. Copies of the amendment are available on the General Court website.
- 1:15 p.m. Executive session on **HB 67-FN-A**, relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems; **HB 111-FN**, extending the position of right-to-know ombudsman for 2 years and exempting individuals who assist in the preparation of a right-to-know complaint at no charge from the unauthorized practice of law; **HB 164-FN**, relative to local records retention; **HB 216-FN**, relative to workers' compensation and creditable service towards retirement; **HB 282-FN**, increasing the maximum benefits for first responders critically injured in the line of duty; **HB 619-FN-A**, making an appropriation to the solid waste management fund; **HB 650-FN**, removing references to repealed funds and relative to state park and robotics education funds; **HB 129-FN**, relative to the definition of the term "evidence-based" within public education; **HB 133-FN**, modifying the new resident drivers' license transfer requirements, specifying when the division of motor vehicles shall send violation notices, and appropriating funds to the division for technological upgrades required for legal compliance; **HB 165-FN**, relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster; **HB 494-FN**, relative to the math learning communities program, and making an appropriation therefor; **HB 506-FN**, relative to background checks during motions to return firearms and ammunition; **HB 612-FN**, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21; **HB 671-FN-A**, establishing a kindergarten literacy readiness program; **HB 677-FN**, requiring schools to maintain a supply of EpiPen injectors for use in event of an emergency; **HB 716-FN**, making an appropriation for the dual and concurrent enrollment program; **HB 71-FN**, prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States.

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Division work session on **HB 54-FN**, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit; **HB 547-FN**, relative to county reimbursement of funds; **HB 661-FN**, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care; **HB 704-FN-A**, relative to caregiver respite and senior volunteer programs and making an appropriation therefor; **HB 751-FN**, requiring licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities and relative to complaint investigation of treatment facilities by the department of health and human services office of the ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor.
- Continuing budget work as needed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a), New Hampshire Veterans Home, Town Hall, 139 Winter Street, Tilton 03276

- 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), Doloff Building, 2nd Fl. Room 2-1, 117 Pleasant St., Concord

- 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18**CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 518-FN**, requiring the commissioner of the department of health and human services to provide a detailed annual report of all costs incurred by the division for children, youth and families.

- 10:30 a.m. **HB 775-FN**, directing the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.
- 11:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 553-FN**, relative to the definition of abuse and neglect and conditions triggering a rebuttable presumption of harm in abuse and neglect cases.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 507-FN**, relative to the timeline for credentialing of mental health care providers; **HB 705**, relative to health care cost transparency; **HB 276**, removing the requirement that on-premises beverage licensees serve food; **HB 467**, defining “social districts” and enabling municipalities to create social districts.

ELECTION LAW, Room 306-308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. Continued executive session on **HB 693-FN**, relative to ballot counting procedures and permitting the hand counting of ballots; **HB 412-L**, relative to elections and appointments to fill vacancies of local cooperative school boards; **HB 590**, relative to cooperative school district school board elections; **HB 385-FN**, reestablishing voter identification exceptions; **HB 418**, relative to eligibility for absentee voting; **HB 420**, relative to the chain of custody for ballots; **HB 423**, requiring the consent of property owners for the placement of political advertisements on public property abutting their land; **HB 574-FN**, requiring background checks of the private companies and their contractors who program and maintain New Hampshire voting machines; **HB 618-FN**, enables election officials to verify the single use of an out-of-state driver’s license presented when a person votes by using the centralized voter registration database; **HB 684**, preventing the use of student identification cards as a means to obtain a ballot; **HB 217**, relative to absentee ballots; **HB 686-FN**, requiring a voter to provide identification when requesting an absentee ballot; **HB 160**, relative to the contents of the pre-election certificate; **HB 281**, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format; **HB 289**, regarding domicile qualifications for voting; **HB 323**, requiring the presentation of a government-issued photographic means of identification in order to vote; **HB 341-FN**, requiring the secretary of state to check voter records prior to every election; **HB 270**, requiring the preservation of electronic ballot counting device memory chips.
Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 301-303, LOB

- 10:30 a.m. **HR 18**, urging the New Hampshire congressional delegation to sponsor legislation relative to, and urging the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to adopt regulations, allowing for small scale slaughter plants to use the Federal Meat Inspection Act’s Custom Exempt meat processing inspection criteria with a third-party inspector present at slaughter, so that processed beef, pork, lamb, and chevron (goat meat) can be sold as individual cuts directly from the farm producer to the end consumer.
- 10:45 a.m. Full committee work session **HB 616-FN**, relative to the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of or charged with abuse of animals; **HB 707**, requiring the department of environmental services to establish a site-specific setback distance for proposed new landfills; **HB 505-FN**, allowing the sale of freeze dried foods produced in homestead food operations; **HB 250**, enabling local governing bodies to regulate the muzzling of dogs; **HR 18**, urging the New Hampshire congressional delegation to sponsor legislation relative to, and urging the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to adopt regulations, allowing for small scale slaughter plants to use the Federal Meat Inspection Act’s Custom Exempt meat processing inspection criteria with a third-party inspector present at slaughter, so that processed beef, pork, lamb, and chevron (goat meat) can be sold as individual cuts directly from the farm producer to the end consumer.
- 12:00 p.m. Executive session on **HB 616-FN**, relative to the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of or charged with abuse of animals; **HB 707**, requiring the department of environmental services to establish a site-specific setback distance for proposed new landfills; **HB 505-FN**, allowing the sale of freeze dried foods produced in homestead food operations; **HB 250**, enabling local governing bodies to regulate the muzzling of dogs; **HR 18**, urging the New Hampshire congressional delegation to sponsor legislation relative to, and urging the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to adopt regulations, allowing for small scale slaughter plants to use the Federal Meat Inspection Act’s Custom Exempt meat processing inspection criteria with a third-party inspector present at slaughter, so that processed beef, pork, lamb, and chevron (goat meat) can be sold as individual cuts directly from the farm producer to the end consumer.
- 12:30 p.m. Presentation by Council of State Governments.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 25-A**, making appropriations for capital improvements.

10:30 a.m. Full committee work session on **HB 25-A**, making appropriations for capital improvements.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 224-FN**, relative to rebates to ratepayers from the renewable energy fund.

10:30 a.m. **HB 524-FN**, repealing the New Hampshire vaccine association.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

11:30 a.m. Executive session on **HB 728-FN**, authorizing video lottery terminals at charity gaming facilities and repealing historic horse racing licensing.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302-304, LOB**

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 167-FN**, prohibiting the sale of ski, boat, and board waxes that contain intentionally added per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances; **HB 275-FN**, relative to health carrier credentialing requirements; **HB 276**, removing the requirement that on-premises beverage licensees serve food; **HB 310**, establishing a commission to study the creation of a regulatory framework for stable tokens and tokenized real-world assets in New Hampshire; **HB 312**, relative to the right of intercollegiate student-athletes to earn compensation through the use of their name, image, or likeness; **HB 316-FN**, relative to reimbursement for ground ambulance services; **HB 359**, prohibiting denial of banking and insurance services based on any factor that is not quantitative, impartial, and risk-based as measured by an objective standard; **HB 406-FN**, relative to the formation of fraudulent businesses; **HB 427**, relative to amending the uniform commercial code; **HB 434-FN**, requiring a policyholder's insurance company to provide a rental car for at least 7 days after determination that the vehicle is totaled or unsafe to operate when the policyholder is not at fault for the accident; **HB 437**, providing specific curative measures for undischarged mortgages; **HB 454**, requiring that retailers of fuel blends with 15% ethanol also offer fuel blends with 10% or lower ethanol content; **HB 467**, defining "social districts" and enabling municipalities to create social districts; **HB 496-FN**, requiring the liquor commission to distribute certain information in liquor stores; **HB 507-FN**, relative to the timeline for credentialing of mental health care providers; **HB 517-FN**, repealing the Granite State paid family leave plan; **HB 529**, relative to the liquor commission; **HB 556**, relative to the sale of products labeled as biodegradable or compostable; **HB 565**, allowing persons under 21 into veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs under certain conditions; **HB 705**, relative to health care cost transparency; **HB 706-FN**, relative to prohibiting insurance companies from conducting an audit of providers services after services have been delivered but before payment has been made to such provider; **HB 721-FN**, relative to establishing gold and silver as legal tender; **HB 725-FN**, relative to ground ambulance services.

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

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **HB 257-FN**, establishing the crime of criminal neglect of a child; **HB 369-FN**, relative to misdemeanor sexual assault prosecutions; **HB 240-FN-L**, relative to nonpayment of dog licensing fees; **HB 597**, establishing a designated behavioral health access point within the enhanced 911 system; **HB 602**, requiring certain offenders to participate in a victim impact program; **HB 609-FN**, relative to the general court's authority over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, and other matter pertaining to firearms, stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices, knives and other self-defense tools; **HB 638-FN**, allowing an older prisoner serving a sentence of life without parole to be eligible for parole upon meeting certain criteria; **HB 670-FN**, raising the minimum fine for attacks by nuisance dogs; **HB 700-FN**, relative to orders of protection; **HB 767-FN**, expanding requirements for reports to law enforcement by the department of health and human services; **HB 776-FN**, relative to the crime of aggravated driving while intoxicated.

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

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

9:30 a.m. Executive session on **HB 70-FN**, relative to the use of electronic medical records; **HB 377-FN**, relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers; **HB 548-FN**, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model; **HB 559**, relative to staffing requirements in emergency medical transport vehicles; **HB 606**, relative to a patient's right to medically appropriate care for reproductive disorders; **HB 621-FN**, allowing the birth mother to opt out of sharing certain information from the birth worksheet with state agencies; **HB 636-FN**, relative to community mental health providers; **HB 664-A**, relative to childhood immunization requirements; **HB 679**, relative to immunization requirements; **HB 701-FN**, relative to a health care patient's right to try certain emergency health care treatment options; **HB 712-FN**, limiting breast surgeries for minors; **HB 731-FN**, relative to supportive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

JUDICIARY, Room 206-208, LOB

1:30 p.m. Presentation-LBA Audit Division on the Audit of the Commission for Human Rights

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 203, LOB

1:00 p.m. Continued executive session on **HB 157**, establishing a study committee to examine ways to improve the usefulness of fiscal notes; **HB 331**, relative to the secretary of state's procedures for enrolled bills; **HB 347**, relative to protection of employment for members of the general court; **HB 456**, relative to testimony of agency employees in general court hearings; **HB 477**, establishing a commission to study safety and security procedures in the New Hampshire state house; **HB 546-FN**, relative to financial disclosures to legislative ethics committee; **HB 605**, relative to employment protections for members of the general court; **HR 8**, resolving that the practice of suspending a constitutional officer to be outside the authority designated to the judiciary and appropriately delegated to the general court.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

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

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF OHRVS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 215-A:44-a), Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Join Teams: Meeting ID: 282 387 535 833 Passcode: qAxqEj

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

1:00 p.m. Budget work session.

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

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE-IRELAND TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22-a), Department of Business and Economic Affairs, 100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord

1:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 24**FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB**

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE (RSA 14-B:2), Room 103, SH

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD (RSA 126-BB:2), DHHS Brown Building Auditorium, 129 Pleasant Street, Concord

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

RULES, Room 206-208, LOB

10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 25**CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206-208, LOB**

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee on Family Court organizational meeting and work session.

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Room 210-211, LOB

10:00 a.m. Budget work session.

STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 126-A:88), New Hampshire Hospital Association/Foundation for Healthy Communities, Room 1, 125 Airport Road, Concord

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28**HOUSE LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE (RSA 17-E:5), Room 100, SH**

9:45 a.m. or directly following the Joint Committee meeting. Regular meeting.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES (RSA 17-E:1), Room 100, SH

9:15 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1**STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2), Edward Cross Training Center Facility, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke**

5:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 7**COMMISSION TO STUDY REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO THE ROAD TOLL, ROAD TOLL REGISTRATION CHARGES, AND REVENUE ALTERNATIVES TO VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, INCLUDING ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STATE'S HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES AND THEIR RESULTING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT (RSA 21-J:49), Room 201, LOB**

11:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 14**CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2), Room 201, LOB**

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

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

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, APRIL 21**STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1), NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Road, Concord**

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

REVISED FISCAL NOTES

The following bills have a revised fiscal note: HB 66, HB 85, HB 86, HB 112, HB 211, HB 240, HB 284, HB 327, HB 369, HB 378, HB 494, HB 496, HB 498, HB 502, HB 505, HB 506, HB 508, HB 509, HB 511, HB 514, HB 517, HB 518, HB 521, HB 523, HB 524, HB 525, HB 526, HB 528, HB 534, HB 535, HB 536, HB 538, HB 542, HB 546, HB 547, HB 553, HB 572, HB 574, HB 575, HB 581, HB 583, HB 586, HB 607, HB 608, HB 609, HB 615, HB 616, HB 619, HB 621, HB 622, HB 630, HB 633, HB 635, HB 637, HB 639, HB 646, HB 648, HB 650, HB 651, HB 652, HB 653, HB 654, HB 657, HB 658, HB 659, HB 662, HB 665, HB 669,

HB 671, HB 672, HB 674, HB 677, HB 680, HB 681, HB 683, HB 686, HB 687, HB 688, HB 690, HB 691, HB 696, HB 702, HB 708, HB 710, HB 711, HB 712, HB 716, HB 719, HB 720, HB 721, HB 725, HB 726, HB 727, HB 729, HB 730, HB 731, HB 736, HB 738, HB 739, HB 741, HB 743, HB 750, HB 753, HB 755, HB 756, HB 759, HB 760, HB 761, HB 762, HB 763, HB 767, HB 769, HB 770, HB 771, HB 775, HB 782. SB 60, SB 73, SB 147, SB 160, SB 201.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (snow date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.)

The full **Strafford** Delegation meets to review Executive Committee recommendations and to adopt final budget for 2025, and to discuss any other business with may legally come before the Delegation. Jury Assembly Room, Justice and Administration Building. The budget must be approved by April 1st, or the Commissioners' Proposed Budget will be in effect. Public access via Zoom: Meeting ID: 886 9655 0988 Passcode: 608382 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88696550988?pwd=szE0WQMLvw0tJJPp1aLv8cG065quYx.1> or By Phone: +1 646 931 3860 US

Rep. Cassandra Levesque, Clerk

MEMBERS' NOTICES

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

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

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan

Members who receive constituent inquiries into their client case with the Department of Health and Human Services are welcomed to forward the inquiry to DHHS for follow-up. You will not receive any information back other than the case is being placed in a queue and being reviewed. Contact Ms. Kathie Capron, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the Commissioner, (603) 271-9445, Kathleen.A.Capron@dhhs.nh.gov

Reps. Lucy Weber and Jess Edwards

The spate of measures in front of this body that have dire consequences for New Hampshire renters proves that the perspective of those who rent their homes is needed to ensure fairness for us as well as property owners. We representatives who rent must join together to make sure our voices are heard. If any of my colleagues are interested in forming a bipartisan renters' caucus, please see me in person or email me.

Rep. Lily Foss

Pocket-Size Copies of the NH Constitution are available. The passage of HB 1323 (2024), RSA 5:5-b, allowed for copies of State Constitution to be furnished. These pocket-size copies of the NH Constitution are now available in the Secretary of State's office for \$1 each.

Reps. Peternel, Drye and Dan McGuire

Bi-State Primary Care Association will host their annual NH Legislative and Business Event on **Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** at the Capitol Center for the Arts, Governor's Hall 44 S. Main St., Concord. Refreshments and Hors d'Oeuvres will be served at 4:00pm. Each year, this event brings together our state's elected officials, business and nonprofit leaders, health care providers, and other advocates from

across the health care landscape. You will hear from leading policy experts and community health center leadership about health care policy impacting both NH patients' safety net and the business of primary care. [Click here](#) to register for this event. Tickets are free for all! Please contact Colleen Dowling, Communications & Development Manager, cdowling@bistatepca.org, 603-228-2830, Ext. 127.

Rep. Wayne MacDonald

The Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, a bipartisan and bicameral group working to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping, invite you to join them for lunch at the Upham Walker House on **Thursday, March 20th at 12:00 p.m.** or at the session lunch break. Join state partners and representatives from NH Fish and Game for a networking and policy discussion about New Hampshire's sporting community!

Reps Will Darby and James Spillane

Legislators are invited to join the University System of New Hampshire for a Legislative Lunch on **Thursday, March 27 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** at St. Paul's Church, Concord, NH. We invite you to meet our college and university presidents and learn more about our efforts to attract, equip, and retain a highly skilled NH workforce. Lunch will be provided.

Reps. Jason Osborne and Alexis Simpson

Please join the Community College System of New Hampshire for a meet and greet in the State House cafeteria **Wednesday, April 2nd, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Legislators and staff are invited to join college and system leaders and discuss issues of importance to your region and the state. Refreshments, prepared by culinary students from Lakes Region Community College and White Mountains Community College, will be proudly served by students and faculty. The committee that leaves us the most business cards will win a delicious cake made by the colleges' culinary students.

Reps. Steven Smith and Alexis Simpson

Legislators & staff are cordially invited to the annual Walmart lunch and health screening in the State House cafeteria on **Thursday, April 10th** starting at **11:30 a.m.**

Rep. Steven Smith

To all my friends in the New Hampshire Legislature. Always inspired by my Mom who dealt with the challenges of rheumatoid arthritis her entire life, I am honored to be named the Medical Honoree for the 2025 New Hampshire Arthritis Foundation Walk to Cure Arthritis, the premier event of the arthritis community committed to conquering arthritis for the nearly 60 million Americans, including hundreds of thousands of children, who live with this debilitating disease's daily pain and challenges. I invite you to join my team, "Make No Bones About It." The event begins at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester on **May 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** You can walk, run, crawl, or wheel your way. The walk ends on the infield. Those who contribute \$10 or more receive a free ticket to the Fisher Cats game to follow. See me for more details on how to sign up. This event raises money to advance arthritis treatments and find a cure, develop resources, and take action to improve people's lives. Your help is needed now more than ever. Together, we can improve the lives of 1 in every 4 Americans who battle arthritis and ultimately cure the disease. Please join us. Thank you!

Rep. David Nagel

AMENDMENTS

(LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER)

**Amendment to HB 10-FN
(2025-0695h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Children and Family Law--r

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

1 Declaration of Purpose. The general court finds and affirms that parents have a fundamental liberty interest to raise and care for their minor children, as well as make decisions concerning their care, custody,

and fundamental liberty interest is protected under both the federal and New Hampshire constitutions, and have the right, to have access to, and be notified of and be provided with all information relating to these rights.

2 New Chapter; Parent Bill of Rights. Amend RSA by inserting after 169-H the following new chapter.

CHAPTER 169-I

PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

169-I:1 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Parent's Bill of Rights.

169-I:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Parent" means a person who is the legal natural or adoptive parent of a minor child. A legal guardian appointed pursuant to RSA 463:2, IV shall be deemed to be a parent for as long guardianship is in force. The term "Parent" shall not apply to a person whose rights to a child have been either voluntarily surrendered or involuntarily terminated pursuant to law.

II. "Parental rights and responsibilities" shall have the same meaning as care custody and control, and shall include parenting time, decision making, and residential responsibility. Parents for whom such rights to care, custody, or control of a child have been abridged, halted, modified, or suspended, shall have their rights restored upon showing a preponderance of the evidence that is in the child's best interest and the child is returned to parental care.

III. "Minor" means an unemancipated person under the age of 18 years.

IV. "Compelling state interest" means the governmental interest in the welfare of a child which includes, but is not limited to, parental rights and responsibilities pursuant to RSA 461- A:1, V.

169-I:3 Infringement of Parental Rights Prohibited. The state; any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit; any other governmental entity; or any other institution may not infringe on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, that such action is narrowly tailored, and that such interest is not otherwise served by less restrictive means.

169-I:4 Parental Rights.

I. All parent's rights are reserved to the parent of a minor child in this state without obstruction or interference from the state, any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit, any other governmental entity, or any other institution, including, but not limited to, all of the following rights of a parent of a minor child in this state:

(a) To inquire of the school or school personnel and immediately receive accurate, truthful, and complete disclosure regarding any and all matters related to their minor child, unless an immediate answer cannot be provided when the initial request is made, in which case the answer shall be provided no later than 5 days after the request;

(b) Direct the education and care;

(c) Direct the upbringing and moral or religious training;

(d) Apply to enroll in a public school, or private school, religious school, home school program, or other available options, as authorized by law;

(e) To access and review all school records pursuant to RSA 189:66 IV;

(f) Make health care decisions unless otherwise prohibited by law to include end of life treatments and care with terminal conditions;

(g) To be physically present at any health care facility providing care licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2;

(h) Access and review all medical records as the personal representatives of their children, unless such representation is modified or terminated by court order, or the parent is the subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor child and a law enforcement agency or other officials request the information not be released.

(i) To consent in writing before a biometric scan is made, shared, or stored pursuant to RSA 189:65 and RSA 189:68;

(j) Consent in writing before any blood or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is created, stored, or shared, except as required by general law or pursuant to a court order;

(k) To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit; pursuant also to the provisions of RSA 189:68, III-V makes a video or voice recording unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding or part of a forensic interview in a criminal or other investigation by the bureau of child protective services or it is to be used solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in the common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles; and

(l) To be notified promptly if an employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against his or her minor child, unless the incident has first been reported to law enforcement or the bureau of child protective services and notifying the parent would impede the investigation.

II. This section does not:

(a) Authorize a parent of a minor child in this state to engage in conduct that is unlawful or to abuse or neglect his or her minor child in violation of general law.

(b) Prohibit a court of competent jurisdiction, law enforcement officer, or employees of a government agency that is responsible for child welfare from acting in his or her official capacity within the reasonable and prudent scope of his or her authority, pursuant to RSA 186:11, IX-c.

III. An employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school board, school district, or school administrative unit, or any other governmental entity who encourages or coerces a minor child to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action.

IV. A parent of a minor child in this state has inalienable rights that are more comprehensive than those listed in this section, unless such rights have been legally waived or terminated. This chapter does not prescribe all rights to a parent of a minor child in this state. Unless required by law, the rights of a parent of a minor child in this state may not be limited or denied.

169-I:5 School Board Notifications on Parental Rights.

I. Each school board, school district, or school administrative unit shall, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, develop, adopt and promulgate publicly a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system. Such policy must include:

(a) A plan for parental participation in schools to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, school attendance, and discipline.

(b) A procedure for a parent to learn about his or her minor child's course of study, including the source of any supplemental education materials.

(c) Procedures for a parent to object to instructional materials and other materials used in the classroom. Such objections may be based on beliefs regarding morality, sex, and religion or the belief that such materials are harmful. For purposes of this section, the term "instructional materials" shall include, without limitation, all materials used in the classroom, including workbooks and worksheets, handouts, software, applications, and any digital media made available to students.

(d) Procedures for a parent to withdraw his or her minor child from any portion of the school district's health education program that relates to sex education or instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality if the parent provides a written objection to his or her minor child's participation. Such procedures must provide for a parent to be notified in advance of such course content so that he or she may withdraw his or her minor child from those portions of the course.

(e) Procedures for a parent to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at his or her minor child's school, including those that are extracurricular or part of the school curriculum.

(f) Procedures for a parent to learn about parental rights and responsibilities under general law, including all of the following:

(1) The right to opt his or her minor child out of any portion of the school district's health education program that relates to sex education instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality.

(2) The right of a parent to exempt his or her minor child from immunizations, as per the provisions of RSA 141-C:20-a relative to immunizations.

(3) The right of a parent to receive statewide, standardized assessment results.

(4) The right of a parent to enroll his or her minor child in gifted or special education programs if the child qualifies for such programs.

(5) The right of a parent to inspect school district instructional materials.

(6) The right of a parent to access information relating to the school district's policies.

(7) The right of a parent to receive a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements and compliance with such requirements.

(8) The right of a parent to access information relating to the state public education system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and instructional materials requirements.

(9) The right of a parent to opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by federal or state law.

II. A school board may provide the information required in this section electronically or post such information on its website. Additionally, at the beginning of each new school year a school board shall provide to parents a written copy of the following rights which shall be titled, "Parents' Bill of Rights" all of which are consistent with or pursuant to the provisions of this statute, and in no way conflict with them:

(a) You have the right and expectation to question and address your child's school officials via letters, electronic communications, and in person meetings including elected school board meetings. You also have the right to attend publicly designated meetings with proper notice of the meetings provided.

(b) You have the right and expectation to question and review curriculum taught in your child's school by questioning your school board and school administrators during public comment periods at publicly designated meetings.

(c) You have the right and expectation that academic curriculum taught in your child's school aligns with New Hampshire and federal law.

(d) You have the right and expectation to participate in the selection and approval of academic standards for the state of New Hampshire.

(e) You have the right and expectation to access educational materials and curriculum taught to your child in the classroom and school.

(f) You have the right to make decisions regarding vaccinations and immunizations for your child.

(g) You have the right and expectation to make medical decisions on behalf of your child.

(h) You have the right and expectation to receive your child's student health records.

(i) You have the right to receive special education services on behalf of your child with a disability.

III. A parent may request, in writing, from the district school superintendent the information required under this section pursuant to RSA 91-A.

169-I:6 Parental Consent for Health Care Services.

I. Except as otherwise provided by law or a court order, a health care practitioner or an individual employed by such health care practitioner may not provide or solicit or arrange to provide health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent.

II. Except as otherwise provided by law or a court order, a health care provider shall not allow a medical procedure to be performed on a minor child in its facility without first obtaining written parental consent.

III. This section does not apply to services provided by a clinical laboratory, unless the services are delivered through a direct encounter with the minor at the clinical laboratory facility with parental consent.

IV. This section does not apply to emergency services pursuant to RSA 153-A:18.

V. A health care practitioner or other person who violates this section is subject to disciplinary action, and such a violation constitutes a class A misdemeanor.

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

Amendment to HB 68

(2025-0103h)

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Change of School or Assignment; Best Interest of Student. Amend RSA 193:3, I(c) to read as follows:

(c) Prior to or at such meeting, the parent or guardian shall make a specific request that the student be re-assigned by the school board to another public school, public academy, or an approved private school within the district or to a public school, public academy, or an approved private school in another district. ***If such request is made to re-assign the student to another public school or public academy within the school district, the superintendent shall approve the request unless it fails to meet the requirements under this section.***

Amendment to HB 82

(2025-0577h)

Proposed by the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration—c

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

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

330-A:15-a Processing License Applications; Criminal History Record Check.

[I. License applications shall be processed as follows:

(a) ~~The board shall either request additional information or documentation within 15 days or act on an application for licensure as a mental health practitioner within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.~~

(b) ~~The board shall review complete applications received at least 10 days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting at its next regularly scheduled meeting.]~~

[H.] ***I.*** Every applicant for initial licensure shall submit to the [board] ***office of professional licensure and certification*** a criminal history record release form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, department of safety, which authorizes the release of his or her criminal history record, if any, to the [board] ***executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification. For the purposes of this section, a designee may be the office's agency counsel, administrative law judge, director of licensing and board administration, licensing service representative, or board administrator.***

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

a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearances from every city, town, or county where the person has lived during the past 5 years.

[IV-] **III.** The [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification**. The [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification** shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this section.

[V-] **IV.** The applicant shall bear the cost of a criminal history record check.

Amend the bill by replacing section 22 with the following:

22 Psychologists; Criminal History Record Checks. Amend RSA 329-B:14-a, I through IV to read as follows:

I. Every applicant for initial permanent licensure or reinstatement shall submit to the [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** a criminal history record release form, as provided by the New Hampshire division of state police, which authorizes the release of his or her criminal history record, if any, to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification**. **For the purposes of this section, a designee may be the office's agency counsel, administrative law judge, director of licensing and board administration, licensing service representative, or board administrator.**

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

III. The [board] **office of professional licensure and certification** shall submit the criminal history records release form and fingerprint form to the division of state police which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the records check, the division of state police shall release copies of the criminal history records to the [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification**.

IV. The [board] **executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or its designee within the office of professional licensure and certification** shall review the criminal record information prior to making a licensing decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

Amend RSA 315:8, I-a(b) as inserted by section 31 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) A person holding a training license shall be subject to **discipline in accordance with this chapter and RSA 310** ~~[the disciplinary provisions of RSA 315:9]~~ and such additional professional character and competency requirements as the board may require by rule.

Amend the bill by replacing section 39 with the following:

39 Electricians; Examinations for License. Amend RSA 319-C:8 to read as follows:

319-C:8 Examinations for License. Each applicant for licensure shall present to the office, a written application for examination and license, containing such information as the [board may require] **law requires**, accompanied by the required application fee established by the office. Proctored examinations shall be written, written and oral, oral, or computerized as approved by the board[, and shall be of a thorough and practical character]. They shall include such provisions of the National Electrical Code as the board may deem appropriate. Any person failing to pass his or her [first] examination may, **at his or her own expense**, be reexamined by an examination entity approved by the board, and thereafter may be examined as often as he or she may desire ~~[upon submitting the written application for examination and license and payment of the required application fee as set forth in this chapter]~~. **However, an applicant who has not passed the examination within one year of the office receiving his or her application and desires to be reexamined shall submit to the office a new written application for examination and license and the required application fees.**

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 41 with the following:

42 Manufactured Housing Installation Standards; Expiration and Renewal. Amend RSA 205-D:11, I to read as follows:

I. All licenses issued by the [board] **office** shall expire **in accordance with RSA 310** ~~[on the last day of the month of the licensee's birth in the third year following the year of issuance, but may be renewed during the following month, retroactive to the first day of the month. Upon failure to pay the renewal fee within the required period, a licensee may renew his or her license by submitting the required fee plus \$10 before the last day of the second month following the month of his or her birth].~~

43 Manufactured Housing Installation Standards; Fees. Amend RSA 205-D:12, I to read as follows:

I. The [board] **office** may establish, pursuant to RSA 541-A, fees for licensure, license renewal, training, inspections, and issuance of the manufacturer's warranty seal **in accordance with RSA 310**. ~~[The fees established by the board shall be sufficient to produce estimated revenues equal to 125 percent of the direct operating expenses of the board budgeted for the biennium in which they will apply.]~~

44 Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy; Licensure. Amend RSA 328-J:11 to read as follows:

328-J:11 Licensure; Medical Imaging Professionals and Radiation Therapists.

The executive director, in consultation with the board, shall issue [licenses] **a license** to individuals **in this section according to the requirements in this section. The license issued under this section shall be valid for the modality or modalities for which the licensee has achieved the required credentials** ~~[who meet the following qualifications]:~~

I. Limited x-ray machine operator license. To qualify for a license as a limited x-ray machine operator, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;
- (c) Successfully complete a course of study in limited x-ray machine operation approved by the executive director; and
- (d) Pass an examination in limited x-ray machine operation approved by the board. To assess an applicant's competence in limited x-ray machine operation the board may use:
 - (1) The American Registry of Radiologic Technologist limited x-ray machine operator examination for limited bone density, chest, extremities, podiatric, skull/sinus, and podiatric radiography;
 - (2) The American Chiropractic Registry of Radiologic Technologists examination in spine radiography;
 - (3) The American Society of Podiatric Medical Assistants examination in podiatric radiography;
 - (4) The International Society for Clinical Densitometry examination in clinical bone densitometry technology; or
 - (5) A certification organization recognized by the executive director.

II. Magnetic resonance technologist license. To qualify for a license as a magnetic resonance technologist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~
- (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
- (c) ~~Successfully complete a course of study in radiography and additional educational requirements in magnetic resonance technology approved by the board; and~~
- ~~[(d)] (b)~~ Possess current certification and registration in radiography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or current certification and registration in magnetic resonance from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director.
- ~~[(e)] (c)~~ By January 1, 2020, all applicants for a magnetic resonance technologist license shall be certified in magnetic resonance by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization recognized by the executive director.

III. Nuclear medicine technologist license. To qualify for a license as a nuclear medicine technologist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~
- (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
- (c) ~~Successfully complete a course of study in nuclear medicine technology approved by the executive director; and~~
- ~~[(d)] (b)~~ Possess current certification and registration in nuclear medicine technology from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, or a certification organization recognized by the executive director.

IV. Radiation therapist license. To qualify for a license as a radiation therapist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) ~~[Be at least 18 years of age;~~
- (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
- (c) ~~Successfully complete a course of study in radiation therapy approved by the executive director; and~~
- ~~[(d)] (b)~~ Possess current certification and registration in radiation therapy from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization recognized by the executive director.

V. Radiographer license. To qualify for a license as a radiographer, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~Be at least 18 years of age;~~
 (b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~
 (c) Successfully complete a course of study in radiography approved by the executive director; and
 (d) **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in radiography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

VI. Radiologist assistant license. To qualify for a license as a radiologist assistant, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Possess a radiographer license and current certification and registration in radiography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director;

(b) Possess current certification and registration as a radiologist assistant or radiology practitioner assistant from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, Certification Board of Radiology Physician Assistants or a certification organization approved by the executive director; and

(c) Submit to the executive director clinical protocols signed by the supervising radiologist specifying procedures that are performed by the radiologist assistant, levels of radiologist supervision, and locations of practice designated by the supervising radiologist. Updated protocols shall be submitted biannually consistent with license renewal. The radiologist assistant scope of practice shall be consistent with the most recent version of the Radiologist Assistant Practice Standards published by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

VII. Sonographer license. To qualify for a license as a sonographer, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~Be at least 18 years of age;~~

(b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(c) Successfully complete a course of study in sonography approved by the executive director; and

(d) **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in sonography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Cardiovascular Credentialing International, or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

VIII. Cardiac electrophysiology specialist licensure. To qualify for a license as a cardiac electrophysiology specialist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~Be at least 18 years of age;~~

(b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(c) Successfully complete a course of study in cardiac electrophysiology approved by the executive director; and

(d) **(b)** Possess current certification in cardiac electrophysiology from Cardiovascular Credentialing International or a certifying organization approved by the executive director.

IX. Cardiovascular invasive specialist license. To qualify for a license as a cardiovascular invasive specialist, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~Be at least 18 years of age;~~

(b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(c) Successfully complete a course of study in cardiovascular invasive procedures approved by the executive director; and

(d) **(b)** Possess current certification in cardiovascular invasive procedures from Cardiovascular Credentialing International or a certifying organization approved by the executive director.

X. Computed tomography license. To qualify for a license in computed tomography, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(a) ~~Be at least 18 years of age;~~

(b) ~~Have obtained a high school diploma or have passed an approved equivalency test;~~

(c) Successfully complete a course of study in computed tomography approved by the executive director; and

(d) **(b)** Possess current certification and registration in tomography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a certification organization approved by the executive director.

45 Repeal. RSA 310-A:208, relative to board of septic system evaluators; fees, is repealed.

46 Effective Date.

I. Sections 8 and 22 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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

2025-0577h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends licensing statutes and the office of professional licensure and certification's governing statutes to shift certain responsibilities and regulation to the office, in keeping with prior legislation.

This bill amends statutes related to the regulation of (1) land surveyors, (2) landscape architects; (3) alcohol and other drug use professionals, (4) mental health practitioners, (5) professional engineers, (6) psychologists,

(7) architects, (8) podiatrists, (9) the boxing and wrestling commission, (10) auctioneers, (11) electricians, (12) professional bondsmen, (13) nurse agency registration, (14) doula and lactation specialist certification, (15) manufactured housing licensing, (16) medical imaging professionals and radiation therapists, and (17) septic system evaluators.

This bill is at the request of the office of professional licensure and certification.

**Amendment to HB 88-FN
(2025-0706h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Judiciary—r

Amend the bill by deleting section 1 and renumbering the original sections 2-3 to read as 1-2, respectively. Amend RSA 564-B:13-1306 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

564-B:13-1306 Satisfaction of Obligations.

(a) The transfer of property into a community property trust shall not impair, limit, or dilute the rights of creditors or lienholders to enforce an obligation against such property. Any secured interest in property transferred into a community property trust, whether arising by mortgage or other secured interest, shall remain in full force and effect.

(b) An obligation incurred by only one spouse before or during marriage may be satisfied from that spouse's one-half share of a community property trust and such other assets of the spouse not in the community property trust. This provision shall not limit the rights of creditors under paragraph (a).

(c) An obligation incurred by both spouses during or before marriage may be satisfied from a community property trust of the spouses.

**Amendment to HB 171
(2025-0465h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture—c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Moratorium; Study by the Department of Environmental Services. Amend RSA 149-M by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

149-M:9-a Moratorium on Issuance of Permits for New Landfill.

I. Notwithstanding RSA 149-M:9, the department shall not issue any permit to construct or operate a new landfill facility in New Hampshire under RSA 149-M:9. The department may accept applications, evaluate them for completeness, and request more information to make an application complete, but shall not proceed to further evaluation or process any applications, notwithstanding RSA 541-A:29, in order that any evaluation of need, benefit, harm, or appropriateness of the site proposed will await the development of new regulations, data, technologies, and policies.

II. Nothing in paragraph I shall be construed to prohibit the expansion or modification of any landfill facilities on any site on which, as of December 1, 2022, a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D landfill exists that has been permitted in accordance with RSA 149-M:9.

III. In this section, the term "site" means a single parcel or adjacent parcels, owned in their entirety by a landfill operator or its affiliates as of December 1, 2022, including a site where one or more public utility easements traverse the site.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2028.

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

**Amendment to HB 218-FN
(2025-0765h)**

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Rights of Crime Victims; Copy of Police Report. Amend RSA 21-M:8-k, II(i) to read as follows:

(i) The right to be informed about available resources, financial assistance, and social services; *the right to request and receive within 7 business days, a copy, at no cost, of the initial report filed by the peace officer from the law enforcement department; and the right to request and receive within 15 business days following adjudication by the investigating or prosecuting agency, a copy, at no cost, of the complete case file.*

2025-0765h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides victims of crime with a right to request a free initial police report and, following the conclusion of the investigation or case, a free copy of the complete case file.

**Floor Amendment to HB 218-FN
(2025- 0948h)**

Proposed by Rep. Meuse –r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Rights of Crime Victims; Copy of Police Report. Amend RSA 21-M:8-k, II(i) to read as follows:

(i) The right to be informed about available resources, financial assistance, and social services; *the right to request and receive, at no cost, written confirmation within 5 business days of reporting a crime to the police department; and the right to request and receive, at no cost, a complete copy of the case file within 15 business days following adjudication by the investigating or prosecuting agency.*

2025-0948h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides victims of crime with a right to request and receive at no cost a written confirmation that the person has reported an alleged crime to the police department and the right to request and receive following adjudication by the investigating or prosecuting agency, a copy, at no cost, of the complete case file.

**Amendment to HB 231
(2025-0603h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Education Policy and Administration–c

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

AN ACT prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent.

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

1 New Paragraph; Policy; Transport for Medical and Health-Related Appointments. Amend RSA 186:11 by inserting after paragraph IX-e the following new paragraph:

IX-f. Require School Districts to Adopt a Policy Prohibiting Transportation for Medical and Health-Related Appointments. A school district shall adopt a policy prohibiting any school district personnel from transporting a minor or accompanying a minor during transport, except emergency transport by ambulance, for a medical appointment, mental health appointment or visit that includes any type of mental health evaluation, treatment, or counseling, or any other health-related appointment or visit, without the knowledge and approval of the minor's parent or guardian, unless he or she is following a published school district emergency health or medical emergency protocol or policy.

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

2025-0603h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires school districts to create a policy prohibiting school district personnel from transporting any student who is a minor for any medical, mental health, or health-related procedures, appointments, or visits without knowledge and approval of a parent or guardian unless he or she is following a published school district emergency health or medical protocol or policy.

**Amendment to HB 233
(2025-0163h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration–r

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

AN ACT requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Membership, Powers, and Duties of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association; Recording and Posting Requirements. Amend RSA 126-Q:3 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. In addition to the requirements for meetings under RSA 91-A, the board of directors of the association shall audio and video record all meetings and publish the recordings on its website in a generally accessible format within 48 hours of the meeting.

2025-0163h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

**Amendment to HB 268-FN
(2025-0359h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary—c

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Offices; Hearings. Amend RSA 498-A:16 to read as follows:

498-A:16 Offices; Hearings. The board shall be provided with suitable office space in Concord, together with such furnishings and office equipment as shall be necessary for the administration of its business, ***and with a suitable room in which it may hold hearings. Any party may elect to participate in a just compensation hearing under RSA 498-A:24 though electronic or telephonic means consistent with RSA 91-A.*** All hearings before the board shall be open to the public. [~~and~~] Each hearing shall be held in the county in which the declaration has been filed, unless the parties agree to a hearing ***at the board's hearing room in Concord*** [elsewhere]. To the extent ***there is a lack*** of available space[~~, hearings shall be conducted~~] in the respective county courthouse, [~~otherwise, they shall be held in such place or places, accessible to the public, as the board shall direct~~] ***as determined solely by the board, the hearing shall then be conducted in the board's hearing room in Concord.***

2025-0359h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill codifies the board of tax and land appeals' authority to hold hearings at its hearing room in Concord and allows parties to request that hearings be held electronically or telephonically. This bill further states that the hearings may be held in the hearing room in Concord in lieu of the county where the declaration was filed upon agreement of the parties of if the board determines that there is a lack of available space in the respective county courthouse.

**Amendment to HB 280
(2025-0452h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Service—r

Amend RSA 275:43, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Every employer shall pay all wages due to employees within 8 days after the expiration of the work week if the employee is paid on a weekly basis, or within 15 days after the expiration of the work week if the employee is paid on a biweekly basis, except when permitted to pay wages less frequently as authorized by the commissioner pursuant to paragraph IV or IV-a(a), on regular paydays designated in advance by the employer and at no cost to the employee[~~:~~

(a) In lawful money of the United States;

(b) By electronic fund transfer;

(c) By direct deposit with written authorization of the employee to banks of the employee's choice;

(d) By a payroll card provided that the employer shall provide to the employee at least one free means to withdraw up to and including the full amount of the employee balance in the employee's payroll card or payroll card account during each pay period at a financial institution or other location convenient to the place of employment. None of the employer's costs associated with a payroll card or payroll card account shall be passed on to the employee; or

(e) With checks on a financial institution convenient to the place of employment where suitable arrangements are made for the cashing of such checks by employees for the full amount of the wages due; provided, however, that if an employer elects to pay employees as specified in subparagraphs (b), (c), or (d), the employer shall offer employees the option of being paid as specified in subparagraph (e), and further provided that all wages in the nature of health and welfare fund or pension fund contributions required pursuant to a health and welfare fund trust agreement, pension fund trust agreement, collective bargaining agreement, or other agreement adopted for the benefit of employees and agreed to by the employer shall be paid by every such employer within 30 days of the date of demand for such payment, the payment to be made to the administrator or other designated official of the applicable health and welfare or pension trust fund.

H. If an employer offers its employees the option of receiving wages by a payroll card, the employer shall:

(a) Provide to the employee written disclosure in plain language of all the employee's wage payment options. The written disclosure shall state the terms and conditions of the payroll card account option, including, but not limited to, the requirements set forth in this section and a complete itemized list of all known fees that may be deducted from the employee's payroll card account by the employer or card issuer. The disclosure shall also state whether third parties may assess transaction fees in addition to the fees assessed by the employee's payroll card issuer or issuers. In no event shall the employer provide payment of wages to a payroll card that has an expiration date, unless the employer agrees to provide a replacement payroll card before the expiration date at no cost to the employee.

(b) Initiate payment of wages to an employee by electronic fund transfer to a payroll card account only after the employee has voluntarily consented in writing to that method of payment. Consent to payment

of wages by electronic fund transfer to a payroll card account shall not be a condition of hire or of continued employment. The written consent signed by the employee shall include the terms and conditions of the payroll card account option:

(c) Provide written notice of any change to any of the terms and conditions of the payroll card or payroll card account, including but not limited to an itemized list of all fees that may have changed, and obtain written assent from the employee that the employee voluntarily consents to receive wages to a payroll card or payroll card account subject to the changes. The employer shall be responsible for any increase in fees charged to the employee before the employer provides written notice of such changes to the employee.

(d) Provide the employee the option to discontinue receipt of wages by a payroll card or payroll card account at any time, without penalty to the employee]. ***The manner in which payment is made shall be determined by the employer and employee. The employer shall, on or before the first day of employment, inform the employee, in writing, the manner in which payment shall be made. At anytime an employer intends to change its method of payment, each employee shall be given written notice no less than 90 days prior to the change.***

Amendment to HB 288

(2025-0349h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Election Law-r

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

AN ACT limiting how far in advance of an election an absentee ballot may be requested.

Amend RSA 657:6 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

657:6 Procedure by Applicant. An application form for an absentee ballot shall be mailed or delivered to any person who applies therefor to the secretary of state or to any town or city clerk. It shall be filled out by the applicant and sent to the clerk of the town or city in which he or she desires to vote. Alternatively, a person may apply for an official absentee ballot by sending to said clerk a written statement containing the information required by RSA 657:4, I or by the federal official post card form ***for UOCAVA voters as described under RSA 654:20. The federal official post card forms shall be received no earlier than January of the calendar year in which the election occurs. All other application forms shall be received or postmarked within 6 months of the election for which the absentee ballot is being requested. Except for the federal official post card forms, any application received or postmarked prior to the 6-month period shall not be accepted by the secretary of state or any town or city clerk.***

2025-0349h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits how far in advance an absentee ballot may be requested. Federal law requires that UOCAVA voters complete a new federal official post card no earlier than January of the calendar year in which a federal election occurs. Other applications for absentee ballots are limited to no earlier than 6 months prior to the election.

Amendment to HB 307

(2025-0655h)

Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture-c

Amend RSA 143-A:12, I(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) "Homestead food operation" means a person who produces homestead food products, excluding potentially hazardous food, only in the home kitchen of that person's primary residence in New Hampshire ***or a food production area in the person's primary residence that has handwashing, equipment and food storage, food contact surfaces, general sanitation, and pet exclusion areas. As used in this subparagraph:***

(1) "***Handwashing***" means an area with access to a hand cleaning station with hot and cold running potable water, soap, and sanitary hand drying provisions.

(2) "***Equipment and food storage***" means an area that allows for food, equipment, and utensils to be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.

(3) "***Food contact surfaces***" means all food contact surfaces in an area able to be cleaned and sanitized.

(4) "***General sanitation***" means an area maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from pests and environmental contaminants, whose floors, walls, and ceiling surfaces are durable, smooth and easily cleanable.

(5) "***Pet exclusion***" means an area that allows for the exclusion of pets during food production.

**Amendment to HB 321-FN
(2025-0347h)**

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

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

1 Payment Deadline Extended. Amend RSA 262:44, I to read as follows:

I. Such defendant shall receive, in addition to the summons, a uniform fine schedule entitled "Notice of Fine, Division of Motor Vehicles" which shall contain the normal fines for violations of the provisions of title XXI on vehicles for which a plea may be entered by mail **or online**. The defendant shall be given a notice of fine indicating the amount of the fine plus penalty assessment at the time the summons is issued; except if, for cause, the summoning authority wishes the defendant to appear personally. Defendants summoned to appear personally shall do so on the arraignment date specified in the summons, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Defendants who are issued a summons and notice of fine and who wish to plead guilty or nolo contendere shall **either physically** enter their plea on the summons and return **it in-person or by mail** with payment of the fine plus penalty assessment to the director of the division of motor vehicles **or enter their plea and submit their payment online at the division of motor vehicles website** within **90 days of the date of the summons if the driver has no outstanding motor vehicle violations and no outstanding unpaid fines, or** within 30 days of the date of the summons **if the driver has any outstanding motor vehicle violations or outstanding unpaid fines**. The director of the division of motor vehicles may accept payment of the fine by credit card in lieu of cash payment. Any transaction costs assessed by the issuer of the credit card shall be paid out of the portion of the fine amount which is credited to the highway fund and not out of the penalty assessment charged by the district court. The director of the division of motor vehicles shall remit the penalty assessments collected to the state treasurer to be credited and continually appropriated to the state general fund and to the victims' assistance fund and the judicial branch information technology fund in the percentages and manner prescribed in RSA 106-L:10. Fines shall be paid over to the state treasurer, and shall be credited to the highway fund within 14 days of their receipt.

I-a. A person eligible for a 90-day payment submission period under paragraph I may request one additional 90-day payment extension within the last 30 days of the 90-day payment submission period either in-person, by mail, or online at the division of motor vehicles website. The division shall grant a request made under this paragraph. The division shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A concerning requesting and granting such extension.

**Amendment to HB 343
(2025-0499h)**

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Northern Border Alliance Program; Reporting Requirements. Amend RSA 21-P:69, IV to read as follows:

IV. The program shall include semi-annual reporting, to the governor, senate president, and speaker of the house of representatives, which includes measurable program results and a detailed accounting of program funding and uses. ***Any grants provided to state, county, or local law enforcement agencies in accordance with the intentions of the program shall be reported, including who received such grants, when, and what the funds were used for. The number of personnel involved in the program as well as their rank and title shall be included in the report. Any equipment or technology used and purchased through the program shall also be included. The report shall also include the number of persons arrested, persons cited, and persons subjected to a field stop or warning. The report shall also include the date, time, and location of Customs and Border Protection-related incidents, assists, intelligence received, or other activity. For persons in each of these categories, the aggregate data shall also include the municipality and country where each such person resides. For persons who are arrested or cited, the report shall also include the race of such persons to the extent such information is indicated on the complaint, summons, or citation.*** The first report shall be submitted on or before December 31, 2023.

**Amendment to HB 379
(2025-0450h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Service-r

Amend RSA 276-A:4, VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

1 Youth Employment Law; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 276-A:4, VI and VII to read as follows:

VI. ~~[In any employer's predetermined designated work week during which school is in session for 5 days]~~ ***Between the date on which the school year begins and the date the school year ends, no youth 16 or 17 years of age who is duly enrolled in school shall work more than 35 hours [during that work week] in a standard Monday through Friday week other than the school's vacation weeks.***

Amend RSA 276-A:13-a as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

276-A:13-a Night Work. In addition to the provisions of RSA 276-A:4, during the period in which school is in session, no youth 16 or 17 years of age who is duly enrolled in school shall be permitted to work later than 9:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday unless their school is closed on Monday or Friday for a holiday, or later than 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

**Amendment to HB 386-FN
(2025-0451h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Service—r
Amend RSA 326-M:3, I(e) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(e) Restrict the employment opportunities of nurses or licensed nursing assistants by including a non-compete clause or other restrictive covenant in excess of 13 weeks in any contract with an employee or health care facility nor fail to inform in writing the nurse or nursing assistant of said clause or covenant prior to offering an assignment. A non-compete clause or other restrictive covenant shall not be in effect between an employee or health care facility and an agency for a nurse or nursing assistant who has not physically worked at the health care facility as part of their employment with the agency.

**Amendment to HB 389-FN
(2025-0195h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Election Law—r

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

AN ACT requiring candidates to attest they have not spent or received more than \$1,000 in an election.

Amend RSA 664:7 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

664:7 Registering and Reporting by Candidates. Prior to filing any campaign finance statements, each candidate at the primary or general election for governor, councilor, state senator, state representative, or county officer shall register with the secretary of state through the secretary of state's online campaign finance system. Additionally, any candidate, who has receipts or expenditures exceeding \$1,000 in an election cycle, shall file statements as required in RSA 664:9-a through 664:9-c before and after an election in like manner and detail as prescribed in RSA 664:6, I.

VI. Candidates whose receipts or expenditures do not exceed \$1,000 during a reporting period shall attest thereto by placing a checkmark in the checkbox indicated on the reporting form, which the secretary of state shall include in the form for this purpose. Such checkbox shall be in substantially the following form:

[] I attest that my receipts or expenditures as candidate for _____ did not exceed \$1,000 during the prescribed reporting period.

Additionally, any candidate who has receipts or expenditures exceeding \$1,000 in an election cycle, shall file statements as required in RSA 664:9-a through 664:9-c before and after an election in like manner and detail as prescribed in RSA 664:6, I-VI.

2025-0195h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires candidates to attest that they have not spent or received more than \$1,000 in an election.

**Amendment to HB 405
(2025-0811h)**

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

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses and relative to prostitution and related offenses.

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

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

I. The New Hampshire human trafficking collaborative task force has identified trafficking activity in every county, with victims of all ages experiencing exploitation in the forms of labor and sex trafficking.

II. Law enforcement officers in New Hampshire have identified illicit massage businesses (IMBs) in towns and cities across the state. IMBs are a very specific type of exploitative, organized, commercial-front trafficking venue recognized by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. IMBs do not refer to legal, therapeutic massage businesses, nor does it include non-coercive sex work that may incorporate massage. Nationally, more than 15,000 IMBs have been identified. There is no licensing oversight of IMBs in New Hampshire, making it difficult to hold traffickers accountable and ensure that victims are referred to services.

III. National and state experts have been working to prevent human trafficking in the state and hold the owners of IMBs accountable, but a more coordinated effort across sectors would help better address the problem.

2 New Section; Commission to Study Human Trafficking Within Illicit Massage Businesses. Amend RSA 633 by inserting after section 11 the following new section:

633:12 Commission to Study Human Trafficking Within Illicit Massage Businesses; Established. There is hereby established a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses.

I. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the criminal justice and public safety committee and one of whom shall be a member of the executive departments and administration committee.

(b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

(c) The attorney general, or designee.

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

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

(f) A representative from the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, appointed by the association.

(g) A county attorney, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Counties.

(h) The executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or designee.

(i) The executive director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, or designee.

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

III. The commission shall study:

(a) Prior efforts to combat human trafficking conducted by illicit massage businesses.

(b) Statewide and interstate collaboration to prevent the establishment of illicit massage businesses.

(c) Best practices to support victims of human trafficking found in illicit massage businesses.

(d) Regulation and licensure under RSA 328-H, relative to reflexologists, structural integrators, and Asian bodywork therapists, and RSA 328-B relative to massage therapists and massage establishments.

(e) Creation of a statewide database of licensure applications and issuances to businesses.

(f) Enhancing penalties for violation of RSA 633:7 relative to trafficking in persons and RSA 645:2 relative to prostitution and related offenses.

(g) Consumer protection and labor violations.

(h) Community-based approaches to preventing illicit massage businesses such as landlord education and engagement and termination of leases, as well as health and safety inspections.

(i) Preventing sexual harassment and assault against licensed massage therapists and other reflexology professionals.

IV. The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the committee deems relevant to its study.

V. The commission members shall be appointed within 30 days after the effective date of this section.

VI. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. The commission shall hold a minimum of 10 meetings over the course of its study. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VII. The commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025. The commission shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

3 New Paragraphs; Prostitution and Related Offenses. Amend RSA 645:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

II-a. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person knowingly permits a place under such person's control to be used for violation of subparagraph I(a).

II-b. A person is guilty of a class A felony if such person violates the provisions of paragraph II-a and the violation:

(a) Involves another person who is under the age of 18; or

(b) Involves compelling another person by force or intimidation.

4 Prostitution and Related Offenses. Amend RSA 645:2, VI to read as follows:

VI. In a prosecution under subparagraph II(a) **or II-b(a)**, the actor's lack of knowledge of the other person's age shall not constitute a defense.

5 Prostitution and Related Offenses. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 645:2, II to read as follows:

II. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person violates the provisions of subparagraphs (b), (c), (d), ~~[(e)]~~ or (f) of paragraph I and the violation:

6 Repeal. RSA 645:2, I(e), relative to a misdemeanor offense for knowingly permitting a place under control to be used for certain offenses, is repealed.

7 Prospective Repeal. RSA 633:12, relative to the commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses, is repealed.

8 Effective Date.

I. Section 7 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

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

2025-0811h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses and provides for the commission's eventual repeal.

II. Enhances the penalties for certain prostitution-related offenses.

Amendment to HB 474

(2025-0216h)

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Election Law-r

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Counting of Votes; Counting Write-In Votes. Amend RSA 659:64-a, I to read as follows:

I. In a town or city that uses a ballot counting device approved by the ballot law commission pursuant to RSA 656:40 and which prints or digitally displays an image of all write-in votes as part of the device's report of votes cast, a moderator may use the printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote. ***This counting shall take place in the presence of another sworn-in election official.***

2025-0216h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires a second witness who is another sworn-in election official if a moderator uses a ballot counting device's printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote.

Amendment to HB 551-FN

(2025- 0818h)

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

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

2 Firearm Purchase; Identity of Purchaser Required. Amend RSA 159:8 to read as follows:

159:8 ~~[License to Sell.]~~ ***Purchase of Firearm; Identity of Purchaser.***

~~[The selectmen of a town and the chief of police of a city may grant licenses, the form of which shall be prescribed by the director of the division of state police, effective for not more than 3 years from date of issue, permitting the licensee to sell at retail pistols and revolvers subject to the following conditions, for breach of any of which the licensee shall be subject to forfeiture:~~

~~I. The business shall be carried on only in the building designated in the license or at any organized sporting show or arms collectors' meeting sponsored by a chartered club or organization.~~

~~II. The license or a copy thereof, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises where it can easily be read.~~

~~III.] No pistol, revolver, or other firearm shall be delivered to a purchaser not personally known to the seller or who does not present clear evidence of his ***or her*** identity; nor to a person who has been convicted of a felony.~~

3 Pistols and Revolvers; Sale to Nonresidents. Amend RSA 159:8-a to read as follows:

159:8-a Sales to Nonresidents; Attorney General. No person ~~[holding a license issued under the provisions of RSA 159:8]~~ shall sell a pistol or revolver to a nonresident unless such nonresident has authority under the laws of the state of his ***or her*** residence, to purchase a pistol or revolver in the state of his ***or her*** residence, or unless the director of the division of state police, for good cause shown, has issued to such nonresident a permit for the purchase of a pistol or revolver. The attorney general shall, at least once annually, file with the secretary of state a summary of the laws of each state of the United States relative to the purchase of pistols and revolvers in such states; and a ~~[licensee]~~ ***person*** may rely upon such summary in determining if a nonresident offering to purchase a pistol or revolver has authority to make such purchase under the laws of the state of his ***or her*** residence.

4 Pistols and Revolvers; Penalties. Amend RSA 159:8-b to read as follows:

159:8-b Penalties. If a ~~[licensee]~~ **person** shall in any court be found guilty of a violation of any of the provisions of RSA 159:8-a, such court, ~~[shall]~~ for each such violation, ~~[order the suspension of his license for a period of 3 months, and]~~ may~~[-in addition,]~~ impose a fine not in excess of \$100.

5 Repeal. RSA 159:10, relative to penalties for sale without a license required under RSA 159:8, is repealed.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

**Amendment to HB 558-FN
(2025-0187h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Housing-r

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

AN ACT establishing a legislative study committee to study the feasibility of establishing a public county registry of the monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit and of prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the feasibility of establishing a public county registry of the monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit and of prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates.

2 Membership and Compensation.

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

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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

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

3 Duties. The committee's study shall include, but not be limited to:

I. Study the benefits and feasibility of establishing a public county registry of the monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit.

II. Study the benefits and feasibility of prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates.

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

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025.

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

2025-0187h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a study committee to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a public registry of rents and prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates.

**Amendment to HB 560
(2025-0673h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Children and Family Law-c

Amend RSA 332-I:1-a, II(c) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) When a health care provider has determined by evidence based upon articulable facts that disclosure of the records to a parent or legal guardian of a minor child is likely to result in abuse or neglect. A health care provider who makes this determination shall document in the medical record of the minor child all facts upon which he or she relied in making the determination.

**Amendment to HB 631-FN
(2025-0667h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Housing-c

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

AN ACT permitting residential building in commercial zoning.

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

1 New Subdivision; Multi-Family Residential Development on Commercially Zoned Land. Amend RSA 674 by inserting after section 76 the following new subdivision:

Multi-Family Residential Development on Commercially Zoned Land

674:77 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. “Commercially zoned land” means land zoned for such commercial activities as retail and office space.

II. “Mixed-use” means a type of development that combines residential, commercial, cultural, institutional, or entertainment uses within a single building or development area.

III. “Adaptive reuse” means the repurposing of existing buildings or structures in whole or in part for residential purposes.

674:78 Amendment to Zoning Regulations.

I. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, municipalities shall allow multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land, provided that adequate infrastructure, including roads, water, and sewage systems, shall be available or provided to support the development.

II. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit municipalities from restricting residential development in zones where industrial and manufacturing uses are permitted which may result in impacts that are incompatible with residential use, such as air, noise, odor, or transportation impacts.

III. A municipality may require all available ground floor space or a percentage thereof to be dedicated to retail or similar uses.

IV. A municipality shall provide an exemption to any requirements regarding setbacks, height, or frontage of a building being converted to multi-family or mixed-use through adaptive reuse, provided that the building’s floor area, height, and setbacks do not change.

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

2025-0667h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires municipalities to permit multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land, with stipulations for infrastructure and exemptions for adaptive reuse.

Amendment to HB 672-FN (2025-0627h)

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

Amend RSA 374:3-c as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

374:3-c Off-Grid Electricity Provider.

I. In this section:

(a) “Off-grid electricity provider” means an entity, person, private company, electric cooperative, municipal agency, or otherwise, that engages in any combination of generating, transmitting, distributing, or selling electricity at retail to consumers; not connected to any existing regulated electric grid within the state, operating independently of existing utilities and other regulated entities, and does not cross state boundaries. Off-grid electricity providers are not public utilities.

(b) “Begins operations” means the date on which the off-grid electricity provider first generates, transmits, distributes, or sells electricity within the state.

II. An off-grid electricity provider that begins operations on or after the effective date of this section shall be exempt from RSA Title XXXIV. Each off-grid electricity provider shall remain subject to all other applicable laws and regulations, such as municipal and state highway safety regulations, and RSA 162-H, unless specifically excluded from those laws or regulations by a separate act.

III. At anytime, if an off-grid electricity provider elects to connect to any portion of the existing regulated electric grid, it shall cease being an “off-grid electricity provider” and immediately become subject to the provisions of RSA Title XXXIV.

Amendment to HB 710-FN (2025-0716h)

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

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

1 New Paragraph; Electric Utility Restructuring; Definitions. Amend RSA 374-F:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. “Advanced nuclear resource” (ANR) means generation IV nuclear technologies that include gas-cooled, lead-cooled, sodium-cooled, supercritical water-cooled, and molten salt and very high temperature reactors, small modular, thermal-only, and encased fuel pellets reactors, including any micro, mini, or small nuclear reactor having a generating capacity between 0 and 300 megawatts.

2 Purchased Power Agreements. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 374-F:11, I to read as follows:

I. Investor-owned electric distribution utilities may elect to develop and, no later than June 30, 2025, issue a request for proposals for multi-year agreements for energy, in conjunction with or independent of any attendant environmental attributes from electric energy sources, *except for advanced nuclear resources as defined in RSA 374-F:2, II-a, for which proposals can be developed until June 30, 2035.*

3 Purchased Power Agreements. Amend the introductory paragraph for RSA 374-F:11, II to read as follows:

II. Any investor-owned electric distribution utility electing to enter into an agreement pursuant to this section shall petition the public utilities commission for authorization to enter the agreement no later than June 30, 2026, **or June 30, 2036, for advanced nuclear resources as defined in RSA 374-F:2, II-a.**

4 Coordination of Studies and Development Activities; Position Established. Amend RSA 162-B:4, III to read as follows:

III. The coordinator of nuclear development and regulatory activities shall have the duty to coordinate and produce the reports required by RSA 162-B:3, as well as coordinate the studies conducted, and the recommendations and proposals made, in this state with like activities in New England and other states and with the policies and regulations of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. ***These activities may include the management of funding and oversight of nuclear incentive programs, such as those described by RSA 374-G:4, as well as outreach programs to inform and educate the public, particularly regarding safety.***

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

**Amendment to HB 732-FN
(2025-0761h)**

Proposed by the Majority of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs—r
Amend RSA 167:3-n, I-III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. In this section:

(a) “Psychotropic drugs” shall have the same meaning as “psychotropic medication”, defined in RSA 169-D:2, XIII-a, and shall include stimulants, including ADHD drugs such as methylphenidate, antidepressants, antipsychotics, and other behavioral drugs.

(b) “Medical care providers” shall have the same meaning as in RSA 507-E:1, II.

(c) “FDA medication guides” are handouts that come with many prescription medicines. The guides address issues that are specific to particular drugs and drug classes, and they contain FDA-approved information that can help patients avoid serious adverse events.

(d) “State-designated caregiver” shall mean the department of health and human services if the department has authority to consent to medical treatment for the minor in accordance with RSA 463:12-a.

II.(a) Medical care providers prescribing psychotropic drugs to minors under Medicaid shall provide FDA medication guides to the parent, legal guardian, or state-designated caregiver before the prescription is issued.

(b) A physical copy of the FDA medication guide shall be printed and reviewed with the parent, legal guardian, or state-designated caregiver to explain:

(1) The FDA-identified risks of the medication, including pediatric-specific warnings.

(2) The signs of potential side effects and adverse drug reactions detailed within the medication guide.

III. Before a medical care provider prescribes a psychotropic drug, the provider shall obtain written informed consent from the parent, legal guardian, or state-designated caregiver confirming they have received and reviewed the FDA medication guide and understand the associated risks and side effects.

2025-0761h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires medical care providers to review FDA medication guides with the parent, guardian, or state-designated caregiver before prescribing a psychotropic drug for a minor under Medicaid.

**Amendment to HB 737-LOCAL
(2025-0850h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means—c

Amend RSA 287-D:32, II-III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. If a majority of those voting on the question vote “Yes,” new games of chance may not be operated within the town or city.

III. If the question is not approved, the question may later be voted upon according to the provisions of paragraph I as early as the next annual town meeting or regular municipal election.

Amend RSA 287-D:32 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including paragraphs I and II, any vote by a municipality to prohibit games of chance within its boundaries shall not apply to any games of chance operator licensed by the lottery commission, or any applicant who has applied for a games of chance operator license prior to the date of the petition in subparagraph I(a) or the notice date in subparagraph I(b), except that any operator who ceases operation for a period exceeding 4 years, or an applicant who fails to commence operation within 6 years of application approval, shall be subject to any intervening vote by the municipality.

**Amendment to HB 757
(2025-0454h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services–r
Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Tip Pooling and Sharing. Amend RSA 279:26-b, II to read as follows:

II. No employer is precluded from administering a valid tip pooling or tip sharing arrangement, including suggesting reasonable and customary practices, documenting agreed upon practice, *to include an example showing the method used in their establishment such as tip sharing, to be written in the same or similar way as the example “servers tip out a percentage of alcohol sales to bartenders and a percentage of food sales to the host and another percentage to other support staff”*, and mediating disputes between employees regarding a valid tip pooling or tip sharing arrangement, provided that the employer does not require or coerce employees to participate in the tip pooling or tip sharing arrangement, *and that the employer provides written notice of any current arrangement regarding tip pooling or tip sharing and the employee acknowledges in writing receipt of such notice, which shall be retained for one year following the employee’s separation. The notice shall state that employee participation in tip pooling or tip sharing is voluntary and which staff to share with is at the discretion of the employee who may opt out on any shift.*

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

2025-0454h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that employers administering a tip pooling or sharing arrangement must include an example of the arrangement in its documentation. It further provides that the employer must provide a written notice to the employee, and specifies the content of that notice.

**Amendment to HB 779-FN
(2025-0647h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture–c

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

1 Uninspected Rabbits; Sale at Farms, Farmstands, and Farmers Markets. Amend the subdivision heading preceding RSA 143-A:14 to read as follows:

Sale of Uninspected Poultry and Rabbits to Restaurants and Sale of Uninspected Rabbits at New Hampshire Farms, Farmstands, and Farmers Markets

2 Producer Requirements; Uninspected Rabbits. Amend RSA 143-A:16 to read as follows:

143-A:16 Producer Requirements.

I. A federally exempt poultry producer may, in a calendar year, sell to licensed restaurants uninspected, processed whole poultry that the producer has raised in a quantity not to exceed the federal limit established in 21 U.S.C. section 464 and an unlicensed rabbit producer may, in a calendar year, sell to licensed restaurants up to 1,000 uninspected, processed whole rabbits that the producer has raised, provided all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The producer is current with all educational requirements that are established by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food relative to proper methods of slaughtering, processing, packaging, and storing poultry or rabbit on the farm and its subsequent transport to restaurants; and

(b) The producer has registered with the department of agriculture, markets, and food by providing his or her name, the name and address of the farm, and phone number, to allow for trace back in the event of disease outbreak. Such registry information shall be protected pursuant to RSA 436:6-a.

II. *An unlicensed rabbit producer may, in a calendar year, sell at his or her own farm, farmstand, or farmer’s market up to 1,000 uninspected, processed whole rabbits that the producer has raised provided all of the following conditions are met:*

(a) *The rabbits are raised, slaughtered, processed, packaged, and sold within the state of New Hampshire;*

(b) *The producer has fulfilled all educational requirements that are established by the commissioner of the department of health and human services in consultation with the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food relative to proper methods of slaughtering, processing, packaging, and storing rabbit on the farm and its subsequent transport to farmstands or farmers markets; and*

(c) *The producer has registered with the department of agriculture, markets, and food by providing his or her name, the name of the address of the farm, and his or her phone number, to allow for trace back in the event of disease outbreak. Such information shall be protected pursuant to RSA 436:6-a.*

III. The department may inspect these exempt products when the department has reason to suspect an imminent health hazard as defined in RSA 143-A:3, IV-b.

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

**Amendment to HR 13
(2025-0472h)**

Proposed by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture–c

Amend the resolution by replacing all after the title with the following:

Whereas, Forest Lake State Park is one of the 10 original state parks, created in 1935. The park spans 397 acres and its 200-foot sandy beach lies on the shore of Forest Lake. Popular activities in the park include swimming, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, and boating; and

Whereas, the stigma, nuisances, and threat to public health, safety, environment, natural resources, as well as the state and North Country tourism and outdoor recreation economies, posed by permitting an operating landfill abutting Forest Lake State Park, cannot be underestimated and is of grave concern to the general court; and

Whereas, the risks in permitting a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park far outweigh any benefit; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That it is the position of the house of representatives that no landfill should be located in the vicinity of Forest Lake State Park.

2025-0472h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This resolution states the position of the house of representatives that no landfill should be located in the vicinity of Forest Lake State Park.

**Amendment to HR 15
(2025-0679h)**

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

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

Whereas, it is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission practice to accept new and upgraded transmission costs via a presumption of prudence, without a detailed review of individual project cost; and

Whereas, consumer utility costs are increasingly burdensome and warrant detailed scrutiny of large-scale utility systems' investments to protect consumers; and

Whereas, new and upgraded New Hampshire electric utility projects for distribution system work are reviewed by the public utilities commission (PUC) to ensure that the costs are just and reasonable; and

Whereas, new or upgraded electric utility transmission projects, which are often significantly more expensive than distribution projects, are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which operates under a policy that assumes all costs are just and reasonable unless proven otherwise; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the general court of New Hampshire hereby urges elected members of the United States Congress to take whatever actions are possible to change FERC's policies so that only those costs associated with new or upgraded electric transmission projects that are found to be just and reasonable can be collected from the ratepayers; and

That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the house clerk to the President of the United States; Secretary of Energy; President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation; the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Chair of the United States Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Chair of the United States House of Representative's Committee on Energy and Commerce; Chair of the United States Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works; governor of New Hampshire; the commissioners of the New Hampshire public utilities commission; commissioner of the New Hampshire department of energy; commissioner of the New Hampshire department of environmental services; commissioner of the New Hampshire department of business and economic affairs; director of workforce development at the New Hampshire department of business and economic affairs; and the New Hampshire state librarian.

**Amendment to HR 16
(2025-0757h)**

Proposed by the Minority of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs–r

Amend the resolving clause of the resolution by replacing paragraphs III and IV with the following:

III. Urges greater attention and support for local frontline health workers to ensure their protection and ability to respond effectively during humanitarian and public health crises, including with adequate personal protective equipment and other essential health product supplies to guard against disease, and protection of frontline health workers;

IV. Gives affirmative recognition, acknowledgment, and appreciation to New Hampshire's frontline health workforces for their noble and valiant efforts every day, the sacrifices they and their families made personally, and most especially on the days, weeks, months, and years in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

V. Acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices of all frontline health workers, including those who faced termination for declining the COVID-19 vaccination;

VI. Urges greater attention and support for local frontline health workers, including those who lost their jobs due to vaccine mandates;

VII. Encourages policies that recognize and reintegrate these workers into the healthcare workforce; and

VIII. Affirms the importance of medical choice and workplace protections for all health professionals.