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HOUSE RECORD

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Concord, N.H.

Thursday, March 6, 2025

No. 7

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 6 (Cont'd)

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Rep. Osborne moved that the House adjourn.
Motion was adopted.

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 7

Thursday, March 6, 2025

The House assembled at 10:00 a.m., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer was offered by House Chaplain, Reverend Jonathan Hopkins, Pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church in Concord.

Dear God, we give You thanks for this country we live in. This sweet land of liberty, this land where our fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride. Help us to treasure this great country and land. Let us never tire of defending freedom and liberty. Let us be worthy of those who have gone before and fought to create and preserve our country. Help the New Hampshire House of Representatives to be inspired by this land of noble free, the woods and templed hills. This land was made for you and me. This land of great lakes, soaring mountain tops. Help us to protect the natural beauty of our state. Help us to welcome all those who come here dreaming of freedom and liberty. All those dreaming to make a better life for their families. Bind us together as Americans who love the land, our country and each other. Let us continue to pray for Rep. Grossman's son, Oscar, and to pray for Shannon Girard and their family as they mourn the death of her husband, Christopher. Even as we disagree about policy, let us never tire of caring for one another. God Bless America, the land that we love. Stand beside her and guide her with the light from above. Stand with all Your people this day in celebrating all the freedoms we enjoy and help us to remember always that freedom is never free but takes every citizen to do their part to be vigilant in defense of these hard-fought freedoms and liberties. Amen.

Representative James Creighton, member from Antrim, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Addyson Cutter of Antrim.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Fracht, Franz, Selig and Tripp, the day, illness.

Reps. Comtois, DeDe-Poulin, Michael Murphy, Petrigno, St. Clair and Turcotte, the day, important business.

Rep. Grossman, the day, illness in the family.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

John Judd, student from Holy Family Academy in Manchester, and Jenna Baily, student from The Academy for Science and Design in Nashua, Pages for the day.

Jacob, Jameson and Erika Cutter, parents and brother of the Singer, guests of Rep. Colcombe. Steve Pierce, former State Representative from Massachusetts, Bill and Sharon Palmer, and Walter Heaning, guests of Rep. Grant. Anthony Henry, and Tyler Witzgal, guests of Rep. Thibault. William Clark and Heather Morton of NCSL, guests of Rep. Simpson and the Speaker.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION affirming revenue estimates for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027.

Whereas, the house ways and means committee has considered what the unrestricted revenue estimates should be for fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027 and has presented those estimates to the house of representatives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the house wishes to go on record as affirming the following revenue estimates for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027.

Committee estimates are based on current law and economic conditions.

	FY 2025		FY 2026	FY 2027
GEN'L & EDUCATION				
TRUST FUND:	Official	Committee	Committee	Committee
(Dollars in Millions)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Business Taxes	\$1,259.000	\$1,030.000	\$1,060.000	\$1,102.000
Meals & Rooms Tax	325.000	333.900	348.500	361.300
Tobacco Tax	212.300	183.500	176.100	173.500
Liquor Sales	124.500	101.700	102.900	102.300
Interest & Dividends Tax	82.000	134.300	8.700	-
Insurance Tax	143.000	150.300	159.000	163.000
Communications Tax	30.000	29.500	29.100	28.700
Real Estate Transfer Tax	210.000	199.400	210.700	222.800
Court Fines & Fees	13.300	13.600	13.700	13.700
Securities Revenue	46.600	44.300	44.400	44.500
Beer Tax	13.200	12.500	13.000	13.000
Other	94.500	150.500	126.000	120.000
Lottery Transfers	164.000	180.000	172.900	172.900
Tobacco Settlement	38.500	35.500	32.500	30.000
Utility Property Tax	43.000	45.200	45.900	46.600
Statewide Property Tax	363.100	363.100	63.100	363.100
Medicaid Recoveries	3.000	2.200	3.100	3.100
TOTAL GEN'L & EDUCATION				
TRUST FUNDS	\$3,165.000	\$3,009.500	\$2,909.600	\$2,960.500
	FY 2025		FY 2026	FY 2027
HIGHWAY FUNDS:	Official	Committee	Committee	Committee
(Dollars in Millions)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Road Toll	\$125.600	\$127.700	\$127.700	\$127.900
Motor Vehicle Fees	134.700	133.500	131.700	134.700
Miscellaneous	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUNDS	\$260.500	\$261.400	\$259.600	\$262.800
	FY 2025		FY 2026	FY 2027
FISH AND GAME FUNDS:	Official	Committee	Committee	Committee
(Dollars in Millions)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Fish & Game Licenses	\$9.800	\$9.800	\$10.000	\$10.000
Fines & Miscellaneous	3.900	4.100	4.000	4.000
TOTAL FISH & GAME FUNDS	\$13.700	\$13.900	\$14.000	\$14.000

Rep. Janigian moved Ought to Pass and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Janigian moved that **HR 17**, affirming revenue estimates for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Rep. Osborne moved that the Consent Calendar with the relevant amendments as printed in the day's House Record be adopted.

HB 691-FN, prohibiting the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water systems, removed by Reps. Judy Aron, Drew, Polozov, Granger, Ploszaj, Tom Mannion, DeLemus, Dunn, Wherry, Robley Hall, Perez, Soti and Potenza.

Consent Calendar was adopted.

HB 177, relative to children in placement pursuant to an episode of treatment for which the department of health and human services has a financial responsibility. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mark Pearson for Children and Family Law. Sometimes it happens: a new law inadvertently dumps something out and a “fix it” bill is required. That happened here. This bill simply restores the reference to RSA 193:27 that was added through HB 1511 (Ch. 138, Laws of 2024) but that was then essentially removed when a second later bill, HB 1639 (Ch. 348, Laws of 2024), went into effect. Vote 13-0.

HB 320-FN, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jay Markell for Children and Family Law. This bill requires that courts enforce property rights of parties once a decree of divorce becomes final unless the decree is invalid in whole or in part for one or more of the reasons contained in the bill. As the law stands right now, with regard to property settlements, there is no requirement that a court enforce its own orders, or fashion remedies that will put the parties in the position they would be if the terms of the decree were performed. This bill secures a reliance interest in property orders. In plain language, using well settled legal principles, this bill lays out the standards that courts can use to determine the enforceability of a decree, so that attorneys and self-represented parties can effectively plead their cases for contempt or enforcement, while affording clear standards for appellate review if needed. Vote 14-0.

HB 335-FN, requiring courts to order a minor and their family have psychological evaluations and, if necessary, counseling, where parental rights and responsibilities are contested in a family court matter. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jay Markell for Children and Family Law. This bill, if it became law, would require the services of a clinical psychologist to diagnose and treat certain enumerated psychological conditions and would require a licensed psychologist to evaluate and file a risk assessment report in eight weeks or less. There is no showing that there are enough licensed psychologists in this state who can or are willing to perform the kind of evaluations required by this bill. Further, the bill’s procedural requirements demand that a court order a risk assessment within 14 days of the initial petition for divorce and fails to consider the large segment of children who are subject to parenting petitions and not divorces. Vote 14-0.

HB 350-FN, requiring that all family division hearings be video and audio recorded and broadcast live. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Sheila Seidel for Children and Family Law. This bill requires that all family division court proceedings be audio and video recorded by the family court and that the court broadcast live any family division proceeding that is not deemed confidential or closed to the public by rule or statute if requested to do so by either party. The bill further allows any person or media outlet to attend and record family division proceedings and places no guidelines on disbursement of those recordings. Currently, family division proceedings are video recorded without audio and the judge or clerk has a switch that turns on and off audio recordings during the proceedings. All parties can request transcripts of their own hearings. While there was testimony that parties feel the transcripts are not fully reflective of all the occurrences in a hearing, this problem can be solved by requiring that judges keep the recordings on for the entire proceeding and that transcripts include all utterances except confidential discussions between lawyers and clients. This bill goes too far, by opening up private family matters like divorce and custody proceedings to the public. Details of alleged domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and children’s medical, therapeutic, and school records are frequently the subject of custody and divorce proceedings. Children whose parents are divorcing have the right to confidentiality; the New Hampshire Supreme Court case *Berg*, 152 NH 658 (2005), determined that neither parent in a contested custody proceeding can waive the child’s right to confidentiality of certain records. It is contrary to the best interests of children to have their private information posted on the Internet forever or broadcast to the public at large. For this reason, this bill should be deemed inexpedient to legislate, as was recommended unanimously by the committee. Vote 14-0.

HB 486-FN, relative to grandparents’ visitation rights. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jodi Nelson for Children and Family Law. In New Hampshire, it is estimated that up to 12,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren. A large contributing factor to this huge population of grandparents raising grandkids is due to parental drug use. Many grandparents have temporary guardianship for several months, six or more at a time. While the goal is often reunification, the reality is that recovery can be a bumpy road. Children who have been removed from their birth parent and go to live with their grandparent or kin caregiver develop an attachment to them. The total loss of that attachment person can cause anxiety and grief in the child. Grandchildren can be going back and forth from parents to grandparents as their parents are battling their addictions. Maintaining a positive relationship with grandparents is crucial to the well-being of the child in situations like this. This bill adds language to current law to help preserve this important support system that is in the best interest of the child without infringing on parents’ constitutional rights. Vote 14-0.

HB 62-FN, relative to protection of persons from domestic violence and military protective orders. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. As amended, this bill allows protective orders issued by military commanders to be admissible in civilian courts for the purpose of obtaining a civilian order of protection. As military orders are only effective on US Government property, victims in New Hampshire must

obtain an order through our courts as well as one from the military. Allowing the existence of the military order to be used as evidence in our proceedings simply ties the systems together to better protect victims without infringing on the rights of the defendant. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0282h)

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

1 New Paragraph; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; The Adjutant General. Amend RSA 110-B:8 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. The adjutant general shall provide current and former members of the national guard who were the victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment while members of the national guard with financial assistance when the victims participate in adverse administrative proceedings or New Hampshire code of military justice proceedings related to the sexual assault or sexual harassment. The financial assistance shall cover the reasonable expenses incurred from traveling to and from those proceedings. This section does alter or expand a victim's right to participate in those proceedings.

2 New Paragraph; Protection of Persons from Domestic Violence; Definition Added; Military Protective Order. Amend RSA 173-B:1 by inserting after paragraph XV the following new paragraph:

XV-a. "Military protective order" means an order issued against a current member of United States Armed Forces, the New Hampshire national guard, or the national guard of another state or territory by the defendant's commanding officer, on a form prescribed by the United States Department of Defense.

3 Protection of Persons from Domestic Violence; Commencement of Proceedings; Hearing. Amend 173-B:3, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. In any proceeding under this chapter, the court shall not be bound by the technical rules of evidence and may admit evidence which it considers relevant and material. ***Military protective orders shall be admissible evidence in proceedings under this chapter.***

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the adjutant general to provide national guard victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment financial assistance to allow the victim to participate in proceedings related to the assault or harassment.

II. Permits the introduction of military protective orders in proceedings for civil domestic violence protective orders.

HB 162-FN, relative to informed consent for law enforcement searches of houses or other property. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The bill requires law enforcement to require informed written consent to search a person's home or other property in the same manner as they currently do for motor vehicles. A person's home is their castle and the ability to search it without a warrant should require the owner's knowing, voluntarily given informed consent. Vote 16-0.

HB 500-FN, establishing enhanced enforcement zones for motor vehicle speed enforcement, increasing penalties for speeding in those zones by 50 percent, and establishing the enhanced enforcement zone fund to assist with funding enhanced enforcement. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Proulx for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill would establish enhanced enforcement zones with increased penalties in those zones. The committee found this bill too far reaching, designating almost every highway in the state as an enhanced enforcement zone. We also found the trigger for the enhanced penalties too low for a 50 percent increase in the fine. Nothing tells tourists to stay home like a big fine for a few miles per hour over the speed limit. Vote 16-0.

HB 659-FN, establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for Education Funding. This bill would establish a complicated incentive program aimed at inducing graduates of New Hampshire colleges to stay and work in the state. It proposes to do this in four distinct ways, each requiring a capital outlay, which include: (1) up to \$5,000 annually in student loan forgiveness to eligible graduates in an aggregate not to exceed \$20,000 per individual; (2) a \$1,000 annual cash rebate for up to 5 years; (3) a \$500 rebate per hired graduate to participating businesses in the form of a credit on the Business Enterprise Tax for up to 2 years; and (4) a 50% wage reimbursement up to \$5,000 per year paid to interns from New Hampshire "institutions." The fiscal note estimates the financial impact to the state at about \$4,500,000 per year for a total of about \$20 million over the ensuing 5 years. In addition, there would be an indeterminable reduction in the Business Enterprise Tax revenues due to the credit of employer rebates and in the Lottery Commission's net revenues as the bill would re-assign 15% of those revenues to support this program (at the expense of the Education Trust Fund). More pointedly, the fiscal note observes: "The lack of clarity regarding program structure and participant eligi-

bility makes it difficult to determine the overall fiscal impact on the General and Education Trust Funds.” Unfortunately, the sponsor was unable to present the bill at the committee’s hearing so many questions went unanswered despite his good-faith effort to supplement the record subsequently. Ultimately, the committee concluded that this ambitious program would introduce many complexities, much administrative burden, and substantial cost to the state, without a clear understanding of what incremental benefits it might actually produce. Vote 18-0.

HB 184, establishing a committee to study changing school start times. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Melissa Litchfield for Education Policy and Administration. The committee recognized that there is much interest among parents about school start times. There are studies supporting later start times. Several New Hampshire communities have looked at changes but have not changed the times for multiple reasons. It was felt that a committee could look at actions in other states and collect studies for reference by other communities around the state. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0394h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Duties. The committee shall engage in a survey of both currently under consideration and existing legislation enacted in the states that address school start times and conduct a review for the purpose of summarizing evidence-based studies that have sought to determine best school start times for elementary, middle, and high school aged children.

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the governor, on or before November 1, 2025.

HB 222, repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. Under current law, memorandums of understanding (MOUs) must be signed by chartered public schools and each resident school district of students with disabilities. This bill repeals the requirement, which was enacted in 2022. Specifically, current law provides neither an enforcement of the requirement nor penalties for lack of compliance. As a result, 94 MOUs are not signed for the 2024-2025 school year. Therefore, the committee believes the time, effort, and legal fees associated with drafting multiple MOUs has proven to be needlessly burdensome. Vote 18-0.

HB 394, relative to the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees and the role of cooperative school district board member representatives on such committees. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. This amended bill clarifies the role of a cooperative school district budget committee to make recommendations on all proposed warrant articles and supplemental appropriations. It also states that the budget committee vote on each appropriation is to be printed on the warrant. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0467h)

Amend RSA 195:12-a, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Such cooperative school budget committee shall have the powers and duties of the municipal budget committee under the provisions of RSA 32 insofar as the budget for the cooperative school district is concerned and insofar as RSA 32 is applicable to the cooperative school budget. ***Additionally, the committee shall review and make a recommendation on all proposed warrant articles or supplemental appropriations involving the expenditure of funds. Such articles shall contain a notation of whether or not that appropriation is recommended by the budget committee. No such additional amount or purpose of appropriation may be disclosed or discussed at one or more public hearings unless the budget committee has first had an opportunity to review the proposal and make its recommendation. The budget committee shall vote on each such warrant article that proposes an appropriation or expenditure, and that vote shall be recorded and printed on the warrant.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the cooperative school district budget committee to review and provide a recommendation on all proposed warrant articles or supplemental appropriations involving the expenditure of funds. The bill also changes the school board appointed member on the cooperative school board budget committee to a non-voting ex-officio role.

HB 440, relative to educator licensing. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. Being that there is a shortage of career and technical education (CTE) instructors and further as these CTE instructors do not teach core curriculum but

instruct on the career or technical certification they hold and have practiced, the committee finds great value in supporting this bill. This bill, as amended, allows all students an opportunity to receive a career path they have chosen. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0188h)

Amend RSA 186:11, X(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) Certification of teachers, supervisors, and administrators in the public schools. The state board shall also examine the qualifications of candidates for those positions and issue certificates to those who meet the requirements of said rules. ***Such rules shall require all candidates seeking an initial New Hampshire license for administrator, teacher, instructional specialist or educational specialist to obtain passing scores on professional education assessments as determined by the state board of education. Career and technical education teachers may be exempt from this requirement if they pass the basic academic skills testing or an industry recognized credential.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department to adopt rules requiring candidates for initial administrator, teacher, instructional specialist, or educational specialist licenses to obtain passing scores on prescribed professional assessments.

HB 532, relative to alternative dispute resolution and individualized education plan team meeting facilitation. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, is related to the methods to resolve disputes concerning the provision of special education services. It adds Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meeting facilitation and outlines the process and proceedings for neutral conferences and mediation. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0480h)

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

1 Alternative Dispute Resolution. Amend RSA 186-C:23 to read as follows:

186-C:23 Alternative Dispute Resolution.

I. In order to encourage informal resolution of differences of opinion regarding the provision of special education, the following methods of alternative dispute resolution shall be available to parents and school districts:

- (a) Neutral conference.
- (b) Mediation.
- (c) IEP facilitation.

I-a. The department shall make IEP team meeting facilitation available to parents and school districts as an option to resolve disputes under this chapter.

I-b. The department of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A concerning procedures for the methods of alternative dispute resolution available under this section.

II. The following subparagraphs shall apply only to neutral conference and mediation:

(a) To assist parents and schools, this subdivision requires the local education agency to notify the department of education in writing that an individualized education program, educational placement, identification, or evaluation of a child has been rejected by the parent, and establishes a 30-day period for discussion beginning on the date such notice is received by the department of education, which may be continued if mutually agreed to by the parties. Immediately following notification, the department shall communicate to the parent a description of the alternative dispute resolution process. While the use of these informal resolution procedures is strongly encouraged, it is not mandatory for either party. If this option is chosen by both parties, the department shall, during the 30-day period, schedule and conduct an alternative dispute resolution conference. Such schedule may be continued if mutually agreed to by the parties. The conference shall not be used to delay a due process hearing; however, both parties may agree to postpone the hearing pending a resolution.

~~[HH:]~~ (b) Alternative dispute resolution proceedings shall be confidential and shall not impair the right of the participants to demand a due process hearing. Information, evidence, or the admission of any party shall not be disclosed or used in any subsequent proceeding. Statements made and documents prepared by a party, attorney, or other participant in aid of such proceeding shall be privileged and shall not be disclosed. In addition, the parties shall not introduce into evidence in any subsequent proceeding the fact that there was an alternative dispute resolution proceeding or any other matter concerning the conduct of such proceedings. The authority of the department of education in alternative dispute resolution proceedings initiated under this section shall be limited to the provisions of paragraphs I and II.

~~[IV:]~~ (c) There shall be no record made of any alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

~~[V:]~~ (d) Evidence that would otherwise be admissible in a due process hearing or in a subsequent court hearing shall not be rendered inadmissible as a result of its use in an alternative dispute resolution proceeding.

~~[VI. The department of education shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, concerning procedures for the methods of alternative dispute resolution available under this section.]~~

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

HB 571, including Constitution Day in patriotic exercises required of public schools. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. During the week of Constitution Day, this bill requires public schools to conduct patriotic exercises, including the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Under current law, Veteran's Day and Memorial Day are recognized in the same manner. Occurring in September, Constitution Day established a strong civic foundation not only for the remainder of the school year, but also as students prepare for adulthood. Notably, the bill does not prescribe curriculum, allowing for local control to dictate its implementation. Finally, the committee unanimously supports students learning "our rights and responsibilities as citizens." Vote 18-0.

HB 662-FN, requiring the discussion of abortion procedures and viewing of certain videos during health education in public schools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. The committee believes that this bill goes too far in requiring the annual showing of specific videos on abortion in grades 9 through 12. It also requires monitoring of the video showings by the New Hampshire Attorney General and legal action against an individual or school that does not comply with the annual showing of these videos. Vote 18-0.

HB 719-FN, repealing the use of unused district facilities by chartered public schools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. This bill repeals the right of first refusal to chartered public schools when purchasing/leasing unused school district buildings. Since enacted in 2022, the Department of Education has not received any complaints from school districts regarding the right of first refusal. Furthermore, only one chartered public school has leased a building from a school district since the law was enacted. So, the majority believes the bill addresses a non-existent problem. Also, by repealing the reporting of unused buildings which is required under current law, the bill impedes chartered public schools from knowing about buildings for purchase/lease. Therefore, the majority believes the bill is detrimental to chartered public schools. Vote 17-1.

HB 730-FN, requiring school districts to educate and provide information to students regarding adoption during health education for grades 9 through 12, and in college in certain circumstances. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. The committee felt that adoption information is important, but this bill went too far in requiring colleges and universities to provide adoption information and involving the Attorney General to sue if there are any violations of this statute. Vote 17-0.

HB 738-FN, requiring certain non-public schools or education service providers that accept public funds to perform background checks on all employees and volunteers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Margaret Drye for Education Policy and Administration. This bill requires background checks for employees and volunteers of any non-public school, education service provider, or home education program that accepts scholarship students or students receiving Education Freedom Accounts (EFA). Though non-public schools are currently not required by statute to perform background checks, they are already doing them due to accreditation requirements, policy requirements, or insurance requirements. These background checks are the same record checks performed by public schools. If a home-schooling family accepts EFA funds, their home education program is terminated and their students become EFA students. Any employee or volunteer providing in-person instruction to an EFA student has to submit the results of a criminal history record. This list of those providing in-person instruction could include volunteers or other parents in a cooperative, or even the home-schooling parents themselves. This bill is unworkable. Individuals cannot get Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background checks like public schools can and records can only be sent to a state agency. Neither home schools, nor scholarship agencies, nor non-public schools are agents of the state. This bill is unenforceable. Who would request these checks? Who would pay for them? Who would receive results? Who would monitor compliance? This effort to protect children is already done by non-public schools and is unworkable for families doing their education at home. Vote 15-2.

HCR 6, calling for the removal of the superintendent of school administrative unit 67. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for Education Policy and Administration. This resolution calls for the removal of the local superintendent for School Administrative Unit 67. The issue involves the issuance of no trespass orders against several parents at a school girls soccer game for wearing pink wrist bands to show support for girls only sports. This issue is in the courts currently. The committee believes that is the correct avenue to address the issue rather than a General Court resolution. Vote 18-0.

HR 9, urging the department of education to emphasize STEM education in public schools. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. We, as a state, are constantly striving to solidify our commitment to 21st Century education and displaying our strong support for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education is a win-win for the students in our state. The committee believes that this truly non-partisan resolution is worthy of support and sends a positive message to our young people. Vote 18-0.

HB 269, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for Election Law. This housekeeping bill removes legacy wording and aligns existing legislation. RSA 654:28 currently requires the supervisors of the checklist to hold a Saturday session. This requirement for a Saturday session is legacy wording and the legacy wording has been removed elsewhere in the RSA in prior bills. This bill removes this last legacy Saturday requirement and allows the session to be held on other days, as long as the session occurs as required by statute. Vote 18-0.

HB 294, relative to the processing of absentee ballots. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Connie Lane for Election Law. This bill removes the ability of 10 voters to postpone the processing of absentee ballots until after the polls close. The committee listened to testimony of numerous election officials that the existing statute has the potential to allow a miniscule percentage of voters to delay the counting of absentee ballots well into the day following the next election. The toll that the current process takes on election officials, many of whom are volunteers, is already substantial. It will be even more if this provision is not removed from the statute. For these reasons, the committee voted unanimously for Ought to Pass. Vote 18-0.

HB 364, relative to ballots delivered to elder care facilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. The sponsor of this bill said that it was no longer necessary and requested that it be disposed of; the committee obliged the request. Vote 18-0.

HB 464, prohibiting candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Guzofski for Election Law. The original bill amends the language in RSA 658:31 "Counting Ballots" to include the language: "No person who appears on the ballot shall count ballots prior to the election." The intent of this bill is to create a greater transparency and accountability in our election process. It was recognized that this language could create an undue hardship upon elected officials whose duties required him/her to handle ballots before the election. An amendment was submitted by a sponsor of the bill to change the language to: "With the exception of candidates standing for the office of moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, selectperson, inspector of election, and supervisor of the checklist, no person who appears on the ballot shall count ballots prior to the election." Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0196h)

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

AN ACT prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots.

Amend RSA 658:31 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

658:31 Counting Ballots. At or prior to the opening of the polls in each town or ward, the seal of the packages shall be publicly broken by the town or ward clerk; and the ballots shall be given to the ballot clerks and the ballots shall be examined and counted by the election officers in the presence of the clerk, the moderator, and at least one other legal voter. If the ballots are counted prior to the opening of the polls, the clerk shall post, in an appropriate place and prior to election day, notice of the time and place of the counting. ***With the exception of candidates standing for the office of moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, selectperson, inspector of election, and supervisor of the checklist, no person who appears on the ballot shall count ballots prior to the election.***

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots.

HB 498-FN, relative to when a person may receive an absentee ballot. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Russell Muirhead for Election Law. This bill would prohibit the Secretary of State from distributing absentee ballot application forms to city or town clerks more than 45 days before an election and would require the Secretary of State's Office to count the number of absentee ballot applications sent to cities and towns. The bill is problematic for several reasons. First, absentee ballot applications are increasingly accessed online – relatively few are printed and mailed, so keeping a count of the number sent would not be very informative. Second, voters are not required to use an absentee ballot application; they can send a statement to their city or town clerk requesting an absentee ballot so long as the statement has all the information that the absentee ballot application would have. Third, the Secretary of State is required by federal law to send out absentee ballots to uniformed and overseas voters no later than 45 days prior to an election, which makes it necessary to make absentee ballot applications available more than 45 days prior to an election. For these reasons, the unanimous majority recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 150, enabling homestead operations to use commercial kitchen equipment in preparing food for sale. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This bill came about because there was confusion between what was written in New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Food Safety rules and what was posted on the DHHS Food Safety web pages. Food producers were unclear about what equipment they were allowed to use in their homestead operation. By adding the clarifying language to the homestead operations statute RSA 143-A:12, I(a), we are making sure there is consistency throughout and that food producers can use commercial equipment in their homestead operation. The amendment further clarified that commercial equipment can be used if it can be cleaned and sanitized in the processing area. This is a win-win for New Hampshire farmers, local food producers and DHHS food safety concerns. By clarifying statute, this allows our food producers to be more efficient in their food production process. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0420h)

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. ***A homestead food operation may use commercial kitchen equipment so long as the equipment is able to be cleaned and sanitized in the processing area. For purposes of this subparagraph, "commercial kitchen equipment" means the specialized tools and appliances used in professional kitchens to prepare, cook, and store food and that can withstand heavy use and high-volume cooking.***

HB 153-FN, requiring that two or more law enforcement officers in each county receive training regarding animal cruelty. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. As a result of past problems with how law enforcement responded to animal cruelty reports, the original bill called for more intensive training for law enforcement. Current training only includes about two hours of training in this area of the law, which the committee found to be woefully inadequate. After listening to testimony, it was apparent to the committee that knowledge of existing laws is lacking, but adding additional training was complicated and had many aspects that need further study. We expect the committee to suggest more comprehensive legislative proposals for next year. The amendment therefore creates a study committee to be tasked with finding the best way to train law enforcement about our current animal cruelty statutes, understanding due process in the way animals (property) are handled, and to recognize that a prompt response is crucial to animals in distress but that due process is also important. The study committee will also look at the tools available or that need to be created. The important issues around animal cruelty reporting to law enforcement and due process concerning property, in the form of animals/livestock, seizure needs to have input from all stakeholders and should not be rushed. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0443h)

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study adding statewide resources to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study adding a statewide resource to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty.

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 shall:

I. Examine existing training provided by the New Hampshire police standards and training council and other courses that may be available either in-state or out-of-state.

II. Identify the best way to train law enforcement and other stakeholders including prosecutors.

III. Identify the best way to form a group to be a resource for others in New Hampshire.

IV. Recognize that having a group to assist with promptness of calls will be in the best interest of animals in distress.

V. Work with all agencies involved in the mission.

VI. Identify any other issues that may be needed to fulfill the intent of this committee.

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. Three 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.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study adding a statewide resource to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 215-FN, requiring a landfill permit applicant to submit a report listing potential harms and benefits of the project. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill requires applicants for landfill permits to demonstrate that the proposed project will result in a net public benefit – that potential benefits outweigh potential harms. Potential harms include impact on human health, property values, tourism, outdoor recreation, and wildlife. Potential benefits include positive economic impact on the host community as well as improvements to local infrastructure. Applicants will pay for a third-party reviewer to conduct an assessment of potential benefits and potential harms to assist the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in its determination. This determination will be made before an application is allowed to proceed to a full technical review. This bill also stipulates that the determination of potential benefits will be specific to one proposed project, and several proposed projects cannot be bundled together to be considered as an aggregate. Finally, this bill clarifies the meaning of capacity need for solid waste – a proposed landfill must meet a capacity need for the state for at least one half of its permitted period. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0335h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Public Benefit Requirement; Net Public Benefit. RSA 149-M:11, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. Prior to completing its full technical review of an application, the department shall determine whether a proposed solid waste facility provides a net public benefit through an initial review process. A net public benefit exists if potential benefits for a proposed project are determined to be greater than the potential harms. Only if the department determines that a net public benefit exists shall the application proceed for further review. To make this determination, the department shall consider:

(a) The short-and long-term need for a solid waste facility of the proposed type, size, and location to provide capacity to accommodate solid waste generated within the borders of New Hampshire, which capacity need shall be identified as provided in paragraph V.

(b) The ability of the proposed facility to assist the state in achieving the implementation of the hierarchy and goals under RSA 149-M:2 and RSA 149-M:3.

(c) The ability of the proposed facility to assist in achieving the goals of the state solid waste management plan, and one or more solid waste management plans submitted to and approved by the department under RSA 149-M:24 and RSA 149-M:25.

(d) To assist the department in the determination of net public benefit, an assessment shall be conducted on behalf of the host community and/or other abutting municipalities by an independent third party contractor and the costs for such assessment shall be borne by the applicant. The applicant shall submit a list of no fewer than three independent third party contractors to the department. The department shall review the qualifications of the contractors, and provided that it finds them qualified, shall work in consultation with the host community and the applicant to select a mutually agreeable contractor. If the department determines that one or more of the submitted contractors is not qualified, it shall require the applicant to identify additional contractors. If a mutually agreeable third party has not been identified within 60 days, the commissioner shall choose from the submitted list.

(e) The required assessment shall include both potential harms and potential benefits associated with the proposed facility. Potential harms shall include any potentially harmful impacts on human health, property values, tourism, outdoor recreation, and wildlife. Such impacts may include noise, odor, traffic, greenhouse gas, and other emissions emanating from the facility and emissions from transport of solid waste-related material and by-products to and from the proposed facility. Potential benefits shall include, in addition to capacity need as described in subparagraph III(a), potential economic benefits to the local area and potential infrastructure improvements associated with the proposed project, and other factors as identified by the contractor.

(f) To assist in review of the third-party assessment, the department shall consult, as needed, with the department of transportation to evaluate impacts on local traffic and infrastructure; the department of business and economic affairs to evaluate impacts on the local economy; and the department of natural and cultural resources to evaluate impacts on tourism and local natural and cultural resources.

(g) The department shall issue its determination of whether the proposed facility provides a net public benefit prior to completing a full technical review of the application. If the department determines that the facility does provide a net public benefit, the department shall notify the applicant in writing, and shall proceed with technical review. If the department determines that the proposed facility does not provide a net public benefit, it shall issue a written denial of the application.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 479, establishing a committee to study the use and problems associated with regulating the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills and transfer centers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Kelley Potenza for Environment and Agriculture. The committee recommended Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill for the following reasons: redundancy with existing studies and data, no demonstrated need for a further study committee, and the committee's confidence in the Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG). The SWWG, which is already established and active, has been working on plastic issues, from waste reduction to recycling efforts, and is now being asked to examine the increased problem of microplastics. The SWWG will continue to discuss these issues and decide if future legislation is necessary. The committee's decision was informed by the comprehensive nature of existing studies and ongoing regulatory work from the SWWG, which they considered sufficient to address the issues at hand. Therefore, the committee determined that the proposed bill was unnecessary. Vote 13-0.

HB 566-FN, requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill would require all applicants for landfill permits to submit a comprehensive plan for the storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of leachate ("trash juice") before the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services issues final operating approval. Leachate management plans must include detailed information about contractual agreements between the landfill operator and at least two facilities that will be engaged in the transport and the processing of the leachate. When contractual arrangements change, landfill operators are required to provide updated contract information to the department. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0429h)

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

1 New Paragraph; Landfill Permit; Leachate Management Plan Required. Amend RSA 149-M:9 by inserting after paragraph V-a the following new paragraph:

V-b. The department shall not issue operating approval for a new landfill or landfill expansion, unless the department makes a positive determination that the permit application includes a detailed plan for leachate management that provides for safe and effective management of leachate throughout the entire life of the facility, including the post-closure period. The leachate management plan shall include, at minimum, a description of how leachate will be collected and stored on-site, if and how it will be treated on-site, how it will be transported off-site, the location and type of disposal processing, a statement of the projected frequency of leachate transports per week, and contingency plans for capacity constraints. The leachate management plan shall also include details of all contractual arrangements between the applicant and at least 2 facilities that will be engaged in the transport and the processing of the leachate. The contractual arrangements shall demonstrate that the expected daily production of leachate can and will be transported off-site in a manner that will minimize the possibility of on-site contamination, and that there will be sufficient capacity to process the leachate anticipated to be generated at the facility. To respond to changing conditions, a facility permitted under this section may renegotiate or terminate its contractual arrangements during the operating life of the permitted landfill provided that the new contractual arrangements are filed with the department and otherwise meet the conditions of this paragraph.

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

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HR 10, recognizing the fundamental right to have clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this House Resolution states that we as a legislative body recognize and highly value clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment and that we support goals and policies that will promote those values. Without good health, our ability to enjoy our fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is diminished. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0316h)

Amend the resolution by replacing title of the resolution with the following:

A RESOLUTION recognizing the importance of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment with regard to our fundamental rights.

Amend the resolution by replacing all after the resolving clause with the following:

Whereas, a clean and healthy environment is important to and impacts human health; and

Whereas, without good health, our ability to enjoy our fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is diminished; and; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the house of representatives: we recognize and highly value clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment and we support goals and policies that will promote those values.

Let it be further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation, the president of the New Hampshire senate, and the speaker of the New Hampshire house of representatives.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This resolution recognizes the importance of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment with regard to our fundamental rights.

HB 89, designating “Within the Crystal Hills” as the official animated film of New Hampshire. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. The committee enjoyed the animated film “Within the Crystal Hills” by Griffin Hansen and Christina Caralis which reimagined the legend of the Old Man of the Mountain. While the animated film was very well done, the committee had two important reasons to not support making this the state’s official animated film. First, some committee members were concerned with the idea of picking one film out, instead of seeing a larger selection of options. Second, we heard compelling testimony that the story line of “Within the Crystal Hills” departs significantly from the indigenous understanding and could lead to confusion or erasure of indigenous culture. Vote 15-0.

HB 156, establishing a committee to review state procurement policies and make recommendations to encourage local food production and conservation. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill creates a study committee on state procurement of local food, hoping to create a steady market for local foods. This is a goal that requires expertise not available in one committee or community and can reasonably be resolved this biennium. The committee amendment gives this charge to the existing statutory study committee on state procurement, then repeals it after the final report. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0421h)

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

AN ACT relative to the duties of the advisory committee on state procurement.

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

1 Advisory Committee on State Procurement. RSA 21-I:14-d is repealed and reenacted to read as follows: 21-I:14-d Advisory Committee on State Procurement.

I. There is established an advisory committee on state procurement.

II. The members of the committee shall be 3 members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

III. The committee shall:

(a) Assess current practices for procuring locally produced food.

(b) Evaluate economic and environmental impacts of supporting conservation-focused farming.

(c) Develop recommendations for potential incentive mechanisms.

(d) Align findings with state food system planning goals.

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

V. 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 clerks, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025.

2 Repeal. RSA 21-I:14-d, relative to advisory committee on state procurement, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2025.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the membership and duties of the committee to review state procurement policies to include making recommendations to encourage local food production and conservation.

HB 176-FN, relative to changing the state flag design. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill redesigns the state flag to a bolder design featuring the Old Man of the Mountain and the state motto, "live free or die." Considering that the committee has another bill that would create a commission to develop a process to consider a redesigned flag, we looked at ourselves and decided that we were not really the appropriate body to decide on a new flag, or even if a new flag is necessary. Vote 12-2.

HB 435, relative to the definition of professional engineer. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill clarifies that professional work in electronics, information technology, digital systems, or computing is not included in scope of professional engineering. This has always been the practice, since nothing in these fields requires the seal of a professional engineer and the qualification exams for professional engineers do not include these topics. With several engineers on the committee, we agreed that this clarification is appropriate. Vote 16-0.

HB 438-FN, relative to immigration detention facilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill creates a statutory structure to define and regulate detention facilities for illegal immigrants. Since there are no such facilities in the state, nor is there any plan to create them, the committee felt that creating a regulatory structure for such facilities implies agreement with the idea that New Hampshire needs them. However excellent the regulatory structure, we do not want to appear to be authorizing the construction or operation of immigration detention facilities. Vote 16-0.

HB 598, establishing a committee to study data sources of all entities operated by all branches of government that are or are potentially made available to the public, identify the data formats of those sources, and recommend legislation to standardize types and formats of data output from all or select governmental entities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill creates a legislative committee to study the data the state collects and attempts to make it more accessible and useful to our citizens and other agencies. While we are reluctant to create a new study committee, we have found in multiple situations that one agency has data that another needs but can't use. Just remember that the state police, local police, and the courts did not know who was already out on bail and we found out that we have a specific organization, the prescription drug affordability board, that needed to translate data collected by the Department of Insurance so that it was useful to other agencies. The committee amendment changes the composition of this committee from three representatives and three senators to four representatives and one senator; ensures that both parties are represented on the committee; and emphasizes that personally identifiable data is protected, not shared. We have many members who are experienced in data collection and analysis, and this committee will take advantage of their knowledge and expertise. Vote 12-2.

Amendment (0310h)

Amend the bill by replacing sections 2-5 with the following:

2 Membership and Compensation.**I.** The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, all of whom shall be qualified by their experiences, with at least one representative being a member of the minority party.

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

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

3 Duties. The committee shall evaluate potential data to be made available to the public, including the following:

I. Data currently made available to the public, from which departments, and in which formats;

II. The potential for additional data to be made available to the public;

III. Potential data formats for standardizing data made available to the public; and

IV. Recommended legislation to require the various departments to produce what data in a which format in what time-frame.

V. Protecting personal identifiable information.

VI. For the purposes of this committee:

(a) "Department" means any portion of the state government.

(b) "Data" is intended to include pre-existing spreadsheets, databases, third party applications that compile data in standardized formats, and the like and to capture the compendia of facts.

(c) The particular intent regarding looking for both “data” and “data output” is that the goal of the committee is to research what data exists, what subset of that data might be exposed to the public, and what parts of that could be satisfied by using already existing reports, exports, and outputs.

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. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 Report. The committee shall report its preliminary findings in an interim report by November 1, 2025 and report its final 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.

HB 622-FN, relative to the definition of “part-time” for purposes of employment of a retired member of the New Hampshire retirement system. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peter Schmidt for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill, which changed the amount of work a retired person could perform as a part time employee, was requested to be found inexpedient to legislate by the sponsor at the initial hearing. Vote 14-0.

HB 202, relative to the duties of the fish and game commission. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Ouellet for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill would make the Fish and Game Commission advisory only and leaving the Director without oversight. The majority felt the commission is key and the voice of the sportsmen. The committee felt the system currently works well and does not need change. Vote 14-1.

HB 545-FN, requiring certain cervid meat processed outside of New Hampshire to be tested for chronic wasting disease before being brought into New Hampshire. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Sean Durkin for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. There has never been a single human infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Deer meat is already required to be deboned before being brought to New Hampshire. Required testing would result in hunters being forced to return home without their meat and add an additional cost to the hunter. This bill does nothing but discourage hunters from leaving New Hampshire. This bill was opposed by New Hampshire Fish and Game and would be impossible to enforce. Vote 15-0.

HB 73, relative to harm reduction, substance misuse, and the governor’s commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Matt Drew for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The committee found that this bill adds some long overdue language emphasizing prevention, societal harm reduction, drug misuse, and the use of overdose reversal medications to the statute establishing the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. It also adds a representative of law enforcement to the commission. The amendment changes the effective date of the bill to 30 days after passage. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0219h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

8 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

HB 743-FN, relative to patient access to health care prices and billing practices. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark McLean for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This is a bill with two parts, both seeking to achieve greater price transparency in the health care sector. The first half of the bill would require that health care entities provide a good faith estimate for services to uninsured or self-pay patients. The second half of the bill would require that health insurers provide insured patients with an advanced explanation of benefits within three days of receiving a good faith estimate from a health care entity. The first half of the bill builds on the federal “No Surprises Act” and provides some additional protections. While the committee saw no harm in this portion of the bill, the impact of the mandate in the second half of the bill on New Hampshire’s insurance market was of concern. The Insurance Department testified that it was nervous about the bill’s impact on coverage, and felt that HB 705, an alternate bill before the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee, would be a better vehicle as it had been developed in tandem with the insurance companies to provide greater transparency. The majority of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee felt that it was wise to defer insurance matters to the Commerce Committee and chose to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate while the Commerce Committee continues their work on HB 705. Vote 15-1.

HB 383, relative to the authority of condominium boards and unit owners to create and amend condominium instruments. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dillon Dumont for Housing. This bill removes the requirement that the majority of condominium owners need to vote in favor of changes to bylaws and would give only the majority of owners present and voting at a meeting the right to make decisions for the majority of the entire ownership. This would reduce the property rights of the condominium owners. Vote 17-0.

HB 577, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. This bill with amendment would be a small but substantive change to New Hampshire's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) law. The bill as drafted changes the definition of what is allowed "by right" on a property permitted for single family use by allowing the ADU to be detached from the existing unit. This small change will allow a moderate amount of housing to be built by converting existing detached structures such as garages into housing. This property rights bill also expands the maximum square footage from 750 square feet to 950 square feet allowing for two bedrooms. This is an important change because it allows for intergenerational dwelling by permitting those with disabilities, veterans, or the elderly to age in place with family or a support system. The amendment clarifies tools municipalities can use to regulate ADUs by being able to mandate one of the structures remains owner occupied as well as determine aesthetic requirements. This is an important bill that signals New Hampshire is serious about solving the housing crisis. The committee recommends this bill in a unanimous and bipartisan fashion. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0449h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Accessory Dwelling Units. RSA 674:72 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

674:72 Accessory Dwelling Units.

I. A municipality that adopts a zoning ordinance pursuant to the authority granted in this chapter shall allow accessory dwelling units in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings. One accessory dwelling unit, which may be either attached or detached, shall be allowed as a matter of right. The municipality shall allow one accessory dwelling unit without additional requirements for lot size, except as described by this section, setbacks, aesthetic requirements, design review requirements, frontage, space limitations, or other controls beyond what would be required for a single-family dwelling without an accessory dwelling unit. The municipality may not impose greater requirements for a septic system for a single-family home with an accessory dwelling unit than is required by the department of environmental services. The municipality is not required to allow more than one accessory dwelling unit for any single-family dwelling. The municipality may prohibit accessory dwelling units associated with multiple single-family dwellings attached to each other, such as townhouses. The municipality may prohibit accessory dwelling units associated with rented or leased land. Subsequent condominium conveyance of any accessory dwelling unit separate from that of the principal dwelling unit shall be prohibited, notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 356-B:5, unless allowed by the municipality.

II. If a zoning ordinance contains no provisions pertaining to accessory dwelling units, then one accessory dwelling unit shall be deemed a permitted accessory use, as a matter of right, to any single-family dwelling in the municipality, and no municipal permits or conditions shall be required other than building permits, if required by statute.

III. Attached accessory dwelling units shall have either an independent means of ingress and egress or ingress and egress through a common space shared with the principal dwelling. However, the municipality shall not limit the choice of ingress and egress.

IV. Any municipal regulation applicable to single-family dwellings shall also apply to the combination of a principal dwelling unit and an accessory dwelling unit, including but not limited to lot coverage standards and standards for maximum occupancy per bedroom consistent with policy adopted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, provided that such municipal regulations shall not be more restrictive for accessory dwelling units than for any single-family use in the same zoning district. If a municipality has established regulations requiring parking for the principal dwelling unit, it may require up to one additional parking space for each accessory dwelling unit. Required parking spaces may be provided either on-site or at a legally dedicated off-site location, at the property owner's discretion.

V. The applicant for a permit to construct an accessory dwelling unit shall make adequate provisions for water supply and sewage disposal for the accessory dwelling unit in accordance with RSA 485-A:38, but separate systems shall not be required for the principal and accessory dwelling units. In order to comply with this paragraph and prior to constructing an accessory dwelling unit, an application for approval for a sewage disposal system shall be submitted in accordance with RSA 485-A as applicable. The approved sewage disposal system shall be installed if the existing system has not received construction approval and approval to operate under current rules or predecessor rules, or the system fails or otherwise needs to be repaired or replaced.

VI. A municipality may require owner occupancy of one of the dwelling units, but it shall not specify which unit the owner must occupy. A municipality may require that the owner demonstrate that one of the units is his or her principal place of residence, and the municipality may establish reasonable regulations to enforce such a requirement.

VII. A municipality may apply aesthetic standards to accessory dwelling units only if it has also applied such standards to the principal dwelling unit. The total living space of the accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 950 square feet unless otherwise authorized by the municipality. A municipality may not restrict the total living space to less than 750 square feet.

VIII. A municipality shall not require a familial relationship between the occupants of an accessory dwelling unit and the occupants of a principal dwelling unit.

IX. A municipality shall not limit an accessory dwelling unit to only one bedroom.

X. An accessory dwelling unit may be deemed a unit of workforce housing for the purpose of satisfying the municipality's regional fair share obligation under RSA 674:59, III if the unit meets the criteria in RSA 674:58, IV for rental units.

XI. A municipality shall allow accessory dwelling units to be converted from existing structures, including but not limited to detached garages, regardless of whether such structures violate current dimensional requirements for setbacks or lot coverage.

XII. A municipality shall not deny the establishment of a separate electrical panel and separate electrical service to the accessory dwelling unit.

HB 685, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. This bill, with amendment, changes the definition of manufactured housing to housing "which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to required utilities, which include plumbing, heating, and electrical heating systems contained therein." This important definition change allows for the construction of manufactured housing in all residential zones and distinguishes manufactured housing from other housing options such as campers and recreational vehicles - which would not qualify under this definition change. This bill allows manufactured housing to be allowed as an option in residential zones as a right. Manufactured housing is a key piece to solving the housing crisis because these homes are smaller, more energy efficient, and affordable starter and retirement homes for individuals. The committee amendment would clarify municipalities' ability to regulate the establishment of these units. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0392h)

Amend RSA 674:31-b as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

674:31-b Permitting Manufactured Housing in Residential Zones.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, manufactured housing shall be permitted as a matter of right in all land areas and lots in districts zoned to permit residential uses within every municipality in the state.

II. Municipal zoning ordinances shall be amended to comply with this statute, ensuring that manufactured housing is treated as a permitted use in all residential zones.

III. If a zoning ordinance contains no provisions pertaining to manufactured housing, it shall be deemed permitted as a matter of right, and no municipal permits or conditions shall be required other than a building permit, if necessary.

IV. No municipality shall adopt or enforce any zoning ordinance, regulation, or policy that discriminates against manufactured housing by prohibiting or unreasonably restricting its placement in residential zones.

V. All municipalities shall amend their zoning ordinances to comply with this statute within one year of its effective date.

HB 485, authorizing persons who win the state lottery to remain anonymous. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Judiciary. This bill would enable the winner of the state lottery to remain anonymous in certain situations. The individual is able to remain anonymous if the winner has an active restraining order, is a victim of domestic violence as defined in RSA 173-B:1, I, or if the lottery commissioner deems it would be in the best interest of the winner to remain anonymous. The Judiciary Committee believes these are acceptable situations in which the winner should be able to remain anonymous. Vote 10-1.

HB 593-FN, relative to loss of consortium involving pets. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Donald McFarlane for Judiciary. This bill seeks to expand the definition of "loss of consortium" to include pets, allowing pet owners to claim damages for the loss or impairment of companionship with their animals. Whereas the committee acknowledges the deep emotional bonds between individuals and their pets, several concerns have led to the recommendation that this bill is inexpedient to legislate. The bill fails sufficiently to define pet, and fails to clarify which relations, by ownership or otherwise, of the pet would be able to claim loss of consortium. The bill would limit owners in what they can do with their own animals, in ways which are clearly undesirable. The bill would expand potential liabilities in the case of veterinary care, leading to higher costs for veterinary care, pet grooming and other pet-related services. Traditionally, animals are classified as property under the law. Altering this classification to recognize pets similarly to human relationships could have far-reaching legal implications, potentially affecting areas such as property rights, liability, and insurance. Expanding loss of consortium claims to include pets may lead to increased litigation. This could inadvertently impact pet owners, service providers, and the legal system, creating burdens that outweigh the intended benefits of the bill. Current laws already provide avenues for pet owners to seek compensation in cases of intentional or negligent harm to their animals. To the extent that there is a need to increase the

provisions for such damages, this bill is not the appropriate mechanism to achieve that end. Given all of these considerations, the committee believes that the potential negative consequences of enacting this bill outweigh the benefits. Vote 11-0.

HB 746-FN, relative to an award of attorney's fees upon a successful appeal of a local property tax assessment. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. Originally assigned to Municipal and County, the bill was referred to Judiciary and properly noticed. No sponsor appeared for the hearing, no witness appeared, no written testimony was submitted. The committee determined that the responsible outcome was to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 10-0.

HB 248, relative to notice and update requirements regarding state employee investigations. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jack Flanagan for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill provides rules if an employee is suspended with pay. The employee will be provided a written notice within 7 days of the suspension. The employee shall be updated on the status of the suspension every 90 days. This law covers employees not in a collective bargaining agreement. Vote 20-0.

Amendment (0431h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Department of Administrative Services; Personnel; Suspension Notice and Investigation Updates. Amend RSA 21-I by inserting after section 42 the following new section:

21-I:42-a Suspension Notice and Investigation Updates. If any state employee is suspended with pay from duty, they shall receive written notice detailing the reasons for the suspension within 7 days of the suspension date. The suspended employee shall be provided with periodic updates regarding the status of the investigation every 90 days until a final decision is made. This section shall not apply to employees covered under collective bargaining agreements.

HB 735-FN, relative to elections in collective bargaining. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Granger for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would require that collective bargaining units re-certify when over 50 percent of those in the bargaining unit were not there when the bargaining unit was initially certified. The language is unworkable for several technical reasons; therefore, the committee believes it to be Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 20-0.

HB 230-L, relative to the adoption of public health ordinances by municipalities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill, as amended, defines the limits of a health officer's responsibilities under the statute with more specificity. The health officer is still responsible for ensuring the sanitary conditions in homes, neighborhoods, rental properties, schools and other public and private locations. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0277h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Local Adoption of Public Health Ordinances. Amend RSA 147:1, I to read as follows:

I. The health officers of towns may make regulations for the prevention and removal of nuisances, [~~and such other regulations relating to public health~~] as in their judgment the health and safety of the people require, which shall take effect when approved by the selectmen, recorded by the town clerk, and published in some newspaper printed in the town, or when copies thereof have been posted in 2 or more public places in the town.

HB 421-FN, relative to notice of tax exempt-status filing procedures by town officials or offices. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. Organizations that qualify for tax exemptions are required to file annually certain tax-exempt application forms with their municipalities. This bill, as amended, requires municipalities and tax-exempt organizations to share the responsibility of sending and returning the proper statutory tax filing forms and further holds harmless, either the municipality or the organization, if for some reason the tax forms were not received in a timely fashion due to accident, mistake, or misfortune. This bill will streamline the process of reviewing and approving tax exemptions for qualified organizations while providing governing bodies the latitude to consider applications that may be late due to unanticipated circumstances. Vote 16-2.

Amendment (0354h)

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

1 New Paragraph; Taxation; Persons and Property Liable to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Cities and towns shall annually mail the forms prescribed under RSA 72:23-c, I and RSA 72:23, VI to all property owners whose real estate was exempt from taxation in the prior property tax year under RSA 72:23, III, IV or V, and notify such property owners of the form submission deadline. The forms shall be mailed no later than 2 months before the due dates of the completed forms and supplemental documents. If the city or town or property owner otherwise qualified to receive an exemption discovers that the required forms were not sent or received, the property owner qualified to receive an exemption may submit the application to the city or town, and the governing body may grant an exemption thereunder for that year only, irrespective of any calendar date or the approval of the local tax rate and without penalty to the qualified owner.

2 Taxation; Persons and Property Liabile to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23, VI to read as follows:

VI. Every charitable organization or society, except those religious and educational organizations and societies whose real estate is exempt under the provisions of paragraphs III and IV, shall annually before June 1, file with the municipality in which the property is located upon a form prescribed and provided by the board of tax and land appeals a statement of its financial condition for the preceding fiscal year and such other information as may be necessary to establish its status and eligibility for tax exemption. If any organization, otherwise qualified to receive an exemption, shall satisfy the selectmen that they were prevented by accident, mistake, or misfortune from filing an application on or before June 1, the officials may receive the application at a later date and grant an exemption thereunder for that year; but no such application shall be received or exemption granted after ~~[the local tax rate has been approved for that]~~ **March 31, the end of the property tax year.**

3 Taxation; Persons and Property Liabile to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23-c, I to read as follows:

I. Every religious, educational and charitable organization, Grange, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the American National Red Cross and any other national veterans association shall annually, on or before April 15, file a list of all real estate and personal property owned by them on which exemption from taxation is claimed, upon a form prescribed and provided by the board of tax and land appeals, with the selectmen or assessors of the place where such real estate and personal property are taxable. If any such organization or corporation shall willfully neglect or refuse to file such list upon request therefor, the selectmen may deny the exemption. If any organization, otherwise qualified to receive an exemption, shall satisfy the selectmen or assessors that they were prevented by accident, mistake or misfortune from filing an application on or before April 15, the officials may receive the application at a later date and grant an exemption thereunder for that year; but no such application shall be received or exemption granted after ~~[the local tax rate has been approved for that]~~ **March 31, the end of the property tax year.**

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect April 1, 2026.

HB 426, relative to property tax exemptions for charitable organizations for the prior tax year. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill, as amended, affords the opportunity to New Hampshire's charitable organizations to receive a tax exemption under RSA 72:23 for the tax year ending March 31, 2025, for failure to file a timely statement of financial condition pursuant to RSA 72:23. Further, the charitable organization shall be granted the exemption retroactively if they satisfy to the selectmen that they were prevented by accident, mistake or misfortune from filing the statement of financial condition prior to June 1, 2024. If the request is denied by the selectman the charitable organization may appeal to the superior court or the board of tax and land appeals. Vote 16-2.

Amendment (0141h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Property Tax Exemption for Charitable Organizations; Late Application. Any charitable organization, otherwise qualified to receive a property tax exemption under RSA 72:23 for the tax year ending March 31, 2025, but for the failure to file a timely statement of financial condition pursuant to RSA 72:23, VI, shall be granted the exemption retroactively if they satisfy to the selectmen that they were prevented by accident, mistake, or misfortune from filing the statement of financial condition before June 1, 2024. If the request for exemption is denied by the selectmen, the organization may appeal the decision pursuant to RSA 72:34-a.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill permits a charitable organization to request a property tax exemption for the 2024 tax year if they demonstrate to the selectmen that they were prevented by accident, mistake, or misfortune from filing the statement of financial condition before June 1, 2024, and provides for appeal of the decision to the board of tax and land appeals or the superior court.

HB 547-FN, relative to county reimbursement of funds. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Stephanie Grund for Municipal and County Government. This bill provides a credit to the counties for enhanced federal payments that were received and retained by the New Hampshire Department of Health

and Human Services during the period of January 2020 through June 2021. Medicaid is jointly funded by the state and federal government with a 50%-50% split. However, during the public health emergency, the federal government increased the federal share of their Medicaid match to 56.2% beginning January 1, 2020. The county payment (non-federal share) during this period did not change. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services retained these additional federal payments. As a result, the counties paid more than the non-federal share of Medicaid reimbursement for this period. This bill returns the overpayment to county taxpayers through a credit to the county cap over the next two years. Vote 18-0.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 625, relative to enabling municipalities to levy payments against non-profits at a percentage of their assessed property values. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to alter the amount of tax municipalities are permitted to require of non-profit organizations within their jurisdictions, with the increase tied to a percentage of the non-profits' assessed values. As such, it upends decades of established practice in towns and cities across the state that have stable and productive relationships with major non-profit organizations such as academic teaching hospitals, universities, and other facilities. The bill also exempts certain religious institutions from its requirements, which would privilege them above non-profits without a religious mission. Such an exemption is at best unfair and at worst unconstitutional. Vote 18-0.

HB 689, enabling municipalities to adopt a volunteer incentive property tax credit. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Linda Franz for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to enable municipalities to adopt a volunteer incentive property tax credit for veterans and elderly persons who volunteer their services. This bill is simply not manageable. It would require project supervision as well as a time keeping system for qualifying volunteers. With an hourly tax credit at \$7.25 and a maximum annual credit of \$1,500, depending on how many hours an individual has volunteered, it would create more than 200 additional tax credits to be administered. In addition, the volunteers' credits would most likely vary from year to year requiring annual applications and creating an unreasonable burden on the municipal assessors, clerks and administrators. Furthermore, these credits would be required to be calculated before the April 15th deadline to be eligible to receive the credit and be included in the annual tax rate calculation. For these reasons, the committee recommended Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 766, enabling municipalities to adopt an exemption from the local education property tax for certain elderly residents. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Sly Karasinski for Municipal and County Government. This bill is enabling legislation that allows the legislative body of a municipality to adopt an exemption from the local education property tax for certain elderly residents. The majority of the committee recognized that the bill would shift education costs to all other taxpayers, including some of the elderly that were just outside the parameters set. Consider, elderly taxpayers that had lived in the municipality for twenty years of the thirty required. Their education taxes would increase to make up the shortfall caused by this bill. Additionally, it would be impossible for the municipality to know the education tax to be exempted prior to setting the tax rate. Therefore, the majority of the committee believes this bill is detrimental to the elderly property owners the proponent was trying to help, as well as being untenable. Vote 17-1.

HB 782-FN, expanding property tax exemptions for certain elderly and disabled persons; raising public awareness regarding tax credits and exemptions; and requiring an annual report regarding the efficacy of the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Gilman for Municipal and County Government. This bill is well intentioned but contains several flaws in its administration and intended results. The tax exemptions for certain disabled and elderly property owners are, by current statute, set by a municipality's legislative body. This bill attaches a mandated annual adjustment to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics consumer price index (CPI). Attaching an unknown change in the exemption amount defeats the will of the legislative body. The bill does not designate what date the CPI adjustment takes effect. Further, it binds future governing bodies from requesting a change to the exemption by its legislative body. That goes against the democratic process of municipal governance. The bill also requires the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) to create an online portal for persons applying for low and moderate income tax relief. Finally, the bill requires the DRA to report annually on the "efficacy" of the low and moderate income tax relief program but does not define what "efficacy" is. For these reasons, the majority of the committee finds this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 181-FN-A, relative to making the state responsible for maintaining Opticom systems for fire and emergency on state roads and making an appropriation therefor. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This is a well-intentioned bill that seeks to place maintenance of the Opticom transmitter system under the auspices of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation

(DOT). The Opticom system is a traffic control system that helps emergency response vehicles get through intersections faster and safer. It's designed to reduce congestion and improve safety. During the course of the testimony, the committee learned that there is a system in place to best determine what transmitter system works best for the community's emergency response vehicle fleet. The DOT allows a city or town to pick that system; DOT provides that system to the community; and the community maintains that system regardless of whether or not the transmitter is on a state roadway. Because of the existing process in place between the DOT and New Hampshire's municipalities, the committee unanimously supported the Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. Vote 18-0.

HB 300, relative to directing the department of transportation to issue a request for proposals regarding the Conway Branch rail line and establishing a study committee to investigate the future of railroads in the state. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This is a bill which would direct the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to issue a request for proposals regarding the Conway Branch rail line and establish a study committee to investigate the future of railroads in the state. The bill is redundant. The committee was tasked with reviewing a similar bill, HB 1468, in the last biennium with verbatim language which was approved by the committee and the General Court and signed into law by the Governor in 2024 creating Chapter 137. Vote 18-0.

HB 375, allowing municipalities to designate sections of state and local highways for all terrain vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This is a well-intentioned bill that seeks to allow a municipality's governing body to designate any part of any state or local highway, including any bridges or road connectors on those highways, for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use. Currently, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) has a system in place that allows the DOT to work with a municipality to best determine what routes make sense for off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) usage in that community in relation to the state roads that serve that community. The committee believed that creating a blanket policy process would potentially hinder the DOT from ensuring that public safety is maintained as it relates to OHRV usage on state roads. Because of the existing process in place between the DOT and New Hampshire's municipalities ensures a comprehensive and full review of a proposal, the committee unanimously supported the Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. Vote 18-0.

HB 644-FN, relative to flying drones in state parks. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. This legislation would permit the take-off and landing of drones, formally known as unmanned aerial systems, from New Hampshire state parks with minimal exceptions. It further requires state park officials to retrieve drones that land in inaccessible locations for a fee of not more than \$100 and has a provision to charge for commercial use. The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) expressed many concerns about this bill including conflicts arising with other visitors enjoying the quiet of the natural environment, unenforceable provisions intended to avoid such conflicts, and the insufficiency of the fee to recover lost drones. They further stated a process for special use permitting exists to allow for commercial drone use with many such permits being issued each year. Further, DNCR is currently drafting rules for drone use in state parks, which allows for shared use of these public spaces, to replace the existing policy. The Department of Safety opposed this bill because the provisions on video surveillance do not align with language in other legislation the department is supporting this session. Vote 16-0.

HB 657-FN, relative to short-notice booking access for New Hampshire residents to state parks. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for Resources, Recreation and Development. The prime sponsor requested the bill be voted Inexpedient to Legislate and advised there was work to be done on the bill. There was no further testimony. Vote 16-0.

HB 663, allowing the division of historic resources to expend moose plate funds to administer and fund grants. **BOUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Gregory Sargent for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill amends RSA 261:97-c I(a) to expressly provide what the New Hampshire Attorney General says the statute already implicitly provides: that the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may spend Conservation Number Plate, aka Moose Plate, funds to administer and fund grants. Vote 15-0.

HB 683-FN, relative to off-highway recreational vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Suzanne Vail for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill radically expands the list of counties where off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) operations on designated roads are authorized, to include all but Belknap and Rockingham Counties. Additionally, the bill proposes removing a petitioner's responsibility to fund notification to abutters of property for which OHRV use is sought before a trail is open to OHRVs.

This bill creates precisely the type of conflict that the HB 1188 commission to study OHRV use in the state was created to resolve, which is to evaluate economic impacts, enforcement feasibility, abutter notification, and the coexistence of OHRVs with other land users. This bill ignores that process and sidesteps public input, at a time when compromises are possible. With no responsible party identified to replace the petitioner, this bill assumes the community will bear the cost of abutter notification—an objectionable burden to towns and residents. The committee heard the state, and municipalities lack the capacity to manage enforcement of rules and safety regulations related to this widespread expansion. In opposition to the bill were the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, New Hampshire Fish and Game, Appalachian Mountain Club, Nature Conservancy, Society for the Protection of Forests, Sierra Club, New Hampshire Farm Bureau, landowners, abutters, selectmen, and forestry consultants. Vote 14-1.

HB 541, establishing a committee to study energy and telecommunications infrastructure survivability and resiliency. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Schneller for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill, which would establish a committee to study energy and telecommunications infrastructure survivability and resiliency, as proposed, represents a broad and lofty goal. Testimony from industry and regulatory participants, however, suggests that numerous organizations already maintain specific, established, and active efforts in conjunction with eight or more state and federal agencies to accomplish what this bill proposes. Each of the above organizations is charged with reviewing and executing components of plans to ensure energy and telecommunications infrastructure survivability and resiliency. The primary testimony suggested that the executive branch and many other involved parties/agencies are engaged in efforts to develop and harden redundancies, maintain adequate cybersecurity policies and procedures, and ensure critical systems survivability in the event of a partial or total system wide failure. Given the above, the committee concluded that vagaries in the proposed legislation would result in an unreportable and unactionable outcome. Vote 17-0.

HB 575-FN, prohibiting offshore wind energy infrastructure. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill prohibits the building of offshore wind infrastructure in New Hampshire. Doing so interferes with private business activity, which the state wants to encourage. Such prohibitions may attract lawsuits from federal regulators. The bill duplicates the repeal in an earlier bill passed by the committee of the offshore wind commission and the offshore wind industry workforce training center committee, while removing agencies that should remain, such as the workforce development and innovation fund and the geographic location description within the coastal program. Vote 16-1.

HB 708-FN, directing the department of energy to begin planning for the introduction of an additional overlay area code. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. The committee heard from the Department of Energy (DOE) that the department did not have the authority to perform the required actions with the administrators of the North American Numbering Plan as specified in the bill. Additionally, the DOE discussed ongoing efforts to push out the need for a new New Hampshire area code to late 2029 and beyond, removing the need for any current action on this topic. Vote 14-1.

HB 390-FN, relative to adding retired fire apparatus (fire trucks) to antique vehicle exemptions. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for Transportation. When fire apparatus reach the end of their use, a town, city, or municipality needs a means to retire that vehicle. Allowing the vehicles to be maintained in their original condition makes the vehicles more attractive to collectors who can then display the vehicle in a parade or car show. Attendees of the parade or car show find pleasure at seeing these vehicles and pride grows in their community. Vote 15-1.

HB 715-FN, relative to personal electric vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for Transportation. This bill sets speed limits but does not provide for a means of enforcement or set penalties for violations of said speed limits. In addition, this bill would require any person over 16 years old who does not possess a license to complete an online personal electric vehicle (PEV) safety course which has not been developed as of yet by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Vote 14-2.

HB 531-FN, setting annual limits on the amount of charitable gaming revenue which may be distributed to one charitable organization. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. The committee heard testimony on this bill that would set a limit of \$50,000 as the total amount of charitable gaming revenue charities would receive. Charitable gaming, being a complex model here in New Hampshire, requires perspective, thought, and advice on many of these charitable gaming issues. It is acknowledged by the committee members that this and other issues relating to charitable gaming will be addressed in the upcoming charitable gaming commission. Therefore, the committee thought it appropriate to allow for that commission to study and make recommendations to the legislature addressing this issue. Vote 19-0.

HB 540, relative to historic horse racing licenses for large facilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. The committee heard testimony on this bill that would require charitable game operators with 1,000 or more historic horse racing machines to pay an annual license fee to the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$10 million. Charitable gaming being a complex model here in New Hampshire requires perspective, thought, and advice on many of the issues in regard to charitable gaming. It is acknowledged by the committee members that this and other issues relating to charitable gaming will be addressed in the forthcoming charitable gaming commission. Therefore, the majority of the committee thought it appropriate to allow for that commission to study and make recommendations to the legislature addressing this issue. Vote 17-1.

HB 588-FN, relative to the distribution of revenues generated from historic horse racing pari-mutuel pools. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Fred Doucette for Ways and Means. The committee heard testimony on this bill that proposes to change the revenue distribution formula for charitable gaming on historic horse racing parimutuel pools after breakage and give it to the Lottery Commission. Other than the sponsor, all those who testified were opposed to the bill as it would take money away from charities. Charitable gaming being a complex model here in New Hampshire requires perspective, thought, and advice on many of the issues in regard to charitable gaming. It is acknowledged by the committee members that this and other issues relating to charitable gaming will be addressed in the upcoming charitable gaming commission. Therefore, the committee thought it appropriate to allow for that commission to study and make recommendations to the legislature addressing this issue. Vote 19-0.

TO BE WITHDRAWN

HB 409-FN, relative to fee structures for election recounts.

REGULAR CALENDAR**HB 503-FN**, amending how revenues from taxes are allocated to the education trust fund. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Cyril Aures for the Majority of Ways and Means. This bill creates a variety of new tax increases and also amends how tax revenues are allocated to the General Fund and the Education Trust Fund. This bill, if enacted, would increase the Business Profits Tax (BPT) from 7.5% to 8.5%, the Business Enterprise Tax (BET) from 0.55% to 0.75%, the Meals and Rooms Tax (M&R) from 8.5% to 9%, and it would re-establish the Interest and Dividends Tax and set the rate at 5%. Increasing all these taxes will hurt the New Hampshire economy and the New Hampshire consumer. It most likely will result in lower tax revenues as businesses and individuals struggle under the burden of higher taxes. Higher business taxes will cause businesses to reduce costs and possibly reduce their work force resulting in higher unemployment. Interest and dividends taxes will hurt those on fixed incomes and drive high net-worth retired individuals out of the state. In addition, higher M&R taxes could limit restaurant and rental business revenue. Overall, this bill is bad for New Hampshire business and New Hampshire residents. Vote 16-3.

Rep. Thomas Schamberg for the Minority of Ways and Means. This bill shows a vision for addressing funding of public education and providing tax relief for all homeowners and business property owners. This bill would redirect the additional tax percentage increases that would be imposed on the Business Profits Tax (BPT), Business Enterprise Tax (BET), and Meals and Rooms Tax into the Education Trust Fund at 100 percent of the increase. The distribution of revenue from the reestablished Interest and Dividends Tax would have a tax at 5% with 100% of the revenue being deposited into the Education Trust Fund. The New Hampshire State Director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses estimated the tax revenue of the four identified categories would be around \$700 million streaming back to the state coffers by 2027.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Simpson spoke against.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 345 - NAYS 27**YEAS - 345****BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Cordelli, Glenn
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Buco, Thomas
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Hamblen, Joseph
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Qualey, James

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri
Thackston, Dick

Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Barton, Joseph
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared
McFarlane, Donald
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Barbour, Liz
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Presa, Adam
Raymond, Heather
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Sheehan, Vanessa
Spier, Carry
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Vail, Suzanne
Wherry, Robert

Alexander, Joe
Beauchemin, Paige
Booras, Efsthathia
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
Dargie, Paul
Erf, Keith
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Kofalt, Jim
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Panek, Sandra
Plamondon, Marc
Proulx, Mark
Reinfurt, Sherri
Ryan, Linda
Scully, Kevin
Sirois, Shane
Suiter, John
Mannion, Tim
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Ammon, Keith
Bergeron, Dan
Bouchard, Donald
Cole, Brian
Kelley, Diane
Drew, Matt
Davis, Fred
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Foxy, Loren
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Mary
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Post, Lisa
Prout, Andrew
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Seibert, Christine
Slottje, Jeremy
Telerski, Laura
Mannion, Tom
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Daniels, Gary
Dumont, Dillon
Fedolfi, Jim
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Kesselring, Steven
Labrie, Brian
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Preece, David
Newman, Ray
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Seidel, Sheila
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Ulery, Jordan
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Carol
McGuire, Dan
Gibbs, Merryl
Lane, Connie
MacKay, James
Newsom, James
Roesener, James
Seaworth, Brian
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Cambriels, Jose
Devoid, Ricky
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Leavitt, John
Mehegan, Peter
Pitaro, Matthew
Boyd, Stephen
See, Alvin
Wallner, Mary Jane

Aylward, Deborah
Caplan, Tony
Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Luneau, David
Moffett, Michael
Plante, Raymond
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim
Wood, Clayton

Bricchi, Tracy
Colby, Eleana
Ebel, Karen
Hill, Gregory
Hall, Muriel
Morse, Bryan
Polozov, Yury
Schultz, Kris
Soucy, Timothy
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Guzofski, James
Murray, Kate
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Pearson, Mark

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Gilman, Julie
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Maggiore, Jim

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Guthrie, Joseph
Janigian, John
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer

Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Scherr, Buzz
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Ward, Gerald

Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Selby, Donald
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weinstein, Toni

McDonnell, Valerie
Meuse, David
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Simpson, Alexis
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

McGrath, Linda
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sorensen, Carrie
Sweeney, Joe
Turer, Eric
MacDonald, Wayne
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
DeRoy, Susan
Howard, Heath
Kaczynski, Thomas
Potenza, Kelley
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Farrington, Samuel
Harrington, Michael
Larochelle, John
Hall, Robley
Wade, Alice

Burnham, Claudine
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Schmidt, Peter
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael
Spilsbury, Walter

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 27

CARROLL

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick

Gruber, James

GRAFTON

Baldwin, Heather
Lucas, Janet

Bolton, Bill
Rockmore, Ellen

Cormen, Thomas

Fellows, Sallie

HILLSBOROUGH

Hartnett, Tim

Staub, Kathy

Swanson, Dale

Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Gallager, Eric

Payeur, Stephanie

Schamberg, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica
Read, Ellen

Edgar, Michael

Cahill, Michael

Muns, Chris

STRAFFORD

Burton, Wayne
Levesque, Cassandra

Gilmore, Gary
Miller, Seth

Horrigan, Timothy

LaMontagne, Jessica

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 591-FN, expanding hours for keno gaming on weekends. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mary Ford for Ways and Means. This bill increases the hours of gaming on Saturdays and Sundays to 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. (from 11 a.m. previously), a total of six additional hours. Most sales will occur at convenience and grocery stores. The Lottery Commission anticipates a 1.5% increase in topline sales for an additional \$334,364 in revenue for New Hampshire by FY 27. Vote 16-4.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 596-FN, relative to reporting requirements for entities that collect meals and rooms taxes. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Cyril Aures for the Majority of Ways and Means. It is the majority opinion that this bill would place an undue burden on New Hampshire resources including staff and technology support to substantially change the way these taxes are currently collected and reported. Additionally, this bill would add costs to businesses to have to segregate revenue received per town. Further, small towns with less than 10 facilities would continue to receive no information due to record confidentiality regulations. Vote 16-4.

Rep. Susan Almy for the Minority of Ways and Means. This bill is part of a series trying to resolve the underfunding of the urban hubs and cities that provide services and facilities to the towns surrounding them and have to absorb the cost of it in their higher property taxes. Hubs typically have double or triple the police and fire, EMT, planning, and road repair costs per capita. Something must be done, and this bill is not the answer, as it leads to a shift in municipal aid away from the bedroom communities. The minority would have preferred a retain motion to allow study of options in-committee. The minority amendment instead requests a study committee of representatives from both groups to seek solutions.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Majority committee report was adopted.

HB 187-FN, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child. **OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Cassandra Levesque for Children and Family Law. The committee found there is a need for this bill after hearing testimony. This bill will allow for parents/guardians that are seeking a restraining order on behalf of the minor to do so without any difficulties or having to re-traumatize the child. We, as a committee, understand that not every child is able to do so on their own, so having a parent/guardian looking after their best interest, this bill will help families who are impacted the most. The committee voted unanimously for this legislation, seeing the need for this bill. This would allow protections against abuse/neglect from outside the household/immediate family. Vote 14-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.
Committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 143, relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for the Majority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill is correcting the lack of due process for those receiving a no trespass order from public property. We heard from those testifying that the ability to issue a no trespass order is certainly warranted in many situations and while a locality or school has the freedom to issue one, a person receiving one isn't given due process to have it removed. The lack of due process is a violation of an individual's right to access public spaces, businesses, or housing. Absent due process, property owners, law enforcement, localities, and schools are able to issue no trespass orders based on bias, retaliation, or misunderstanding rather than a legitimate concern of safety. The amendment that replaces the original bill provides a fair and clear process allowing for individuals receiving a no trespass order to understand why it was issued, challenge the validity, and present their case holding themselves and the issuers(s) accountable. The individual receiving the no trespass order will have the right to a hearing by written request, which must be received no later than 20 days from the issuance of the order and providing the hearing must be held no later than 20 days of receiving the request. Additionally, it allows for a property owner to extend a no trespass order up to one year if an individual is receiving subsequent no trespass orders. Vote 10-5.

Rep. David Meuse for the Minority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While the minority feels that placing additional guardrails around the process of issuing and appealing no trespass orders in public buildings has merit, this bill goes too far. As written, it has the potential to endanger library staff, members of the public, and others who work in or utilize public buildings. It also places burdensome requirements on local school boards, select boards, and public libraries. While we are not opposed to respondents of no trespass orders being provided with notice of the duration of the order, specifying the property or properties it applies to, and providing notice of the right to appeal and information about the appeal process, the bill goes beyond this. For a no trespass order even to be issued, it requires approval from the governing body responsible for the property. It should be noted that many of these boards may have only one regular meeting per month, potentially necessitating additional meetings for people who are mostly volunteers. Moreover, a 2/3 supermajority vote, rather than a simple majority vote, of the board is also required to issue or to extend an order. During the hearing on the bill, we heard testimony from numerous public library board members that these requirements would make it much more difficult to remove people in a timely way who are engaging in disruptive behavior, including assaults on other visitors, vandalizing property, or being under the influence and/or using alcohol and illicit drugs. This bill clearly needs more work.

Majority Amendment (0408h)

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

1 Short Title. This act may be cited to and known as the "No Trespass Orders on Public Property Act."

2 New Section; Criminal Trespass; Order Against Trespass on Public Property. Amend RSA 635 by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

635:2-a Order Against Trespass on Public Property.

I.(a) Any no trespass order (NTO) issued to a person which commands such person to leave or not to enter any public property, including, but not limited to, any municipal or school property, shall be written and shall include the following information:

(1) The date of issuance;
 (2) The specific public property to which the order applies;
 (3) A clear explanation of the reason for the NTO;
 (4) The duration of the NTO, not to exceed 90 days;
 (5) A statement informing the individual of the right to request a hearing, and if he or she requests a hearing, the right to appear at a hearing to contest the NTO;
 (6) Instructions on how to request a hearing; and
 (7) A statement informing the individual of his or her right to ultimately appeal the order to the superior court following the hearing.

(b) An individual issued an NTO shall have the right to a hearing to contest the NTO upon written request. Any request for a hearing shall be in writing and requested no later than 20 days from the issuance of the NTO. The hearing shall be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 20 calendar days from the date of the written request. If a hearing date is not held within 20 calendar days of the written request, the NTO shall be automatically vacated, and if the governing body wishes to reissue the NTO, a supplemental NTO shall be delivered to the person and include the date of the scheduled hearing.

II.(a) If requested, the governing body responsible for the public property shall hold the hearing required under paragraph I to review the NTO. The individual who has received the NTO shall be notified of his or her right to appear and present his or her case.

(b) After the hearing, the governing body shall issue a written decision to the individual, which shall include:

(1) Whether the NTO will be extended for up to 90 days from the date of issuance, remain as originally issued, or rescinded; and

(2) The individual shall be informed of his or her right to appeal the decision to the superior court.

(c) If an individual receives a subsequent NTO for the same property within 2 years of a previous violation, the governing body may extend the NTO for up to one year.

III. If an NTO was originally issued for fewer than 90 days and the responsible governing body wishes to extend it to 90 days, they may only do so by:

(a) A vote pursuant to paragraph V taken at a hearing held pursuant to paragraph II.

(b) By issuing a supplemental NTO that includes the information required by subparagraph I(a), including the right to an additional hearing.

IV. If an NTO is sought to be extended beyond the 90-day period, the responsible governing body shall initiate proceedings to seek a restraining order against the individual. A restraining order shall be pursued in cases where a longer-term prohibition from the property is deemed necessary.

V. NTOs shall require approval from the governing body to be issued or extended. Approval shall be by a supermajority of a minimum of 2/3 of the governing body, unless otherwise specified by local or school regulations. Governing body approval shall not be required for such an order when a court order restraining a person from entering the public property has been issued to the person and remains in effect.

VI. Any NTOs that are in effect for more than 90 days on the effective date of this section shall be rescinded automatically. Any individual subject to such an NTO shall be notified of the rescindment in writing.

VII. Any individual issued an NTO has the right to appeal the decision to the superior court, as specified in subparagraph II(b)(2). Any appeal shall be filed within 30 days of the written notice of the decision.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This law establishes the process for issuing, extending, and appealing no trespass orders for public properties, including but not limited to municipal and school properties. This bill further establishes procedural safeguards for individuals affected by these orders, including the right to a hearing and appeal.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. Meuse offered floor amendment (0774h).

Floor Amendment (0774h)

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

1 Short Title. This act may be cited to and known as the "No Trespass Orders on Public Property Act."

2 New Section; Criminal Trespass; Order Against Trespass on Public Property. Amend RSA 635 by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

635:2-a Order Against Trespass on Public Property.

I.(a) Any no trespass order (NTO) issued to a person which commands such person to leave or not to enter any public property, including, but not limited to, any municipal or school property, shall be written and shall include the following information:

- (1) The date of issuance;
- (2) The specific public property to which the order applies;
- (3) A clear explanation of the reason for the NTO;
- (4) The duration of the NTO, not to exceed 90 days;
- (5) A statement informing the individual of the right to request a hearing, and if he or she requests a hearing, the right to appear at a hearing to contest the NTO;
- (6) Instructions on how to request a hearing; and
- (7) A statement informing the individual of his or her right to ultimately appeal the order to the superior court following the hearing.

(b) An individual issued an NTO shall have the right to a hearing to contest the NTO upon written request. Any request for a hearing shall be in writing and requested no later than 20 days from the issuance of the NTO. The hearing shall be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 20 calendar days from the date of the written request. If a hearing date is not held within 20 calendar days of the written request, the NTO shall be automatically vacated, and if the governing body wishes to reissue the NTO, a supplemental NTO shall be delivered to the person and include the date of the scheduled hearing.

II.(a) If requested, the governing body responsible for the public property shall hold the hearing required under paragraph I to review the NTO. The individual who has received the NTO shall be notified of his or her right to appear and present his or her case.

(b) After the hearing, the governing body shall issue a written decision to the individual, which shall include:

(1) Whether the NTO will be extended for up to 90 days from the date of issuance, remain as originally issued, or rescinded; and

(2) The individual shall be informed of his or her right to appeal the decision to the superior court.

(c) If an individual receives a subsequent NTO for the same property within 2 years of a previous violation, the governing body may extend the NTO for up to one year.

III. If an NTO was originally issued for fewer than 90 days and the responsible governing body wishes to extend it to 90 days, they may only do so by:

(a) A vote pursuant to paragraph V taken at a hearing held pursuant to paragraph II.

(b) By issuing a supplemental NTO that includes the information required by subparagraph I(a), including the right to an additional hearing.

IV. If an NTO is sought to be extended beyond the 90-day period, the responsible governing body shall initiate proceedings to seek a restraining order against the individual. A restraining order shall be pursued in cases where a longer-term prohibition from the property is deemed necessary.

V. NTOs shall require approval from the governing body to be extended. Approval shall be by a majority of the governing body, unless otherwise specified by local or school regulations. Governing body approval shall not be required for such an order when a court order restraining a person from entering the public property has been issued to the person and remains in effect.

VI. Any NTOs that are in effect for more than 90 days on the effective date of this section shall be rescinded automatically. Any individual subject to such an NTO shall be notified of the rescindment in writing.

VII. Any individual issued an NTO has the right to appeal the decision to the superior court, as specified in subparagraph II(b)(2). Any appeal shall be filed within 30 days of the written notice of the decision.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This law establishes the process for issuing, extending, and appealing no trespass orders for public properties, including but not limited to municipal and school properties.

This bill further establishes procedural safeguards for individuals affected by these orders, including the right to a hearing and appeal.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0774h).

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0774h) was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

On a division vote, with 368 members having voted in the affirmative, and 4 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 245-FN, establishing the speed enforcement and awareness fund and providing for grants to municipal law enforcement for speed enforcement and speed awareness traffic equipment. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matt Sabourin dit Choinière for the Majority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill creates a fund directly tied to specific forms of traffic violations. This type of fund should be avoided as funds for specific crimes threaten to establish the precedence of policing for profit. Funds needed should instead come out of the general fund. Vote 10-5.

Rep. Buzz Scherr for the Minority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill assists police departments in New Hampshire with the issue about which they get the most complaints: speeding. It provides funds for police departments to buy roadside equipment that will tell drivers how fast they are going and to slow down. Particularly for smaller departments, this is valuable equipment that is currently out of reach cost wise.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Scherr spoke against.

Rep. Rhodes spoke in favor.

Rep. Berry requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 225 - NAYS 147

YEAS - 225

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan
Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Murphy, Denis
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Faulkner, Barry
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Georges, Mary
Herbert, Christopher
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Ryan, Linda
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry
Jack, Martin
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Roesener, James
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Leavitt, John
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Schultz, Kris
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Cambrils, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
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SULLIVAN

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Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 147

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
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Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 640-FN, relative to the transparency of federal agency operations within New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matt Sabourin dit Choinière for the Majority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill promotes government transparency by requiring the New Hampshire Attorney General to request quarterly activity reports from the various federal agencies operating in the State of New Hampshire by adding a new subdivision of RSA 7. If enacted, this would provide for a single point of reference for which granite staters could research federal activities that does not currently exist. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Ray Newman for the Minority of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill has good intentions to improve transparency and make information more available to the public. However, a similar bill was killed in the Senate in 2022 because the state cannot compel the federal government to release this kind of information, and the bill was too expensive. The fiscal note this year says this bill would require three new staff positions at a cost of over \$200,000. According to testimony, these requests would require providing 10 data points, including the number of federal facilities and staff in the state; the federal warrants served, and the federal arrests and deportations accomplished. Potentially, 72 agencies would have to be contacted. Since the provision of this information is strictly voluntary, cooperation by these agencies is questionable as some of this data may not be collected and reported by these agencies. If this bill were to become law and these agencies do not cooperate, the Attorney General would still have to build a website, hire staff, and continue to make these requests quarterly. Given these facts, this bill should be deemed inexpedient to legislate until it becomes less costly and more efficient.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Ray Newman spoke against.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 187 members having voted in the affirmative, and 183 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE MESSAGE

REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS

HB 399, establishing a commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act. (Amendment printed SJ 3/6/25)

Rep. Alexander moved that the House concur and spoke in favor.

Motion was adopted.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 153-FN**, establishing a committee to study adding statewide resources to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 484, relative to reallocation or repurposing of career and technical education classroom space by local school districts. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for the Majority of Education Funding. This bill, as amended, provides that if the space within a career and technical education (CTE) facility has been used by the career and technical education center exclusively for 20 years, such space may be repurposed to the district at no cost. The bill, as amended, will allow local school districts, such as the Milford CTE center, to move forward with their proposed CTE project. Each biennium, two centers are designated at the state level for CTE renovation support funding. The Milford High School and Applied Technology Center project did receive state renovation approval, but the initial state project renovation amount of \$28 million has been reduced. This funding reduction has resulted in Milford's need to reduce the project in size and scope; therefore, repurposing current space. The project includes a motorsports program, facility/classroom renovations, and replacing outdated CTE equipment. In addition to state support and local funds, several Milford businesses and non-profit organizations have pledged support for the renovation project through in-kind donations of equipment and more. Twenty-one Milford businesses have written letters of support for the project; many of which host students for work-based learning. The use of shared space in a high school is a local control matter. Vote 16-2.

Rep. Tracy Bricchi for the Minority of Education Funding. Currently, a study committee is meeting to look at this issue and other issues pertaining to career and technical education. This committee will be issuing a report in May. It would be premature to act on this bill before receiving the report.

Majority Amendment (0358h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Construction or Renovation of Regional Career and Technical Education Centers. Amend RSA 188-E:3, II to read as follows:

II. Upon completion, the constructed or renovated facility shall become the property of the school district or public academy, for use by the career and technical education center exclusively, ***provided that if space within the facility has been used by the career and technical education center exclusively for at least 20 years such space may be repurposed by the district at no cost.*** Provision of the site, parking, and other related areas shall be the responsibility of the local community. Site work, including but not limited to cut and fill work, compaction, demolition, relocation of utilities, relocation of roadways and sidewalks, and similar work within an area extending to one foot beyond the outside edge of the exterior walls of the building, shall be eligible for grants under paragraph I. Nothing shall prohibit the inclusion of the site and related facilities which are not funded as part of construction cost by the state under this chapter from being included in a regular building aid grant application of the district as provided in RSA 198:15-b. However, no school district which receives any funding under this chapter shall be eligible to receive school building aid grants under RSA 198:15-b for the same project. Maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the constructed or renovated facility, including all classroom and laboratory spaces, shall be the responsibility of the school district or public academy, as the case may be.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 515, repealing the chartered public school eligibility for state school building aid. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the Majority of Education Funding. The majority of the committee strongly recommends Inexpedient to Legislate for this bill, since charter schools are public schools, and we should not treat them differently in regard to school building aid. Treating thousands of charter school students as second-class citizens is bad policy - there is no rational reason to deny or discriminate against any public school student or public school facility. Charter schools were made eligible for school building aid less than a year ago, when HB 354 was signed into law on June 14, 2024 after a 190-177 House vote and a Senate voice vote. The bill fixed a glaring inconsistency between RSA 198:15-b, (I)(3) which specified the amount of aid charter schools were eligible to receive and a now repealed section of RSA 194-B:11, VII that prohibited it. Charter schools that own their buildings still need to apply for state building aid, just like public schools do. Their grant payments are spread over the loan term (typically 20 years or longer), and no more than 10% shall be disbursed until the construction and verification of final cost is complete. Concerns expressed in committee over what happens if a charter school ceases to operate are fully addressed by the payment schedule described above and by the requirement that any charter school must have its asset disposition plan approved by the State Board of Education to become eligible for state building aid. Since 2018, New Hampshire has already allocated over \$52 million in public school infrastructure funds to enhance student safety and security in all public schools including charters - we need to continue treating all our public schools equally under the law. All public school students, regardless of enrollment in an approved district school or an approved public charter deserve the same, equal opportunity to learn in a sound learning environment. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Hope Damon for the Minority of Education Funding. The minority supports this bill to remove charter school eligibility for building aid. While termed public schools, charters have very different governance and operations. Charters do not have elected boards and operate more like private nonprofit corporations. Six New Hampshire charter schools closed in the last seven years, 31 are operating. Statute regarding dissolution of charter schools doesn't adequately address whether any funds are returned to the state. Last year, the Department of Education approved 17 public (non-charter) public building projects but was only able to fund three.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

On a division vote, with 212 members having voted in the affirmative, and 159 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 583-FN-L, relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the Majority of Education Funding. This bill would require the Department of Education to seek participation in direct certification with Medicaid. The bill supporters speak of addressing

student hunger, but the estimated cost to the state of providing meals to newly eligible students, \$115,543, would be a rounding error compared to the impact on the Education Trust Fund, estimated by last term's Committee to Study SNAP and Medicaid Changes on Free or Reduced Meals in State Education Aid Programs to be a budget busting \$190 million, and by the bill's fiscal note to be around \$100 million over a biennium. Last term's budget already increased education spending by \$193 million, with most of the funding increase being targeted towards towns dealing with poverty. The funds needed for the education of economically disadvantaged children are already in the state budget. Adopting this bill without changing the current education funding formula is a recipe for the kind of excessive spending that New Hampshire cannot afford. Despite repeated requests for information made both last term and this year, no testimony was provided by anyone about specific instances of kids being denied food or specific school districts denying food to students based on their inability to pay, making it impossible to substantiate a need for this bill. It is also unclear how many of the estimated 10,000 students that may be eligible for this program attend public schools, or how many of their parents would want their children enrolled in the Free and Reduced Price Meals program. School districts already work hard to ensure that all parents are aware of the Free and Reduced Price Meals program and of how the application process works, making it unlikely that this bill would have the type of impact its supporters suggest it would. Vote 10-8. Rep. David Luneau for the Minority of Education Funding. This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to seek participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price meals for students in public kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools. The DOE estimates that more than 10,000 students from low-income backgrounds who are currently enrolled in Medicaid do not complete the necessary paperwork to qualify for a free or reduced-price meal. Participation in this program, already utilized in 43 states, would be voluntary. The Department of Health and Human Services confirmed the Medicaid application process would support a provision to opt out of the school meal program. Passing this bill will 1) add as many as 10,000 students from low-income families access to the free and reduced-price school meals program, saving these families on average \$1,000 in out-of-pocket costs for each student, 2) provide the department with an accurate count of eligible students and an additional \$23 million per year in state school base funding plus significant additional extraordinary needs grants for municipalities with low property wealth per low-income student, and 3) result in increased federal grants to schools and child care scholarships. An amendment for costs to be budget neutral this biennium was discussed. The minority believes this bill is good for students, families, and taxpayers.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Osborne moved that **HB 583-FN-L**, relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals, be laid on the table.

Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 196 - NAYS 174

YEAS - 196

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Paternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis

Creighton, James
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 174

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

Coker, Matthew

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan

Beauchemin, Paige
Bouchard, Donald
Kelley, Diane
Davis, Fred

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary

Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Fox, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Kuttab, Katelyn
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Walsh, Lilli
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Perez, Kristine
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 770-FN, relative to establishing a program to earn tuition credits for state of New Hampshire higher education institutions through community service. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Raymond Peeples for the Majority of Education Funding. This bill would establish a program for eligible high school students to earn tuition credits at state higher education institutions through community service and establish a dedicated fund for the purpose of the program. The creation of this program and the associated overhead and costs would present a burden in what already is an extremely tight budget year. As the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue would be required to adopt rules and approve all volunteer sites, identifying those service projects that would be required, a new statewide database and the manpower to make these decisions and track them would be necessary. The result would be the ongoing cost to administer the program, as well as the loss of revenue to the institutions by awarding credits for service hours. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Wayne Burton for the Minority of Education Funding. This bill creates a tuition credit program for students attending the state's community colleges and universities. The bill was developed by high school students to heighten appreciation for working in community service organizations. Emerging research on service-learning validates a long-standing philosophy that integrating academics and community service delivers greater student leadership development, enriched learning, and improved academic performance. This program would encourage students to live and work in the state after graduation. The fiscal note indicates that for the Community College System of New Hampshire, the program could result in an indeterminable increase in tuition revenue. The University System of New Hampshire states it is possible that the program could attract more New Hampshire public high school grads to enroll in USNH institutions, which could grow enrollment and increase net revenue. The minority believes this bill is a triple win for students to earn tuition credits at our public higher education institutions, avoid excessive debt, and gain appreciation to undertake volunteer work later in life.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Burton spoke against.

Rep. Peeples spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 206 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 771-FN, relative to funding for open enrollment schools. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Rick Ladd for the Majority of Education Funding. Open enrollment schools are already established and defined in RSA Chapter 194-D. An open enrollment school is defined as any public school which, in addition to providing educational services to pupils residing within its attendance area or district, chooses to accept pupils from other attendance areas within its district and from outside its district. This bill changes how funding for open enrollment schools is sent and received and also requires school districts to establish a line item in their budgets that reflects expenditures for open enrollment tuition costs. The Prospect Mountain School District currently operates the state's only open enrollment school, accepting students from outside the district's catchment area, which includes Alton and Barnstead. At this time, Prospect Mountain has 20 students at the school district under the open enrollment program. Current law compels sending districts to pay tuition for students participating in this program. However, school administrators and sending school boards in these districts are reluctant to pay tuition costs and this places an extreme financial hardship on the Prospect Mountain School District that strives to offer educational opportunity for all enrolled students, both within the district and outside the district. There are three primary reasons that sending districts refuse to pay tuition: (1) lack of clarity about payment responsibility, (2) differing opinions about which districts must or must not adopt the provisions of RSA 194-D, and (3) objections based on a board's authority to enter into other agreements, such as area agreements or tuition agreements with other school districts. This bill clarifies language in the law relating to the first of these points. Further, the bill clarifies financial responsibility of districts by clearly stating sending district or receiving district. Lastly, the bill inserts language that each school district shall establish a line item in their operating budget, on an annual basis, reflecting estimated expenditure for open enrollment school tuition. This is no different from current tuition expenditures when dealing with student placement based upon "best interest" or "manifest education hardship." Parental requests for a change of school assignment due to a manifest education hardship are rarely approved at the local level, even after appeal to the State Board of Education. The open enrollment program is much different, as it provides an enrollment opportunity at the receiving school that may not be available at the sending school. It is particularly difficult to understand why sending districts object to enabling parents to make another educational choice that better serves their child; especially, when there is a 20% savings compared to other tuition or area agreement programs. Open enrollment keeps public dollars in public schools. This program allows students to take advantage of programming offered in a neighboring school that may not be offered in the student's resident school. As stated by the superintendent of schools at Prospect Mountain, "I welcome any New Hampshire family to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses and decide for themselves where their children can be best served." Vote 10-8.

Rep. David Luneau for the Minority of Education Funding. This bill changes how funding for open enrollment schools is sent and received. It requires school districts to establish a line item in their operating budgets that reflects expenditures for open enrollment tuition costs. All school districts would need to budget tuition to send students to schools outside their district. The tuition would be set at 80% of the average per pupil cost for the student's home district. The open-enrollment school district and their taxpayers would fund the difference. This bill requires local taxpayers to subsidize students attending schools in other districts. Given the lack of equitable school funding across the state, the minority believes this will only increase the strain on property taxpayers, widen the disparities between communities, and create further opportunity gaps between neighboring school districts.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Damon spoke against.

Rep. Ladd spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 205 - NAYS 169

YEAS - 205

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 169**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Fox, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 208-FN, relative to certification requirements for school nurses. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Cordelli for the Majority of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, removes the requirement that the Department of Education certify school nurses and states that a license from the New Hampshire Board of Nursing would be the requirement. Local districts would then determine if a licensed nurse applicant met their qualifications to be hired as their school nurse. In addition, certification carries a retirement cost for local districts of approximately 6% above that of a licensed nurse. Given the number of licensed nurses, there could be over \$1 million savings for local districts. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Megan Murray for the Minority of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee supports Inexpedient to Legislate as we feel that the bill, as amended, removes all criteria for a school nurse under RSA 200:29. This bill would take away the assurance of nurses having specific pediatric experience.

Amendment (0338h)

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

1 School Nurses. RSA 200:29 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

200:29 School Nurses. A superintendent may nominate and school board appoint a school nurse to function in the school health program, and provide that nurse with proper facilities and equipment. A school nurse shall be a registered professional nurse currently licensed by the board of nursing in New Hampshire.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows a superintendent and school board to nominate and appoint a school nurse, who must be licensed and registered with the board of nursing.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. Megan Murray spoke against.

Rep. Cordelli spoke in favor.

Rep. Osborne requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 211 - NAYS 163

YEAS - 211

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Paternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory

Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
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Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spillsbury, Walter

NAYS - 163

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
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Wheeler, Jonah

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Hegner, Karen
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Meuse, David
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Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

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Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 589-FN, defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Paul Tudor for the Majority of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. This bill does two things, first it makes it illegal to intentionally leave a wounded or killed animal in the field or forest without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal. Second, it prohibits wildlife killing contests. During testimony we heard from Fish and Game that this was not really a problem in New Hampshire and that they were planning on dealing with it with rules. It was the position of the majority that rules were the best place to deal with these issues. Vote 12-3.

Rep. Loren Foxx for the Minority of Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The minority believes that wanton waste and killing contests are not acceptable hunting practices as outlined in the pillars of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which states that “wildlife must only be killed for a legitimate, non-frivolous purpose.” It is essential that we address these issues for the well-being and conservation of New Hampshire’s outdoors. We agree with this important legislation, which mandates that Fish and Game address the issues through their rule making process.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Schultz moved that **HB 589-FN**, defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 167 members having voted in the affirmative, and 205 in the negative, the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Majority committee report was adopted.

HB 54-FN, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Nagel for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. It is the consensus opinion of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee that the non-profit model for the operation of alternative medical cannabis centers (ATC’s) was well-intentioned but has proven to not work in practice and has been abandoned by all states that have chosen this model except for New Hampshire and Arizona. By forcing ATCs to operate as a non-profit but not allowing them any of the advantages of a non-profit status, they struggle to finance their operations, creating excessive cost that is forced on to the consumer. We heard testimony that most patients cannot or will not afford these high prices. Half of those certified seek other sources including other states, which do not have same quality control or oversight as New Hampshire, or to the streets through black market vendors. This creates an unnecessary public health crisis that merits remediation. By changing to a for-profit model, ATC’s can lower costs for themselves and the consumers. Concerns about a potential take-over by unsavory entities that would put the needs of the bottom line over that of the consumer were addressed as it was noted that all vendors must still be approved by the state and are still subject to state oversight. Furthermore, statute still mandates that more than half of all ATC board members be residents of New Hampshire. Therefore, to maximize access to this important therapeutic modality as well as public health safety, the committee unanimously supports this bill. Vote 18-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 358 - NAYS 14**YEAS - 358
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Cordelli, Glenn
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Buco, Thomas
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita
Hamblen, Joseph
Paternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Qualey, James

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Louis, Darrell
Muirhead, Russell
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Ladd, Rick
McFarlane, Donald
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Beauchemin, Paige
Booras, Efsthia
Colcombe, Riché
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Davis, Fred
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Foxy, Loren
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Mary
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Post, Lisa
Prout, Andrew
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Seibert, Christine
Slottje, Jeremy
Suiter, John
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Vail, Suzanne
Warden, Mark

Alexander, Joe
Bergeron, Dan
Bouchard, Donald
Cole, Brian
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Fedolfi, Jim
Gagne, Larry
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Kesselring, Steven
Labrie, Brian
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Preece, David
Newman, Ray
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Seidel, Sheila
Sofikitis, Catherine
Swanson, Dale
Mannion, Tim
Veilleux, Daniel
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Presa, Adam
Raymond, Heather
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Sheehan, Vanessa
Spier, Carry
Telerski, Laura
Mannion, Tom
Dolan, William
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Erf, Keith
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Kofalt, Jim
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Panek, Sandra
Plamondon, Marc
Proulx, Mark
Reinfurt, Sherri
Ryan, Linda
Scully, Kevin
Sirois, Shane
Staub, Kathy
Tellez, Trinidad
Ulery, Jordan
Thomas, Wendy
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Cambilis, Jose
Devoid, Ricky

Aylward, Deborah
Caplan, Tony
Kelly, Eileen

Bricchi, Tracy
Colby, Eleana
Ebel, Karen

McGuire, Carol
McGuire, Dan
Gibbs, Merry

Gonzalez, Ernesto
Leavitt, John
Moffett, Michael
Pitaro, Matthew
Roesener, James
Schultz, Kris
Thibault, James

Hicks, Matthew
Luneau, David
Morse, Bryan
Plante, Raymond
Boyd, Stephen
Seaworth, Brian
Wallner, Mary Jane

Hill, Gregory
MacKay, James
Newsom, James
Polozov, Yuri
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim
Wood, Clayton

Lane, Connie
Mehegan, Peter
Payeur, Stephanie
Richards, Beth
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Dunn, Ron
Ford, Mary
Guzowski, James
Murray, Kate
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Melvin, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Scherr, Buzz
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weinstein, Toni

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Selby, Donald
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Layon, Erica
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
McGrath, Linda
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Simpson, Alexis
Summers, James
Turer, Eric
MacDonald, Wayne
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Foote, Charles
Guthrie, Joseph
Janigian, John
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Muns, Chris
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sorensen, Carrie
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
DeLemus, Susan
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
DeRoy, Susan
Granger, Michael
Johnson, Erik
Levesque, Cassandra
Hall, Robley
Wade, Alice

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Harrington, Michael
Kaczynski, Thomas
Smith, Marjorie
Schmidt, Peter
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 14 HILLSBOROUGH

Barbour, Liz

Daniels, Gary

Gould, Linda

MERRIMACK

Gallager, Eric

Hall, Muriel

See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

DeSimone, Debra
Osborne, Jason

Doucette, Fred
Roy, Terry

Litchfield, Melissa
Sweeney, Joe

McDonnell, Valerie

STRAFFORD

Howard, Heath

and the committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 94-FN, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matt Drew for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee found that while circumcision is often desired by parents for personal or religious reasons, it is not medically necessary and carries a significant risk of permanent, life-altering complications. Because of that, the state should not be in the business of paying for it or for the complications that might arise from the procedure. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. There are many compelling reasons to agree with the majority that male circumcision of newborn babies should not be rou-

time. What was once a cultural norm and standard medical practice is no longer accepted as such, though the majority of male babies still undergo circumcision in New Hampshire. We heard testimony from men who felt traumatized by the experience. Yet there is good reason to believe there is a vast silent majority who are not traumatized by circumcision as it is a common procedure. Members of the minority believe legislatures should not impose bans on specific medical procedures; these decisions are best left to medical providers and patients. Under current law, no parents are required to agree to circumcision for their newborns, it is a parent's choice. If this bill were to become law, providers will have to ask parents what insurance they have in addition to informing them of their options, and that answer may determine the result. Members of the minority believe this is discriminatory. The minority is in favor of improving both education and informed consent about the practice.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.
Rep. Read offered floor amendment (0786h).

Floor Amendment (0786h)

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

AN ACT relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan and establishing a children's vision screening initiative within the state Medicaid program.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Title. Section 1 of this act shall be known as the "Children's Body Autonomy Act".

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

3 New Section; Children's Vision Screening Initiative. Amend RSA 167 by inserting after section 3-n the following new section:

167:3-m Children's Vision Screening.

I. The department of health and human services shall seek funding for a Medicaid children's vision screening initiative program as part of the department's budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, and each biennium thereafter. The program shall provide reimbursement to optometrists, physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses who provide vision screening services to children between 0 and 6 years of age enrolled in the state Medicaid program. Providers who choose to participate in the program shall complete training approved by the department and submit evidence of program completion to the department, which shall maintain a list of trained providers. Program implementation, including adoption of rules required by paragraph II, and submission of a Medicaid state plan amendment as required by paragraph III, shall be contingent upon sufficient funding. Cost savings resulting from implementation of RSA 167:3-n, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan, shall be used to fund the children's vision screening initiative established in this section.

II. The commissioner of health and human services shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to administration of the children's vision screening initiative, including eligibility criteria, the type and frequency of services covered, reimbursement rates, and provider training requirements. The department also shall develop a list of approved training programs, which shall include, but may not be limited to, those offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Southern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center. Upon implementation of the program, the department shall provide, upon request, a list of qualified providers participating in the state Medicaid program to primary care providers in the vision screening initiative.

III. The department shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the purpose of establishing the children's vision screening initiative.

IV. The commissioner of health and human services, or designee, shall report annually to the health and human services oversight committee established in RSA 126-A:13 about the children's vision screening initiative.

4 New Paragraph; Child Care Resource and Referral Services. Amend RSA 170-E:5-a by inserting after paragraph XII the following new paragraph:

XIII. Provide access to annual vision screening for children under age 6.

5 New Section; Vision Screening of Pupils. Amend RSA 200 by inserting after section 32 the following new section:

200:32-a Vision Screening of Pupils. There shall be a vision screening by a licensed optometrist, physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse of each child prior to or upon first entry into the public school system and thereafter as often as deemed necessary by the local school authority. The result of the child's vision screening shall be presented to the local school officials on a form provided by the local school authorities. No vision screening examination shall be required of a child whose parent or guardian objects thereto in writing on the grounds that such vision screening examination is contrary to the child's religious tenets and teachings. A student is not required to submit to any vision screening required by this section if the parent or guardian submits a statement that the student received a comprehensive eye and vision examination in the last 12 months or if the student has a current diagnosis of permanent vision loss.

6 New Section; Special Vision Screening. Amend RSA 200 by inserting after section 200:34 the following new section:

200:34-a Special Vision Screening. Every child not reading at grade level by third grade, or at the request of their teacher shall be referred by the school physician or school administrator to the parents or guardian of said child for examination, and evaluation by a licensed optometrist, physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse and if said parents fail or neglect to have said child so examined and fail to present the recommendations from said examiner within a reasonable period after the referral by the school to said parents, then said child may be examined by the school physician, or other qualified personnel.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that the state Medicaid plan shall not include circumcision unless the child has a specific diagnosis for which the procedure is determined to be medically necessary. The bill also establishes a children's vision screening initiative administered by the department of health and human services and directs the department to seek a Medicaid state plan amendment for the purpose of establishing the children's vision screening initiative.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0786h).

Rep. Read spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0786h) failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Reps. Nagel and Berch spoke against.

Rep. Soti spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 184 - NAYS 183

YEAS - 184

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Parshall, Lucius

Karasinski, Sly
Qualey, James

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Swanson, Dale
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Davis, Fred
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Sirois, Shane
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Georges, Mary
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Caplan, Tony
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yuri
Soucy, Timothy

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
See, Alvin
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Vose, Michael

Mannion, Dennis
Doucette, Fred
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
MacDonald, Wayne

Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Love, David
McMahon, Charles
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Smith, Geoffrey
Malone, Amy

DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeRoy, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Rollins, Skip

Grant, George
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

Aron, Michael

NAYS - 183**BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike

Freeman, Lisa

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Belcher, Mike
Paige, David

Buco, Thomas
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Flanagan, Jack
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Gould, Linda
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Preece, David
Ryan, Linda
Seidel, Sheila
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efsthathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie

Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas

MacKay, James
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris

Morse, Bryan
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
de Vries, Erica
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Sorensen, Carrie
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

Ball, Lorie
Donnelly, Tanya
Grote, Jaci
Miner, Laurence
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Vallone, Mark

Bennett, Cindy
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bridle, Nicholas
Foote, Charles
Murray, Kate
Lundgren, David
Maggiore, Jim
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Simpson, Alexis
Dolan, Tom
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Hemingway, Wayne

Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

The House recessed at 12:15 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 771-FN**, relative to funding for open enrollment schools.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 94-FN**, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Granger moved that the debate on **HB 94-FN**, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON 94-FN

Speaker Steven Smith: The bill is on second reading and open to amendment. Rep. Read is recognized to speak on her amendment.

Representative Read: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I'm going to say what I said a year ago in so far as that it will be a surprise to absolutely no one who knows me or even knows of me that I am a huge, vocal, passionate supporter of socialized medicine, of healthcare as a human right, of Medicare for all. But much of the opposition to the underlying bill here is the perception that it's an attack on Medicaid, an attack on medical coverage for the poorest of the poor for desperately needed medical services. So, this amendment makes the Medicaid question a non-issue because it moves dollar for dollar the savings that the department will receive in not covering non therapeutic neonatal circumcision to a vision screening, a pediatric vision screening program that almost every other state has and that has had broad support in this chamber for several years. So, I want to talk about why moving that coverage from one procedure to another or to another program is appropriate. Non therapeutic neonatal circumcision is not considered medically necessary by any medical organization in the world, including this country, including this state. No medical organization in the world considers it medically necessary. You understand that, right? Because 80% of the world is not circumcised by default and we don't circumcise any male mammal. We don't circumcise horses, dogs, cats, sheep, goats and none of them seem to have widespread problems. In fact, only one in 11,000 adult intact men have a

need for a circumcision later in life. Some in this country, some medical organizations consider neonatal non therapeutic circumcision a preventative measure, but while only one in 11,000 intact men need circumcision later in life, one in 20 people will need an appendectomy, one in 7 will need their tonsils out. We do not remove the appendices of infants because they might need that surgery later. We do not remove the tonsils of infants. We don't remove any healthy tissue from an infant because they might have an infection later in life. On the other hand, one in 6 circumcised infants experience pain and excessive bleeding, one in 20 experience a serious infection and many thousands experience, like the cause of this bill going in last year, lifelong debilitating conditions such as urinary problems, recurring infections, disfigurement and sexual dysfunction and in this country where 1.4 billion male babies are circumcised, about 100 little boys, one day old infants, end up dying from complications because of a circumcision. So, while those organizations may say there are some, we think, maybe benefits and perhaps the benefits might outweigh the risks, I would encourage people to ask the parents of those 100 baby boys who died whether the benefits outweigh the risk or ask the adult men who have permanent disfigurement and dysfunction whether the benefits outweigh the risks. It is the only non reconstructive, non therapeutic cosmetic procedure that we cover with taxpayer dollars. I know that culturally it's hard to move past the things that we have always considered to be normal. The expectation that we know how to predict the world helps us feel in control of the world that is not controllable. But think of this, the exact analogous procedure in a female child, the removal of the clitoral hood, is not paid for by taxpayer dollars. It is not covered under any kind of insurance. It is actually illegal, and you will be sent to prison because on a logical level, when we get beyond what's comfortable and normal and culturally acceptable, on a logical level, we know that the genital cutting of a tiny baby infant, one day old or a few hours old is wrong. We know that. So, although I passionately support single payer healthcare, I don't support this coverage anymore than I would support any other cosmetic procedure on an 8-hour old infant or anymore than I would support any procedure that could harm a baby. Surgery on a tiny piece of healthy flesh for no other reason than cultural expectation. However, I hope while it may be controversial whether there is medical benefits to it or not, I hope it's not controversial that vision is legitimate medical healthcare. In fact, all those organizations that don't think that non therapeutic neonatal circumcision is medically necessary, they think that vision care is legitimate healthcare. So, this amendment moves those savings, dollar for dollar, into a pediatric vision screening program which has been before this House multiple times, which most states have. The vast majority of states have Medicaid pay for a pediatric vision screening program because children don't know that their vision is messed up because it's the only vision they ever had so they don't realize that not seeing the blackboard or the screen is not normal. So, they don't self report that they have vision problems. As I said, most states have this. This same exact language in this amendment is the bill from the last term. It was retained in 2023. It was interim studied in 2024. DHHS was fine with it. They said that the money was fairly small. It turns out miraculously about the same amount that they will save from circumcision, which is about \$100,000 or less. My side of the chamber was unanimously in support of this vision screening program the last two years. The other side was split, but there was broad support. So, passing this amendment will remove the question of whether or not it's about Medicaid and attacking social services and attacking services for the poor and make it purely what the underlying bill is about, circumcision. So, please support the amendment.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the adoption of floor amendment (0768h). Are you ready for the question? All those in favor, say Aye; those opposed, Nay. The motion fails. Now on the main motion of Ought to Pass. Rep. Nagel is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Nagel: Thank you, Mister Chairman. I'd like to begin by thanking all of the people that were involved in this discussion. Multiple stakeholders over hours and hours both in session and beyond and it was really interesting and made me think a lot and that's an important thing. Therein lies the problem with this bill. This is an incredibly complex issue and that's why I can't support the Ought to Pass motion. Basically, what it does is it reduces a very complex biopsychosocial issue to a purely biomedical one. That overly reduction is non patient centered thinking which is a trend we are trying to get away from in healthcare both in medical education and in public policy. I'm going to share an illustrative personal story because this is a really important medical concept. No, I'm not going to talk to you about my circumcision. For 20 years, I raced all over the country and even all over the world. It was great. I thought I would do it forever. Then all of a sudden, I was training once, and I felt my knee pop and I knew I tore cartilage. You know, I knew what it was and I went to see my friend who is an orthopedic surgeon, and he immediately looked at me and said you need surgery. I looked at him and I said you're treating me as a knee and not as a person. I immediately thought of the millions of different biological, psychological, social functional issues that played a role in my making a complex medical decision. I know I don't look like a physical wreck, but I also have a herniated disc. I also have carpal tunnel in both hands and both my knees are bad, and I've chosen to not have surgery, and I guarantee you that most people I raced with would have chosen to have surgery and I bet a lot of you out there would have chosen the same. What all these things have in common with circumcision is that they are all elective and they all require a whole person patient centered analysis. Different people make different

choices. For those who choose surgery, interesting, Medicaid covers all of those elective things. So, circumcision has been around for a long time. I did my research and the first recorded one I could come up with was 4,000 years ago. Since that timeframe there has been billions, billions of circumcisions performed on males. I tried to find why. There is no unifying reason why. Every culture has a different reason, but in each of these cultures, it is really important to them. The magnitude of this suggests that we, as a people, find value in circumcision for a variety of reasons. In the United States, 70% of males now are circumcised. Their satisfaction rate is 90%. Contrast that with uncircumcised males who only have a satisfaction rate of 80% with their status. Interestingly, one study found that 83% of women prefer a male who is circumcised. Says nothing about who is attached to the genital but that is what they said. One of the things that we do know is that if you're going to have this done, the risk benefit ratio favors doing this in the newborn and there is clear evidence for reductions in a variety of things that the previous speaker already alluded to. Complications happen, but they are rare and the severe complications that we were told about are extremely rare. The minute the baby leaves the newborn nursery, that may explain that when Florida enacted a similar ban, they actually found that their Medicaid costs rose. They did not go down, they went up and the reason why is because when you do it later, it is dramatically more expensive. One other thing that I found that was interesting is some people brought the cost issue into this. Does anybody want to guess what the reimbursement to an OB or whomever to do a Medicaid circumcision in this state is? It's actually a little less than \$50, which is not enough to cover costs, and it is most definitely not enough to cover opportunity cost, meaning the time that they could spend doing something else. With that said, I interviewed a couple of OB practices. They all said the same thing. We do it because it is patient choice, and we feel obligated to respect the wishes of our patient. Concluding, circumcision for complicated reasons remains an important part of the American healthcare paradigm. Until there is a major paradigm shift, third party payment payers such as Medicaid should respect the recommendations of the American Academy of Family Physicians and cover this procedure. I would recommend at this time, until that day happens, that we oppose the Ought to Pass motion. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Berch is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Berch: Thank you, Mister Speaker. So, let's talk about circumcision and Medicaid. This is a bill designed to remove circumcision from Medicaid coverage in New Hampshire. Circumcision, like many procedures covered by Medicaid, is considered by the medical profession as beneficial, as recommended, but not mandatory. The professional groups that deal with procedures like circumcision are the American Academy of Pediatrics, not surprising, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Both have issued a policy statement that states that for newborn male circumcision, the health benefits outweigh any risks, and such benefits include prevention of UTIs, penile cancer, and transmission of some sexually transmitted infections such as HPV and HIV. If you want to reduce HPV, a very serious disease in our society today that affects women and men, support circumcision. Complications, unlike what we may have heard earlier, complications are infrequent according to the medical profession. Usually, quite minor and serious complications are very rare. In addition to concluding that newborn male circumcision is a medically beneficial procedure, the medical profession also says, and this is part of both what the academies say, that third party payments are warranted. That means Medicaid. So, question, does or should Medicaid cover beneficial, recommended, but not mandatory procedures? Actually, it's a significant part of what Medicaid does. Now, we all know that Medicaid is state administered, and it varies from state to state so let's talk about what New Hampshire covers that are beneficial but not mandatory like circumcision. Dental care, vision care, chiropractic services, hearing aids, physical therapy, podiatry services, mental health counseling, smoking cessation programs, weight loss programs and bariatric surgery. I could go on with more. So, all of these are in the same category as circumcision. This bill separates out from all of those kinds of programs, only one program, circumcision. It is a recommended procedure. It's a beneficial procedure. There is no medical argument in support of this bill. Let's also talk about the results if this bill passes. We know that circumcisions are performed across the entire spectrum of males in New Hampshire, but it is clearly associated with Jewish and Muslim practice. I am not arguing, and I will say it again, I am not arguing the difference should be paid by the state to the religious or cultural practices of any religion or any group. I am not arguing that. However, I am saying that the passage of this bill that sets circumcision apart from all the other beneficial but not mandatory procedures does send a message. It hangs a sign that says Jews and Muslims are not quite as welcome in New Hampshire as others. Many will not see that sign, but you can be sure that Muslims and Jews will. The Democratic Chair in Cheshire County is a Muslim. We don't usually talk about bills. We do some administrative talk, and he does his work, and I do mine. On this bill, he reached out to me, probably the first bill in five years and asked me to do what could be done to have it defeated. We don't need to pass this bill. It's a miniscule program. The reimbursement, as we heard, is about \$50 per claim. We should not pass this bill. What we need to do is treat our neighbors as we would wish them to treat us and to follow good medical advice. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Soti is recognized to speak in support of the committee report.

Representative Soti: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I'm going to be brief because I know this is a broad and extensive topic. I going to clear up some myths right here and right now of what circumcision is and is not. Circumcision is when 40 to 50% of our erogenous tissue, also known as the foreskin, is cut off from a baby

boy's penis. This is medically not necessary. It cures exactly nothing. This erogenous tissue was put there for a reason. It is there to protect the head of the penis, and it is there to enhance sexual pleasure. 80% of the male population on the planet who are unaltered and intact can attest to this. Some of the myths also are that Christianity adopted circumcision, but it has not. It is a Jewish religious ceremony. It is part of the Covenant.

Speaker Steven Smith: The member will suspend for a minute. There should be one person speaking and he's at the well. Continue.

Representative Soti: It is part of the Jewish Covenant. Abraham was supposed to sacrifice his son, but in the last minute, God said no, instead we will sacrifice some sexual pleasure to bring him closer to God by cutting the penis. Christianity never, or rather, Muslims have this as part of their tradition, but they do not, the time intervals vary when they do it. Christians do not. Saint Paul made it very clear in the first century that circumcision would not be part of Christianity. Probably a great marketing move because I don't think come to Jesus, cut a piece of your penis off would have been a big seller. Next myth is that it's a good old American tradition. It is not. The men pictured on the wall behind me were not circumcised.

Speaker Steven Smith: The House will be in order. We all have to get through it. That's not at the current speaker, the whole thing. Continue please.

Representative Soti: Circumcision didn't become a thing in the US until the late 1800s and it peaked in 1970, and it's been on the decline ever since. It was in the late 1800s when the medicine was more like snake oil than science. Circumcision was promoted as a wonder cure for everything, and we are still wondering what it is curing because all of it has been debunked. It was during this time that it was promoted by puritanical prudish quacks who saw sex as the root of all evil. Circumcision was meant to be painful, and it is. It was meant to diminish sexual pleasure by cutting off an erogenous tissue. They also had some versions for women which included some sort of acid as well. Luckily for women, that never caught on. Which brings us to this bill where I would as the House today why we, the state, are paying to diminish sexual pleasure of poor people. I'll finish there. I will answer questions. I'm totally comfortable in my skin.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question?

Representative Soti: Absolutely.

Speaker Steven Smith: Oh, dear Lord. Rep. Wheeler, you may inquire.

Representative Wheeler: There's a lot of times in this body where I feel like I'm in high school, but none more than when the entire body laughs, laughs, laughs at every time the word penis is mentioned, but that's okay. Thank you, Representative, for taking my question. I was looking into history. I love history. I like to be well informed as I can on these issues and I found a doctor from San Diego who was cited in many medical journals, including Boston's, Maryland's and others. His name is Peter Raymundo. Would you believe, Representative, in his medical journal written in 1894 that was used for quite a long time. He cited circumcision and its benefits, one of them being from our observations and experiences and such case, we feel fully warranted in suggesting the wholesale circumcision of the negro race so as an efficient remedy in preventing the predisposition to discriminate raping. They wanted to use circumcision as a way to circumcise the entire negro race to prevent them from raping white women. Would you believe that was the justification used for circumcision back then? That was in the medical journal.

Representative Soti: Yes, I would. That was one of the quacks that was promoting circumcision back in the late 1800s.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Granger has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on HB 94. Rep. Berch is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Berch: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I know that according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists that circumcision is beneficial surgery and its health benefits outweigh it's risks in that it helps to prevent UTIs, penile cancer and transmission of sexually transmitted infections such as HPV and HIV and that complications are infrequent, generally very minor. And if I know that Medicaid in New Hampshire and elsewhere every day pays for many beneficial but mandatory procedures and that the payment for Medicaid for circumcision is approximately \$50. And I know that the medical profession supports third party payments for circumcision because of its medical benefits. And finally, if I believe that the passage of this bill will make Jews and Muslims feel less welcome in the Granite State, would I press the red button to vote against the OTP so that another motion can be made? Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. McFarlane is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative McFarlane: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that we rightly condemn female genital mutilation as abhorrent, yet some of my honorable colleagues would force taxpayers to fund genital cutting when it happens to boys. And if I know that this bill does not ban circumcision but simply says that the government should keep its hands off where they don't belong. And if I know that routine circumcision has no medical justification and that countries which don't routinely circumcise have lower rates of these infrequent, as the member from Westmoreland puts it, infections and complications, than we do.

And if I know that we Americans can and should make female orgasms greater again. And finally, Mister Speaker, if I know that taxation is theft then would I now vote to cut unnecessary spending in the bud by pressing the green button?

Speaker Steven Smith: The House will be in order. Cooperate. I'm standing between you and your lunches and I'm comfortable. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on HB 94 and this is a roll call vote. If you are in favor, press the red; opposed, press the green. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 184 in the affirmative. The House will be in order. 184 in the affirmative, 183 in the negative, the committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 223, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate within 15 miles of a critical access hospital. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Yury Polozov for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority believes this bill will address the decline in medical access and the high cost of medical care in New Hampshire. It achieves this by exempting ambulatory surgical centers, emergency medical care centers, birthing centers, drop-in or walk-in care centers, dialysis centers, and special health care services from the critical access hospital exclusionary zone restrictions. This will facilitate better synergy between hospitals and future medical centers located nearby, while still maintaining protection against new hospital competition. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Trinidad Tellez for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill removes a current stop-gap measure that currently assures that proposed new health facilities will not have a detrimental impact on the viability of New Hampshire's critical access hospitals. New Hampshire's critical access hospitals ensure the health and well-being of the state's rural and medically underserved areas, providing access to essential emergency services, outpatient and inpatient care, and care coordination services to the state's most rural residents who otherwise would not have access to care. Allowing unchecked development of new healthcare businesses that will likely cherry pick the more profitable patients that are needed as part of the critical access hospital's payer mix will undermine the hospital's fiscal sustainability and put more areas at risk of losing their current access to the vital services offered by these hospitals.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Tellez spoke against.

Rep. McLean spoke in favor.

Rep. King requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 213 - NAYS 158

YEAS - 213

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Petermel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry

Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Smith, Geoffrey
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeRoy, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 158 BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, Ellen

Bolton, Bill
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily

Bergeron, Dan
Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia

Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 524-FN, repealing the New Hampshire vaccine association. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Lisa Mazur for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee found that the New Hampshire Vaccine Association is not a cost-effective program, and a much more efficient program would be to allow vaccine providers to purchase and control their own vaccine inventory to meet the needs of the patients they serve. At this time of a state budget crisis, this is an easy switch for providers instead of Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) purchasing vaccines for use with commercially insured children. The National Library of Medicine did an examination of Universal Purchase programs and concluded that they were ineffective in increasing vaccination rates. It is best to remove government from involvement in the purchase of medical products when private business does this quite well and cost effectively for vaccines. This bill will not increase costs to parents through deductibles or co-pays. Federal law requires that all vaccines for children be provided at no cost to the parent for the vaccines. This bill will not change that. Vaccines will still be required to be "free." This bill will not bring back measles and will have no impact on vaccination choices or rates. There will still be tons of vaccines for everyone who wants them. This bill is not "anti-science" and has nothing to do with vaccine policy. It is simply a matter of who is in the business of buying and selling a private use medical product...the state or private industry. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The bill proposes to repeal the New Hampshire Vaccine Association (NHVA), a non-profit organization established in 2002 to save money and ensure every child in New Hampshire has access to vaccines. The NHVA is a public-private partnership that combines money from more than 80 commercial insurers with federal Vaccines for Children funds to seamlessly purchase and distribute vaccines to more than 220 pediatric and family practices. Not a single insurer or provider supports the repeal of the NHVA. Many came to oppose this bill. The system works and does not need fixing. The NHVA decreases administrative burdens on providers, so they don't have to negotiate with insurers and suppliers. It assures people without insurance have access to vaccines. It is not a tax as some have suggested but a purchasing club with 30% cost savings for everyone. Funds pass through Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) but do not cost the state any money. On the contrary, should the NHVA be dissolved, DHHS will have to assume the cost of vaccine management and inventory to be prepared for outbreaks because the NHVA currently does this in lieu of the state. Dissolving the NHVA

will result in fewer children being vaccinated. This will result in outbreaks of preventable disease as we have seen happening in the US where vaccination rates have declined. Disease outbreaks occur when health delivery systems are disrupted, as this repeal would do.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Kelly moved that **HB 524-FN**, repealing the New Hampshire vaccine association, be laid on the table. Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 175 - NAYS 198

YEAS - 175 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Bernardy, JD
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Porcelli, Susan
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan

Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 198

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

and the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. LaMontagne spoke against.

Rep. Kofalt spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 189 - NAYS 181**YEAS - 189****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Cordelli, Glenn
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Miner, Laurence
Love, David

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David

Mannion, Dennis
Doucette, Fred
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob

Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin

Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 181

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foss, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Miles, Julie
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Donnelly, Tanya
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer

Bernardy, JD
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles

de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David

Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vose, Michael

Porcelli, Susan
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Osborne moved that the debate on **HB 524-FN**, repealing the New Hampshire vaccine association, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 524-FN

Speaker Steven Smith: For what reason does the member rise?

Representative Kelly: I'd like to make a motion, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: State your motion.

Representative Kelly: Mister Speaker, I would like to make a motion to lay HB 524-FN on the table and I request a division vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Okay, just asking for a division vote? The motion is to lay HB 524 on the table. Rep. Granger requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The motion is lay HB 524 on the table. Rep. Weber is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that the New Hampshire Vaccine Association is a very popular program that reduces costs by 30%, increases efficiency and increases access for those who want vaccines without coercing anybody else to have them. And if I know that it is therefore a very parent friendly program because it allows parents to choose exactly what kind of treatments they want for their children, would I now vote to table this bill so we can go on to a more productive debate?

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Kofalt is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Kofalt: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I know that taxpayers deserve answers as to why the New Hampshire Vaccine Association has repeatedly refused to reimburse the state for the nearly \$1 million cost of our vaccine program. And if I know that the false claims about this bill, that this bill would negatively impact New Hampshire families, deserve a response on this House floor, so that we can decide this bill on its merits. And, finally, Mister Speaker, if I know that the New Hampshire Vaccine Association suffers from a disturbing lack of transparency and accountability and that tabling this bill would obscure the issue even further by preventing debate, would I then press the red button to defeat this motion so that we can continue with the floor debate? Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is whether to lay HB 524 on the table. This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor, press the green button, opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 175 in the affirmative; 198 in the negative, the motion fails. Back to the main motion of Ought to Pass. Rep. LaMontagne is recognized to speak against the committee report

Representative LaMontagne: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise against the Ought to Pass motion on HB 524, which would repeal the New Hampshire Vaccine Association. The association is a non-profit organization established decades ago to save money and to ensure every child has access to vaccines. It is a great example of a public private partnership that works well. It combines money from 90 commercial insurers with federal vaccines for children funds to seamlessly purchase and distribute vaccines across the state to more than 200 pediatric and family practices. It is not a tax as some have suggested. It is more like a voluntary buying club that reduces the cost of vaccines for everyone by 30%. It decreased overhead for private practices so they don't have to carefully maintain their own inventories nor directly bill insurers for every shot. It ensures that every child who enters the doctor's office or clinic can get the recommended vaccines at no cost. There is no evidence that there is any fraud at the New Hampshire Vaccine Association. Not a single insurer nor medical provider spoke in favor of its repeal and in fact, they staunchly defended the New Hampshire Vaccine Association. DHHS opposes this bill. It does not cost the state anything. In fact, if its repealed, it will cost the state money because DHHS will then have to maintain an inventory of vaccines to maintain in case of an outbreak. The system works and does not need fixing. So, what is the point of this bill? Dissolving the New

Hampshire Vaccine Association will result in fewer children being vaccinated in the Granite State. This will result in outbreaks of preventable diseases as we have seen happening the US where vaccinations rates have declined. Vaccines have saved more lives than any other medical intervention in history. If you don't believe that, I have one word for you, polio. Do you think polio is not a problem anymore? There have been recent cases of paralytic polio in unvaccinated communities. This is a tragedy I know something about personally. My husband's father contracted polio in the 1955 epidemic in Massachusetts. He was a healthy 34-year-old, WWII vet who came home from work on a Friday afternoon feeling like he had the flu, and he never walked again. He had one of the worst cases of the most severe form of polio to survive. The cruel irony is that all 4 of his children, including my husband were vaccinated the year before, but they hadn't rolled out the vaccine for adults yet. The children were fine, but Bruce did survive while many died and he lived another 21 years paralyzed from the neck down, most of the time in an iron lung because the disease destroyed his voluntary nervous system and he could not breathe without it, an iron lung. I knew him as a child, as our families were close, and I still remember overcoming my fear as a little girl of the man in the machine with just his head sticking out. Despite his paralysis, he played a powerful role as a father and a member of his community, and his family was grateful that he survived. Still my husband might have been happier to have a more normal childhood where he could hike with his father in the Whites and play ball and not be changing his bed pan. Let us not go backward with the progress we've made in vaccines and please vote no on Ought to Pass.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Kofalt is recognized to speak in support of the committee report.

Representative Kofalt: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Let me say first and foremost, this bill has nothing to do whatsoever with the merits of vaccines or the lack thereof. It's not about more vaccines or fewer vaccines. In fact, the NIH did a study and found the compulsory bulk purchase programs for vaccines do not impact vaccination rates. So, the New Hampshire Vaccine Association is probably something that most of you don't know a lot about. I didn't know a lot about it until I started to research this bill and the more, I learned the more questions I had. This is a non-profit organization created by the legislature in 2002 under RSA 126-Q. But the New Hampshire Vaccine Association is not like any other non-profit organization. For one thing, it has the power to levy assessments. I would call those taxes because they are compulsory payments levied against the insurance carriers. They are not optional. They are not voluntary. In fact, the statute contains provisions saying that the state can revoke licenses of insurance carriers that fail to make payment. They can also levy fines and penalties for late payment or non payment so it's not voluntary. Secondly, I find it very interesting that the New Hampshire Vaccine Association members, directors, employees and agents are shielded from all liability. They are immune from liability under the statute for all of their operations. The New Hampshire Vaccine Association asserts that because it is a separate non-profit organization, it is not subject to our right to know law, 91-A and they have objected to even such simple measures as posting their zoom meetings, their monthly meetings online. They said it would be burdensome to do so. So, zoom has a feature that you can livestream and turn on very easily and livestream to YouTube and its posted and maintained online. So, I think the assertion that this is overly burdensome is hyperbole. So, what we see is an organization created under state law that is unlike any other non profit I'm aware of and that suffers from a disturbing lack of transparency and accountability. So, what does the vaccine association do? Well, every year they work with the Department of Health and Human Services to estimate the number of vaccines that are going to be required for insured children in the state. They collect money or assessments from the insurance carriers, and they provide those funds for bulk purchase of vaccines. Now this only covers insured children. So insured children are covered for vaccines under the Affordable Care Act. Insurance carriers are required to pay 100% of those costs. There is no copay. So, if this bill doesn't pass, families get those vaccines without any kind of copayment. If this does pass, families get those vaccines without any kind of copayment. Let's talk about uninsured children. This doesn't affect them. Vaccines for uninsured children in Medicaid are purchased or acquired through a federally funded program called Vaccines for Children. So ostensibly, the program by assessing money from the insurance carriers and engaging in this bulk purchase of vaccines is ostensibly saving money, but does it really and at what cost? The bills opponents have cited costs of \$200 to \$400 per dose, depending on the vaccine. That is an MSRP. It's a little like the MSRP's on car ads. Nobody actually pays it, but by negotiating a 30% discount on that presumably they are passing that onto the insurance carriers. It's interesting, however, that not a single insurance carrier showed up at the bill hearing to testify against this bill. Only 6 states have compulsory vaccine bulk purchasing programs like New Hampshire. Most of them date back many, many years and most states have rejected such programs as being too costly and needlessly cumbersome. So, although I am yet to be convinced it is possible that insurance carriers are saving a bit of money. If that is the case, then they are doing that at a cost to New Hampshire taxpayers. Every year, the Department of Health and Human Services incurs cost close to \$1 million for running the vaccine program. For fiscal year 25, that cost is estimated to be \$941,303.61. Every year they submit a request to the New Hampshire Vaccine Association to pay 60% of that cost because 60% of the vaccines purchased are covered under the New Hampshire Vaccine Association program. The vaccine association, in 2018, issued a letter stating that they had no intention of ever paying this. They don't believe the statute authorizes it, so they

are not covering it. That leaves taxpayers holding the bag. As I said before, those who argue that this affects vaccination rates in any way are wrong. The NIH studied compulsory programs like this and said that they were, “ineffective in increasing vaccination rates,” and recommended that, “policy makers seeking to increase vaccination rates would do well to consider other policies such as addressing provider practice issues and vaccine hesitancy.” So, finally I’d like to circle back to the false claims that this bill would negatively impact families. There was an editorial that appeared recently in one of our newspapers in New Hampshire stating that the vaccine association, “Removes access and financial barriers for parents who want their child to be immunized.” That is not the case. They don’t pay anything for the vaccine when they go to the doctor today and if this bill is passed and become law, they won’t pay anything for it tomorrow or a year from now or five years from now. The claim that any child would have any less vaccine coverage is patently false. HB 524 would not result in any new costs for families, it would simply eliminate a bureaucracy that serves no legitimate purpose and that suffers from a disturbing lack of transparency and accountability. Mister Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we can get transparency and accountability for New Hampshire taxpayers and get government out of this business. Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. Granger requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? Oh sure, everybody wants it. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on HB 524. Rep. LaMontagne is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative LaMontagne: Thank you, Mister Speaker. If I knew that there was no credible evidence of any kind of fraud presented about the vaccination association. And if I knew that not a single insurance company came to support this bill and that many medical providers came to oppose the bill. If I knew the public spoke overwhelmingly against this bill. And if I know that dissolving the vaccine association will make it harder for children to be vaccinated in the state. And if I know that this will result in lower vaccination rates and potentially outbreaks, would I press the red button so that a better motion may be brought forward?

Speaker Steven Smith: Rep. MacDonald is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Wayne MacDonald: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mister Speaker, if I know that while well intentioned, New Hampshire Vaccine Association is not a cost-effective program, and it would be more efficient for vaccine providers to purchase and control their own vaccine inventories to meet the needs of the patients they serve. And, Mister Speaker, if I know that this bill will not increase the cost to parents through deductibles or copays because federal law requires that all vaccines for children be provided at no cost to the parent. Mister Speaker, if I know these things, would I then press the green button and vote Ought to Pass?

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on HB 524. This is a roll call vote. If you are in favor, press the green button. If you are opposed, press the red button. Voting stations will be open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had the opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 189 in the affirmative, 181 in the negative, the committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 634, relative to the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jim Kofalt for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill, as amended, repeals the New Hampshire Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders. The council has not met since 2019 and has not provided an annual report since 2017. The original bill would have reconstituted the council. However, the council’s mission is duplicative of work already performed by the New Hampshire Developmental Services Quality Council. The majority therefore believes that it would be better to simply repeal the council on autism spectrum disorders. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Lucy Weber for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Members of the minority agree there have been issues with the Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders. This bill addresses those issues by amending both the members and the duties of the council. The amendment, on the other hand, repeals the council entirely. Members of the minority do not believe that the Developmental Services Quality Council (the Council) can adequately address autism spectrum disorder issues. Many people with autism spectrum disorder do not meet the legal definition for disability, so those people would not be represented on the Council at all. The minority believes that the bill as filed is the better solution.

Majority Amendment (0344h)

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

AN ACT repealing the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

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

1 Repealed. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 171-A:32, relative to the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

II. RSA 171-A:33, I(d), including a member of the council on autism spectrum disorders on the developmental services quality council.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders. The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Rep. Stringham spoke against.

Rep. Drew spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 201 members having voted in the affirmative, and 171 in the negative, the majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 704-FN-A, relative to caregiver respite and senior volunteer programs and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Susan DeLemus for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill makes appropriations for two programs; one for respite care for family caregivers, and one for volunteers, themselves seniors, who visit and help seniors who are homebound. Family caregivers bear a heroic burden—they often care for a loved one who is medically frail or has dementia 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. The work takes a heavy toll both mentally and physically. The bill would provide small grants for a paid caregiver to give a family caregiver a much-needed rest. The appropriations for this program are \$552,508 in each of the two years. Senior volunteers are often the only point of social contact for homebound seniors, and in addition they often provide services such as shopping or picking up prescriptions. The bill appropriates the sum of \$180,000 in each year for the retired senior volunteer (RSVP) program, and \$30,000 in each year for the senior companion program. Finally, the bill appropriates the sum of \$100,000 each year for the foster grandparent program. Committee members believe that the sums expended not only improve the lives of those affected, but also are a critical investment, saving the state significant sums of money by keeping elders in their homes. With the average cost of nursing home care being over \$70,000 per year, and specialized dementia care often costing more than that, this bill is a good investment. Vote 16-1.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 724-FN, relative to lead paint poisoning prevention and remediation. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matt Drew for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee found that this bill excessively punishes landlords for a hazard they are required to disclose, cannot fully mitigate, and cannot fully remedy. Lead abatement is very expensive but cannot fully remove the hazard. Further, the hazard can be repeatedly re-exposed and would require repeated abatements - and under this bill, for every unit in the building. We do not believe this is a workable method of effectively mitigating lead exposure hazards. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Childhood lead poisoning is on the rise in New Hampshire, with a record number of cases in 2023, a number likely undercounted as 20-30% of children are still not tested. The effects of lead poisoning are tragic and severe. Acute high levels can cause death, more commonly brain damage from lead exposure results in lower IQ, behavioral problems, and later violent criminal activity. 70% of lead poisoning is from lead paint and dust in older homes, and 15% from lead in drinking water. This bill would do three important things: 1) remind contractors and DIY homeowners that they must have an EPA-RRP license when working on older homes by requiring the license number on the building permit application, 2) lower the childhood blood lead action level from 5 micrograms/dl to 3.5, consistent with CDC recommendations for early intervention and prompt action, and 3) when a child's high blood level is found and warrants an investigation, it would authorize the inspection of other units in a multi-family dwelling (as was the law before). This would ensure other units are inspected, perhaps preventing other lead exposures. We recognize that lead abatement is expensive for the property owner. But after decades of opportunity to voluntarily conduct lead abatement, and it is still not done, we must be more aggressive in identifying unsafe conditions for children and require lead hazard reduction when it is found. This bill would put the health and well-being of children first, over the short-term profits of landlords; and it would advance lead prevention efforts that in the long run will save the state billions from the long-term expenses of more health care, special education, and other society harms resulting from lead poisoning.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO DIVIDE

Rep. Weber moved that section two of **HB 724-FN**, relative to lead paint poisoning prevention and remediation, be divided from the bill.

On a division vote, with 163 members having voted in the affirmative, and 203 in the negative, the motion to divide failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 724-FN**, relative to lead paint poisoning prevention and remediation, be Indefinitely Postponed.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 202 - NAYS 167

YEAS - 202

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Paternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John

Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 167 BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Ammon, Keith
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
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Juris, Louis
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Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
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Turer, Eric

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Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan

Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

Rep. MacKay recused himself from the vote and did not participate.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 751-FN, relative to certification of alcohol and other substance misuse treatment facilities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark McLean for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill, as introduced, directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Commissioner to develop rules establishing a certification process for substance use treatment programs and facilities, and requires that no programs or facilities be established or operated without the requisite certification. The bill also establishes an office of the ombudsman to investigate and resolve complaints within the jurisdiction of substance abuse treatment. Supporters of the bill felt that it would strengthen patient protection and ensure access to consistent, high-quality services. The primary concerns expressed were that state regulators have no oversight or record of the majority of outpatient providers, that those seeking treatment are often subject to abuse, and that a lack of evidence-based approaches often leads to unnecessary relapse. The committee amendment narrows the bill scope significantly by explicitly exempting impaired driver care management programs and non-clinical recovery support services such as recovery coaching and 12-step programs from the licensure requirement. The amendment also streamlines the process by rolling the certification into the existing health care facilities licensing statute instead of creating a separate licensing infrastructure. Vote 12-6.

Rep. Jim Kofalt for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill, as amended, establishes that alcohol and other substance misuse treatment facilities be regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as licensed health care facilities. The minority believes that a wholesale expansion of state regulation to cover a broad new category of entities is unwise, and that it has the potential to stifle innovation and limit access to treatment.

Majority Amendment (0220h)

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

AN ACT 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.

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

1 Department of Health and Human Services, Department Established; Office of the Ombudsman. Amend RSA 126-A:4, III to read as follows:

III. The department shall establish an office of the ombudsman to provide assistance to clients of the department by investigating and resolving complaints regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the department including services or assistance provided by the department or its contractors. The ombudsman's office may provide mediation or other means for informally resolving complaints. The records of the ombudsman's office shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed without the consent of the client on whose behalf the complaint is made, except as may be necessary to assist the service provider to resolve the complaint, or as required by law. ***Subject to available funding, the department shall designate within the office of the ombudsman a behavioral health specialist dedicated solely to investigating and resolving complaints to promote the health, safety, welfare, or civil or human rights of any person receiving the treatment or services of a substance use disorder or mental health treatment facility.***

2 New Subparagraph; Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities; License Required. Amend RSA 151:2, I by inserting after subparagraph (f) the following new subparagraph:

(g) Outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities, including long-term remission monitoring, medically managed outpatient, intensive outpatient, high-intensity outpatient, partial hospitalization, and medically managed intensive outpatient programs. Impaired driver care management programs under RSA 265-A and nonclinical recovery support services, including but not limited to individual and group recovery coaching and 12-step programs, shall be exempt from licensure.

3 New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Position Established; Appropriation. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the sum of \$211,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of establishing one compliance officer I position to fulfill the requirements

of this act. The department of health and human services shall work with the department of administrative services, division of personnel, to determine the appropriate classification in accordance with the personnel classification system and applicable broad group specifications. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The department of health and human services may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires outpatient substance use disorder treatment programs to be licensed by the department of health and human services. The bill also directs the department to designate a behavioral health specialist within the office of the ombudsman to review complaints regarding substance use or mental health treatment facilities. The bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to establish a compliance officer position to implement the requirements of the act.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. McLean spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 216 - NAYS 152

YEAS - 216

BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa

Nagel, David

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

Cordelli, Glenn
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Thackston, Dick

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

COOS

Morency, Pete

Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Louis, Darrell
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efsthia
Cornell, Patricia
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McLean, Mark
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie

Beauchemin, Paige
Bouchard, Donald
Creighton, James
Elberger, Susan
Gagne, Larry
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Fedolfi, Jim
Georges, Mary
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kesselring, Steven
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Mary
Ohm, Bill
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh

Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
MacKay, James
Pitaro, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Leavitt, John
Morse, Bryan
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Luneau, David
Newsom, James
Roesener, James
See, Alvin
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
DeSimone, Debra
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Nelson, Jodi
Pearson, Stephen
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
Donnelly, Tanya
Grote, Jaci
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Porcelli, Susan
Scherr, Buzz
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Haskins, Linda
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Simpson, Alexis
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Foote, Charles
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Aron, Judy

Cloutier, John
Aron, Michael

Damon, Hope
Palmer, William

Girard, Dale
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 152

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Trottier, Douglas

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike

Crawford, Karel

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Valerino, Brian

Korzen, Lori

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
McFarlane, Donald

Beaulier, Calvin
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Kenny, Catherine
Miles, Julie
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
Mooney, Maureen
Peebles, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
Noble, Kristin
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gould, Linda
Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Plante, Raymond
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom

Bennett, Cindy
DeVito, Sayra
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Vandecasteele, Susan

Bernardy, JD
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Verville, Kevin

Bryer, Scott
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Spillsbury, Walter

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

Rollins, Skip

and the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 756-FN, relative to establishing a blood lead level testing requirement for children entering daycare and public schools. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: This bill, relative to establishing a blood lead level testing requirement for children entering daycare and public schools, provides an important stop-gap opportunity for increasing the blood level testing of infants and children. Given the potentially devastating impacts of lead on children's developing brains, the low numbers of 1- and 2-year-old children currently tested for blood lead levels is of concern. The existing requirement for school health records for child care, and a complete physical examination prior to or upon first entry into the public school system, presents an important opportunity to lower the number of children who fall through the gap.

Rep. Trinidad Tellez

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill requires that children be tested for lead prior to being accepted into a school or childcare facility. New Hampshire law already requires that children must be tested for lead at age 1, and again at age 2. This merely adds a reporting requirement, and it would impose additional administrative burdens on childcare facilities and schools, which would be required to send notifications to parents who do not provide a lead testing report.

Rep. Jim Kofalt

Rep. Wayne MacDonald moved Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Tellez spoke against.

Rep. Kofalt spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 202 - NAYS 169**YEAS - 202****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Cordelli, Glenn
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
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Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 169**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lucas, Janet
 Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Oppel, Thomas
 Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
 Sullivan, Jared
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
 Lovett, Peter
 Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Luneau, David
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Gibbs, Merryl
 Hall, Muriel
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Hicks, Matthew
 MacKay, James
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Haskins, Linda
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Pearson, Stephen
 Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
 Murray, Kate
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David
 Scherr, Buzz
 Vallone, Mark

Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Malloy, Dennis
 Muns, Chris
 Simpson, Alexis
 Ward, Gerald

Grote, Jaci
 Cahill, Michael
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Read, Ellen
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Miller, Seth
 Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Schmidt, Peter
 Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate was adopted.

HB 114-FN, removing fees and charges for governmental records under the right-to-know law and reinstating potential liability for disclosure of information exempt from disclosure. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Eric Turer for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill would effectively reverse the changes to RSA 91-A, passed during the last legislative session under HB 1002 (Ch. 49, Laws of 2024). That bill, and subsequent amendments, was crafted with the input of many external stakeholders, and was the subject of considerable debate, both in committee and on the House Floor. The resulting language struck a delicate balance between the important goals at the core of New Hampshire's right to know law, and the need to protect public entities from the open-ended time and expense of overly broad requests. Such requests appeared, increasingly, to be used as a tool to disrupt the work of public bodies, rather than for the open sharing of public information, as evidenced by similar requests in different venues, where the requester never collected the resulting material. The final bill was passed by a wide bipartisan vote of the House. This change has only been in place for a relatively short period of time, and the resulting impacts are still being ascertained. This is not the time to undo these carefully considered changes. Vote 13-4.

Rep. Louise Andrus for the Minority of Judiciary. The purpose of repealing the right to know law amendments passed last year with HB 1002 is to reduce the mandated possible costs of right to Know information

to the people of New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Constitution states: "Part 1, Art. 8. [Accountability of Magistrates and Officers; Public's Right to Know.] All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted." The word "reasonably" is not defined. The legislature could have defined the word "reasonably" and put it into statute and would have in the minority's opinion settled the issue instead of passing a law with charges for right-to-know information. The people of New Hampshire should not be charged for information that they already own.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Majority committee report was adopted.

HB 378-FN, relative to an employee's unused earned time. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Andrew Prout for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill would require employers to provide a number of items regarding vacation time and unused earned time. These include written policies, an undescribed means to request and approve usage of this time and an accounting of what has been used and what is remaining. While not being opposed to some of these requirements if they were more succinctly outlined, this would require an extra expense to many small business owners. The most significant concern is that the bill would require that all vacation time and unused earned time be considered compensation and therefore wages. Not all employers offer vacation time or earned time. Some employers offer a certain number of hours to be used for a combination of sick time, vacation and other personal time. Some employers allow for this time to be converted to payment upon termination of employment and some do not. Earned time does not mean payable on demand for all New Hampshire employers. Allowing the employers to determine how they are going to consider these benefits is the New Hampshire way and results in a more vibrant business environment. Employers will adjust as needed to keep and maintain happy employees. Vote 11-9.
Rep. Michael Cahill for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The bill would provide for the payment of earned unused time when due to layoff, closure or sale of the business. These circumstances being beyond the control of the employee who as a result had no opportunity to request and use their earned time.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Rep. Prout spoke in favor.

Rep. Cahill spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 193 - NAYS 169

YEAS - 193

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

Ladd, Rick

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary

Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 169 BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Barton, Joseph
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
GREGG, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal

Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Foote, Charles
Murray, Kate
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Pearson, Stephen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 542-FN, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Granger for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill would increase the amount paid out in unemployment benefits, which threatens to increase taxes on businesses. Currently, under law, if the unemployment trust fund balance is below a certain threshold, taxes on businesses automatically go up in order to compensate. There is also an important factor of incentive; if people are paid more to be unemployed, you can expect the rate of unemployment to go up, and if New Hampshire citizens become dependent upon unemployment benefits, it has a chilling effect on morality as they no longer need to rely on their family, church, and community to help them through tough times. This dampens and denegrates the spirit of charity, and the majority of the committee finds that replacing generosity with taxpayer-funded welfare entitlement programs serves as a sour trade. Ultimately, the New Hampshire voter cast a decisive vote against tax increases and spending increases, and the state unemployment system is intended to be a safety net, it is not intended to be a trampoline. Therefore, the majority of the committee believes this bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Mark MacKenzie for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The rejection of a long-overdue increase in the rate paid to unemployed workers in New Hampshire is a significant setback for our state's most vulnerable citizens. This bill aimed to increase the rate for the first time in 20 years, providing some relief for higher wage earners in New Hampshire, whose replacement rate hovers around a mere 26 percent. The bill would have added six additional steps to the benefit schedule, taking the top rate up to \$52,000 with a top benefit of \$535 or a 34% replacement rate. While not perfect, it represented a step in the right direction. Members from the majority of the committee suggested that local churches and the goodwill of the community could replace the millions of dollars needed to support thousands of workers facing uncertain futures during layoffs. This notion is not only unrealistic but also dismissive of the real struggles faced by these workers. The idea that charitable organizations alone can shoulder the burden is impractical and represents an abdication of our collective responsibility as a society. The average cost per employee in New Hampshire for the unemployment program is currently \$85. This is a modest investment for the critical support it provides to those in need. By rejecting this bill, we will miss an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our unemployed citizens and to strengthen the social safety net essential for a just and equitable society.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 542-FN**, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 744-FN, relative to workers' compensation indemnity benefits percentage. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mark Warden for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill proposes to increase the weekly compensation rate on worker's compensation for partial and total disability injuries from 60.0% to 66.67% of their average weekly rate. According to industry estimates based on actuarial statistics, such a substantial increase would lead to an increase of approximately 5-6% in overall system costs being born by policyholders (employers), adding up to as much as \$29MM-\$37MM in increased payouts in the private sector alone, which would inevitably mean higher premiums. While the payout rate in New Hampshire is lower than many states, our current system is fiscally sound and has proven to strike a fair balance overall among stakeholders. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Mark MacKenzie for the Minority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. Workers compensation reform efforts during the 1990s led to a meaningful decrease in benefits for injured workers. These changes were prompted by proposed double-digit increases in the rate and the threat that New Hampshire could be left with no carriers willing to write that line of business. Today, the market has recovered, workplaces are safer, and overall costs are down. Over the last seven years, the rate has decreased every year, and workers compensation has become a good line of business. The current legislation aims to restore the percentage an injured worker would receive and increase the indemnity rate from 60 percent to 66 2/3 percent, aligning it with the majority of states in the country.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Creighton moved that **HB 744-FN**, relative to workers' compensation indemnity benefits percentage, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 425, allowing tax-exempt entities to keep their tax-exempt status while renting facilities or property to entities that share their mission. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Linda Franz for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to add new language to RSA 72:23 that grants property tax relief to religious organizations. The bill would extend tax relief to include rented property owned by religious organizations that rents not more than one church parsonage or like residential real property and/or not more than one worship building to organizations that share similar missions or goals so long as any rental income is used for religious leader's compensation, maintenance of worship building or parsonage, or funding of standard religious programs. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Eleana Colby for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. This bill would add language to the existing statute that is both broad and poorly defined, resulting in more ambiguity. Further, it imposes excessive requirements on the organizations and municipal assessors. Assessors would be forced to evaluate an organization's income and expenses in relation to the law, leading to potential disputes and placing an unreasonable burden on assessors who may lack the necessary time or expertise to perform such financial assessments. The additional burdens, coupled with overly broad terminology, will likely result in confusion and unequal application across jurisdictions, complicating the property tax exemption process for both parties.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Mark Pearson offered floor amendment (0633h).

Floor Amendment (0633h)

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

AN ACT granting property tax relief to religious organizations that rent residential real estate to their respective religious leaders.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Taxation; Persons and Property Liable to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23, III to read as follows:

III.(a) Houses of public worship, parish houses, church parsonages occupied by their pastors, convents, monasteries, buildings and the lands appertaining to them owned, used and occupied directly for religious

training or for other religious purposes by any regularly recognized and constituted denomination, creed or sect, organized, incorporated or legally doing business in this state and the personal property used by them for the purposes for which they are established.

(b) A religious organization that rents its church parsonage or similar residential real estate and uses that rental income for a housing allowance paid to their clergy or similar religious member who lives elsewhere shall be exempt from taxation on that property. In this subparagraph, "religious organization" means a single house of worship, including churches, synagogues, mosques, shrines, and temples. In this paragraph, "church parsonage" means a house provided for a clergy or similar religious member, whether that house is called a parsonage, vicarage, rectory, manse, or a similar term.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill grants property tax relief to religious organizations that rent residential real estate to their respective religious leaders.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0633h).

Rep. Mark Pearson spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 119 members having voted in the affirmative, and 225 in the negative, floor amendment (0633h) failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **HB 425**, allowing tax-exempt entities to keep their tax-exempt status while renting facilities or property to entities that share their mission, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 351 members having voted in the affirmative, and 15 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 617, relative to the homestead right. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Denis Murphy for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. This bill, as amended, allows every person to own \$1,000,000 of their homesteads, as defined in RSA 674:31, which are owned and occupied buildings. This homestead right does not cancel or erase a debt. Instead, it is an exemption from attachment during its continuance from levy or sale on execution, except in the collection of taxes. This homestead right will protect people from losing their homes during difficult financial times, mainly due to medical bills, which is why the majority of people file for bankruptcy. This will also include family trust(s) as long as they meet the other provisions of RSA 480:1. It is important to note that the act changes the original amount from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, which will make the amount more in line with today's real estate market. The amendment also treats the owner of a trust and an owner of the property the same. As equals with or without having trust in place. This amendment does not protect cash or other liquid assets. The amendment proposes a much-needed update. Vote 11-7.

Rep. Laurel Stavis for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. This bill would increase the amount shielded from creditors through the homestead right from the existing \$120,000 to \$1,000,000 and would add certain additional exemptions to the current definitions, such as mobile homes, housing cooperatives, and condominiums. While a modest increase in the current exemption would be prudent, the minority of the committee believes that the increase proposed in the bill is excessive. The added categories of housing eligible for the homestead exemption are also problematic since they are ill defined in the bill or are terms for which there is no current definition in statute, such as "housing cooperative." An amendment clarified eligibility for beneficiaries of real estate held in trust, but it did not justify the \$1,000,000 exemption, which far exceeds the current median value of a home in New Hampshire, nor did it seek to more fully define the additional exempted categories, which are vague and open to interpretation and confusion.

Majority Amendment (0437h)

Amend RSA 480:1 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. The beneficiary of a qualifying trust may claim the exemption under paragraph I if the qualifying trust is the owner of the property and the other provisions of this chapter are met.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. Stavis spoke against.

Rep. Litchfield spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 216 - NAYS 146**YEAS - 216
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Faulkner, Barry
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Bouchard, Donald
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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Polozov, Yury
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
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Leavitt, John
Newsom, James
Boyd, Stephen
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Gibbs, Merryl
Mehegan, Peter
Pitaro, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Murray, Kate
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
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Khan, Aboul
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Milz, David
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Pearson, Stephen
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Verville, Kevin
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Knab, Allison
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Pearson, Mark
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Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
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Bailey, Glenn
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Granger, Michael

DeLemus, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

DeRoy, Susan
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

**NAYS - 146
BELKNAP**

Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Buco, Thomas
Peternel, Katy

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
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Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

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Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

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Fellows, Sallie
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Alexander, Joe
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

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Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
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Schultz, Kris
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Simpson, Alexis

Gilman, Julie
Cahill, Michael
Meuse, David
Sorensen, Carrie

Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Ward, Gerald

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Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Burton, Wayne
Harrington, Michael
Kaczynski, Thomas
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 578-FN, erecting a sound barrier along the F.E. Everett Turnpike. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Martin Jack for Public Works and Highways. This bill would require sound barriers to be constructed at two locations on the F. E. Everett Turnpike in Merrimack. The bill does not fund the construction that is estimated to cost \$7.2 million of turnpike funds. Normally the committee does not approve projects outside the Ten-Year Transportation Plan process to ensure that project priorities are respected statewide and that project costs are covered by anticipated revenue levels. The state has established uniform criteria in order for a location to qualify for sound barriers that is required by the Federal Highway Administration. The committee has learned that there are over 100 unfunded locations statewide that would benefit from having sound barriers. There is an active turnpike construction project that includes the locations named in this bill and as part of this project the corridor was analyzed for sound barrier installation. The locations that are requested did not meet criteria, though four locations in the corridor did. If the state were to begin making exceptions to criteria, it could cause issues with federal highway aid. For all these reasons, although the bill is well intentioned, the committee recommends it Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-2.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

On a division vote, with 338 members having voted in the affirmative, and 25 in the negative, the committee report was adopted.

HB 713-FN, relative to mile markers along Route 112. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This is a bill that would require the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to install and maintain mile markers along the entire length of Route 112, also known as the Kancamagus Highway. The committee was stunned to learn that no mile markers exist along the 34.5-mile scenic byway. The lack of cell service in this area as well, created a significant public safety concern for the committee in relation to the myriads of users enjoying the Kancamagus Highway every year. While the committee has always brought a frugality in its approach to the financial impacts that capital projects have within our state budget, it unanimously believed that this was a very important expense to contemplate and approve in the name of improving public safety. Being able to exactly identify the location of an emergent issue along the Kancamagus Highway is paramount for our users and our first responders, and the presence of mile markers along the Kancamagus Highway will be beneficial to all in ensuring emergency response is timely and prompt. Vote 18-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 607-FN, relative to funding the Hampton Beach area commission and making appropriations therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Nicholas Bridle for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill seeks to appropriate funds for the Hampton Beach Area Commission. This commission was enacted by the legislature under RSA 216-J:5 in 2003. For 22 years the commission has been solely served with no funding, relying on donations. The language of this bill allows for the legislature to appropriate funding for this commission for two years. The committee received a proposed budget for the needs of the funding, which covers basic essential function administrative costs. Without a funding appropriation, the commission would most likely dissolve due to rising administrative costs. A point of note is that no commissioner receives any funding or compensation for their respective roles on the commission. The majority of the committee realizes that Hampton Beach is an economic driver for the state and voted to support the Ought to Pass motion. Vote 15-1.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 624-FN-A, establishing a local river management advisory committee grant program and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Allison Knab for Resources, Recreation and Development. This legislation appropriates funding for Local River Management Advisory Committee Grants in the amount of \$40,000. The program would be administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and provide the state's 22 local river management advisory committees small grant funds to help them hold public meetings, communicate with state and federal agencies, develop river corridor management plans, etc. The committee amendment allows NHDES to administer the program without going through rule making, given the small size of the grants. This legislation addresses the unfunded mandate these committees have to advise and advocate for our rivers. The more than 200 local volunteers in 130 communities that make up these committees are critical to the protection and understanding of our states' rivers, and this funding will support the work they do. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0368h)

Amend RSA 483:8-b as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

483:8-b Local River Management Advisory Committee Grants. There is hereby established a grant program, to be administered by the department of environmental services, for the allocation of funds to local river management advisory committees established under RSA 483:8-a. Funding requests made under this section may be submitted to the department of environmental services by any established local river management advisory committee, detailing resources needed to fulfill its duties as described in RSA 483:8-a. Funding requests may not exceed \$10,000 for any local river management advisory committee in any year. The commissioner of the department of environmental services shall disburse the funding to local river management advisory committees with demonstrated need to implement the duties described in RSA 483:8-a, III on a first come, first-served basis.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 296 members having voted in the affirmative, and 67 in the negative, the committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

On a division vote, with 264 members having voted in the affirmative, and 100 in the negative, the committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 224-FN, relative to rebates to ratepayers from the renewable energy fund. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill addresses electricity bill costs by rebating money collected via an obscure tax on energy to the pockets of our residents. By rebating most of the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) back to ratepayers, we would save them, according to the fiscal note, between \$2.5 and \$7.3 million per year. While that is not going to save each ratepayer thousands of dollars each year, it's a start and an important step to provide relief from some of the highest electricity costs in the country. This is not a new concept. New Hampshire has been rebating funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program for 13 years and that has saved the ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars over that timeframe. This bill seeks to do the same for the REF and provide important ratepayer relief. The amendment exempts administrative costs and funding for the Office of Energy Innovation, rebates REF money to ratepayers and lowers energy costs. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Kat McGhee for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill eliminates the dedicated, non-lapsing Renewable Energy Fund (REF) and rebates the current balance to customer-rebates (via utility bills). This fund allows people looking to fund critical renewable energy projects to secure a small portion of their project costs under the REF. This program uses 11% REF monies and leverages 89% private investment dollars to provide a shorter turnaround on the ROI. This incentive was designed to spur greater investment and was a very conservative program effort. The REF is funded by the Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP) obligation of the default utilities. The ACP was designed to ensure that 25% of their energy supply be secured from clean energy sources or they pay the ACP in lieu of meeting their obligation.

Majority Amendment (0288h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to read as follows:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget, the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section~~excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the department of energy to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives and offshore wind initiatives, including the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation. Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary~~ *that are in excess of administration costs, funding for the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation, and incentive payments, shall be rebated to all retail electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be determined by the commission.* All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.
Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Notter spoke in favor.

Rep. Corman spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 200 - NAYS 162

YEAS - 200

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigan, John
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spillsbury, Walter

NAYS - 162**CARROLL**

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 654-FN, relative to allowing small customer-generators the ability to participate in group-net metering. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill defines a new class of generators: small customer generators and permits them to participate in group net metering. As designed, it could also permit double-dipping by receiving two net metering payouts – one as the small group generator and one as an individual generator. It was opposed by the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Energy. Vote 12-5. Rep. Thomas Cormen for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would allow “small customer-generators,” such as a utility customer who has a small solar installation of up to 100 kilowatts, to also participate as an off-taker in a net metering group. The committee heard concerns about such customer-generators “double-dipping” by being paid for their own net metering and receiving benefits from belonging to the group. The minority did not see why small customer-generators should be prohibited from the benefits of belonging to a group.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Osborne moved that **HB 654-FN**, relative to allowing small customer-generators the ability to participate in group-net metering, be laid on the table.
Motion was adopted.

MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER

Rep. Vose moved that **HB 723-FN**, repealing the multi-use energy data platform, be made a Special Order as the next order of business.
Motion was adopted.

SPECIAL ORDER

HB 723-FN, repealing the multi-use energy data platform. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lex Berezchny for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. The multi-use energy data platform law passed in 2019 requires utilities to create and jointly operate a statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform. The platform is yet to be built. There is significant overlap in features between this proposed data platform and what some utilities already offer in their customer facing portals: mainly the ability for a customer to view their electricity usage and to manually share that usage with third parties. Utilities currently recover the costs of upgrading and improving their customer facing software by filing a rate case and justifying the expense to the public utilities commission (PUC). This data platform law circumvents the normal cost-benefit justification process and simply mandates that the platform be built. The majority on the committee felt that the benefits of the platform, over what some utilities already provide, are not clear and, if there are benefits, the utilities should build this project by following the normal process, without special carve outs in statute. The costs to implement this platform were conservatively projected to be \$4.5 to \$7 million. Vote 10-8. Rep. Kat McGhee for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill repeals the statutory language that enabled a state-led effort, begun in 2019, to design a statewide energy data hub to include comprehensive gas and electric data from all three state regulated utilities. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) docket# DE19-197 brought together the state, subject matter experts, and utility technical professionals, to solve the problems of creating a uniform data model, secure data-sharing, data privacy and automated data aggregation. The system would automate our energy data into useful information. The initial statutory requirements were satisfied in 2022 with a PUC order approving the project and the Governance Council as the ongoing decision-making body. This council included the three utilities, the Department of Energy, Clean Energy New Hampshire, other stakeholders, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate. The collaboration was done the New Hampshire way, convening a group of qualified stakeholders to automate the state’s energy data with the goal of finding savings, unleashing innovation, and providing insights to aid energy planning. This bill cuts the project down, just as we are about to secure pricing. The cost benefit analysis was expected by fall. We disagree with the majority that there is any benefit to halting a project after 5 1/2 years of excellent work, before knowing the extent to which the New Hampshire Energy Data Hub could bring New Hampshire ratepayers significant cost savings.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Berezchny spoke in favor.

Rep. McGhee spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 201 - NAYS 160

YEAS - 201

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Sargent, Gregory
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigan, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 160**CARROLL**

Buco, Thomas
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D**HB 681-FN, establishing a statewide online energy data platform. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lex Berezhny for the Majority of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill expands the power of the governing council of the statewide online energy data platform. While the Department of Energy (DOE) testified as being neutral on this bill, they expressed significant concerns that the expanded power of the governing council would remove oversight from the public utilities commission (PUC) and DOE. Furthermore, since the committee had already passed HB 723 "repealing the multi-use energy data platform," it did not make sense to change a statute that is being repealed. Vote 14-4.

Rep. Thomas Cormen for the Minority of Science, Technology and Energy. An online energy data platform could serve ratepayers trying to decide how to save money on energy, a competitive energy supplier trying to serve customers, a community power provider wanting to serve its residents, and more. Such a project has been in the works for a few years, under the guidance of the Platform Guidance Council with members representing several stakeholders. To determine whether the project should move forward, a cost-benefit analysis needs to be done. Now that the broad functionality of the data platform has been defined, the project is poised to put out a request for proposals (RFP), which will help determine the costs. Responses to the RFP are expected by the end of the summer. The minority of the committee requested that this bill be retained so that once the costs are known by the end of the summer, a cost-benefit analysis can give us an honest understanding of whether to proceed. If the cost-benefit analysis indicates that the project is worthwhile, this bill would provide further direction.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Majority committee report was adopted.

HCR 1, calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for the Majority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority strongly supports the premise of this resolution: "That all sides be heard concerning climate debate and discussion, especially when forming public policy or making laws." During the hearing, numerous examples were cited re: alternate climate perspectives being shunned, discounted, or ignored in favor of activist positions. Suppressing alternative views involves more than just bullying but also violates First Amendment speech provisions. California's coming ban on the sale of gas-powered vehicles was also cited as a cautionary tale, along with Vermont's recent legislation holding energy companies financially liable for climate change. The ramifications and unintended consequences of such laws are profound and affect citizens far beyond the borders of such states. Indeed, similar measures have been proposed in this body. An earlier House bill calling for the banning of wood stoves in New Hampshire was seen as a harbinger and an example of extremist climate activism of which we should be wary. Mandating climate policies that hamper military training and readiness and thus national security creates serious concerns. Endorsing unproven climate claims as a basis for green energy subsidies that increase utility bills impacts everyone. Proposed carbon taxes and carbon offsets deserve full scrutiny, especially when related consequences involve tens of thousands of acres of North Country forests seeing timber operations limited to the detriment of all Granite Staters and Coos County citizens in particular. Allowing activists and extremists to promote dubious climate policies and associated laws in New Hampshire creates serious concerns that deserve to be fully understood, which can't happen if contrasting views are squelched. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Christine Seibert for the Minority of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This resolution downplays widely recognized scientific evidence that human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, have warmed Earth's surface and oceans, which in turn adversely impacts our climate. Multiple studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals show that climate warming trends over the past century are likely caused by human activities. Testimony showed that even large fossil fuel companies, such as Exxon, BP, and Shell accept scientific evidence about the impact of human activities on climate change. To quote a former BP CEO in 1997, "If we are all to take responsibility for the future of our planet, then it falls to us to begin to take precautionary action now." To pretend that we need to study climate change 27 years after BP and others in the fossil fuel industry acknowledged that we need to act is like an ostrich hiding its head in the sand. We need to focus on solutions, not more studies based on media scare tactics poking holes in science-based evidence. This resolution asks us as legislators to consider fully "all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that may adversely affect our economy and environment." In other words, to do our jobs by listening to all sides. Ironically, this request comes from the very people who refuse to listen to the science behind the influence of human activity on climate warming. Everyone realizes that natural disasters also affect climate change, but only a few refuse to recognize humans' part in exacerbating climate change. The minority believes this resolution is inflammatory and ridicules those who believe that climate change is an impending threat to our environment. The minority believes in addressing the economic and health costs of climate change, which would benefit all of our constituents, not on passing measures like this. The minority stands with the vast majority of our constituents who believe that we need to take action to mitigate the human activities that are most detrimental to our environment. For these reasons, the minority supports inexpedient to legislate.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Seibert spoke against.

Rep. Moffett spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 197 - NAYS 156**YEAS - 197
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Newman, Ray
Seidel, Sheila
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Doucette, Fred
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVANDye, Margaret
Aron, MichaelGrant, George
Rollins, SkipHemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 156**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, LucyBerch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, JodiFox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, TerriGermana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, LaurelBaldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, JerryBolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, GeorgeCormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, DanielBeauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Thomas, WendyBergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, JonahBooras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew**MERRIMACK**Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary JaneCaplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, GaryColby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, JimKelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Geraldde Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, ToniGilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Sytek, JohnGrote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Pearson, WayneBixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, AliceBurton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, JanetSmith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas**SULLIVAN**Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to third reading.

HB 305, relative to speed and red-light cameras for traffic enforcement. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. It was the opinion of the majority that this was questionable concerning the right to privacy. While traffic camera enforcement has been used in other states to varying effects, it was not the belief of the committee that there are significant safety increases for their application, and that the risk of cameras being used in this scope or beyond presented a risk to the public's right to privacy. It was further noted that most of the out of state municipalities that use these systems have third party agencies monitoring their cameras for profit, similar to the way EZ Pass has taken over what used to be an in-state

road toll system. As this bill is currently drafted, that would not be allowable. There was significant concern that it would become an expansion on the bill at a later date which again would bring right to privacy concerns where recording is done by a third party. In the end, the majority believes that traffic enforcement should be done by law enforcement officers, not mounted recording devices. Vote 13-3.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Committee report was adopted.

HB 419, requiring vehicle headlights to be on when windshield wipers are also on. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matthew Pitaro for the Majority of Transportation. The majority of the committee believes that requiring headlights to be on whenever the windshield wipers are on is an unnecessary burden in that the use of windshield wipers is separate from the use and safety of headlights. The majority believes that this bill will give law enforcement another violation to enforce, rather than curtail any further lumination issue, beyond what is already in statute. Vote 10-6.

Rep. Marc Plamondon for the Minority of Transportation. This legislation would require vehicle headlights to be on when windshield wipers are on during inclement weather. Data shows seven states have implemented this law between 1998 and 2007, showing significantly fewer multi-vehicle daytime accidents, as per the Transportation Lighting Association.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Jones spoke against.

Rep. Gorski spoke in favor.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 227 - NAYS 129

YEAS - 227

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom
Trottier, Douglas

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John

Burroughs, Anita
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Paternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Ladd, Rick

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Kofalt, Jim
Leapley, Nicole
Murphy, Mary
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Seidel, Sheila
Spier, Carry
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
DiSilvestro, Linda
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kenny, Catherine
Labrie, Brian
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Manohar, Sanjeev
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Hill, Gregory
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Leavitt, John
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hicks, Matthew
Mehegan, Peter
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Meuse, David
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeRoy, Susan
Howland, Allan
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 129**CARROLL**

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
Lucas, Janet
Stavis, Laurel

Fellows, Sallie
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Kluger, Lee Ann
Murray, Megan
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Sofikitis, Catherine
Vail, Suzanne

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
LeClerc, Daniel
MacKenzie, Mark
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Lloyd, Christal
Murphy, Nancy
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
Howard, Molly
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Grote, Jaci
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Sorensen, Carrie

Haskins, Linda
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 649-FN, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: The support of ought to pass is recommended based on several grounds. The first, and probably most important, is the overwhelming request of the constituents who have contacted legislators with complaints of toxic practices among inspectors and expanding inspection requirements that were not legislated. The current vehicle inspection policy is overwhelmingly distrusted among a majority of the New Hampshire public. Many view this as a “poverty penalty” where the overwhelming cost is to people who drive older cars and may not be able to afford to have the vehicle inspected and have whatever repairs recommended be done at the inspecting shop. This policy has been expanded to move beyond the scope of safety and has moved into the realm of profiteering. Bills have failed that have attempted to put in limits, including not mandating accessory lighting and surface rust. The bills that have passed have not been moved into the rules, and there has been no reduction or restructuring to the process. Due to consistent failure of putting limits on it, those in favor of ought to pass move to remove the program altogether. New Hampshire is one of only 11 states with safety inspection laws, and in a review of states with similar population density and climate, there was no direct correlation between vehicle accidents, nor injury, nor lethality, when New Hampshire was compared with other states that do not have this law.

Rep. Henry Giasson

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: Members of the committee in favor of inexpedient to legislate recognize that the safety inspection program must change or be dismantled. We disagree, however, that the bill in this form is the proper way to accomplish that. Notably, it creates significant risk to the state with respect to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compliance and Department of Transportation (DOT) funding, as well as other concerns. We would have preferred to retain and alter the bill, but as written must recommend it not proceed.

Rep. Seth Miller

Rep. Thomas Walsh moved Ought to Pass.

Rep. Miller spoke against.

Rep. Giasson spoke in favor.

Rep. Telerski requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 212 - NAYS 143**YEAS - 212****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Coker, Matthew
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
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MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Berch, Paul
Karasinski, Sly
Qualey, James

Germana, Dylan
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Rhodes, Jennifer

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
O'Rorke, Terri

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Davis, Fred
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Howard, Molly
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Sofikitis, Catherine
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Labrie, Brian
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Spier, Carry
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Cambriels, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Caplan, Tony
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Bricchi, Tracy
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Payeur, Stephanie
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Scherr, Buzz
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Maggiore, Jim
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Knab, Allison
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Schmidt, Peter

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 143**BELKNAP**

Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Crawford, Karel

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Rockmore, Ellen

Bolton, Bill
 Lovett, Peter
 Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
 Lucas, Janet
 Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Bouchard, Donald
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole
 Murray, Megan
 Plamondon, Marc
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Telerski, Laura
 Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Darby, Will
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Preece, David
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Dargie, Paul
 Grill, Jessica
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 McGhee, Kat
 Proulx, Mark
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Vail, Suzanne

Booras, Efstathia
 Cole, Brian
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Foux, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Kelly, Eileen
 Hicks, Matthew
 MacKay, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Gallager, Eric
 Luneau, David
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Gibbs, Merryl
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Haskins, Linda
 Lundgren, David
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Muns, Chris
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
 Murray, Kate
 Cahill, Michael
 Manos, Zoe
 Nelson, Jodi
 Turer, Eric
 Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
 Khan, Aboul
 Paige, Mark
 Markell, Jay
 Pearson, Stephen
 Vandecasteele, Susan

Grote, Jaci
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Malloy, Dennis
 Meuse, David
 Simpson, Alexis
 MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
 Howland, Allan
 Malone, Amy
 Wade, Alice

Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Miller, Seth
 Wall, Janet

Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Drye, Margaret

and the motion of Ought to Pass was adopted.

The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 691-FN, prohibiting the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water systems. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Nicholas Bridle for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill seeks to prohibit the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water systems. The committee heard broad testimony both in support and opposition regarding the science and health effects of these chemicals in the water system. The committee feels the issue does not need further legislation, as the communities served by these water supplies have local control and chose to opt in to having the fluoride chemicals added to their water supply, and they also have a means to vote to remove these chemicals from the water supplies as well. This issue does not require a mandate by the state legislature. Vote 14-1.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Bridle spoke in favor.

Rep. Polozov spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 212 - NAYS 143

**YEAS - 212
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
 Coker, Matthew
 Nagel, David
 Toner, Travis

Bean, Harry
 Dumais, Russell
 Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
 Freeman, Lisa
 Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
 Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
 Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Peternel, Katy

MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Berch, Paul
Karasinski, Sly
Qualey, James

Germana, Dylan
Mattson, Rita
Rhodes, Jennifer

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
O'Rorke, Terri

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete
Valerino, Brian

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sullivan, Jared
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Suiter, John
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Slottje, Jeremy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Davis, Fred
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Howard, Molly
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Seidel, Sheila
Sofikitis, Catherine
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Labrie, Brian
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Spier, Carry
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Cambriis, Jose
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Caplan, Tony
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Bricchi, Tracy
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Payeur, Stephanie
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Scherr, Buzz
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Maggiore, Jim
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Knab, Allison
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Schmidt, Peter

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 143
BELKNAP**

Trottier, Douglas

CARROLL

Crawford, Karel

Paige, David

Hamblen, Joseph

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, JodiHarvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
Parshall, LuciusFox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Weber, LucyFaulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, GeorgeBaldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, EllenBolton, Bill
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, LaurelCormen, Thomas
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Aissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, WendyBoyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
MacKenzie, Mark
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, MatthewBergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Vail, SuzanneBooras, Efstathia
Cole, Brian
DiSilvestro, Linda
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel**MERRIMACK**Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary JaneEbel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, GaryGallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, JimGibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Haskins, Linda
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Geraldde Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Cahill, Michael
Manos, Zoe
Nelson, Jodi
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, ToniGilman, Julie
Khan, Aboul
Paige, Mark
Markell, Jay
Pearson, Stephen
Vandecasteele, SusanGrote, Jaci
Litchfield, Melissa
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
MacDonald, Wayne**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Pearson, WayneBixby, Peter
Howland, Allan
Malone, Amy
Wade, AliceGilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Wall, JanetHoward, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Southworth, Thomas**SULLIVAN**Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Drye, Margaret

and the committee report was adopted.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Janigian, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 649-FN**, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.

RESOLUTION

Rep. Osborne offered the following: RESOLVED, that the House now adjourn from the early session, that the business of the late session be in order at the present time, that the reading of bills be by title only and resolutions by caption only and that all bills ordered to third reading be read a third time by this resolution, and that all titles of bills be the same as adopted, and that they be passed at the present time, and when the House adjourns today it be to meet, Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION**Third Reading and Final Passage**

HB 177, relative to children in placement pursuant to an episode of treatment for which the department of health and human services has a financial responsibility.

HB 320-FN, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements.

HB 486-FN, relative to grandparents' visitation rights.

HB 62-FN, relative to protection of persons from domestic violence and military protective orders.

HB 162-FN, relative to informed consent for law enforcement searches of houses or other property.

HB 184, establishing a committee to study changing school start times.

HB 222, repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services.

HB 394, relative to the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees and the role of cooperative school district board member representatives on such committees.

HB 440, relative to educator licensing.

HB 532, relative to alternative dispute resolution and individualized education plan team meeting facilitation.

HB 571, including Constitution Day in patriotic exercises required of public schools.

HR 9, urging the department of education to emphasize STEM education in public schools.

HB 269, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist.

HB 294, relative to the processing of absentee ballots.

HB 464, prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots.

HB 150, enabling homestead operations to use commercial kitchen equipment in preparing food for sale.

HR 10, recognizing the importance of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment with regard to our fundamental rights.

HB 156, relative to the duties of the advisory committee on state procurement.

HB 435, relative to the definition of professional engineer.

HB 598, establishing a committee to study data sources of all entities operated by all branches of government that are or are potentially made available to the public, identify the data formats of those sources, and recommend legislation to standardize types and formats of data output from all or select governmental entities.

HB 73, relative to harm reduction, substance misuse, and the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.

HB 577, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs.

HB 685, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing.

HB 485, authorizing persons who win the state lottery to remain anonymous.

HB 248, relative to notice and update requirements regarding state employee investigations.

HB 230-L, relative to the adoption of public health ordinances by municipalities.

HB 421-FN, relative to notice of tax exempt-status filing procedures by town officials or offices.

HB 426, relative to property tax exemptions for charitable organizations for the prior tax year.

HB 663, allowing the division of historic resources to expend moose plate funds to administer and fund grants.

HB 390-FN, relative to adding retired fire apparatus (fire trucks) to antique vehicle exemptions.

HB 591-FN, expanding hours for keno gaming on weekends.

HB 143, relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property.

HB 153-FN, establishing a committee to study adding statewide resources to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty.

HB 484, relative to reallocation or repurposing of career and technical education classroom space by local school districts.

HB 208-FN, relative to certification requirements for school nurses.

HB 771-FN, relative to funding for open enrollment schools.

HB 94-FN, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan.

HB 223, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate within 15 miles of a critical access hospital.

HB 634, repealing the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

HB 617, relative to the homestead right.

HCR 1, calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment.

HB 649-FN, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Nicholas Germana requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Ukraine and addressed the House.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. DeRoy requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding committee emails and addressed the House.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Layon requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Women's History Month and addressed the House.

Consent was withdrawn.

The question being shall the member be allowed to continue speaking with consent of the House?

Rep. Giasson requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 190 - NAYS 156**YEAS - 190
BELKNAP**

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Jacobs, Samantha
Qualey, James

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Rhodes, Jennifer

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Newell, Jodi

COOS

Davis, Arnold

Valerino, Brian

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Ladd, Rick
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

Berezhny, Lex
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Bouchard, Donald
Corcoran, Travis
Dargie, Paul
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Mannion, Tim
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Cornell, Patricia
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Ohm, Bill
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Swanson, Dale
Ulery, Jordan
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Daniels, Gary
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Post, Lisa
Raymond, Heather
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Vail, Suzanne

Booras, Efstathia
Cole, Brian
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Seidel, Sheila
Tellez, Trinidad
Veilleux, Daniel

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Pitaro, Matthew
Schultz, Kris
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
MacKay, James
Roesener, James
Seaworth, Brian
Woods, Gary

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Donnelly, Tanya
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Cahill, Michael
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Melvin, Charles

Bryer, Scott
Grote, Jaci
Janigian, John
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Meuse, David

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Murray, Kate
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David

Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vose, Michael

Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sytek, John
Ward, Gerald

Pearson, Stephen
Tudor, Paul
Weinstein, Toni

Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Southworth, Thomas

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Pearson, Wayne

Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Grant, George

Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Smith, Steven

Girard, Dale
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 156

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Parshall, Lucius

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Morency, Pete

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
McFarlane, Donald

Beaulier, Calvin

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Drew, Matt
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Rung, Rosemarie
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Dumont, Dillon
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Salvi, Santosh
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Bergeron, Dan
Creighton, James
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Leapley, Nicole
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen
Prout, Andrew
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Moffett, Michael
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Morse, Bryan
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Love, David
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Kuttab, Katelyn
Pearson, Mark
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Miner, Laurence
McGrath, Linda
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Vandecasteele, Susan

Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Layon, Erica
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Read, Ellen
Spillane, James
Verville, Kevin

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Schmidt, Peter

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne

Aron, Judy

Aron, Michael

and the member was allowed to continue with a three-fifths vote.

Rep. Jared Sullivan voted Yea and intended to vote Nay.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Newell requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Black Balloon Day for Opioid addiction remembrance and addressed the House.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed in honor and in memory of those lost from overdose.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Gallagher requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding European Day of the Righteous and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that the remarks made by all members during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Nicholas Germana: Thank you, Mister Chair. Thank you, Mister Speaker. In May of 2022, my son Dylan and I spent a glorious afternoon being shown around Munich by a young Ukrainian woman who had moved to Germany as a teenager with her parents. After the tour over beer and sauerbraten, she told us that her family had finally prevailed in convincing her grandparents to flee their war-torn country and join them in Germany. They left behind the only homes and only communities they had ever known, and they left behind sons, nephews and grandsons who remained in Ukraine fighting for their country's freedom. Her parents understood, her grandparents understood that they would likely never see their homes again, but even more devastatingly they knew that they would likely never see those loved ones again. On a train from Berlin headed west to Hanover, we met dozens of women and children, Ukrainian refugees, carrying all of their earthly possessions with them, but also the mental and emotional baggage of the trauma that will haunt their families for generations. February 24th marked three years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine launching the largest land war in Europe since the Second World War. From the very first moments of this barbaric conflict, Granite Staters have shown unflagging dedication to the cause of freedom for Ukraine, giving money, time and energy to support the victims of Russian aggression. Two grassroots organizations here in New Hampshire have been hard at work supporting Ukraine since the earliest days of this barbaric conflict. New Hampshire for Ukraine and Common Man for Ukraine have provided money, food, medical supplies and social services to the victims of the war in Poland and closer to the front in Ukraine itself. Granite Staters feel a special affinity, I think, for Ukrainians. They embody our motto, Live Free or Die. As we mark the third anniversary of this tragic war, let us recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom that we in New Hampshire hold so dear. Granite Staters stand with Ukraine.

REMARKS

Rep. DeRoy: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Committee members, one of my constituents had asked me to come up here and request that we put our emails back on the system so that each one of the committee members would receive their individual emails. So, Mister Speaker, I would like to call that the House acquiesce to the request of the petition and direct IT to create a unique email address for each standing, special and statutory committee that delivers the emails to each member of that particular committee. Thank you.

REMARKS

Rep. Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. I rise today to honor Women's History Month. In March, 1911 a fire started inside the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City and as the 146 women working inside rushed to exit, they realized the doors were locked to keep them inside and working. They all died. These women silenced in life spoke loudly in death leading to greater protection for workers. This tragedy also added to the momentum for the women's suffrage movement. Just nine years later, women gained the right to vote. We gained our voice. While today we have our voice at the ballot box and in the legislature, too often women

still stay silent to keep the peace or out of fear. A woman forced to keep quiet in potentially dangerous situations is encouraged to become a victim through inaction. How often do we ask women to speak out in cases of domestic abuse, yet they are still afraid that they will be ignored so they suffer in silence. 105 years ago, women gained the right to vote. Some 140 of us in this Chamber have a strong voice to stand, vote and speak for those who elected us. When women are silenced, it hurts all of us. We stand today at a pivotal moment. Women who have been silenced are gaining back their voices and indeed, in 2011, on the 100th anniversary of the Women's History Month, President Barack Obama said that there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity. But what is parity? Is it the equal opportunity to speak up for yourself, your safety, your emotional needs? Or is parity the erasing of women, women's spaces, women's sports and women's voices. Women thought that the kind thing to do was to make space and hold their tongues, but rather than finding a tolerable compromise, they were pushed another foot for every inch they gave. They had to violate their boundaries and kneel to men and their self esteem while forsaking their own. Women were on a path to become history, not to make history. 114 years ago, women across the nation let the women working in garment shops know they were not alone. That they need not be silent. That they need not accept danger just to make men more comfortable. We have a choice to make. Our children and grandchildren are watching.

Representative Layon: Thank you, Mister Speaker. As I was saying, the women working in the garment shops were placed in danger by the men who owned and operated those garment shops. Now, we have a choice to make. Our children and grandchildren are watching. Will we stand with these women?

Representative Layon: Will we stand with these women and girls who are reclaiming their voices, reclaiming their spaces and reclaiming their right to succeed or fail on their own merits? Or will we instead rollover and make this the first women are history month? I ask you to stand with me, with the President who just signed a proclamation declaring March 2025 Women's History Month for women's rights, to tell women and girls that they matter, that their voices matter and that their boundaries matter. We must overcome the campaign to silence women or women ourselves will become history. Thank you, Mister Speaker. I look forward to the day when we can also celebrate men who have been demonized and villainized for too long.

REMARKS

Rep. Newell: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Each year on March 6th we who have lost a loved one to overdose make our presence our grief and our love with nowhere to go seen in the form of a black balloon. This tradition resonates deeply with me personally as my kids often wrote messages on balloons to send out to daddy on his birthday when they were young. I won't hold you for long, but I felt it was important to mark this day, particularly in this body, and to harden our resolve by taking the necessary steps to prevent further loss. If you are willing and able, I ask you to stand for a moment of silence to remember those lost and the many Granite Staters who live on without parents, grandparents, siblings, children and friends. Thank you.

REMARKS

Rep. Gallagher: Hello, I rise today in commemoration of the European Day of Remembrance for the Righteous which is today, March 6. I'd just like to read the resolution for it. It's short.

The European Parliament, invoking Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure, recognizes the moral significance of the Garden of the Righteous in Jerusalem, initiated by the late Moshe Bejski, and pays tribute to those who helped Jews during the Holocaust. Recalling the institutions that have honoured people who saved lives during all genocides and mass murders (such as the Armenian, Bosnian, Cambodian and Rwandan ones) and the other crimes against humanity perpetrated in the 20th and 21st centuries. Recalling all those who preserved human dignity during Nazism and Communist totalitarianism. Whereas the remembrance of good is essential to the process of European integration because it teaches younger generations that everyone can always choose to help other human beings and defend human dignity, and that public institutions have a duty to highlight the example set by people who managed to protect those persecuted out of hate; therefore supports the call made by leading citizens to establish a European Day of Remembrance for the Righteous to commemorate, on 6th of March, those who challenged crimes against humanity and totalitarianism with individual responsibility.

So, I think that's important for us to remember now, especially as our alliances with Europe are being threatened. I think we need to remember some of our shared values of standing up against oppression and totalitarianism and I hope that you will do that with me today. Thanks.

RECESS MOTION

Rep. Osborne moved that the House stand in recess for the purposes of the introduction of bills, enrolled bill amendments, enrolled bill reports and receiving messages.

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 5:00 p.m.

RECESS

(Rep. Doucette in the Chair)
ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENT

HB 399, establishing a commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act and relative to the effective date of the C-PACER program.

Amendment 2025-0804EBA

Amend section 1 of the bill by replacing lines 3-6 with the following:
 23 the following new subdivision:

Commission to Study the Historical Evolution of the
 New Hampshire Zoning Enabling Act

674:23-a Commission Established. There is established a commission to study the historical
 Amend RSA 674:16-b, V, as inserted by section 1 of the bill, by replacing line 1 with the following:

V. The commission shall make an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for
 Amend section 3 of the bill by replacing line 1 with the following:

3 Repeal. RSA 674:23-a, relative to the commission to study the historical evolution of New Hampshire's zoning
 Motion was adopted.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)
ENROLLED BILL REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bill numbered 399.
 Rep. Osborne, Sen. Carson for the Committee

RECESS

(Rep. Osborne in the Chair)
RESOLUTION

Rep. Ladd offered the following: RESOLVED, that in accordance with the list in the possession of the Clerk,
 House Resolution numbered 18 shall be by this resolution read a first and second time by the therein listed
 title, sent for printing and referred to the therein designated committee.
 Motion was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE BILL
First, second reading and referral

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. (J. Aron, Sull. 4; Bixby, Straf.
 13; Environment and Agriculture)

RECESS