



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

Second Year of the 169th General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2026 Session

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Vol. 48

Concord, N.H.

Thursday, January 8, 2026

No. 2

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 1 (Cont'd)

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 2

Thursday, January 8, 2026

The House assembled at 9:00 a.m., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the Speaker. Prayer was offered by Guest Chaplain Rev. Jean Beniste, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Concord. Holy and gracious presence, source of all wisdom and life, known by many names and honored through many traditions and languages. Today, we pause and bow before you at the opening of this session to seek Your guidance. We ask that Your spirit of wisdom and truth be present in this chamber. Grant each of us clarity of mind, integrity of heart, and the courage to act for the good of all. May we listen with humility, speak with respect, and remember the sacred dignity of every person they serve. In moments of challenge, grant us patience. In moments of decision, grant us discernment. May justice, compassion, and commitment to the common good guide every action taken here. With gratitude for this responsibility and trust in divine guidance, we offer this prayer. In your Holy Name. Amen.

Representative Charlie St. Clair, member from Laconia, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Emily Anna Bridges of Rye.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Aldrich, DeDe-Poulin, England, Foote, Gibbs, Manohar, Morency, Mary Murphy, Richards, Roy, Slottje, Sorensen and Tenczar, the day, illness.

Reps. Aylward, Comtois, Harrington, Knab, Malone, Michael Murphy, Panek, Schmidt, Trottier and Weinstein, the day, important business.

Reps. Creighton and Miner, the day, illness in the family.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Adam and Arya Schran, guests of Representative St. Clair. Nina Parrott, guest of Representative Grote. Chris Eineberg, guest of Representatives Berch and Harvey. Colonel Eric Pauer, Us Air Force Retired, Husband of Representative Pauer.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The House welcomed David M. Scanlan, New Hampshire Secretary of State, Ashley Miller, New Hampshire State Archivist, and the Hon. Stephen Shurtleff, who addressed the body with a presentation on the 250th anniversary of the New Hampshire Constitution.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 365-FN, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the Majority of Finance. The majority of the committee recommends this bill be found Ought to Pass with Amendment. This bill strengthens election integrity by ensuring indigent voters have a means to obtain proof of U.S. citizenship while maintaining a fair and accessible process. The amendment clarifies procedures to ensure no eligible voter is disenfranchised due to financial hardship. Supporting OTP/A reflects a balanced approach—upholding secure elections while safeguarding access to the ballot. Vote 16-9.

Rep. David Preece for the Minority of Finance. The minority of the committee opposes this bill because it creates a convoluted, vague, and impractical process that imposes unnecessary administrative and fiscal burdens on New Hampshire's towns and cities. The process set forth in the bill for proving indigence is both humiliating and inefficient. It forces individuals to disclose personal financial circumstances merely to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Such requirements demean the dignity of citizens and place an undue burden on those already struggling to make ends meet. New Hampshire has long relied on a proven, effective, and fiscally responsible method of verifying citizenship: the affidavit. The affidavit system has worked for decades, ensuring election integrity while maintaining accessibility for all eligible voters. It is a system rooted in trust, local control, and administrative simplicity—values that have long defined our state's approach to elections. Ironically, HB 365 acknowledges the very flaw it fails to fix—that the current system disenfranchises the poor and those who cannot readily locate their citizenship documents. Yet instead of remedying this, the bill replaces a practical, humane process with a bureaucratic, exclusionary, and costly one. The minority believes that sometimes the best way to do the right thing is simply to do the right thing: return to the use of affidavits. This method is straightforward, inexpensive, and consistent with New Hampshire's longstanding electoral traditions. HB 365 would increase local administrative costs due to new documentation requirements, staff training, and record-keeping. The bill provides no state funding to offset these additional expenses, effectively creating an unfunded mandate on municipalities. For these reasons, the minority of the committee finds HB 365 to be unnecessary, inefficient, and contrary to the principles of fairness and fiscal responsibility. For these reasons the minority disagrees with the motion of OTP/A and supports a motion of ITL.

Majority Amendment (2994h)

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

2 Appropriation; Secretary of State. There is hereby appropriated to the secretary of state the sum of \$50,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of reimbursing local municipalities for the costs of vouchers to pay any required fee to obtain a potential voter's birth certificate or equivalent proof of citizenship under RSA 654:12, II-a(b). The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Preece spoke against.

Rep. Sweeney Rep. spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 195 - NAYS 142

YEAS - 195

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Stringham, Jerry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim

Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Long, Patrick
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

MERRIMACK

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Kuttub, Katelyn
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

ROCKINGHAM

Ankarberg, Aidan
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Bailey, Glenn
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley
DeLemus, Susan

STRAFFORD

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

SULLIVAN

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

NAYS - 142

CARROLL

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

CHESHIRE

Almy, Susan
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen

Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

GRAFTON

Murray, Aissandra
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
LeClerc, Daniel
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Kerwin, Erin
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine

Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine

Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Foxy, Loren
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry

HILLSBOROUGH

Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Scherr, Buzz

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 572-FN, (New Title) establishing the “partners in housing” program, an initiative under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building workforce housing, and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for the Majority of Finance. The majority of House Finance recommends HB 572-FN be found Inexpedient to Legislate. The policy concepts contained in this bill were already adopted through the state budget, making separate legislation unnecessary. While the appropriation was not included, the underlying program framework exists and can be funded by a future legislature. The majority believes ITL maintains coherence with current budget language and respects the state’s existing spending plan. Vote 14-11.

Rep. Chris Muns for the Minority of Finance. This bill passed the House on a voice vote on March 13. It came out of the Committee on Housing with a 16-0 unanimous recommendation of ought to pass as amended. It established the Partners in Housing program which will reduce costs and accelerate housing production by identifying municipal and county-owned land suitable for development and expediting the planning board review process. As introduced, HB 572 would have appropriated \$2 million to the Partners in Housing program, \$500,000 to the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to administer that program and \$8 million to the Housing Champions program established in 2023 for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2025, with funds lapsing on June 30, 2027. Unfortunately, the Committee on Housing reduced that funding to only \$150,000 and that is the version of this bill the House referred to the Committee on Finance. The language of that amended bill was incorporated into HB 2, but the \$150,000 in appropriations to implement it was deleted. The minority of the committee believe that if we are serious about addressing the very real and significant housing challenges Granite Staters everywhere are facing, we need to do more than simply pass language that proposes to address those challenges; we need to be willing to back up our words with the resources necessary to implement those ideas. It is going to take private developers and local government working together – consistently, over a number of years – in partnership with the State of New Hampshire to tackle our housing crisis. That is precisely what the Partners in Housing and Housing Champions programs envision. We do not believe that the Committee on Housing went far enough when it recommended an appropriation of only \$150,000. The proposed amendment to this bill will appropriate a total of \$5.25 million for the Partners in Housing and Housing Champions programs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, which is one-half of the amount originally envisioned when HB 572 was introduced and a good faith down payment by the state towards addressing our long-term housing needs.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report.

Rep. Sweeney spoke in favor

Rep. Stavits spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 191 - NAYS 156**YEAS - 191
BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom
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Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
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Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
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Warden, Mark

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Polozov, Yury
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Cambrils, Jose
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DeVito, Sayra
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Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
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Bernardy, JD
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Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
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DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Michael

NAYS - 156
BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

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

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Foxx, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Scherr, Buzz

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale

Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope

Drye, Margaret

and the majority committee report was adopted.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that the debate on **HB 572-FN**, establishing the “partners in housing” program, an initiative under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building workforce housing, and making an appropriation therefor. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE ON HB 572-FN

Representative Stavis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Committee's ITL recommendation on HB 572. That bill is now a law and exists in the Governor's budget as the Partners in Housing Act. It was introduced with an appropriation request to fund its operations for two years. After reducing that request, it passed the Housing Committee unanimously and then passed this body on a voice vote. But at the last moment, the majority of finance stripped all of its remaining funding. Should this ITL motion be defeated, we seek to offer an amendment that would restore a part of the original appropriation request. As the prime sponsor of HB 572, I'm delighted that it exists in law, but I want it to work. I want it to do what's intended to do; lower the costs of building modestly priced homes to the point where building those homes will be financially attractive to developers. But let me just take a moment to recap exactly what Partners in Housing does, since its passage on a voice vote meant some of my colleagues here may not be familiar with the details. Partners tackles the single most difficult housing challenge we face. Not zoning, not land use, but skyrocketing costs. It lowers those costs in multiple ways; by creating a database of municipal land suitable for residential development, thus lowering the cost of that land, by providing low-interest construction loans to developers who work with municipalities to build homes on that land, by expediting review process, and by returning non-performing land to the tax rolls, producing new revenue across the board. The goal is to build homes for young families, the workers that fuel our economy, and older people looking to downsize. Not subsidized homes, not low-income homes, but homes the residents and businesses alike are telling us is their most pressing need. Most importantly, it's entirely voluntary. Municipalities that choose to participate will do so because it's in their best interest, not because it's mandated by the state. And we tested it severely. Would planning boards agree to expedite review? Would builders find it attractive? Would towns want to participate? All of these questions were answered with a resounding yes by the dozens of organizations that turned out to support it when it was heard in the Housing Committee. The Realtors Association, the Business and Industry Association, the Division of Business and Economics Affairs, the Planners Association, the Association of Counties, Stay Work Play New Hampshire, New Hampshire Housing Action, the Municipal Association, the AARP, the State Council on Aging, and I could go on and on and on. This is a program that the people we represent want, and they want us to enact it with more than just words. Reaching a compromise on its funding by overturning this ITL is a commonsense way to address the single biggest problem facing New Hampshire residents, the problem they're pleading with us to solve. In the last two years, we've put forward several bills that address New Hampshire's housing shortage. They adjust parking rules, setback requirements, lot sizes, and ADUs. These are great efforts that will solve some problems to be sure, but none address the core issue of affordability, and that is the centerpiece of Partners in Housing. Good intentions don't build houses young families can afford. Careful, modest investment is needed as well; investment that will pay for itself in new property tax revenues as houses are built. More jobs are created for New Hampshire builders, and more businesses can find and keep the workers they need. HB 572 does not presume to be the only solution to our housing problem, but it's a hell of a good start. I see how it's benefiting my community, and I want that opportunity to be available throughout the state. I urge my colleagues to defeat this ITL motion so another motion can be made, and I ask for a roll call vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Sweeney.

Representative Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful today to speak in support of the committee recommendation of ITL on House Bill 572. I'm grateful largely because I know within my caucus we have a wide view and a wide spectrum of ideas and thoughts as to best tackle the housing crisis, but with this vote today I think we can all be united. House Bill 572, at best, and the best part of it that we actually put into the state budget that we voted for last year, is a spreadsheet. It's a spreadsheet database that identifies the local, county, and state government-owned land throughout the State of New Hampshire. Republicans on House Finance thought that was a worthwhile idea so that we could start tracking what land the government owns so that, to the previous speaker's points, we can start getting productive land back onto the tax rolls to expand the tax base locally and allow those local leaders that control the keys to those parcels to have some direction as to where they want their town or their municipality to go in the future. What we don't need is the funding that's in 572 still, and that's why we're voting to make it inexpedient to legislate today. The solution to our housing crisis in New Hampshire is not more government. It's not more programs. It's not low-interest loans to developers. It's not housing. Really, in reality, when we talked about this bill in committee, we talked about the wonderful projects that were supported by this bill. That's a miracle because this bill, this policy, never existed with funding. It never created a single development. This bill, this policy, will not lead to more homes being created. It won't lead to more development. It will just lead to more spending and more reviews and whatnot. We don't need this bill. We put the policy that was good into the budget, and so you can vote with us unanimously today to inexpedient to legislate 572. Thank you very much.

Speaker Packard: Representative Stavis 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 motion before us is the majority committee report of inexpedient to legislate on House Bill 572. This is a roll call vote. Chair recognizes Representative David Page for a parliamentary inquiry.

Rep. David Page: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand that meeting our housing needs requires not just good intentions, but responsible public investments that create jobs, deliver homes, and generate reliable returns. And if I know that poll after poll shows housing is the top concern for granite staters, and I struggle to understand why we would choose to starve proven housing programs of the oxygen they need to survive, would I now press the red button so that another motion may be made?

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Dan McGuire for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Dan McGuire: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this new program was available to us during budget time, and unfortunately did not meet the cutoff of what we had to spend, and if I know that what's on the table from the minority is over \$5 million of new appropriation, we certainly do not have that at this time, would I now press the green button to support the committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: Motion before us, majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate on House Bill 572. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. 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. 191 voting Yea, 156 voting Nay. The committee report is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 624-FN-A, establishing a local river management advisory committee grant program and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Joe Sweeney for the Majority of Finance. The majority of House Finance recommends this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. The bill would create a new river management grant program duplicating efforts already managed by the Department of Environmental Services under existing statutes. Establishing another fund would increase administrative costs without producing measurable improvements in conservation outcomes. The majority determined ITL preserves efficiency and avoids unnecessary bureaucratic expansion. Vote 13-12. Rep. Rosemarie Rung for the Minority of Finance. The minority supports an OTP motion for 624-FN-A. This bill would appropriate \$40,000 for each year in the biennium to establish a Local River Management Advisory Committee Grants program. Protecting our rivers is not exclusive to those water bodies, but is a critical component to protecting the environmental and economic health of many NH lakes as well, several of which are part of the river's watershed and/or through which a river flows. For example, each year dozens of NH lakes and rivers suffer toxic cyanobacteria blooms. Just one in-lake treatment to mitigate chronic blooms comes at a cost of at least \$300,000. A relatively modest investment of \$40,000 per year will empower and equip local river volunteer advocates to implement projects to stem potential impairment of rivers and the many other NH freshwater bodies they impact.

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

Rep. Sweeney spoke in favor.

Rep. Rung spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 187 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 187 BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis

Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Paquette, Kathleen
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

MERRIMACK

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

ROCKINGHAM

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

STRAFFORD

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

SULLIVAN

NAYS - 164 BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Brown, Richard

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

CARROLL

CHESHIRE

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

GRAFTON

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin

Boyd, Bill
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann

Beauchemin, Paige
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel

HILLSBOROUGH

Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Presa, Adam
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Simpson, Alexis

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Muns, Chris
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 661-FN, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Brian Seaworth for the Majority of Finance. This bill came to Finance as the second committee after passing the House on the consent calendar. It proposes to change the way DCYF would pay for the cost of certain youth assigned to their custody. Specifically, money from social security and/or the veterans administration can currently be used to offset the cost of custody. The bill would allow the youth or their family to retain these funds, covering the cost with state money. Such language was not part of the original budget and, at an ongoing cost estimated around \$3 million per year, was not added by the House. In addition to the bottom-line price tag, the solutions' details vary. Different sources of money have different requirements and some pieces of the solution would need upgraded IT systems and additional DHHS staff to implement. The majority believes that, because funding is likely to be unavailable before the next budget cycle, it makes sense to further refine the proposal through interim study with a goal of resolving some of the outstanding issues. Vote 14-11.

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner for the Minority of Finance. This bill is in response to a report which was funded by the legislature to provide New Hampshire with a roadmap and guidance on New Hampshire's long standing practice of the state collecting social security benefits from foster children. The report recommended that the state hold foster children's social security benefits in interest earning savings accounts. The benefits would then become available to young people aging out of foster care instead of being deposited in the state's general fund. The report outlined policies and procedures necessary to assure the benefits were available to the foster child when they aged out of foster care. Testimony was given that young people leaving foster care struggle to provide housing, education and transportation for themselves and many become homeless. Having their social security benefits available for them could be life changing. The proposed amendment takes steps toward assuring that social security benefits are preserved for eligible foster children. The effective dates of the amendment are July 1, 2027 and July 1, 2028.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Rep. Seaworth moved that **HB 661-FN**, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care be recommitted to the Committee on Finance.

The motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 675-FN-A-LOCAL, (New Title) limiting the authority of school districts to make certain appropriations. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Keith Erf for the Majority of Finance. This bill, as amended, establishes a mechanism for harnessing annual school district budget growth, excluding facilities construction, by tying increases to the Consumer Price Index through 2028. Beginning in 2029, appropriations would also reflect enrollment changes using the district's average daily membership & residence (ADMR.) Districts may increase spending by obtaining a higher threshold of consent, requiring approval by a two-thirds vote of their legislative body. The majority of this committee finds this a fair and transparent approach to ensure responsible budgeting while preserving local control and accountability. It allows districts flexibility for emergencies but curbs unchecked spending growth, protecting taxpayers and promoting sustainable long term education funding. Vote 14-11.

Rep. Kate Murray for the Minority of Finance. The minority opposes imposing a cap on local school district spending for several reasons. First, New Hampshire continues to underfund public education at the state level, which forces local school districts to cover the majority of the cost. With so much financial responsibility falling to the local districts, it would be arbitrary and punitive for the state to restrict those districts from funding their educational needs. Second, our public schools are very diverse in size, needs, and character. Forcing all schools into the same financial bind fails to take these differences into account, and will only exacerbate the difficulties faced by many districts. Poor school districts will have little opportunity to improve, continuing an unfair and unnecessary cycle of poor student outcomes. Lastly, this bill would make it impossible for school districts to address unexpected financial obligations, which many districts throughout the state are currently facing. While districts are considering a mix of approaches to meet their obligations, including spending cuts, revenue increases, and tapping into savings, this bill would tie their hands and require unexpected costs to be absorbed through cuts only. Students will suffer, as sports and extracurricular activities are often the first programs to go. In the end, instituting a cap will negatively affect many of our school districts, resulting in cuts to programs, larger class sizes, and locking in existing funding inequities. It will become harder for schools to provide essential services, implement reforms, and keep up with inflation, which will lead to worse student outcomes, especially for low-income students. For these reasons, we oppose this bill.

Majority Amendment (3013h)

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

1 New Paragraphs; Commissioner's Warrant. Amend RSA 76:8 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraphs:

IV.(a) Until June 30, 2028, school district appropriation amounts, less facilities acquisition and construction, authorized in paragraph III and reported pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, shall not be more than the previous year's appropriation, less facilities acquisition and construction, adjusted for the average change in the Consumer Price Index, as provided in paragraph VI .

(b) Beginning July 1, 2028, the school district appropriation amounts, less facilities acquisition and construction, authorized in paragraph III and reported pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, shall not be more than previous year's appropriation, adjusted first based on the percent change of the district's ADMR used for calculating base adequate education grants pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(a), and then adjusted for the average change in the Consumer Price Index, as provided in paragraph VI.

(c) School districts seeking appropriations, less facilities acquisition and construction, to assess local property taxes in excess of subparagraphs (a) and (b), as applicable, shall do so by a 2/3 majority vote of their legislative body on each vote or warrant article in excess of the appropriation determined in paragraph V. The vote to exceed the excess shall not be a voice vote.

(d) Districts seeking emergency appropriations shall follow the provisions of RSA 197:3.

V. Within 45 days after the reported appropriation amounts are submitted pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall notify the school board of any excess appropriations not made in accordance with RSA 76:8, IV and delete those appropriations when computing district taxation pursuant to RSA 198:4-a, IV.

VI. In this section, "Consumer Price Index" shall be determined by using the All Urban Consumers, Northeast Region, using the "services less medical care services" special aggregate index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. The average change shall be calculated using the calendar year ending 12 months before the start of the fiscal year.

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

2025-3013h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a tax cap for local school districts based on the previous year's appropriation, less facilities acquisition and construction, adjusted for the average change in the CPI and, beginning in fiscal year 2028, also adjusted based on the percentage change of the district's ADMR for calculating base adequate education grants.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Rep. Erf spoke in favor

Rep. Wallner requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 184 – NAYS 168

YEAS – 184

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

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Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

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Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Cormen, Thomas
McFarlane, Donald

Beaulier, Calvin
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Janigian, John
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spillsbury, Walter

NAYS - 168**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

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

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

Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Ball, Lorie
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Walsh, Lilli
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Perez, Kristine
Sytek, John

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Porcelli, Susan
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Rice offered floor amendment 0033h

Floor Amendment (0033h)

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 3: 2 New Section; Education; Miscellaneous Provisions; Limitation on Central Office Administrative Expenditures. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section 20-d the following new section:

198:20-e Limitation on Central Office Administrative Expenditures.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, beginning July 1, 2026, no school district shall expend more than 6 percent of its total annual operating expenditures on central office administrative functions.

II. For purposes of this section, "central office administrative functions" shall include, but not be limited to, expenditures associated with:

(a) District-wide administration and governance;

(b) Superintendent and assistant superintendent offices;

I Central office personnel, human resources, finance, accounting, legal, communications, and information technology services not directly assigned to an individual school; and

(d) Other district-level overhead costs as defined by the department of education through rules.

III. Total annual operating expenditures shall include all general fund operating expenditures of the school district, excluding capital expenditures, debt service, and federally restricted grant funds.

IV. A school district exceeding the limitation in paragraph I shall be ineligible to receive any additional state aid increases in the subsequent fiscal year until the district demonstrates compliance with this section.

V. The department of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to implement this section, including uniform reporting standards to ensure transparency and consistency across school districts.

2026-0033h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a tax cap for local school districts and limits school district expenditures on central office administrative functions.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0033h).

Rep. Rice spoke in favor.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 177 - NAYS 176**YEAS - 177****BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin

Bernardy, JD
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Vallone, Mark
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

NAYS - 176**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike
St. Clair, Charlie

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel

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
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen

Caplan, Tony
Gallagher, Eric

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie

Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Richards, Beth
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Mannion, Dennis
Grote, Jaci
Walsh, Lilli
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Vandecasteele, Susan

Ball, Lorie
de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Perez, Kristine
Sytek, John
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Porcelli, Susan
Dolan, Tom

Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Kuttub, Katelyn
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and floor amendment 0033h was adopted.

CLERK'S NOTE

The Speaker voted to break the tie, pursuant to House Rule 23, the motion passed.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Ball offered floor amendment (0042h).

Rep. Perez spoke in favor.

Rep. Sweeney spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded

YEAS 182 - NAYS 173

YEAS - 182

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike

Coker, Matthew

Minor, Sheri

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
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
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue

Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Ebel, Karen
 Hall, Muriel
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Newsom, James
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Richards, Beth
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Cahill, Michael
 Gilman, Julie
 Murray, Kate
 Paige, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Perez, Kristine
 Dolan, Tom
 Ward, Gerald

Ball, Lorie
 Mannion, Dennis
 Grote, Jaci
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Maggiore, Jim
 McMahon, Charles
 Scherr, Buzz
 Turer, Eric

Bridle, Nicholas
 de Vries, Erica
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Walsh, Lilli
 Malloy, Dennis
 Meuse, David
 Simpson, Alexis
 Vallone, Mark

Bryer, Scott
 Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Lundgren, David
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Muns, Chris
 Sytek, John
 Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
 Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 173

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
 Nagel, David
 Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
 Ploszaj, Tom

Freeman, Lisa
 Terry, Paul

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
 Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
 Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
 Petermel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
 Brown, Richard

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
 Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
 Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
 Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
 Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
 King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
 Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
 Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
 Franz, Linda
 Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
 Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
 Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
 McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
 Colcombe, Riché
 Daniels, Gary
 Erf, Keith
 Gagne, Larry
 Kenny, Catherine
 Lascelles, Richard
 Mooney, Maureen
 Ohm, Bill
 Post, Lisa
 Rice, Kimberly
 Sirois, Shane
 Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
 Cole, Brian
 Drew, Matt
 Fedolfi, Jim
 Giasson, Henry
 Kesselring, Steven
 Mazur, Lisa
 Morton, Jonathan
 Paquette, Kathleen
 Presa, Adam
 Schneller, John
 Suiter, John
 Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
 Corcoran, Travis
 Dumont, Dillon
 Flanagan, Jack
 Gorski, Ted
 Kofalt, Jim
 McLean, Mark
 Noble, Kristin
 Pauer, Diane
 Prout, Andrew
 Scully, Kevin
 Mannion, Tim
 Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
 Kelley, Diane
 Dupont, Pierre
 Griffin, Gerald
 Gould, Linda
 Labrie, Brian
 Miles, Julie
 Notter, Jeanine
 Peeples, Raymond
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Bricchi, Tracy
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Janigian, John
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Verville, Kevin

Bernardy, JD
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guzofski, James
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spillsbury, Walter

and floor amendment 0042h was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Hakken-Phillips spoke against.

Rep. Sweeney spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 9 – NAYS 346**YEAS – 9****GRAFTON**

Barton, Joseph

Proulx, Mark

Andrus, Louise

Ball, Lorie

Smith, Steven

HILLSBOROUGH**MERRIMACK**

McGuire, Dan

Walsh, Lilli

ROCKINGHAM

Perez, Kristine

Vandecasteele, Susan

SULLIVAN**NAYS – 346****BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri
Varney, Peter

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
St. Clair, Charlie

Bordes, Mike
Nagel, David
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

Belcher, Mike
Hamblen, Joseph
Paternel, Katy

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Hunt, John
Mattson, Rita
O'Rourke, Terri
Thackston, Dick

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Jacobs, Samantha
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Qualey, James

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
McFarlane, Donald
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Louis, Darrell
Muirhead, Russell
Spahr, Terry

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Barbour, Liz
Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
DiSilvestro, Linda
Elberger, Susan
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Kesselring, Steven
Labrie, Brian
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Post, Lisa
Newman, Ray
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Sheehan, Vanessa
Staub, Kathy
Tellez, Trinidad
Vail, Suzanne
Warden, Mark

Alexander, Joe
Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Drew, Matt
Erf, Keith
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lascelles, Richard
Long, Patrick
Mazur, Lisa
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Sirois, Shane
Suiter, John
Mannion, Tim
Veilleux, Daniel
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Dumont, Dillon
Davis, Fred
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Kofalt, Jim
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Reinfurt, Sherri
Ryan, Linda
Scully, Kevin
Sofikitis, Catherine
Swanson, Dale
Mannion, Tom
Dolan, William
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Dupont, Pierre
Fedolff, Jim
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen
Plamondon, Marc
Prout, Andrew
Rice, Kimberly
Newman, Sue
Seibert, Christine
Spier, Carry
Telerski, Laura
Ulery, Jordan
Thomas, Wendy
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Hill, Gregory
Moffett, Michael
Plante, Raymond
Boyd, Stephen
Seaworth, Brian
Walsh, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Bricchi, Tracy
Colby, Eleana
Gallager, Eric
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Polozov, Yury
Sargent, Gregory
See, Alvin
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Hall, Muriel
Payeur, Stephanie
Richards, Beth
Schamberg, Thomas
Snodgrass, Jim
Wallner, Mary Jane

Cambrils, Jose
Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Mehegan, Peter
Pitaro, Matthew
Roesener, James
Schultz, Kris
Soucy, Timothy
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bryer, Scott
de Vries, Erica
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Guzofski, James
Murray, Kate
Litchfield, Melissa
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McGrath, Linda
Muns, Chris
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald

Bennett, Cindy
Cahill, Michael
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Gilman, Julie
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Love, David
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Simpson, Alexis

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
DeVito, Sayra
Edgar, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda
Kuttab, Katelyn
Lundgren, David
Maggiore, Jim
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Soti, Julius

Bridle, Nicholas
Thomas, Douglas
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guthrie, Joseph
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
McDonnell, Valerie
Meuse, David
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Scherr, Buzz
Spillane, James

Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Sytek, John
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Dolan, Tom
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Howard, Heath
Kaczynski, Thomas
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Pearson, Wayne

Bailey, Glenn
Burton, Wayne
Farrington, Samuel
Horrigan, Timothy
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wade, Alice

Bay, Luz
Butler, Billie
Gilmore, Gary
Howland, Allan
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John
Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Johnson, Erik
Levesque, Cassandra
Hall, Robley
Turcotte, Len
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spillsbury, Walter

the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment failed.

Rep. Sweeney moved to adopt the minority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

The motion was adopted.

MOTION TO SPECIAL ORDER

Rep. Osborne moved that **HB 155-FN**, reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax be made a Special Order as the next order of business.

Motion was adopted.

SPECIAL ORDER

HB 155-FN, reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jordan Ulery for the Majority of Ways and Means. This bill, as introduced, reduced the Business Enterprise Tax (BET) from the current 0.55% to 0.50% effective for the tax year ending on or after December 31, 2026. After reflection and consideration, the majority of the committee suggested that the effective date should be pushed out one year so that the tax reduction will be effective for the tax year ending on or after Dec 31, 2027. This is important in order to allow a number of changes in tax law to settle and take effect. The principle of cutting taxes to increase revenue proved by both Democrats (Kennedy) and Republicans (Eisenhower and Reagan) on a national level – and most clearly illustrated in the proven Laffer Curve, demands some cuts be implemented. Some argued that tax cuts don't increase revenue, despite documented evidence to the contrary. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Susan Almy for the Minority of Ways and Means. The legislature has been reducing state revenues by cutting business tax and other rates since 2016, and we have reached a crisis point. The value of a dollar bill deflates over time, as inflation causes the dollar cost of goods, services, and infrastructure to increase. This year, the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute calculated the total dollar cost of the tax cuts that occurred from 2016 through 2024 as a total loss of \$900 million to \$1.2 billion. For each cut not paid for by federal stimulus packages, our towns, cities, and counties lost resources that paid for our schools, roads, water plants, and local salaries for needed services. Now, the federal stimulus packages are replaced by claw-backs. We have been helping the smaller businesses and start-ups by increasing the exemption limits every two years by inflation. It is the largest multinational corporations that pay the lion's share of business taxes, and our state's tax bills to them are such a small part of their costs that many did not realize until recently that their tax bills had been cut. Every time we cut more, we cut services the legislature thinks disposable, but which the people of our state and their school, municipal, and county governments regard as necessary. The result is constant property tax increases, and people lose services they value. We cannot continue like this. Three months into the fiscal year, the budget is already 3% under plan. Business taxes account for 42% of our revenue, and are 8.4% below plan in the critical month of September, because the corporations reduced their estimates. The top four other revenue sources, equaling another 42%, are Meals and Rentals (up .1%, and almost half of this group), Real Estate Transfer Tax (down 4.3%), Tobacco Tax (3.7% above but highly irregular), and "Other," most of which is Treasury interest, which is now 35% below FY25, and falling, as we spend down our reserve. Lottery is in 6th place providing \$33 million, and despite the casinos, surpassed the expected take by \$3.5 million only due to the largest Powerball ever. Our businesses are asking for more help to fund housing, child care, and addiction, not more cuts. Our school districts, municipalities, and counties are struggling to keep up with reduced revenues and rising costs. The minority believes this bill should not pass.

Majority Amendment (2983h)

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

New Paragraph; Business Enterprise Tax; Rate Reduced. Amend RSA 77-E:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, [2026] **2027**, a tax is imposed at the rate of 0.50 percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business enterprise.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, [2025] **2026**.

2025-2983h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill reduces the rate of the business enterprise tax for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2027.

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. Almy spoke against.

Rep. Ulery spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 189 - NAYS 165

YEAS - 189

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Crawford, Karel

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Tierney, James

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn

Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 165 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Taylor, Brian

Paige, David
Woodcock, Stephen

Hamblen, Joseph

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
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Sytek, John

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Sweeney moved that the debate on **HB 675-FN-A-LOCAL**, limiting total central office administrative expenses by school districts and requiring reporting of central office administrative expenses to the department of education, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON HB 675-FN-A LOCAL

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Erf.

Rep. Erf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB 675 passed this House last year and was retained in the Finance Committee. It requires a two-thirds majority vote of those voting to pass a school budget that increases operating spending by more than the percentage change in enrollment. This amendment changes the requirement for two-thirds majority vote to include an inflation adjustment, until June 30th, 2028, the previous year's operating budget is adjusted to account for the inflation rate over the previous calendar year. After that time, the previous year's operating budget is first adjusted by the percentage change in the enrollment over the previous year and then adjusted to account for the inflation rate over the previous calendar year. If the proposed school operating budget exceeds the calculated amount, including both enrollment and inflation adjustments, as described, then two-thirds of those voting must vote to approve it. The two-thirds majority vote also applies to any warrant articles in excess of the calculated amount. School districts seeking emergency appropriations continue to follow current law, which is unchanged. The Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration continues to notify the school board of excess appropriations to be deleted as in current law, which is unchanged. The two-thirds majority vote of those voting is not a high hurdle in passing school operating budgets. Over the past few years, there have been a number of votes on large spending increases, and the vote in favor has been 80 to 90 percent in favor. In Croydon, in 2022, it was 99 percent in favor. This two-thirds majority vote assures that a significant majority of residents voting to approve the local school budget are happy to see the significant increase in their property taxes resulting from the increased school spending they are voting for. Please join me in voting to provide our constituents with a modicum of control over their local property taxes, which have seen large increases driven by increased local school spending. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: Representative Wallner has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call on the amendment. The motion before us is the Majority Amendment (3013h). Chair recognizes Representative Hakken-Phillips for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Hakken-Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that whatever shape or form this amendment comes to the floor in, the impractical and arbitrary school budget cap is against granite state values and the New Hampshire way when it prohibits local control, if I know that this policy makes for a good sound bite and an even better social media message, but it's an extremely unpopular policy with voters and it will fail to deliver on the property tax relief it promises, and if I also know that constituents elected their local school board members to do the hard work of solving problems using all the tools at their disposal, just like businesses and families do, but this amendment handcuffs those same elected officials and inhibits their work, and finally, if I know that the real harm done by this bill will be felt in the overcrowded public school classrooms by more than the 90% of granite state kids who are there, where they have fewer educational opportunities despite their community's desires, then would I now push the red button and vote no against the amendment so that another way can be undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The chair recognizes Representative Sweeney for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Rep. Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this committee amendment is the culmination of a year of work by the committee and stakeholders to craft the package, and further, Mr. Speaker, if I know that this amendment reflects the common-sense proposal that was sought for earlier last year in regards to this bill, would I now press the green button and stand with the overwhelming majority of granite staters that want to see this policy passed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The House will be in order. The motion before us is majority amendment (3013h). This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red but-

ton. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present have an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to state of the vote. 184 voting yea, 168 voting nay; the amendment is adopted. The bill is on second reading, and open to further amendment. The chair recognizes Representative Rice.

Representative Rice: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. I rise in support of this amendment because it is about accountability and priorities. This proposal does not cut classroom funding. It does not impact teachers or students. It simply places a reasonable limit on central office administrative spending, ensuring that education dollars are focused where they matter most; on learning. A 6% cap still allows districts flexibility, but it also promotes efficiency, transparency, and responsible use of taxpayer funds. Families across our state expect us to be good stewards of their hard-earned dollars, especially at a time when costs continue to rise. This amendment keeps the focus on students, respects local control, and encourages smarter spending. By adding this to the bill rather than replacing it, it respects the good work of the Finance and Education Funding committees. For those reasons, I urge you to press the green button. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: Representative Rice has offered floor amendment (0033h). It's in your seat pockets. Representative Wallner has requested a roll call. Is it sufficiently seconded? Representative Wallner has requested a Division. Representative Sweeney has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. The motion before us is the Rice floor amendment (0033h) that is in your seat pockets. This is a roll call vote. The chair recognizes Representative Kate Murray for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Kate Murray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know this amendment, even with such small changes as it offers, it's still a direct attack on local control, an ideal that granite staters hold very dear, and if I know the consequences of this bill and of this amendment, of which we are already aware, there are additional unintended consequences, which will cause immeasurable harm to our school district, including those areas such as insurance and other considerations, which are beyond the control of a school district, but which the school district still must attend to when it is working out its finances. And if I know that my mailbox has been overwhelmingly filled with emails at absolute opposition to this school cap, and if I know that changing a few nouns here and there and using synonyms and using alternate verbs, this amendment still flies in the face of local control, arbitrarily imposes a cap, and has garnered widespread and vociferous opposition in every corner of the state, would I now vote red to vote down this amendment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Rice for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Rice: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that this bill helps to control the spending of administration, and that I further know that the cost of administration is the bulk of our budgets, would I press the green button to help get these budgets under control? As of now, they are unsustainable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is Representative Rice for amendment (0033h). This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button, if you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. If all members present had an opportunity to vote, the House will attend to the state of the vote. 177 voting yea, 176 voting nay. The Speaker did vote on that. The amendment is adopted. The bill is on second reading. House will be in order, please. The bill is on second reading, open to further amendment. Representative Ball offers floor amendment (0042h). It's in your seat pockets. Representative Perez is recognized to speak.

Representative Perez Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy New Year to my colleagues. I am not Lori Ball, I am Representative Perez. I've been accused of trying to come last minute to bring to change HB 675 and I want you to know that that is definitely not true because I have been following this for multiple years and last year in my town I put in a warrant, citizen's warrant article, to do exactly this. We do have a law, RSA 32:5-C, that allows us to do this. So I put it in and at the deliberative session it was changed to a study and my town did an incredible study for me and they came back to me, the school board I mean, came back to me with that study and made it very clear that this did not work for our town. They made it very clear that this type of cap is based on numbers and not on needs. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we all agree that property taxes are rising too fast and school budgets are the largest driver. The real question before us now is how do we apply restraint without harming classrooms or stripping away local control? I personally am tired of when budgets are cut at the school level that the first thing is said, well we will take this away from the kids. House Bill 675 and the prior amendment rely on state-level formulas tied to inflation and enrollment. That approach adds complexity, shifts accountability away from the local decision-maker and makes it hard for voters to understand who is responsible for the bill. This amendment takes a simpler, more effective approach. It places a clear enforceable cap on central office administrative spending, the fastest growing and least transparent part of school budget and it does so at the point where budgets are actually set; locally. Last year I asked in our town for them to pull what the administrative spending was because it wasn't clear in the budget. It took them less than an hour and a half to pull those numbers for me. Just as important, it explicitly protects instruction. Teachers and classrooms are excluded by design so districts are not forced to balance budgets on the backs of educators. Instruction should remain the priority. Some have argued only a

broad state-level spending cap constitutes real restraint. I disagree. Real restraint is clear, enforceable limits applied where decisions are made and accountability to the voters, not mandates imposed from Concord. This amendment does not overhaul the education funding system. It does not rely on complicated assumptions. It simply requires that administrative scale with the rest of the budget unless the voters chose otherwise. This is real restraint, transparent and defensible. If we want to protect the classrooms, preserve local control and responsibly address taxes, this amendment is the right place to start. I ask for your support. I ask you to support this amendment. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Sweeney.

Representative Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, typically I get up here and I just sort of speak from my mind and speak from my heart, but I actually prepared a speech today because I view this issue as just so important to the voters of New Hampshire. The number one issue I hear from voters and residents and neighbors is that our property taxes are just getting out of control. It's pricing seniors out of their homes. It's making it harder for young families to buy into the New Hampshire market. They flee for lower tax states down south or out west in the Midwest. People fleeing New Hampshire to go to lower tax states should be an enigma to us. For years, especially since 2021 when this majority took back control, this legislature has sent more money than ever before to our towns, our cities and our school districts and we have seen zero property tax relief for all those efforts. We keep singing until we're blue in the face, and as much as we don't like to get blue in the face, we keep singing about how much money we keep sending back to towns, to cities, to school districts and it just disappears. Residents don't feel the property tax relief that our votes intended it to be and they just go into the school districts where they just continue to propose higher budgets because they take the money that the state sends them, they lightly increase their tax rate as much as they can before people really start to revolt and the spending keeps going up and up and up. Something has to give. House Bill 675 has had an incredible process in the House of Representatives. Originally it started off as a near doubling of the state adequacy aid to each school district per voter, per student, and then it evolved into the two-thirds cap with the inflation adjusted that we just added on earlier and now we just previously amended.

Speaker Packard: The member will suspend for a minute.

Representative Sweeney: Sure.

Speaker Packard: For what reason is a member rise?

Representative Webber: Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering when we are going to proceed to speak of the amendment.

Representative Sweeney: Right now. This amendment puts a six percent cap on central administrative office expenses in the school district budget. That's fantastic. Good thing we just amended the bill two seconds ago with the six percent cap added on to HB 675. The amendment before us right now replaces all of the work of House Bill 675 over the last year and a half with that six percent cap just on central office. There is no higher threshold cap on school spending beyond that six percent central office cap. So there's no upper limit to what they can spend. So for every dollar increase they want to spend more on central office they would need to increase, they would simply need to increase every other spending item by \$16 in order to get a simple majority vote to approve the higher central office spending. Under the current form of 675 with the amendments that we have already adopted, that six percent cap would live within that budget that is going up by inflation and tied to the student population. The current amendment that we're debating right now isn't a real reform. It's a loophole. I really appreciated the sponsor of the amendment bringing it forward because that's how we crafted the amendment that we just adopted as a body because we do want to make sure that we are getting those costs of administrative costs constrained down to protect the taxpayers but it is like it is largely a meaningless cap if there is not that higher threshold cap on overall district spending. That is what is out of control and it's only going to incentivize further if this amendment passes. It will incentivize further increases in spending, not incentivize decrease in spending inefficiencies that the current version of House Bill 675 does. So with those guardrails in place the districts are not going to be able to tax and spend their way to oblivion. They're not going to be able to tax our residents out of their homes. It's the same reason why Americans for Tax Reform has urged this body to reject this amendment. Removing the spending cap that this amendment does will invite higher taxes not lower ones. In a time of higher cost burning everyone's wallet this amendment would throw gasoline on the fire; not snuff it out. We should not weaken this bill. We should get it over to the Senate for the next step in the long legislative process that is ahead before it gets to the governor's desk. And folks this side of the wall, this side of the aisle, that side of the aisle, I suspect and I could be wrong, but we'll see within 15 or 20 minutes or so that there may be many votes yes on this amendment that don't want the underlying bill to pass. This amendment replaces the entire bill. Why would we vote with folks that want to replace the entire bill that then don't want to see that entire bill finally pass in 20 minutes or so? I would question their motives. I would question their intent. I would. I would. If you vote for an amendment that replaces the entire bill and then you follow it by voting against the Ought to Pass as amended you are deceiving the voters. You are deceiving this body. It's not fair. I urge the body to vote no on the amendment.

Speaker Packard: The member will suspend.

Representative Sweeney: Thank You Mr. Speaker. Do you have a Point of Order?

Representative Bixby: I believe the practice and precedent in this body is to not impugn motives to other members and that has just been directly done by the member on the other side.

Representative Sweeney: Mr. Speaker I apologize for asking a grounded question.

Speaker Packard: State your Point of Order.

Representative Nick Germana: Am I mistaken isn't the member supposed to be directing his comments to the Speaker not directing them directly at other members in the chamber?

Speaker Packard: All comments are directed through the Speaker. The House will be in order. Enough. The motion before us now is the floor amendment (0042h). Representative Sweeney 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 motion before us is Ball floor amendment 0-0-4-2. This is a roll call vote. Chair recognizes Representative Ball for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Ball: Thank You Mr. Speaker. If I know that this amendment places a clear enforceable cap on central office administrative spending at the point where the budgets are set while explicitly protecting classroom instruction and local voter control the New Hampshire way then I would press the green button and support this amendment.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Osborne for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Osborne: Thank You Mr. Speaker. If I know that we just adopted an amendment that constrains the central office spending and if I know that I'm here to protect the taxpayers and I know that this amendment would be a tanker truck full of gasoline on the already raging inferno of property taxes consuming the state driving granite staters from their homes, would I press the red button right now to defeat this poison pill amendment?

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the Ball floor amendment (0042h). This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor you'll press the green button. If you're opposed you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. 182 voting aye. 173 voting nay. The amendment is adopted. Now we are on the motion of Ought to Pass as Amended. The chair recognizes Representative Hakken-Phillips.

Representative Hakken-Phillips: Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB675 as amended because it's bad for New Hampshire schools. The proposed replace-all bill as amended differs from what narrowly passed this chamber in March. The amended bill mandates a centralized administrative office cap. It's a budget cap for schools with a difficult override. You can't spend a dollar more without a supermajority. We've heard the policy arguments against this before. Budget caps lock in disparities between districts, take away local control, hurt kids in classrooms, and create too high a voting threshold to overcome. Remember, voters have outright rejected caps in nearly every election in recent memory, sending a clear message; New Hampshire doesn't want caps. But consider this too. First, under New Hampshire law, school districts are already free to set these budget caps. In fact, 8 cities and 5 towns already have established some limit on school spending. Funny enough, I don't recall Laconia, Manchester, Rochester or even Alstead, Milton or Nottingham, all places with these limits, widely celebrating some epic property tax relief compared to the rest of the state. So, if this bill promises tax relief and if the cap under law is permissible now, how come only 13 cities and towns have adopted it? The remaining cities and towns don't want a cap because it doesn't work. This amendment's mandate is a mistake. Second, the New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled this past summer that New Hampshire is inadequately funding public education in violation of our state constitution. In Conval, the court demands that the state raise base-adequacy from approximately \$4100 to approximately \$7300 per pupil. But if this amendment passes and is signed into law, it will be in direct defiance of those rulings. It is one thing for the legislature to do nothing to advance those holdings, but it is entirely another for this legislature to do the exact opposite of what the court demands. This amended bill poses a significant fiscal and legal risk to New Hampshire. Schools cannot comply with the school budget cap and the court's raised per-pupil adequacy. Now, that's sounds like the conflict could mean expensive litigation and that expense would be on top of the more than \$4 million the state has already spent in it's failed legal challenges on these very issues. Third, this amended bill is quite simply bad math. It just doesn't add up. When Londonderry gets hit with a \$2 million one-time school health care assessment, Rochester receives a \$1.5 million less than department adequacies monies than projected, and Merrimack faces a \$2 million budget gap because of increasing healthcare premiums and special education costs. These towns need the same flexibility as any business or family has to meet their obligations. Clearly, these financial surprises cannot add up to last year's budget. We already ask our communities to do the impossible, and if we pass this bill as amended, we'll be asking them to do it with one hand tied behind their back. Mr. Speaker, our communities don't need handcuffs. They need unfettered freedom to use all of the financial planning tools at their disposal for local decision making. That's what our communities have been doing for centuries. It's quite literally the New Hampshire way. If we pass this bill as amended, the message it will send is the New Hampshire way over, that people who write school budgets and the community members who elect them and vote to approve those budgets aren't capable, they're not good enough. We'd be saying you need Concord's mandates instead. Our communities don't need mandates,

they need assistance. We all want property tax relief, so assist our communities by stopping the downshifting that makes it incredibly difficult to get ahead. Less for room and meals, less for New Hampshire retirement system, less for public education, less for special education. Year after year it's less and even less from the state. How is that a sustainable plan, good politics or even good business? Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to vote no on this amendment because it's bad problem solving, it's bad legal strategy, bad math, bad politics and simply bad for New Hampshire. Our communities do not need mandates, they need assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I asked for a Division Vote.

Speaker Packard: The chair recognizes Representative Sweeney

Representative Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on, well, you know, the other guy. It's unfortunate and I'm perplexed that so many would vote for an amendment that replaced the entire bill and now they're going to vote against the entire bill. I'm also going to vote against the entire bill because this bill, as amended, with the replace-all amendment, completely sets New Hampshire on the trajectory for more property tax increases, more local spending and just out of control budget. So HB 675, it was fun while we had you. We're going back to the drawing board. I would vote down this bill. Thank you all for playing.

Speaker Packard: Represent Sweeney 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 motion before us is Ought to Pass with Amendment. This is a roll call vote. The chair recognizes Representative Eileen Kelly for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Eileen Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that current law, RSA 32:5-E allows voters and school districts to adopt budget caps if they so choose, thereby retaining local control, and, Mr. Speaker, if I also know that this legislation is not about protecting the taxpayer, it is just another way of shifting responsibility away from the state and failing to meet court-ordered education funding requirements, our constitutional obligation to educate our public school students does not change, and finally, Mr. Speaker, if I know that our state's citizens have made it clear they oppose a state mandated school budget cap, last year communities around our state resoundingly rejected proposed caps. House Bill 675 as amended, forces a state-wide mandate on all school districts, regardless of the discrepancies between them and most importantly, takes away local control from voters than would I now vote no and press the red button. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The chair recognizes Representative Ladd for a parliamentary inquiry. Waves off. The motion before us is the Ought to pass as amended on House Bill 675. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you oppose, press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. If all members had an opportunity to vote, the House will attend to the state of the vote. 9 voting a 346 voting nay. The motion fails. For what reason does the member rise?

Rep. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker I move to place the entire debate of HB 675 into the permanent journal.

Rep. Sweeney: I move Inexpedient to Legislate on 675.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is Inexpedient to Legislate on House Bill 675. Can we do a voice vote? All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. The ayes have it.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Sweeney moved that the debate on **HB 155-FN**, reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE ON HB 155-FN

Speaker Packard: For what reason does a member rise? For a motion, Mr. Speaker. State your motion.

Representative Osborne: I move to special order HB 155 to the next order of business.

Speaker Packard: The motion is in order. The chair recognizes Representative Osborne to speak.

Representative Osborne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing that the taxpayers just took a little bit of a defeat from us, let's give them a win and turn the momentum back around.

Speaker Packard: The motion is to move HB 155 to the next order of business. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it, and HB 155 is the next order of business. The majority of the committee on ways and means to which was referred, House Bill 155 FN, an act reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax, having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment and the recommendation that the bill ought to pass with amendment. Representative Jordan Ulery, for the majority of the committee. The minority of the committee, having considered the same and being unable to agree with the majority, report with the following resolution resolved that it is inexpedient to legislate. Representative Susan Almy for the minority of the committee.

Speaker Packard: The amendment is (2983h) printed in House Record 51, page 56. Are you ready for the question on the amendment? All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. The bill is now Ought to Pass with Amendment and the chair recognizes Representative Almy.

Representative Almy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to get one thing clear first. This bill does not help small businesses. It only helps the large ones. Representative Ulery and I assured this in 2021 by updating

the BET exemption for inflation in the CPI since the prior update and requiring an update every two years thereafter. As a result, the BET, as of 2021, which is the latest information we have from the DRA, was only paid by businesses grossing over \$300,000. The DRA reports having not included this data since, sorry. The 2021 analysis, DRA analysis, of the differences between small and large businesses showed that 47% of those businesses that filed paid no BET at all. So what we did is working. 79% of the tax was paid by corporations and multinational business entities. Did they object? Our tax bills to them were such a small part of their costs that many did not realize until recently that their taxes were being cut. They only started to ask for refunds a few years ago. Every time we cut more taxes, we cut services that the legislature thinks are disposable. The people of our state, their school, municipal, and county governments, and their businesses, large and small, regard these lost services as essential. They try to replace them, often inefficiently, because it is harder to run these services at the local level. For each cut not paid for by federal stimulus packages, our towns, cities, counties, and businesses lost resources that paid for our schools, roads and bridges, training centers, water treatment plants, and salaries for local essential services. Now the federal stimulus packages are being replaced by callbacks. Many of the OBA cuts have not yet been activated at local levels, and they are just beginning to appear. The tariffs were only the start. The result is constant property tax increases and losses of public services both businesses and ordinary citizens depended on. We cannot continue like this. Five years into the fiscal year, the budget was only 0.7% below plan. I have not been able to read the focus yet because the focus only came out yesterday, and my computer would not work in the hotel. 2026 is going to be worse. Our largest taxes, the BPT and BET, the business taxes, were 7.4% under plan, five months in. When the once-in-a-decade tax amnesty number is removed from the revenue reports, the first half of the fiscal year will be in deficit. Only one of the remaining major taxes did well, lottery, at 27% above plan. That is through November because of two very large power balls. Treasury interest is no longer in the top tier because we are eating into the reserve that we built from federal stimulus programs. Our businesses are asking for more help to fund housing, childcare, and addiction, not more cuts. The BIA may agree, but their constitution requires them to advocate for cuts. Small business owners and other citizens around the state are writing the newspapers to call for a reversal of our tax policy. Our businesses, school districts, municipalities, and counties are struggling to keep up with reduced revenues and rising costs due to inflation. The minority believes that this bill should not pass.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Ulery.

Representative Ulery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My friend, the Representative from Lebanon, was correct. This bill does help all businesses that pay BET. Recent DRA reports show that revenues are up because taxes are down. I know that doesn't sound reasonable, but history shows it is. Every time we cut taxes, we increase these revenues. Property taxes were mentioned, which have nothing to do with BET and BPT because property taxes are set by ourselves when we vote in our town how much money we want to spend in our towns. And businesses are, the good representative was correct, businesses are asking for help, and that's what this bill does. I spoke last year about Bastiat. He teaches us that excessive taxation is legal plunder. There's another term for that, but I'll use his. As Nobel Laureate Friedman says, higher taxes will not reduce the deficit except for a brief interval. They simply increase government spending. This is the lesson of history. Arthur Laffer teaches us and demonstrates scientifically that there is a taxation sweet spot. This is what this bill reaches for. That area that produces revenue that is sufficient for government and doesn't overtax. It doesn't destroy. The power of taxation is the power to destroy. This bill encourages business growth and ensures the New Hampshire advantage. The recent positive revenues show that. Please vote green or yell yay on the motion. Mr. Speaker, I request a roll call on this vote, please. Thank you for your attention.

Speaker Packard: Representative Ulery has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. This is a roll call vote. Members need to be in their seats. The motion before us is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment on House Bill 155. This is a roll call vote. Chair recognizes Representative Spahr for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Spahr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that the State of New Hampshire last year bled \$67 million, and if I know that the State of New Hampshire this year is on track to bleed another \$40 million, and that these two losses will substantially deplete our rainy day reserves, and if I know even our own governor has publicly stated she is reluctant to reduce this tax anymore, then would I push the red button?

Speaker Packard: The chair recognizes Representative Janigian for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Janigian: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that lowering business taxes in the past, we've seen actual tax increase revenue, more tax revenue into the state, and if I also know that lowering the business enterprise tax does help small businesses grow their businesses, then would I now press the green button to increase the New Hampshire advantage?

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of how to pass as amended on House Bill 155. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. If all members present had an opportunity to vote, the House will attend to state of the vote. 189 voting aye, 165 voting nay. The committee report is adopted.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Having voted with the prevailing side, Rep. Weber moved that the House reconsider its action whereby, on a voice vote, the House adopted the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate on **HB 675-FN-A-LOCAL**, limiting total central office administrative expenses by school districts and requiring reporting of central office administrative expenses to the department of education..

On a division vote, with 170 members having voted in the affirmative, and 185 in the negative, the motion failed.

(Representative Steven Smith 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 WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Laura Telerski for Finance. The original bill made appropriations for the purpose of funding the Alzheimer's disease and related disorder (ADRD) caregiver respite program, the foster grandparent program, the retired senior volunteer program (RSVP), and the senior companions program. The recent budget funded the ADRD caregiver respite program as well as the senior companion program and suspended for the biennium the foster grandparent program. Amendment 2025-2963h amends the bill by removing the sections funded or suspended and appropriates \$180,000 for RSVP with funds not otherwise appropriated. The RSVP connects adults aged 55 and older with volunteer opportunities in their communities providing support for various community needs, from assisting seniors and veterans to mentoring children, tutoring, and helping with disaster relief. Vote 25-0.

Amendment (2963h)

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

AN ACT making an appropriation to the retired senior volunteer program.

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

1 Appropriation; Retired Senior Volunteer Program. For the purpose of funding the retired senior volunteer program (RSVP), the sum of \$180,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, is appropriated to the department of health and human services. The department shall allocate the appropriation among the existing RSVP programs. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

2 Contingency. Section 1 of this act shall be contingent upon certification by the state comptroller to the director of the office of legislative services and the secretary of state that both unrestricted general fund revenues and the ending general fund balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 were greater than budget forecasts.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 2 of this act.

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

2025-2963h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes a contingent appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding the retired senior volunteer program.

The question being adoption of committee amendment (2963h).

The motion was adopted.

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

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

HB 751-FN, (New Title) 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. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Maureen Mooney for the Majority of Finance. The majority of the House Finance Committee agrees with amending HB 751 to create a study committee on the subject of licensure for outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities. The topic of licensing indeterminable facilities is very complex as is demonstrated by the bill's introductory form versus the amended version that came to division III in House Finance. The bill was introduced to establish a certification procedure (different from licensure) for an unknown number of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities throughout the state. The original bill contained a revenue stream from fees generated from certification over the next three years (called the "substance use treatment certification fund"), the adoption of rules relative to training and education, additional staff (likely four FTEs), a one time IT cost of \$500,000 and general fund expenses of approximately \$872,000 in the first year and approximately \$389,000 and \$399,000 in the two years thereafter, including \$50,000 additional

training. The amended bill version that arrived to House Finance changed the model from certification to licensure, omitted the certification revenue stream, and requested one FTE (subject to available funding) for an approximate cost of \$211,000 (for one year) from the general fund to investigate and resolve complaints. The majority of the House Finance Committee commends the attempt to cut costs from one bill version to the next, but still foresees a plethora of critical issues warranting further discussion and resolution before this bill can proceed, starting with whether or not one FTE at \$211,000 for one year is enough to effectively perform this regulatory mandate. In a biennium when the DHHS budget is lean, it is imperative that taxpayer money be prudently spent. The majority of the House Finance Committee agrees that HB 751 advances a course of action that is not ready for responsible funding; therefore, the majority endorses a study of the matter as is articulated in our amendment #2025-2964h. Vote 14-11.

Rep. Laura Telerski for the Minority of Finance. The bipartisan intent of this bill is to address the crisis of underground substance use disorder treatment programs in the state that operate with no oversight or protections for those receiving treatment. A 2023 investigative podcast uncovered a story of abuse, harassment, and sexual assault at independent SUD treatment centers and the need for oversight. HB 751-FN passed the House and went to the Finance committee for a second review. The majority amendment replaces the bill with a study committee which is unnecessary since SB 495 (2024) was interim studied in 2024, a subcommittee report issued, and the Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee recommended the policy for future legislation with a bipartisan vote. Since the issue has already been studied and recommended for future legislation, the minority recommends amendment #2025-2957h which strips the bill down to include outpatient treatment facilities under the DHHS facility licensing program to help regulators better monitor which organizations are operating in the state and ensure high quality, evidence-based services. One position is funded to implement the changes, however revenue coming in from licensing would partially offset the expense. Passing HB 751-FN with the minority amendment will be a small, but positive, step forward to better position ourselves to overcome the ongoing addiction crisis in the state.

Majority Amendment (2964h)

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities.

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, one of whom shall be a member of the health, human services and elderly affairs committee and one of whom shall be a member of the executive departments and administration committee.

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

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 study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities by the department of health and human services. The study shall include consideration of any appropriate exemption for nonclinical recovery support services, such as group recovery coaching and 12-step programs, and whether additional staff and funding is required for the department to administer and monitor the licensed facilities. The committee may solicit information and testimony from any individual, entity, or agency with experience or expertise relevant to the study.

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. Four 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, 2026.

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

2025-2964h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities.

The question being adoption of the majority amendment.

On a division vote, with 186 members having voted in the affirmative, and 158 in the negative, the majority amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Rep. Telerski offered minority committee amendment (2957h).

Minority Amendment (2957h)

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

AN ACT requiring licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities, establishing a compliance officer position in the department of health and human services, and making an appropriation therefor.

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

1 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.

2 New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Position Established; Appropriation. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the sum of \$105,000 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.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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

2025-2957h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires outpatient substance use disorder treatment programs, with certain exceptions, to be licensed by the department of health and human services. The bill also makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to establish a compliance officer position to implement the requirements of the act.

On a division vote, with 161 members having voted in the affirmative, and 191 in the negative, the minority committee amendment failed.

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

On a division vote, with 350 members having voted in the affirmative, and 3 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HB 392-FN, directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health equity, department of environmental services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice, and the governor's council on diversity and inclusion. **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 promotes true equality by removing equity-based policies that prioritize certain groups unrelated to objective individual medical needs. The bill eliminates policies that inadvertently created discriminatory resource allocation. It aligns New Hampshire with national reforms safeguarding federal funding while cutting excessive bureaucracy, saving taxpayer dollars, and refocusing agencies on individual needs over divisive ideologies. Passage ensures efficient, impartial government service for all Granite Staters. The support of this legislation comes with the understanding that, since the bill's introduction, there have been major changes — such as renaming the Office of Health Equity to the Office of Health Access and major improvements in the Department of Environmental Services following the removal of so-called environmental justice mandates. Finally, the majority supports this legislation to the extent that it does not clash with federal mandates; despite the Supremacy Clause, the majority looks forward to clarifying that via an upcoming floor amendment. Vote 9-8. Rep. Trinidad Tellez for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill, directing the dissolution of three different government entities, is completely unnecessary, as the three offices, as described in the bill, no longer exist. With respect to the Department of Health and Human Services, HB 2 (Ch. 141, Laws of 2025), the budget trailer bill, changed the name of the office to better reflect that its mission is and always has been to ensure health care access for all and to remove barriers to health care access. The first

function of the office is to ensure adequate communication access as required by federal and state law, including translation services. Examples of populations for whom communication is a barrier include persons with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and persons who are blind or visually impaired. Second, the office assists with programs that promote self-sufficiency for refugees who have been legally resettled in this country, and who are a necessary, valuable and legal part of the local work force. Third, the office works on access through community engagement. In rural areas, this work ties directly into the applications for the Rural Health Transformation grants. Many of these functions are mandated by either federal or state law, and will have to be performed, whether the office exists or not. With respect to the department of environmental services, the “functions” have already been addressed, and the department was mandated to review all outstanding contracts to determine if there were aspects of diversity, equity and inclusion contained in them, with a report already made to the executive council. Finally, the governor’s council on diversity and inclusion dissolved with the end of Governor Chris Sununu’s term, and the council was not reestablished by Governor Ayotte.

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

Rep. Polozov offered floor amendment (0026h)

Floor Amendment (0026h)

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

AN ACT directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services’ office of health access and the department of environmental services’ functions for environmental justice.

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

1 Directive; Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Health Access. The department of health and human services is hereby directed to dissolve the office currently known as the office of health access (formerly the office of health equity), and is prohibited from using any allocated moneys for any project labeled as “health equity.” Notwithstanding the dissolution required by this section, the following functions shall be transferred to other appropriate divisions or offices within the department and shall be preserved:

I. Provision of language access services and accommodations for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, or sensory impairments, as required for compliance with federal civil rights laws.

II. Neutral community engagement to identify barriers to health services, provided no such engagement occurs on the basis of any category or process prohibited elsewhere by law.

III. Any other service required for compliance with federal laws.

IV. Any program strictly tailored to improving health access in rural areas.

2 Directive; Department of Environmental Services; Environmental Justice Programs. The department of environmental services is hereby prohibited from the use of any allocated moneys for those projects labeled “environmental justice.”

3 Compensation of Certain State Officers; Salaries Established; Position Deleted. Amend RSA 94:1-a, I(b) by deleting the following:

FF Department of health and human services director of the office of health equity

4 Repeal. RSA 126-A:88, I(hh), relative to the director of the office of health equity membership on the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council, is repealed.

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

2026-0026h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the dissolution of the department of health and human services’ office of health access and the department of environmental services’ functions for environmental justice, and requires certain programs administered by the office of health access to be transferred to other divisions or offices.

Rep. Weber spoke against.

Rep. Polozov spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 186 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 186

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
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

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Janigan, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 159**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Judy, Jean
 Fogg, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Newsom, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Malloy, Dennis
 Scherr, Buzz
 Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
 Gilman, Julie
 Murray, Kate
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Simpson, Alexis

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Paige, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Maggiore, Jim
 Muns, Chris
 MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Larochelle, John
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and floor amendment (0026h) was adopted.

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

Rep. LaMontagne spoke against.

Rep. Drew spoke in favor.

Rep. Mazur requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 192 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 192**BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
 Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
 Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
 Ploszaj, Tom
 Varney, Peter

Bordes, Mike
 Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa
 Terry, Paul

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

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin

Bernardy, JD
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Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

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Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 159**BELKNAP**

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
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Murray, Alissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Leishman, Peter
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 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Judy, Jean
 Foss, Loren
 Long, Patrick
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Teterski, Laura
 Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Newsom, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Manos, Zoe
 Simpson, Alexis

Bridle, Nicholas
 Gilman, Julie
 Paige, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Maggiore, Jim
 Muns, Chris
 MacDonald, Wayne

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Malloy, Dennis
 Scherr, Buzz
 Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Selig, Loren
 Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wall, Janet

Gilmore, Gary
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment was adopted.
 The Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

SB 36, relative to the collection and reporting of abortion statistics by health care providers and medical facilities.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Steven Kesselring for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill updates current reporting requirements for health care providers and medical facilities regarding abortion statistics. The amendment removes the word “estimated” from the reporting of gestational age, ensuring that data collected is precise and protects false reporting. It also changes the effective start date of the law to July 2027, allowing sufficient time for implementation by the department. The majority of the committee supports the amendment, noting that it clarifies the intent of the law, improves accuracy in data collection, and provides a reasonable timeline for implementation. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Lucy Weber for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The provisions of this bill were incorporated into HB 2 (Ch. 141, Laws of 2025), making the underlying bill unnecessary. The amendment does makes two changes to language already in statute. Two things: first, it extends the date of implementation from January 1, 2027 to July 1, 2027. Members of the minority have no objection to this change. However, at the last minute, that change was paired in a single amendment with a further provision that changes the current statutory language “estimated gestational age when the abortion was performed” to “gestational age when the abortion was performed.” This is of concern to the minority because they do not want to subject patients to intrusive procedures to determine gestational age, requiring procedures which are both costly and medically unnecessary.

Majority Amendment (3091h)

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

1 Collection and Reporting of Abortion Statistics. Amend RSA 329:49-a, I(f) to read as follows:

(f) [Estimated] Gestational age when the abortion was performed.

2 Collection and Reporting of Abortion Statistics; Effective Date. Amend 2025, 287:15, III to read as follows:

III. Section 14 of this act shall take effect **July** [January] 1, 2027.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027 at 12:01 a.m.

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

2025-3091h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill delays the effective date for the collection and reporting of abortion statistics, and changes the information required to be obtained from “estimated gestational age when the abortion was performed” to “gestational age when the abortion was performed.”

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. Lucas spoke against.

Rep. Kesselring spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 188 - NAYS 162**YEAS - 188****BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttub, Katelyn
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 162
BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Germana, Dylan
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

the majority committee report was adopted, and the bill was referred to the committee on Finance.

SB 134-FN, relative to work requirements under the state Medicaid program. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Kofalt for the Majority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The bill, as amended, aligns New Hampshire statute with the new federal Medicaid work requirement/community engagement guidelines as outlined in HR-1 (aka the “One Big Beautiful Bill”). The amendment also stipulates that New Hampshire shall implement certain program integrity measures that are allowed under federal law, such as prohibiting self-attestation and instead requiring documentary proof of eligibility or exemption. The amendment also stipulates that re-verification shall occur at least quarterly. Vote 11-6.

Rep. Lucy Weber for the Minority of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Amendment 2025-3093h replaces the original bill and brings the work requirements, currently in statute but never fully implemented, into line with the new federal work requirements. The current statutory requirements for continued eligibility were found to be onerous, expensive, and difficult for recipients and department workers alike. The amendment also makes choices on some program specifics within the guidelines included in the federal legislation, such as the look-back period and the prohibition of self-attestation as to eligibility for exceptions. The minority understands the goal of ensuring that the program is not accessed fraudulently by those who do not qualify for the program, and acknowledges that a small degree of fraud will be present in any such program. However, members of the minority are concerned that in the quest to bar access by those who do not qualify, significant barriers to access are being put in the way of far more people who are qualified for the program, but who will have difficulty completing the requirements to document continued compliance with work requirements or qualification for an exception. In particular, persons with disabilities or chronic illness, older persons, persons with low health literacy, and persons who are uncomfortable with electronics will be particularly vulnerable to losing coverage for which they are qualified. For those who lose coverage, health care will be provided at far greater expense in our emergency departments and, for some, in our jails or prisons.

Majority Amendment (3093h)

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

1 New Sections; New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program; Work Requirements. Amend RSA 126-AA by inserting after section 5 the following new sections:

126-AA:6 Work Requirements.

I. In this section:

(a) “Applicable individual” means an individual described in 42 U.S.C. section 1396a(xx)(9)(A) who is eligible for the granite advantage health care program, and who is subject to work requirements.

(b) “Work requirements” mean the Medicaid community engagement and work requirements established under Section 71119 of Public Law No. 119-21.

II. No applicable individual shall be enrolled in Medicaid unless, at the time of application, the individual demonstrates compliance with the work requirements for the one month immediately preceding the month during which the individual applies. The department of health and human services shall require documentary evidence and shall not accept self-attestation at the time of application.

III. The department of health and human services shall verify an applicable individual’s compliance with documentary evidence. Verification shall occur on an ongoing basis, at least quarterly between redetermination periods. Self-attestation shall not be accepted.

IV. The department of health and human services may rely on ex parte records and or documentary evidence provided by the applicable individual to verify exemption from work requirements. The department of health and human services shall verify all exemptions and shall not accept self-attestation from individuals seeking exemptions.

V. The department of health and human services shall not seek or implement any additional optional exemptions under 42 U.S.C. section 1396a(xx)(3)(B) or other program waivers without obtaining express approval of the oversight committee on health and human services established in RSA 126-A:13.

VI. The department of health and human services shall only approve an exemption for an individual based on the status of medically frailty or otherwise an individual with special needs if the individual has been medically certified per a statement from a physician, physician associate, nurse, nurse practitioner, designated representative of the physician's office, a licensed or certified psychologist, or a social worker, as having disabling mental disorders, having a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability that significantly impairs their ability to perform activities of daily living, including eating, dressing, bathing, grooming, getting in and out of bed and chairs, walking, going outdoors, using the toilet, or is in treatment for a chronic substance use disorder. In no case may the department of health and human services expand the definition of an individual who is medically frail or otherwise an individual with special needs beyond the scope of the definition established under 42 C.F.R. section 440.315 unless as otherwise modified in Public Law 119-21, Section 71119 (2025).

VII. Any applicable individual who fails to comply with the work requirements shall be provided notice and an additional 30 days to supply verification of compliance or exemption. After the 30-day notice period, the department of health and human services shall disenroll any applicable individual who does not demonstrate compliance with the work requirements or qualify for an exemption.

VIII. In the event of a conflict between this section and the requirements of Public Law 119-21, Section 71119 (2025), the requirements of the federal statute or regulation shall control.

126-AA:7 Severability. If any portion of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

2 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program; Community Engagement and Work Requirements. Amend 2025, 141:412 to read as follows:

141:412 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program, ~~[1115 Demonstration; Renewed Application to CMS]~~ **Community Engagement and Work Requirements.**

I. On or before ~~[January]~~ **December 1, 2026, or on an earlier date within 30 calendar days after publication of the federal application template**, the department of health and human services shall ~~[resubmit]~~ **submit** to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ~~[a Section 1115 demonstration waiver to the state Medicaid plan relative to enforcing]~~ **required documentation relative to implementing community engagement and work requirements as a condition of Granite Advantage eligibility in accordance with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, Public Law 119-21, Section 71119 (2025).** Prior to submitting the ~~[Section 1115 waiver]~~ **required documentation** to CMS, the department shall submit the proposed ~~[waiver]~~ **plan to implement community engagement and work requirements** to the fiscal committee of the general court for ~~[approval]~~ **review.**

II. Beginning November 1, 2025 and ~~[annually]~~ **quarterly** thereafter **through December 31, 2026, and then annually thereafter**, the department shall provide a report regarding the status of the ~~[waiver application]~~ **plan under review by CMS** and implementation of the community engagement **and work** requirements ~~[in RSA 126-AA:2, II]~~ **eligibility in accordance with Public Law 119-21, Section 71119 (2025)**, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the governor.

3 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program Established; Community Engagement and Work Requirements; Suspended. The provisions of RSA 126-AA:2, directly related to the community engagement and work requirements, shall be suspended for the duration of the federal community engagement and work requirements under Public Law 119-21, Section 71119 (2025), as amended. If the federal community engagement and work requirements are subsequently eliminated, the commissioner of the department of health and human services shall immediately certify in writing the removal of the suspension to the director of the office of legislative services, the secretary of state, the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the governor.

4 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program Established. Amend RSA 126-AA:2, I(a) to read as follows:

I.(a) The commissioner shall apply for any necessary waivers and state plan amendments to implement ~~[a 5-year demonstration program beginning on January 1, 2019 to create]~~ **and administer** the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program which shall be funded exclusively from non-general fund sources, including federal funds. The commissioner shall include in an application for the necessary waivers submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a waiver of the requirement to provide 90-day retroactive coverage and a state plan amendment allowing state and county correctional facilities to conduct presumptive eligibility determinations for incarcerated inmates to the extent provided under federal law. To receive coverage

under the program, those individuals in the new adult group who are eligible for benefits shall choose coverage offered by one of the managed care organizations (MCOs) awarded contracts as vendors under Medicaid managed care, pursuant to RSA 126-A:5, XIX(a). The program shall make coverage available in a cost-effective manner and shall provide cost transparency measures, and ensure that patients are utilizing the most appropriate level of care. Cost effectiveness shall be achieved by offering cash incentives and other forms of incentives to the insured by choosing preferred lower cost medical providers. Loss of incentives shall also be employed. MCOs shall employ reference-based pricing, cost transparency, and the use of incentives and loss of incentives to the Medicaid and newly eligible population. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "reference-based pricing" means setting a maximum amount payable for certain medical procedures.

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

2025-3093h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes community engagement and work requirements under the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program, or the state's expanded Medicaid program, pursuant to authorization for such requirements established in Section 71119, Public Law 119-21. This bill also directs the department of health and human services to file documentation with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services relative to implementing community engagement and work requirements as a condition of granite advantage eligibility.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Rep. Kofalt requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 349 - NAYS 5

YEAS - 349

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
St. Clair, Charlie

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Paige, David
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

Belcher, Mike
Hamblen, Joseph
Peternel, Katy

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich
Qualey, James

Berch, Paul
Murphy, Denis
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Rhodes, Jennifer

Harvey, Cathryn
Faulkner, Barry
Mattson, Rita
O'Rourke, Terri
Thackston, Dick

Fox, Dru
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius
Weber, Lucy

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Berezhny, Lex
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
McFarlane, Donald
Sellers, John
Sykes, George

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Louis, Darrell
Muirhead, Russell
Spahr, Terry

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Oppel, Thomas
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Barbour, Liz
Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
DiSilvestro, Linda
Elberger, Susan
Flanagan, Jack
Georges, Mary
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean

Alexander, Joe
Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Drew, Matt
Erf, Keith
Foss, Lily
Giasson, Henry
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Chourasia, Manoj
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Dumont, Dillon
Davis, Fred
Griffin, Gerald
Gorski, Ted
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Dupont, Pierre
Fedolfi, Jim
Gagne, Larry
Gould, Linda
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin

Kesselring, Steven
 Labrie, Brian
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Miles, Julie
 Noble, Kristin
 Pauer, Diane
 Post, Lisa
 Prout, Andrew
 Rice, Kimberly
 Newman, Sue
 Seibert, Christine
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Vail, Suzanne
 Warden, Mark

Kluger, Lee Ann
 Lascelles, Richard
 Long, Patrick
 Mazur, Lisa
 Mooney, Maureen
 Notter, Jeanine
 Peeples, Raymond
 Preece, David
 Newman, Ray
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Sheehan, Vanessa
 Suiter, John
 Mannion, Tim
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wheeler, Jonah

Kofalt, Jim
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Morton, Jonathan
 Ohm, Bill
 Petrigno, Peter
 Presa, Adam
 Raymond, Heather
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Schneller, John
 Sirois, Shane
 Swanson, Dale
 Mannion, Tom
 Dolan, William
 Wherry, Robert

Foxx, Loren
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 McLean, Mark
 Murphy, Nancy
 Paquette, Kathleen
 Plamondon, Marc
 Proulx, Mark
 Reinfurt, Sherri
 Ryan, Linda
 Scully, Kevin
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Teterski, Laura
 Ulery, Jordan
 Thomas, Wendy
 Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Cambrils, Jose
 Devoid, Ricky
 Gonzalez, Ernesto
 Hall, Muriel
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Roesener, James
 Seaworth, Brian
 Walsh, Thomas
 Woods, Gary

Aures, Cyril
 Caplan, Tony
 Kelly, Eileen
 Hicks, Matthew
 Mehegan, Peter
 Pitaro, Matthew
 Boyd, Stephen
 See, Alvin
 Thibault, James

Bricchi, Tracy
 Colby, Eleana
 Ebel, Karen
 Hill, Gregory
 Moffett, Michael
 Plante, Raymond
 Sargent, Gregory
 Snodgrass, Jim
 Wallner, Mary Jane

McGuire, Carol
 McGuire, Dan
 Gallager, Eric
 Lane, Connie
 Newsom, James
 Polozov, Yury
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Soucy, Timothy
 Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Bridle, Nicholas
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Guzowski, James
 Murray, Kate
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 Malloy, Dennis
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Meuse, David
 Nelson, Jodi
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 Verville, Kevin
 Weyler, Kenneth

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Gilman, Julie
 Harb, Robert
 Khan, Aboul
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Paige, Mark
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 McGrath, Linda
 Milz, David
 Osborne, Jason
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Pearson, Stephen
 Simpson, Alexis
 Sytek, John
 Turer, Eric
 Vose, Michael
 Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
 Cahill, Michael
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edgar, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Haskins, Linda
 Kuttub, Katelyn
 Love, David
 Pearson, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 McMahon, Charles
 Muns, Chris
 Brown, Pam
 Porcelli, Susan
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Soti, Julius
 Dolan, Tom
 Vallone, Mark
 MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Edwards, Jess
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Janigian, John
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 Maggiore, Jim
 Markell, Jay
 Melvin, Charles
 Nadeau, Brian
 Packard, Sherman
 Potucek, John
 Scherr, Buzz
 Spillane, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Vandecasteele, Susan
 Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
 Burnham, Claudine
 DeRoy, Susan
 Howard, Heath
 Kaczynski, Thomas
 Smith, Marjorie
 Selig, Loren
 Pearson, Wayne

Bailey, Glenn
 Burton, Wayne
 Farrington, Samuel
 Horrigan, Timothy
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Southworth, Thomas
 Wade, Alice

Bay, Luz
 Butler, Billie
 Gilmore, Gary
 Howland, Allan
 Larochelle, John
 Potenza, Kelley
 Stone, John
 Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
 DeLemus, Susan
 Granger, Michael
 Johnson, Erik
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Hall, Robley
 Turcotte, Len
 Wall, Janet

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 - 5 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CHESHIRE

Jones, Philip

HILLSBOROUGH

Staub, Kathy

MERRIMACK

Schultz, Kris

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica

and the majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Kofalt spoke in favor

Rep. Weber spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 204 - NAYS 150**YEAS - 204****BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom
Varney, Peter

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Germana, Dylan
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Harb, Robert

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Gilman, Julie
Janigian, John

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul

Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Packard, Sherman
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Larochelle, John
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Miller, Seth
Walker, David

DeLemus, Susan
Johnson, Erik
Potenza, Kelley

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spoilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 150 BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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
Fracht, David
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, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Malloy, Dennis
Scherr, Buzz

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis

de Vries, Erica
Murray, Kate
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
Levesque, Cassandra
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Smith, Marjorie
Pearson, Wayne

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

HB 232-FN, relative to the rights of conscience for medical professionals. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katy Peternel for the Majority of Judiciary. This bill, as amended, provides that health care providers have a right to conscientiously object to participating in providing abortions. The amended bill requires health care institutions to prominently post an employee notice to this effect and establishes civil remedies, including fines, for its violation. Federal law protects rights of conscience but when administrations change, those laws may or may not be enforced. If New Hampshire wants to keep, as well as attract, ethical healthcare providers then the state needs to ensure they are not forced to violate their consciences, whether by threat of termination or a lawsuit. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Zoe Manos for the Minority of Judiciary. This is a bill that restricts abortion access, as it allows anyone working at a health care facility, even at the front desk, to turn away an abortion patient. It will, in many circumstances, deprive women of their ability to access health care that is legal in New Hampshire. If passed, this bill would allow anyone in the health care system to refuse to “participate in” abortion care, which is defined so broadly, it could include turning away a patient at the front door of a hospital or refusing to provide a printout of information at a community health center if the patient asks. The individual provider is allowed to make a private decision, without ever informing their employer - or the patient - in advance. They are also not required to find another individual in the health care facility to support the patient. This would permit anyone in the health care system, from the scheduler to the receptionist to a pharmacist to a medical student to a nurse to a physician to a physician’s assistant and beyond, to refuse care to a patient. It applies to all abortion care, including medication abortion. The individual provider is not required to give any notice to the employer, and this bill would tie the employer’s hands: they may take no disciplinary or professional action by rescheduling health care providers to other shifts, transferring them to other positions, or by “any other penalty, disciplinary or retaliatory action, whether executed or threatened.” Even an employer’s mere discussion with health care providers of accommodating their objections to providing abortion care would violate the bill and result in penalties to the institution. There is no requirement in the bill to offer information to the patient on where else to go. Patients in rural parts of the state could be left without options and have to travel even further than they already do to access care. In non-emergency situations, if a health care provider in a rural area refuses to provide abortion care, and no other provider is available, then women will go without care or have to travel long distances. This amounts to a denial of care which is guaranteed to women in New Hampshire. The only health care providers exempted from this bill would be those that provide abortion as “a major part” of its services, though that term is not defined. Hospitals, community health centers, OB/GYN offices - every employer of health care providers of any type would be impacted, as well as their patients. For all these reasons, the minority recommends a vote of ITL on this bill.

Majority Amendment (2932H)

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

1 Statement of Intent. It is the purpose of this act to protect as a basic civil right the freedom of all health care providers to decline to counsel, advise, provide, perform, assist, or participate in providing or performing abortions. Protecting the freedom of health care providers to decline to provide or participate in the provision of services that violate their religious, moral, or ethical convictions safeguards the dignity of individual health care providers and ensures that the citizens of New Hampshire have access to quality health care.

2 New Chapter; Health Care Freedom of Conscience. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 126-DD the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 126-EE**HEALTH CARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE**

126-EE:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. “Abortion” means the act of using or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with knowledge that the termination by those means will with reasonable likelihood cause the death of the fetus. Such use, prescription, or means is not an abortion if done with the intent to:

- (a) Save the life or preserve the health of the fetus;
- (b) Remove a dead fetus caused by spontaneous abortion; or
- (c) Remove an ectopic pregnancy.

II. "Conscientiously object" or "conscientious objection" means to object because of a religious belief or a moral or ethical conviction.

III. "Discriminate against or discrimination" means any adverse action taken against, or any threat of adverse action communicated to, any health care provider as a result of his or her conscientious objection to participating in an abortion. Discrimination may include, but is not limited to: termination of employment; transfer from current position; demotion from current position; adverse administrative action; reassignment to a different shift or job title; increased administrative duties; refusal of staff privileges; refusal of board certification; loss of career specialty; reduction of wages, benefits, or privileges; refusal to award a grant, contract, or other program; refusal to graduate; refusal to provide residency training opportunities; denial, deprivation, or disqualification of licensure; the threat of any of the administrative, disciplinary, or other adverse proceeding; or any other penalty, disciplinary, or retaliatory action, whether executed or threatened.

IV. "Health care institution" means any public or private hospital, clinic, medical center, physician organization, professional association, ambulatory surgical center, private physician's office, pharmacy, nursing home, medical school, nursing school, medical training facility, or any other entity or location in which an abortion are performed on or provided to any person. "Health care institutions" may include, but are not limited to: organizations, corporations, partnerships, associations, agencies, networks, sole proprietorships, joint ventures, or any other entity that provides abortions.

V. "Health care provider" means any individual who, as part of his or her employment, may be asked to participate in any way in an abortion including, but not limited to: a physician, physician's assistant, nurse, nurse's aide, medical assistant, hospital or clinic employee, pharmacist, pharmacy employee, medical school student, medical school employee, or any professional, paraprofessional, or any other person who furnishes, or assist in the furnishing of an abortion.

VI. "Participate" or "participating in" means to provide, perform, assist with, facilitate, refer for, counsel for, advise with regard to, admit for the purposes of providing, or take part in any way in providing an abortion.

VII. "Prescription or provision of" means to make available or arrange for any medicine, drug, substance, device, or medical procedure.

126-EE:2 Health Care Provider's Right to Conscientiously Object.

I. A health care provider has the right to conscientiously object to participating in an abortion.

II. A health care provider who conscientiously objects to participating in an abortion shall not thereby be administratively, civilly, or criminally liable to any person, estate, public or private entity, or public official.

III. It shall be unlawful for any person, health care provider, health care institution, public or private institution, public official, national licensing board which licenses health care providers, or national certifying board which certifies competency in medical specialties to discriminate against any health care provider in any manner based on his or her conscientious objection to participating in an abortion.

IV. This section shall not apply to a health care provider employed by a health care institution that provides abortion as a major part of its services. Nor shall the section apply to a health care provider who is the only health care provider present in an emergency situation.

126-EE:3 Notice Requirement.

I. A health care institution shall prominently post a notice, not less than 8.5 x 11 inches in size, entitled "Freedom of Conscience for Health Care Providers," in a location where other such notices are normally posted, or if such notices are not so normally posted, in a location in which health care providers are likely to see such a notice. The purpose of this notice is to fully inform health care providers of their right to decline to provide, perform, assist with, facilitate, refer for, counsel for, advise with regard to, admit for the purposes of providing, or take part in any way in providing an abortion.

II. A health care institution shall ensure that every health care provider is informed of his or her right to decline to provide, perform, assist with, facilitate, refer for, counsel for, advise with regard to, admit for the purposes of providing, or take part in any way in providing an abortion.

126-EE:4 Civil Remedies.

I. A civil action for damages, injunctive relief, or both, may be brought for the violation of any provision of RSA 126-EE:2. It shall not be a defense to any claim arising out of the violation of RSA 126-EE:2 that such violation was necessary to prevent additional burden or expense on any other health care provider, health care institution, individual, or patient.

II. Any health care provider discriminated against or injured by any person, health care provider, health care institution, public or private institution, public official, medical licensing board which licenses health care providers, or medical certifying board with competency in medical specialties, by reason of any conduct prohibited by RSA 126-EE:2 may commence a civil action.

III. Upon finding a violation of RSA 126-EE:2, the health care provider shall be entitled to recover all actual damages sustained by the health care provider, including damages for pain and suffering as well as the costs of the civil action, and reasonable attorney's fees.

IV. In no case shall recovery be less than \$10,000 for each violation, not including costs of the civil action and reasonable attorney's fees. These damage remedies shall in no way be exclusive of any other remedies afforded under any other state or federal law.

V. The court in a civil action for a violation of RSA 126-EE:2 may award injunctive relief including, but not limited to, ordering reinstatement of a health care provider to his or her prior job or position.

VI. Any violation of or failure to comply with the requirements of RSA 126-EE:3 by a health care institution shall be punished by a civil fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000 per occurrence.

126-EE:5 Severability. If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2025-2932h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that health care providers have a right to conscientiously object to participating in providing abortion. The bill requires health care institutions to prominently post a notice to this effect and establishes civil remedies, including fines, for its violation.

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. Peternel spoke in favor

Rep. Manos spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded

YEAS 184 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 184 BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, Len

DeRoy, Susan
Larochelle, John
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 164**BELKNAP**

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

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
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Miles, Julie
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie

Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

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.

HCR 11, declaring the directives of the judicial branch in the Claremont cases that the legislative and executive branches define an “adequate education,” adopt “standards of accountability,” and “guarantee adequate funding” of a public education are not binding on the legislative and executive branches. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the Majority of Judiciary. This House Concurrent Resolution would declare that the decisions of the Judicial Branch in the so-called “Claremont Cases” dealing with school funding, including the most recent decision in the ConVal School District case, are not binding on the legislative and executive branches of state government. Although committee members had differing views concerning the court decisions in question and how the legislature should respond to them, the majority of the committee, for a variety of reasons, felt that the most appropriate way for the legislature to address the court’s decisions, particularly its most recent ConVal decision, is to do so through substantive legislation rather than a concurrent resolution, which carries no legal weight or authority. The committee majority therefore concluded that Refer for Interim Study was the proper recommendation. Vote 16-1.

Rep. Joe Alexander for the Minority of Judiciary. The minority of the Judiciary Committee believes this concurrent resolution should be voted Ought to Pass in order to reassert the legislature’s responsibility to set adequacy in education. The body most closely connected to the people is in the best place to determine the adequacy needed in order to produce the best outcome for our student populations. This resolution does not say the legislature will not listen to the Claremont decision, rather the courts’ power of judicial review does not and should not compel the legislature or the Governor to act. The courts have the longstanding authority to opine on a constitutional issue if there is a law implemented that goes against the court’s view on the constitution, however it does not have the authority to determine whether the legislature has acted in a sufficient manner in its duties. The Supreme Court has overstepped its duties enshrined in the “separation of powers” clause in its Claremont ruling. The minority believes this issue of educational funding should be left up to the legislature and the text in this resolution clearly outlines that the legislature must not and will not surrender their authority under the Part 2, Article 3 of the NH Constitution.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Lynn moved that **HCR 11**, declaring the directives of the judicial branch in the Claremont cases that the legislative and executive branches define an “adequate education,” adopt “standards of accountability,” and “guarantee adequate funding” of a public education are not binding on the legislative and executive branches, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

SB 268, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristine Perez for the **Majority** of Judiciary. Safety is a commonsense concern. The safety and the comfort of all individuals is the purpose of this bill. This is not by any means a discrimination issue as the legislature is committed to treat all individuals without such discrimination. This bill reinforces the legislature’s commitment to treat all individuals with equal dignity and respect. There are very limited circumstances in which protecting privacy and physical safety for any individual needs to be considered and these are outlined in this bill and recognized by multiple states as well as recently by the NCAA and the Olympic Committee. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Eric Turer for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This bill would create exceptions to the sexual or gender identity protections under New Hampshire's RSA 354-A:1, titled the "Law Against Discrimination." It would allow "classification of individuals based on biological sex" in three circumstances, including the use of restrooms/locker rooms, participation in sports, and housing for jails/prisons. Nearly identical language has been vetoed twice, under HB396 in 2024 and HB148 in 2025 by two different governors. Their veto notes cite a range of concerns including questions of the need for such legislation, its vague language, the impracticality of implementation, and the potential to create an "exclusionary environment" for some citizens. The bill is vague in its language and dangerous in its construction. Most notably, the key term "biological sex" is not defined in any way; ignoring the multitude of approaches to how one's sex can be described biologically. No classification system exists which is purely binary, and the different approaches can produce different classifications at the same point in one's life and at different points in one's life, due to natural changes and/or legal medical interventions. This bill would permit each person, and every public or private organization in the state, to adopt any standard they choose for what sex to assign to a person in the scenarios listed. It further raises significant privacy concerns regarding what an individual might be compelled do or to provide in order to demonstrate their "biological sex." Additionally, the bill does not prescribe how a person is to be treated in each of the three circumstances outlined, once their "biological sex" is ascertained. This would permit different treatment of the same individual by different entities in the same scenario at the same time. Rather than offering some form of needed protection, the bill engenders and legalizes discrimination, endangers vulnerable populations, and would likely lead to the very situations that it seeks to prevent.

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

Rep. Perez spoke in favor.

Rep. Turer spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 185 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 185

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory

Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Thibault, James

Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttub, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 159

BELKNAP

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

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
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Simpson, Alexis

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Ankarberg, Aidan
Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report of Ought to Pass was adopted, and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HB 303-FN, relative to requiring the department of labor review and adopt workers' occupational safety requirements that are similar to OSHA standards. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Mike Drago for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The data presented to the committee showed a higher injury rate per capita in the private sector than the public sector. The committee also heard testimony that private sector employers are the biggest violators when it comes to injury reporting making the actual injury numbers in the private sector likely higher than the data provided. The amendment did not have a fiscal report at the time of the vote. The majority of the committee, not knowing the cost of the amendment and seeing data that showed public sector employees already have less injuries than their private sector counterparts, decided interim study was the best option at this time. Vote 17-1.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Refer for Interim Study.
Committee report was adopted.

The House recessed at 12:37 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

HB 314-FN, prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Len Turcotte for the Majority of Legislative Administration. This amended version repeals and replaces the entirety of the original bill, while developing a middle ground between opposing sides of the issue of taxpayer-funded lobbying activities. Most importantly, the amendment provides for additional transparency to our citizens. First, since we repeal the original content of the bill, the only opposition the committee heard through public-hearing testimony and correspondence applied only to the old language and not this amendment which is extremely different and addresses, for the most part, the concerns we heard with the original legislation. Once this language passes the House, it will receive a full public hearing in the other body. Secondly, the changes to the statutes would require those receiving any form of public funds (newly defined as a grant or appropriation to, and received by a state, county, town city, village district, unincorporated place or school district) to first receive taxpayer approval utilizing the existing warrant article process, prior to expending those funds on lobbying entities and activities. This "local decision-making" action is appropriate since many municipalities spend tens of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money on lobbying activities. Having taxpayers deciding on appropriations through the voting process, like they do on dozens of other expenditures, is desirable. These expenses would no longer be buried within hundreds of pages of the budget, which very few citizens even recognize exist. Instead, these expenses would now be clearly delineated for transparency in the municipality's annual report. Next, the amendment removes an additional fear we heard by clearly stating that public officials and employees would not be prohibited from testifying before the legislature, a common misconception we heard in correspondence. Lastly, there is no change to the existing statutes requiring public entities to segregate lobbying/non-lobbying funds and there is no new segregation of funds requirement of lobbyists or firms engaged in lobbying activities. Vote 7-4.

Rep. Stephanie Payeur for the Minority of Legislative Administration. This bill was amended during the executive session which means it has not yet had a public hearing. By the count of the minority of the committee, over 40 cities and towns have sent in letters in opposition to the original bill. The amendment requires cities and towns do additional work when they want to hire lobbying firms. They must post the cost of dues in their annual report

and must utilize the warrant article process and have a majority of the attendees at town meetings support the lobbying expense. The minority also has concerns how counties, that hire lobbying firms, would comply given they don't have the same town meeting processes as cities and towns. The minority of the committee believes the mandatory ballot language needs clarification. The worry is if the legislative body votes no, the town or city will not be able to join organizations like NH Municipal Association (NHMA) at all and they would be unable to access all the non-lobbying benefits these organizations may offer. The minority points out that services are not "sold separately" by these organizations. Also, a no vote on the ballot question by taxpayers would presumably prohibit a single town from paying dues to a whole slew of different organizations. The bill's amendment does not allow for separate votes or decisions on distinct organizations. This means less voter choice. The minority points out the current process gives a vote on the dues when taxpayers vote on the budget every year. The minority indicates that voters can, at town meeting, already have a process to remove the dues line item for any organization from the budget or institute a petition warrant article to not be a member of an organization. Finally, the minority of the committee believes that without organizations like NHMA and others, many small towns far from Concord would have to spend resources, possibly sending an employee, and use a full day driving down to testify. These smaller towns do have elected representatives, it should be noted. Regardless, the minority of the committee believes this bill is another attempt at overreach of local control of our cities, towns, and counties.

Majority Amendment (3026h)

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

1 Lobbyists; Prohibited Activities. RSA 15:5 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

15:5 Prohibited Lobbyist Activities.

I. In this section, "public funds" means a grant or appropriation to, and received by, a state, county, town, city, village district, unincorporated place, or school district.

II. Except as provided in paragraph V, no recipient of a grant or appropriation of public funds may use public funds to lobby or attempt to influence legislation or contribute public funds to any person, partnership, firm, or corporation that is employed to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, any legislation pending or proposed before the general court.

III. Any recipient of a grant or appropriation of public funds that wishes to engage in any of the activities prohibited in paragraph II, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these activities, shall segregate the public funds in such a manner that such funds are physically and financially separate from any non-public funds that may be used for any of these purposes. Mere bookkeeping separation of the public funds from other moneys shall not be sufficient.

IV. Nothing in this section shall restrict public officials or public employees from testifying before the legislature unless the individual testifying is required to register as a lobbyist in accordance with RSA 15:1.

V. A municipality that wishes to engage in the activities prohibited by RSA 15:5, II may permit those activities in the following manner:

(a) In a town, the question shall be placed on the warrant of an annual town meeting under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3, and shall be voted on a ballot. In a city, the legislative body may vote to place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election, or, in the alternative, shall place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election upon submission to the legislative body of a petition signed by 5 percent of the registered voters.

(b) The selectmen, aldermen, or city council shall hold a public hearing on the question at least 15 days but not more than 30 days before the question is to be voted on. Notice of the hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places in the municipality and published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days before the hearing.

(c) The wording of the question shall be substantially as follows:
"Shall we allow public funds to be used for lobbying, an attempt to influence legislation, participate in political activity, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these lobbying activities?"

(d) If a majority of those voting on the question vote "Yes," public funds may be utilized for lobbying activities by the town or city.

(e) If the question is not approved, the question may later be voted upon according to the provisions of paragraph I at the next annual town meeting or regular municipal election.

(f) A municipality that has voted to allow the public funding of lobbying activities may consider rescinding its action in the manner described in paragraph I of this section.

(g) An unincorporated place may allow the public funding of lobbying activities by majority vote of the county delegation, after a public hearing is held.

(h) In a municipality that approves the use of public funds for the purpose of lobbying activities, the municipality shall publish in the municipality's annual report to its citizens, the dollar amount expensed to each recipient engaged in lobbying activities utilizing public funds. In the case of a recipient which provides other services in addition to lobbying, there shall be no requirement for the segregation of public funds, but the annual report shall delineate the lobbying and non-lobbying expensed of each recipient.

2 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Powers; Authorization to Pay Dues. Amend RSA 31:8-a to read as follows:

31:8-a Authorization to Pay Dues. [The] ***After a municipality has satisfied the requirements of RSA 15:5, V regarding the use of public funds for lobbying activities, the*** board of selectmen may vote to pay, from amounts appropriated by the town for town officers' expenses, such amounts as shall be payable for annual membership in the New Hampshire Municipal Association and expenses incurred in attending regular meetings of the said association, provided that the appropriation of such dues has not previously been rejected by a vote at the annual town meeting and provided further that the association shall not record association positions before the general court or committees thereof on matters which do not directly affect New Hampshire towns and cities, nor engage in partisan political activity by endorsing, or otherwise supporting, any political party or candidate.

3 Applicability. This act applies only to an expenditure or payment of public funds as defined in RSA 15:5, I, that is made on or after the effective date of this act, including an expenditure or payment of public funds that is made under a contract entered into before, on, or after the effective date of this act.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

On a division vote, with 176 members having voted in the affirmative, and 160 in the negative, the majority amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Maggiore spoke against

Rep. Flanagan spoke against and yielded to questions.

Rep. Turcotte spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 152 - NAYS 198

YEAS - 152

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

Qualey, James

COOS

Durkin, Sean

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

Ladd, Rick

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Thomas, Douglas
 Dunn, Ron
 Harb, Robert
 Litchfield, Melissa
 McGrath, Linda
 Brown, Pam
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Soti, Julius
 Vandecasteele, Susan

Bennett, Cindy
 DeSimone, Debra
 Edwards, Jess
 Janigian, John
 Love, David
 McMahon, Charles
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Read, Ellen
 Spillane, James
 Verville, Kevin

Bernardy, JD
 DeVito, Sayra
 Ford, Mary
 Kuttat, Katelyn
 Lynn, Bob
 Nadeau, Brian
 Porcelli, Susan
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sweeney, Joe
 Vose, Michael

Mannion, Dennis
 Drago, Mike
 Guzowski, James
 Layon, Erica
 Markell, Jay
 Osborne, Jason
 Potucek, John
 Selby, Donald
 Tudor, Paul
 Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
 Gilmore, Gary
 Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
 Granger, Michael
 Turcotte, Len

DeRoy, Susan
 Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Smith, Steven

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 198
BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike
 St. Clair, Charlie

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
 Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
 Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
 Germana, Dylan
 Jacobs, Samantha
 Newell, Jodi
 Thackston, Dick

Berch, Paul
 Murphy, Denis
 Jones, Philip
 O'Rourke, Terri
 Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
 Faulkner, Barry
 Germana, Nicholas
 Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
 Gruber, James
 Nalevanko, Rich
 Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
 Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
 Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen
 Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
 Franz, Linda
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Cormen, Thomas
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Davis, Fred
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hartnett, Tim
 Juris, Louis
 Leapey, Nicole
 Howard, Molly
 Murphy, Nancy
 Proulx, Mark
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Flanagan, Jack
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Murray, Megan
 Petrigno, Peter
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Sofikitis, Catherine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Foss, Lily
 Grund, Stephanie
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Booras, Efsthathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Elberger, Susan
 Georges, Mary
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jedy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory
 Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
 Gallagher, Eric
 Newsom, James
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
 Hicks, Matthew
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schultz, Kris
 Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Roesener, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
de Vries, Erica
Grote, Jaci
Khan, Aboul
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Pearson, Stephen
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
Donnelly, Tanya
Guthrie, Joseph
Walsh, Lilli
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Tripp, Richard
Ward, Gerald

Bryer, Scott
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Lundgren, David
Malloy, Dennis
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Simpson, Alexis
Turer, Eric
Weyler, Kenneth

Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Meuse, David
Perez, Kristine
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Bixby, Peter
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

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

Butler, Billie
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion failed.

Rep. Maggiore moved to adopt the minority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

On a division vote, with 203 members having voted in the affirmative, and 147 in the negative, the minority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate was adopted.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Mark Pearson moved that the debate on **HB 232-FN**, relative to the rights of conscience for medical professionals, be printed in the Permanent Journal.

The Speaker ordered without objection.

DEBATE ON HB 232-FN

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Representative Manos.

Representative Manos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to strongly oppose HB 232. Make no mistake about it, this is an anti-abortion bill. Those who want to pass this bill will say it's about a right of conscience, a healthcare provider's right of conscience. But this bill is really about allowing someone to turn a patient away from accessing abortion. For whatever reason, without any explanation, without any referrals, this bill would be a new abortion restriction in New Hampshire. It allows anyone working in a healthcare facility to refuse to participate in abortion care, including the receptionist. Should a receptionist have the power to deny healthcare to a patient? That's what this bill would do. It would effectively deny patients access to abortion.

Speaker Packard: The member will suspend for a minute. I unfortunately didn't do the amendment first, which we have to do before we actually do the speech. Just step back for a minute. Thank you. The question is on the amendment (2932h), printed in House Record 51, pages 59 through 60. Are you ready for the question on the amendment? All those in favor say aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. You may continue, Representative, and I apologize.

Representative Manos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, this bill will allow anyone working in a healthcare facility to refuse to participate in abortion care, including the receptionist. Should a receptionist have the power to deny healthcare to patients in New Hampshire? That's what this bill would do. It would effectively deny patients access to abortion, which is legal healthcare in this state. The bill's definition of participation in abortion care is so broad, so expansive, that refusals could include turning patients away at the door or withholding basic information, with no requirement of advance notice, referrals, or alternative support for the patient. Patients, especially in rural areas, could be left without any options or forced to travel long distances for time-sensitive care. This would result in delays or outright denials of care, even in emergency situations. HB 232 grants unilateral power to individual providers, while stripping patients and healthcare institutions of any ability to ensure continuity or access to care. It ties the hands of employers who would be prohibited from managing staff, reassigning roles, or even discussing accommodations. It would impose penalties on employers for any perceived retaliatory or disciplinary action, leaving healthcare institutions unable to protect patients' access. Many of my colleagues in this chamber, as well as the governor, promised voters no new abortion restrictions in New Hampshire. But this bill allows patients, specifically those seeking abortions, to be turned away. That's an abortion restriction. We should keep our promises and vote it down. I urge a no vote on HB 232, and I request a roll call vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: Does the member yield to questions?

Representative Manos: No, I do not.

Speaker Packard: The member does not yield. Chair recognizes Representative Peternel.

Representative Peternel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part 1, Article 4 of the New Hampshire Constitution states, “among the natural rights, some are, in their very nature, unalienable, because no equivalent can be given or received for them. Of this kind are the rights of conscience.” This right does not come from government. It precedes government. This bill supports that constitutional promise. It protects healthcare professionals from being forced to participate in the ending of a human life, and allows New Hampshire to attract providers who value motherhood and family. This bill does not ban or restrict access to abortion. It simply brings New Hampshire in line with 47 other states with conscience clauses. Medicine has always been guided by the principle of do no harm. For many healthcare providers, abortion represents the deliberate taking of innocent human life, an unnatural, violent separation of unborn children from their mother. Forcing their participation is not healthcare. It is a violation of conscience. No one should have to choose between their profession and their moral integrity. Some would argue that physicians who object to participating in abortions should choose another specialty. That argument rejects moral diversity in medicine and denies women the option of physicians who affirm their dignity and value as mothers and share their worldview. This bill does not apply in emergencies and does not apply to providers and institutions where abortion is a major service. Emergency situations are also protected. Conscience protections are not hypothetical. Medical professionals have lost jobs, licenses, and careers for refusing to violate their beliefs. Rights without enforcement are meaningless. I urge you to support ought to pass as amended on House Bill 232 to expand healthcare options, honor our Constitution, and uphold human dignity, mother, and true healthcare for women. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of ought to pass as amended on House Bill 232. Representative Manos 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 motion before us is a majority committee report of ought to pass as amended on House Bill 232. It’s a roll call vote. The chair recognizes Representative Manos for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Manos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that HB 232 allows anyone working in a healthcare facility, including the receptionist, to turn patients away from accessing abortion, which is legal healthcare in New Hampshire, and if I know that this bill prohibits employers from managing staff, leaving healthcare institutions unable to protect patient access, and if I know that many of us made a promise to voters that there would be no new abortion restrictions in New Hampshire, and this is a new abortion restriction, would I now push the red button? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Alexander for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Alexander: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know HB 232 affirms the right of medical professionals to object to perform an abortion should they morally disagree with the procedure, and if I know this bill would bring New Hampshire in line with 47 other states and adds an exception in case of medical emergencies, and Mr. Speaker, if I know Part 1, Article 4 of the New Hampshire Constitution gives natural rights to granite staters, including the right to conscience, would I then press the green button? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass as Amended on House Bill 232. This is a roll call vote. If you’re in favor, you’ll press the green button. If you’re opposed, you’ll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. If all members had an opportunity to vote, the House will attend to the state of the vote. 184 voting aye, 164 voting nay. The committee report is adopted.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **HB 349-FN**, relative to the practice of optometry and authorization to perform ophthalmic laser procedures, **HB 366-FN-A**, modifying the priority of applications for school building aid grants, **HB 510-FN**, relative to establishing certain due process rights for students, student organizations, and faculty members facing disciplinary actions by state institutions of higher learning, **HB 186-FN-A**, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor, **SB 36**, relative to the collection and reporting of abortion statistics by health care providers and medical facilities.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Nicholas Germana moved that the debate on **SB 268**, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered

DEBATE ON SB 268

Speaker Packard: The majority of the Committee on Judiciary, to which it was referred, Senate Bill 268, an act permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. Consider the same, report the same, with a recommendation that the bill Ought to Pass. Representative Kristine Perez for the majority. Minority, having considered the same, being unable to agree with the majority, report with the following resolution resolved that it is Inexpedient to Legislate. Representative Eric Turer for the minority of the committee. The chair recognizes Representative Turer.

Representative Turer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Babe, I got you, babe. I got you, babe. You hopefully recognize that lyric as a reference to the movie, Groundhog Day. It stars actor Bill Murray, who becomes doomed to repeat the same day over and over and over again. Similarly, we have our own bill that seems to suffer the same fate. Today, it's Senate Bill 268, but it's also been House Bill 396 and House Bill 148. And there are two more coming this session, all exactly the same bill we already know so well. The thing is, in the movie, people don't particularly like Bill. Similarly, both our prior and our current Republican Governors chose to veto this bill language. Here are a few quotes from their veto messages, which warn that the bills, quote, seek to solve problems that have not presented themselves, invite unnecessary discord, potentially create an exclusionary environment for some citizens, and will spur a plethora of litigation against local communities and businesses. There are many other reasons not to like this bill, which members have heard in the previous debates. This bill still relies on undefined terms, offers no lawful way to enforce them, and puts government and private actors in the position of policing people's bodies. Like movie Bill, Senate Bill 268 and its twins discriminate, belittle, and victimize the truly most vulnerable members of the community while not doing anything to help people with the real problems they face. So he and we are stuck in this seemingly endless cycle. To continue my metaphor, the movie does have a happy ending. Movie Bill does finally get to move on, but only when he sees all the people in the town for who they really are, real people with real feelings, real needs, who are just trying to live free, and yes, even die as best they can. Instead of belittling them, movie Bill actually begins to help people solve real problems they struggle with. Hunger, homelessness, illness, business woes, heck, even a flat tire caused by the bad roads. The people really love this new Bill in the movie. Perhaps there's a lesson there. So for those who don't do metaphors, let me say it plainly. It's time to move on. Let's not waste more time and likely more of the Governor's veto ink debating these horribly irresponsible bills that fail to meet even the most basic requirements for a valid legislative effort. If this bill becomes law, it would most likely do all of the harmful things the governor's veto messages suggested and worse. It would cause the very problems it purports to solve while undermining our most basic rights of privacy and autonomy. Worst, it would undermine the very protections against gender discrimination that our prior Republican governor signed into law in 2018. The lives of real people, both transgender and not, will be caught in the middle. But its impact will fall most heavily on our transgender citizens, exposing them to discrimination and personal harm without delivering any of the safety or fairness it promises to others. So I'm asking members to do what two governors understood to be the right thing and not just do the same thing over and over again. Vote no. We'll all be better for it when the alarm clock goes off tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I ask for a roll call vote.

Speaker Packard: The chair recognizes Representative Perez.

Representative Perez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And once again, Happy New Year to all of you. I'm here for my third time with this over and over again, and I'm proud to be doing that. I have stood here before you multiple times over the past few years to address this concern. Yes, concern for all individuals involved. This concern, I'm afraid, has been elevated to a concern of safety. This bill and others before have never been about discrimination, but more about one's rights, their dignity, and their respect of privacy, and now safety has come to the forefront. This bill does not require any entity to provide separate spaces, but allows those that choose to do so without legal ramification. Quote, this section does not mean that any public or private entity is required by state statute to separate persons based on biological sex. And this is truly not a political issue. In many ways, and with all the unnerving events that we have heard over the past few years, I once again say this is a need for safety. I, as an adult, have a right to choose not to enter any place, public place. It is an option for me. I choose not to enter certain spaces, perhaps in cities that I might perceive as unsafe. Unsafe for many reasons, but mostly unsafe for me as an older woman. Again, I am an adult, so I can choose what I consider safe. But what about the children? These children that are forced to use facilities available to them. Why would a young, transitioned individual want to put themselves in a position of being harassed or even injured? Why? Is it because someone told him it was their right? Yes, perhaps. But what about their safety? What about the physical or mental ramifications of an unfortunate encounter they might suffer long-term effects of? And why should anyone be exposed to any situation that might make them completely uneasy, embarrassed, or even offended? Everyone, no matter their identity, has a right to safety and comfort. Safety in lavatories, facilities, in sports, and in detention facilities, and more. Let's provide this for all. Especially for the youth and quit fighting about it. I urge you to vote green on Ought to Pass and I thank you for your time. But since I know I will be asked, how would I determine biological sex? We have been able to separate the biological sexes in all civilizations since the beginning of time without having complex statutory definitions about chromosomes, genitals, or birth certificates. The exhausted demand for a definition is cynical. Trying to provide one would make the entire debate about chromosomal aberrations or altered birth certificates. We don't have a statutory definition for human beings, but the law operates just fine without one. These demands for the detailed definition of sex are just an attempt to overcomplicate things and make sex seem like a less obvious reality than it is. How would I know a person's biological sex? I have a tendency to be trusting. I would ask and believe until I was proven wrong. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is majority committee report of Ought to Pass on Senate Bill 268. Representative Turer has asked for a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The motion before us is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on Senate Bill 268. This is a roll call vote. Chair recognizes Representative Rosener for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Rosener: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that, as stated earlier, this bill relies on judgment of biological sex without providing an enforceable definition or objective, non-intrusive standard for determining it, and if I know enforcement would, therefore, necessarily depend on appearance-based judgments, stereotypes, and evasive, inappropriate questioning, and if I know that comparable laws in other states have produced predictable outcomes of conflict, of litigation, and demonstrated little to no improvement in public safety, then, as a guy who enjoys having long hair and is often called ma'am from 10 feet away, but sir up close, I would have to vote no on this bill? Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The chair recognizes Representative Alexander for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Alexander: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know 74 percent of granite staters believe we should allow school districts to have separate locker rooms and restrooms based on biological sex, and if I know by giving districts greater flexibility, we can enable them to develop policies that make the most sense for their communities, and if I know, despite the governor's veto, it's important we reassert our position on this bill and this subject matter, and if I know that SB 268 eliminates an onerous state mandate allowing for local control, and if I support local control, I'd push the green button. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on Senate Bill 268. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. If all members had an opportunity to vote, the House will attend to say the vote. 185 voting aye, 155 voting nay, the committee report is adopted.

HB 173, relative to maintaining the purpose of a petitioned warrant article. **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 40:13, IV(c) that disallows amending the purpose of a petitioned warrant article. At annual meetings, legislative bodies are inappropriately altering the subject matter and purpose of petitioned warrant articles. For example, petitioned warrant articles to adopt a local tax cap are often amended at the annual meeting into a study of a local tax cap. Such an amendment clearly alters the subject matter and purpose of the petitioned warrant article. Amending the dollar amount of an appropriation within the petitioned warrant article is allowed and not affected by the new language. This bill reaffirms that petitioned warrant articles are to be treated the same as those placed on the warrant by the governing body and prohibits amendments that would nullify the article's purpose. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Eleana Colby for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. The minority of the committee believes this bill undermines the fundamental purpose of a deliberative session, which is to promote meaningful discussion and collaboration among participants. It seeks to restrict voters' opportunities to engage in the deliberative process by prohibiting any amendments to the purpose of a petitioned warrant article. Petitioned warrant articles should be given the same level of respect and scrutiny as traditional warrant articles. However, this bill introduces preferential treatment that infringes upon citizens' rights to fully participate in their municipal meetings and the democratic process. There is significant concern among the minority that if a petitioned warrant article passes and inadvertently directs the municipality to violate state or federal statutes, the municipality could incur legal liabilities, the costs of which would ultimately fall on property taxpayers. If the petitioned warrant article fails to meet legal standards and cannot be acted upon, this will sow seeds of distrust in municipal leadership and election officials alike.

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

Rep. Colby spoke against.

Rep. Pauer spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 187 members having voted in the affirmative, and 162 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to a third reading..

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 348, relative to eligibility for local assistance. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Sly Karasinski for the Majority of Municipal and County Government. This bill as amended, is enabling legislation that allows the local governing body of every town and city in the state to adopt written guidelines relative to general assistance, that shall include, but not be limited to, criteria for determining general assistance which may include acceptable evidence of residency, and a monthly local assistance limit of not less than 50 percent of the federal poverty level. Special consideration may be provided to non-residents fleeing domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking. The governing body may authorize the local assistance administrator to provide emergency assistance to a non-resident for up to 72 hours, to allow

application and coordination with the town of origin. This bill as amended protects those residents seeking local assistance by ensuring the municipality has the means available to help. At the same time, providing assistance to those escaping violence, and transients seeking short term assistance as they find a means to return home. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Laurel Stavis for the Minority of Municipal and County Government. Providing assistance to the poor has been a requirement of New Hampshire towns and cities since Colonial times. It is a distinctive and resounding statement that recognizes aid to the poor as a foundational obligation of New Hampshire communities, ensuring that no person is deprived of assistance when in need. The bill as amended chips away at this bedrock commitment, and thus at our historic impulse to provide aid – by allowing municipalities to condition that aid on proof of residency through documents such as car registrations, lease agreements, tax and utility bills – the very documents that our neighbors in need almost never have. For those fleeing violence such as human trafficking and sexual assault, the bill further conditions assistance by allowing governing bodies to permit individuals 72 hours to obtain such documents. Even if these requirements could be met, the bill makes no exceptions for weekends, holidays, and other circumstances that would prevent anyone from obtaining such records within the 72 hour limit. Proponents of the bill point to the “special consideration” that “may be provided” by governing bodies to those who are not residents of the town in which they seek aid and who may be victims of domestic violence or stalking. But the key word is “may,” which allows municipalities to withhold said “special consideration” despite RSA 165’s clear statement that “Whenever a person in any town is poor and unable to support himself, he shall be relieved and maintained by the overseers of public welfare of such town, whether or not he has residence there.” Courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have continually struck down laws that condition aid on residency, since they contravene the right to travel and the equal protection clause. Therefore, this bill, if signed into law, would violate the US Constitution. The minority of the committee stands in opposition to this bill, which contradicts the very provisions of the law it seeks to amend by making assistance voluntary and conditional. For two centuries, New Hampshire has demonstrated its commitment to providing assistance to persons in need. Conditioning that assistance on residency and other requirements, as the bill seeks to do, goes against that proud history. It chips away at our commitment to each other and, by extension, the human connections that undergird all our communities.

Majority Amendment (0154h)

Amend RSA 165:1, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. The local governing body, as defined in RSA 672:6, of every town and city in the state shall adopt written guidelines relative to general assistance. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) The process for application for general assistance.

(b) The criteria for determining eligibility *for general assistance, which may require an individual to provide proof of residency prior to being approved for such assistance. Acceptable evidence of an individual’s residence may include a lease, car registration, utility bill, or any government-issued document with an address matching the stated residence.*

(1) Special consideration may be provided to non-residents who have left their town of origin due to domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

(2) The governing body may, at its discretion, authorize the local assistance administrator to provide emergency assistance to a non-resident for up to 72 hours to allow application and communication coordination with the town of origin.

(c) The process for appealing a decision relative to the granting of general assistance.

(d) The process for the application of rents under RSA 165:4-b, if the municipality uses the offset provisions of RSA 165:4-a.

(e) A statement that qualified state assistance reductions under RSA 167:82, VIII may be deemed as income, if the local governing body has permitted the welfare administrator to treat a qualified state assistance reduction as deemed income under RSA 165:1-e.

(f) A monthly local assistance limit of not less than 50 percent of the federal poverty level.

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. Rhodes spoke in favor.

Rep. Nicholas Germana requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 190 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 190

BELKNAP

Bean, Harry
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

Freeman, Lisa
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Belcher, Mike
Peternel, Katy

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich

Jones, Philip
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Ladd, Rick

Beaulier, Calvin
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

Franz, Linda

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tim
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 157**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Germana, Dylan
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stavis, Laurel

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Sofikitis, Catherine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Read, Ellen
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 488, relative to limiting conflicts of interest for municipal board and committee members. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. Currently, conflict of interest policies vary widely from town to town. This patchwork of policies leaves too much room for confusion and the potential for misconduct which, left unchecked, could create serious errors and erode public confidence. The majority of the committee believe this bill, as amended, clearly defines the limits by which an individual may serve in their local governments and limits an individual from holding multiple roles that could create divided loyalties — for example, when a town employee also sits on a board that makes decisions affecting their department. Our existing conflict of interest laws for municipal government have not always kept pace with the complex realities of today's local governance. This bill protects the integrity of our local officials, ensuring that every vote, every permit, every contract, and every dollar spent is guided by fairness and the public good. Vote 15-1.

Committee Amendment (3045h)

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

AN ACT relative to limiting conflicts of interest and concentrations of power for municipal board and committee members.

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

1 Incompatibility of Offices. RSA 669:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

669:7 Incompatibility of Offices.

I.(a) No person shall at the same time hold any 2 of the following offices: selectman, treasurer or deputy treasurer, moderator, trustee of trust funds, collector of taxes, finance director or equivalent position, auditor, highway agent, and head of the town's police or fire department.

(b) No town clerk or deputy town clerk shall hold any other elected or appointed office other than tax collector, if authorized as provided in RSA 41:45-a. No deputy town clerk shall hold any other elected or appointed office other than deputy tax collector, if authorized as provided in RSA 41:45-c. Notwithstanding these requirements, a town clerk or deputy town clerk may serve as a school district clerk.

(c) No town employee or department head shall at the same time hold the office of selectman.

(d) No town manager or town administrator shall at the same time hold any other office listed in subparagraph (a), other than tax collector when authorized under RSA 37:16.

(e) No selectman may also serve as a member of a board of assessors elected pursuant to RSA 41:2-c.

(f) No official handling funds of a town shall at the same time hold the office of auditor.

(g) No selectman, moderator, town clerk, deputy town clerk, or inspector of elections shall at the same time serve as a supervisor of the checklist.

(h) No selectman, town manager, town administrator, member of a school board, village district commissioner, employee, or department head of the town shall serve on their respective town or school advisory budget or finance committee under RSA 32:24. Municipal office limitations for members-at-large of a municipal budget committee shall be as expressly provided in RSA 32:15, V.

(i) No municipal employee working in a capacity that provides support for a local land use board established under RSA 673 may serve on a local land use board of the same municipality or conservation commission established under RSA 36-A of the same municipality.

(j) No municipal employee or department head shall serve on a planning board or zoning board of adjustment, except as expressly provided in RSA 673:2.

II. No person shall at the same time file a declaration of candidacy for any 2 or more elected offices that are incompatible under paragraph I.

III. The provisions of paragraph I shall not be construed to prevent the transfer between offices of information obtained in the regular conduct of business nor to prevent the personnel in any office from furnishing clerical assistance to any other office.

IV. This section shall not prevent a member of the governing body from serving as an ex officio on any committee over which the governing body has supervisory responsibility.

V. Alternates for any board shall be treated as a regular member in the same manner for the purposes of this section.

2 Applicability; Conflicting Positions Pursuant to RSA 669:7.

On the effective date of RSA 669:7, as amended by section 1 of this act, members of boards and committees holding conflicting positions may remain in those positions until the next municipal elections are held.

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

2025-3045h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits conflicts of interest and excessive concentration of power for municipal board and committee members.

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. Pauer offered floor amendment (0029h) and spoke in favor.

Floor Amendment (0029h)

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

AN ACT relative to limiting conflicts of interest and concentrations of power for municipal board and committee members.

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

1 Incompatibility of Offices. RSA 669:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

669:7 Incompatibility of Offices.

I.(a) No person shall at the same time hold any 2 of the following offices: selectman, treasurer or deputy treasurer, moderator, trustee of trust funds, collector of taxes, finance director or equivalent position, auditor, highway agent, and head of the town's police or fire department.

(b) No town clerk or deputy town clerk shall hold any other elected or appointed office other than tax collector, if authorized as provided in RSA 41:45-a. No deputy town clerk shall hold any other elected or appointed office other than deputy tax collector, if authorized as provided in RSA 41:45-c. Notwithstanding these requirements, a town clerk or deputy town clerk may serve as a school district clerk.

(c) No town employee or department head shall at the same time hold the office of selectman.

(d) No town manager or town administrator shall at the same time hold any other office listed in subparagraph (a), other than tax collector when authorized under RSA 37:16.

(e) No selectman may also serve as a member of a board of assessors elected pursuant to RSA 41:2-c.

(f) No official handling funds of a town shall at the same time hold the office of auditor.

(g) No selectman, moderator, town clerk, deputy town clerk, or inspector of elections shall at the same time serve as a supervisor of the checklist.

(h) No selectman, town manager, town administrator, member of a school board, village district commissioner, employee, or department head of the town shall serve on their respective town or school advisory budget or finance committee under RSA 32:24. Municipal office limitations for members-at-large of a municipal budget committee shall be as expressly provided in RSA 32:15, V.

(i) No municipal employee working in a capacity that provides support for a local land use board established under RSA 673 may serve on a local land use board of the same municipality or conservation commission established under RSA 36-A of the same municipality.

(j) No municipal employee or department head shall serve on a planning board or zoning board of adjustment, except as expressly provided in RSA 673:2.

II. No person shall at the same time file a declaration of candidacy for any 2 or more elected offices that are incompatible under paragraph I. A person may file a declaration of candidacy for an elected office that is incompatible under paragraph I with an office the person currently holds only if the term of the held office does not extend beyond the date of the election for which the declaration of candidacy is filed.

III. The provisions of paragraph I shall not be construed to prevent the transfer between offices of information obtained in the regular conduct of business nor to prevent the personnel in any office from furnishing clerical assistance to any other office.

IV. This section shall not prevent a member of the governing body from serving as an ex officio on any committee over which the governing body has supervisory responsibility.

V. Alternates for any board shall be treated as a regular member in the same manner for the purposes of this section.

2 Applicability; Conflicting Positions Pursuant to RSA 669:7.

On the effective date of RSA 669:7, as amended by section 1 of this act, members of boards and committees holding conflicting positions may remain in those positions until the next municipal elections are held.

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

2026-0029h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits conflicts of interest and excessive concentration of power for municipal board and committee members.

Floor amendment (0029h) was adopted.

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

Rep. Guthrie spoke against.

Rep. Spilsbury spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 320 members having voted in the affirmative, and 22 in the negative, the committee report was adopted, and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

Rep. Colby recused herself from the vote and did not participate.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

SB 27-FN, relative to dwellings over water. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the Majority of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill thoughtfully amends RSA 482-A:26, III. Property owners should have a reasonable pathway to maintain and improve their homes, provided such actions do not harm public waters or the environment. Under RSA 482-A:26, these unique limited number of homes are defined as private structures built over NH public waters. Since there are only a few homes in NH within this category, the bill's impact is limited in scope but important for those affected to support their property rights. NH Department of Environmental Services

becoming more active in enforcing violations for people harming our water ways would be a very good deterrent. By allowing the few property owners this affects a practical path to maintaining their unique homes, this bill balances individual rights with New Hampshire's strong commitment to protecting its lakes and rivers. This bill is a fair and sensible update that benefits both homeowners and the environment. Importantly, it also ensures that while improvements are allowed, the existing footprint cannot be expanded into the water and no additional columns can be placed in the water, protecting both the property and the environment. Vote 8-7.

Rep. Suzanne Vail for the Minority of Resources, Recreation and Development. The bill was written to benefit owners of a single private property that extends over water, which is held in the public trust. It asks the state to allow any property owner to expand their living space over public waters, usurping local control, and interfering with a municipality's ability to enforce local building codes. This bill was written with one case in mind, and the minority considered the possibility of expanded impact to be problematic, as this would lead to further expansion of private property, on shorelines, over water that is in public trust, without completing the requirements for appropriate local permits. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) testified that they have no ability to enforce local building codes, which the bill, as written, requires. DES does not have any present capacity to manage the mandate, and the bill does not attempt to create or open any authority for such an endeavor. For these reasons, the state should not intervene on behalf of a single homeowner.

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

Rep. Richard Brown offered floor amendment (0022h).

Floor Amendment (0022h)

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

1 Restrictions on Use of Structures Built Over the Waters of the State; Dwellings Over Water. Amend RSA 482-A:26, III to read as follows:

III.(a) Existing dwellings over water which were constructed or converted to be made suitable for use as a dwelling in accordance with the law in effect at the time of construction or conversion, may be repaired or reconstructed, for maintenance purposes only, using any modern technologies, provided the result is a functionally equivalent use. Such repair or reconstruction may alter the interior design or existing cribwork, but no expansion of the existing footprint or outside dimensions shall be permitted, ***except as allowed in subparagraph (b)***. A condition of RSA 482-A:3 approval shall be the existence or installation of a sewage disposal system which has been approved pursuant to RSA 485-A:29-44. No permit shall be required for routine maintenance that does not involve work in the water.

(b) Without otherwise limiting the provisions of this section, ~~[where the effect of repair or reconstruction of a structure subject to the provisions of this section represents greater protection of public water or the environment and where such repair or reconstruction does not change a recreational, water-based activity to a land-based, residential or commercial activity, the commissioner may waive the existing standards, provided that there shall be no expansion of the existing footprint, outside dimensions, and square footage of floor space; and there shall be a net reduction in the total square footage of kitchen, bathroom, shower, and toilet facilities.]~~ ***the existing footprint or outside dimensions of a structure subject to the provisions of this section may be modified by adding or expanding legally existing exterior features only, such as decks, balconies, stairs, rooflines, or eaves, provided that no such addition or expansion shall result in an increase in interior floor space nor change a recreational, water-based activity to a land-based, residential or commercial activity. The cumulative area across all added or expanded exterior features shall not exceed 100 square feet for a subject property with less than or equal to 100 linear feet of shoreline frontage and not more than one square foot per linear foot of the subject property's shoreline frontage for properties that have greater than 100 linear feet of shoreline frontage. Such modifications shall not result in any penetration of the water or bank by any columns, supports, beams, or other like items. Such modifications shall be approved by the department in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner. The department shall not approve any subsequent exterior feature modifications that result in an exceedance of the foregoing square footage limitation. Approval by the department under this section shall be in addition to any local building code enforcement and approval process under RSA 155-A:7 and RSA 674:51.***

(c) ***The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the approval of such additions or expansions, the setting of the fee amount, the calculation of the fees, the collection of such fees, and ensuring the payment of such fees as provided herein. Revenues from such fees shall be deposited into the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III to be used for the purposes thereof.***

2 Applicability. The department of environmental services shall not approve any addition or expansion of structures pursuant to RSA 482-A:26, III, as amended by section 1 of this act, until the commissioner adopts rules under RSA 541-A as authorized by RSA 482-A:26, III(c). The commissioner shall adopt such rules within 120 days of the effective date of this section.

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

2026-0022h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows for expansion of existing dwellings over water, contingent upon approval by the department of environmental services and payment of a fee based on the square footage of the dwelling, to be deposited in the water resources fund.

Rep. Vail spoke against floor amendment (0022h).

Rep. Richard Brown spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

On a division vote, with 191 members having voted in the affirmative, and 148 in the negative, the floor amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 104-FN, relative to requiring an official declaration of war for the activation of the New Hampshire national guard in a foreign state. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Christine Seibert for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The majority of the committee on State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs sees this bill as creating unnecessary risks while unfairly burdening granite state citizens and communities. This legislation seems straightforward, but it invites complicated consequences that would prove costly to NH in several ways. Our state has a long tradition of putting politics aside to support our active-duty service people, especially those who risk making the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our national interests and the freedoms we hold dear. National Guard members competently sign contracts and are fully aware of possible overseas deployments. Defending our guard should mean making sure it has funding and access to the latest equipment/training so it may be instantly ready if called upon for various missions, including overseas missions. There are nuances here that deserve attention. Our National Guard receives considerable federal funding which entails federal expectations. It is part of the Ready Reserve as a component of the Army/Air National Guard of the United States. Default status, i.e. Title 32 status, sets the terms by which National Guard forces train for war while under the command of a state governor. The Governor can call the National Guard into state service at state expense. If the President cannot similarly utilize our National Guard when needed, then why would the federal government continue to subsidize our National Guard? New Hampshire's guard has long supported stateside/remote Title 10 missions while providing a significant portion of overall national military power, in some cases taking on specialized missions that would be difficult to replicate elsewhere. That National Guard units have less turnover than their active-duty counterparts ensures the retention of valuable institutional knowledge. A good example is the refueler program, which other states would like to host. Losing this capability would be a significant blow to our joint force's overall capabilities with huge local financial implications. Service members and their families rely on authorities to uphold their end of service contracts. The NH National Guard receives at least \$395 million in federal funding annually. Federal funding not included in state appropriations totals \$200 million annually, which covers military/civilian pay, including benefits. This includes \$140 million/year (for construction, operations, and maintenance), \$33 million annually for the state operations, and \$22 million for the state capital budget each year. Significantly, our federal constitution does not allow governors to refuse consent to the use of the guard. Governors only get input because Congress allows it and only on terms which Congress has set, as in 10 USC § 12301. Furthermore, our federal constitution doesn't require Congress to issue a formal declaration of war to take certain military actions. What matters is legislative approval — such as an authorization for the use of military force (AUMF). The constitutional requirement involves legislative approval but not necessarily a Declaration of War. While the notion of “no more wars without a congressional declaration” is well-intended, addressing sponsor concerns by isolating NH from defense missions does nothing to change policies rooted at the national level. As state legislators we need to be wary of unintended consequences, and those pesky fiscal and social impacts that subsequently trickle down into our communities. Many have worked hard to overcome historical stigmas relating to the National Guard, building it up to the impressive organization we know today. People join the National Guard for many reasons, and all have their own unique experiences. To take some of these opportunities away from guard members and potential guard members would be detrimental to individuals while severely limiting our circumstances vis-a-vis other states. It's an individual choice to chart a course in life that includes bravely serving in uniform. While we respect this proposed bill's potential for raising awareness re: National Guard/Joint Force missions and dangerous overseas deployments, that awareness could be better raised via a resolution that seeks accountability while addressing the issue of force authorization, as opposed to passing a statute that is not supported by the organization that this bill purports to support—our NH National Guard. Vote 11-6.

Rep. Tom Mannion for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The minority of the committee believes the Defend the Guard Act remains the most proactive measure New Hampshire can take to hold Congress accountable for abdicating its constitutionally granted warmaking authority to the Executive Branch for the last half century. We have seen “forever wars” of the 21st century rage on, destabilizing nations, killing

hundreds of thousands, displacing millions, creating new enemies like ISIS, and handing over an entire nation to Al-Qaida with the ascension of Abu Mohammed Al-Julani in Syria – all without a formal War Declaration by Congress. Our men and women in uniform swear an oath to defend the Constitution, but the politicians in Washington, D.C. won't follow the processes outlined by our founders before sending them off to fight for nebulous causes that have no clear objective. It is time for New Hampshire to stand up for these men and women in uniform, as Daniel Webster did with his quote: "It will be the solemn duty of the State Governments to protect their own authority over their own Militia, and to interpose between their citizens and arbitrary power." Therefore, the minority opposes the Inexpedient to Legislate Motion in favor of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Reps. Tom Mannion and Wheeler spoke against and yielded to questions.

Rep. Seibert spoke in favor.

Rep. Tom Mannion requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 159 - NAYS 182

YEAS - 159

BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew
Toner, Travis

Freeman, Lisa

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Crawford, Karel

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Jones, Philip
Thackston, Dick

Fox, Dru
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Qualey, James

Gruber, James
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Durkin, Sean

Ouellet, Mike

Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Ladd, Rick
Sellers, John

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Stavis, Laurel

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Juris, Louis
Long, Patrick
Mooney, Maureen
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Schneller, John
Staub, Kathy
Tellez, Trinidad
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Kluger, Lee Ann
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Seibert, Christine
Suiter, John
Vail, Suzanne

Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Gregg, Alicia
Jack, Martin
Leapley, Nicole
MacKenzie, Mark
Ohm, Bill
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sofikitis, Catherine
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Griffin, Gerald
Grund, Stephanie
Judy, Jean
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Telerski, Laura
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Hall, Muriel
Pitaro, Matthew
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Moffett, Michael
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Ebel, Karen
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Donnelly, Tanya
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Melvin, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Dolan, Tom
MacDonald, Wayne

Cahill, Michael
Edwards, Jess
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

Thomas, Douglas
Gilman, Julie
Lynn, Bob
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Simpson, Alexis
Tudor, Paul

STRAFFORD

Bixby, Peter
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

DeLemus, Susan
Larochelle, John
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Hemingway, Wayne

Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 182**BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry

Ploszaj, Tom

Minor, Sheri

Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Berch, Paul
Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich

Harvey, Cathryn
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi

Germana, Dylan
Mattson, Rita
Parshall, Lucius

Murphy, Denis
Germana, Nicholas

COOS

Davis, Arnold

Korzen, Lori

King, Seth

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Oppel, Thomas

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared
Spahr, Terry

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Barbour, Liz
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
LeClerc, Daniel
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Rung, Rosemarie
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan
Wherry, Robert

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Kenny, Catherine
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Paquette, Kathleen
Prout, Andrew
Newman, Sue
Sirois, Shane
Veilleux, Daniel

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Gagne, Larry
Kerwin, Erin
Labrie, Brian
Howard, Molly
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Salvi, Santosh
Mannion, Tim
Warden, Mark

Boyd, Bill
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Rombeau, Catherine
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yury
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Devoid, Ricky
Lane, Connie
Roesener, James
See, Alvin

Cambriels, Jose
Gallager, Eric
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Walsh, Thomas

Caplan, Tony
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Plante, Raymond
Schamberg, Thomas
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Bennett, Cindy
de Vries, Erica
Dunn, Ron
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Paige, Mark
McMahon, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Ford, Mary
Murray, Kate
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Verville, Kevin

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Howard, Heath
Hall, Robley

Bay, Luz
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas
Turcotte, Len

Burnham, Claudine
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Rollins, Skip

Grant, George
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

Aron, Michael

and the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate failed.

Rep. Tom Mannion moved adoption of the minority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment, offered minority amendment (3007h) and spoke in favor of the amendment.

The minority amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the minority committee report of Ought to Pass as Amended.

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

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

HB 256, establishing a committee to study the federal government's response to the 1967 attack on the USS Liberty. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This bill seeks to establish a special investigative committee to examine the terrible attack by Israel on the USS Liberty in June of 1967, during the so-called "Six Day War" in the Middle East. Through testimony received in committee a reasonable factual rationale exists to investigate the incident and the treatment of US servicemen involved, as well as the abominable nature of the attack and its effects on our men. This was established to a convincing degree. However, the majority find that even if the New Hampshire legislature has jurisdiction to investigate, it lacks the capacity to yield useful results, given how much time has passed and the nature of the documents, the classifications, and that the ability to compel testimony from all relevant people is nearly impossible. The majority feels that the concept of a resolution urging federal action, investigation, and transparency could be a more effective and more appropriate vehicle to raise awareness to hopefully deliver a measure of justice regarding the survivors. Vote 13-4. Rep. Tom Mannion for the **Minority** of State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee minority believes that this proposed study committee will likely serve as the last chance the surviving veterans of the USS Liberty will ever get to have their experiences recorded as part of a formal investigation into the event. It's been almost six decades since the attack took place, and the only formal investigation involved a hasty, inadequate, and haphazard conclusion of mistaken identity by Israeli forces. After hearing two versions of this bill, it's become apparent that the official conclusion does not do justice to the survivors and that time is running out for the survivors to be platformed in an official capacity to better share their truths.

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

Rep. Tom Mannion spoke against.

Rep. Belcher spoke in favor.

majority committee report was adopted.

HB 414-FN, prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Thomas Walsh for the Majority of Transportation. The committee has seen several bills that seek to remove license suspensions as a form of punishment for things not directly related to motor vehicle law. This bill deals with the non-payment of towing fees and storage. The committee learned that abandoned vehicles are a major problem and if there is no serious consequences for just walking away from your vehicle, the expense will have to be handled by others. That is not fair. The majority of the committee is open to a change but has yet to come up with an acceptable alternative. Vote 9-7.

Rep. Seth Miller for the Minority of Transportation. Driving with a license is not a right. It is, however, still a liberty. This bill takes that liberty without due process. It does so by forcing a vehicle owner into a commercial contract with a third party. Tow operators have a choice to enter into these contracts, facilitated by the state or municipalities, and profit handsomely from them. Vehicle owners, however, are forced into the contract with no opportunity to select the vendor nor negotiate on prices. Rather than providing flexibility to owners in the aftermath of what is almost certainly a terrible experience we are, as a state, compounding those challenges.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Thomas Walsh moved that **HB 414-FN**, prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle., be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 175 members having voted in the affirmative, and 150 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

SB 150-FN, defining electric vehicle charging station and charging a fee for annual testing by the division of weights and measures. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for the Majority of Transportation. The bill intends to require electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to be certified for accuracy by the division of weights and measures and for the division to inspect and levy an inspection fee. The committee recognizes that this is a new and growing industry and a support structure is needed but felt that approach was not ready for implementation. While the need in the state is small at this time and growth is anticipated, the prohibitive cost of the state's general fund in both equipment and personnel in addition to training costs would create a burden during a time when the government is not known to reduce burden. Further, there are no known complaints, litigation, or civil disputes of EV charge purchases that lend to the need of government intervention at this time. Vote 12-4.

Rep. George Sykes for the Minority of Transportation. This bill will set up a system of consumer protection for those owners of electric vehicles who utilize public charging stations. Testing by the division of weights and measures will ensure that the consumer knows what they are paying, how much they are getting, and that the measures are accurate. The bill as written can be amended to improve the language to make it more effective.

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

HB 660-FN-LOCAL, requiring historic horse racing facilities to compensate their host communities with a percentage of the revenue generated from their historic horse racing machines. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Tierney for the Majority of Ways and Means. During the discussions on this bill, several very good questions arose from both sides of the debate, and two amendments were proposed. However, there were no solutions presented that the committee was able to agree on. The Majority of the Committee also felt that since the Racing and Charitable Gaming Study Commission will work on an issue such as this, Interim Study was appropriate at this time. Vote 16-4.

Rep. Bill Ohm for the Minority of Ways and Means. The Minority of the Committee recognizes the charge of the recently convened Racing and Charitable Gaming Study Commission to address the amount of funds going to charity. However, those funds are likely to exceed \$60 million in the current year, funds raised by new taxes on gaming. The minority feels that a portion of this tax money is better allocated to mitigate costs in the hosting jurisdictions, rather than given away to charity. And once the charity funds are allocated, it will be increasingly difficult to change the distribution model. The Minority of the Committee recommends that the Interim Study recommendation be voted down so that amendment 2025-2977h might be considered. The amendment would allocate 50% of the tax revenue to charity, 30% to the hosting municipality, 10% to the county, and 10% to the abutting municipalities.

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

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 257-FN, establishing the crime of criminal neglect of a child. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Buzz Scherr for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. New Hampshire has been in need of more tools to manage those cases in which children are at a substantial and unjustified risk of abuse or have been subject to such abuse. This bill adds a tool that allows police and prosecutors to intervene in more cases in which serious abuse is at risk. It more easily allows for criminal charges where children have been the subject of such abuse, the parent is aware of the consequences of their actions and still continues to engage in the abusive conduct. Vote 16-0.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. McFarlane moved that **HB 257-FN**, relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 117 members having voted in the affirmative, and 204 in the negative, the motion failed.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

The question now being adoption of committee amendment (1038h).

Amendment (1038h)

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

AN ACT relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

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

1 Endangering Welfare of a Child or Incompetent. Amend RSA 639:3, I to read as follows:

I. A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent if he ~~[knowingly]~~ **recklessly** endangers the welfare of a child under 18 years of age or of an incompetent person by ~~[purposely]~~ **recklessly** violating a duty of care, protection or support he owes to such child or incompetent, or by inducing such child or incompetent to engage in conduct that endangers his health or safety.

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

2025-1038h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the mental state applicable to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent. Committee amendment was adopted.

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

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

HB 590, relative to cooperative school district school board elections. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill clarifies that school boards must re-apportion their membership based on the decennial census, as every other elected body does, to comply with the one-man-one-vote principle. Vote 15-2.

Amendment (2934h)

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

1 Composition of Cooperative School Boards. RSA 195:19-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

195:19-a Composition of Cooperative School Boards.

The method of selection and terms of members of cooperative school boards shall be as provided in the bylaws or articles of agreement of the cooperative school district, as the case may be; provided, however, that such bylaws and articles of agreement shall be limited to the following requirements:

I. The members of the cooperative school board shall be elected by the voters of their pre-existing district and shall be residents of such pre-existing district. Each pre-existing district shall be entitled to elect at least one board member. Apportionment shall provide flexibility to the cooperative school district in meeting requirements of the one-man one-vote doctrine for a pre-existing district or pre-existing districts to support as nearly as possible the pre-existing board representation based upon population and pursuant to RSA 195.

II. The state board of education may approve other methods of selection of cooperative school board members, so long as such other method is compatible with proportional representation according to the one-man one-vote principle.

III. The terms of the members of the cooperative school board shall be as provided in the bylaws or articles of agreement provided that in no case shall such terms exceed 3 years.

IV. Whenever the bylaws or articles of agreement provide for the election of cooperative school board members pursuant to this chapter, said election shall be with the use of the non-partisan ballot system under RSA 669.

V. The number of members and composition of cooperative school boards shall be in accordance with this section by July 1, 2026. Members whose terms expire prior to this date shall be elected pursuant to this section.

2 Reapportionment; Cooperative School District. Amend RSA 195:19-b to read as follows:

195:19-b Reapportionment. Any cooperative school district organized under any of the provisions of RSA 195 or pursuant to any special act may at any regular or special meeting vote to change the number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of members on the board of the district, provided that in no event shall the board exceed 15 members nor terms exceed 3 years[; ~~and may change the apportionment of the board in relation to the pre-existing school districts~~]. **Apportionment of members of the cooperative school board shall be reviewed and reapportioned, if necessary, based upon the latest federal decennial census and pursuant to RSA 195:19-a.**

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

2025-2934h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires cooperative school boards to elect representatives from pre-existing districts only from voters within the district.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Rep. Berry moved that **HB 590**, relative to cooperative school district school board elections be recommitted to the Committee on Election Law.

The motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 113, relative to OHRV operation on certain highways within the town of Windsor. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. This legislation would permit the use of Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles (OHRVs) on two state-maintained class II roads in the town of Windsor. As amended by the committee, the bill authorizes the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails, with approval from the Department of Safety and Department of Transportation, to permit OHRV use on these state roads without providing a procedure for local approval by the town, such as a vote by the board of selectmen, nor is there a means to rescind such usage. Additionally, the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, a national trade association for OHRV manufacturers, opposes this bill and the on-road use of OHRVs. After consideration, the committee unanimously agreed to Refer the bill for Interim Study in order to find a solution for the town of Windsor to assert local control of OHRV usage on these public roads. **Vote 15-0 .**

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Rep. Colcombe moved that **HB 113**, relative to OHRV operation on certain highways within the town of Windsor be recommitted to the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development.

The motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

SB 106-FN, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill poses many unanswered questions and problems concerning its operation, including: what is an "institutional" class; group host ambiguity; a doughnut hole of time where the bill's guardrails don't apply; no limits on the scope of the expansion except five megawatts (MW), nothing about groups, types of businesses, etc.; grandfathering, no other industry gets such guarantees; Value of Distributed Energy Resources study was a snapshot of below one MW net metering effects that cannot be assumed to be valid for over one MW systems, much less five MW; 33% on-site use should be closer to 100% if reducing costs is the goal, otherwise you become a generator; net metering costs should be borne by commercial/industrial customers, not residential ratepayers; requires another Department of Energy employee to manage. Given these questions and problems, this bill needs much more study. **Vote 17-0.**

MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE

Rep. Vose moved that **SB 106-FN**, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering, be Indefinitely Postponed and spoke in favor.

Rep. McGhee spoke against.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Weber moved that **SB 106-FN**, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 148 members having voted in the affirmative, and 176 in the negative, the motion failed.

The question now being Indefinite Postponement

Rep. Parshall requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 172 - NAYS 152**YEAS - 172****BELKNAP**

Bean, Harry
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike
Brown, Richard

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Ouellet, Mike

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Fellows, Sallie
Sellers, John

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Suiter, John

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Plante, Raymond
See, Alvin

McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 152**BELKNAP**

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

Woodcock, Stephen

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
Fracht, David
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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly

Alexander, Joe
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Jeu, Jean
Fox, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat

Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Wheeler, Jonah

Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Schultz, Kris
Woods, Gary

Colby, Eleana
Hicks, Matthew
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Read, Ellen
Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Pearson, Wayne

Burton, Wayne
Horriggan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the 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 392-FN**, directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health access and the department of environmental services' functions for environmental justice..

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 at the call of the chair.

Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 365-FN, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters.

HB 155-FN, reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax.

HB 704-FN-A, making an appropriation to the retired senior volunteer program.

HB 751-FN, requiring licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities and relative to complaint investigation of treatment facilities by the department of health and human services office of the ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor.

SB 134-FN, relative to work requirements under the state Medicaid program.

HB 232-FN, relative to the rights of conscience for medical professionals.

HB 349-FN, relative to the practice of optometry and authorization to perform ophthalmic laser procedures.

HB 366-FN-A, modifying the priority of applications for school building aid grants.

HB 510-FN, relative to establishing certain due process rights for students, student organizations, and faculty members facing disciplinary actions by state institutions of higher learning.

HB 186-FN-A, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.

SB 36, relative to the collection and reporting of abortion statistics by health care providers and medical facilities.

SB 268, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.

HB 173, relative to maintaining the purpose of a petitioned warrant article.

HB 348, relative to eligibility for local assistance

HB 488, relative to limiting conflicts of interest and concentrations of power for municipal board and committee members.

SB 27-FN, relative to dwellings over water.

HB 104-FN, relative to requiring an official declaration of war for the activation of the New Hampshire national guard in a foreign state.

HB 257-FN, relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

HB 392-FN, directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health access and the department of environmental services' functions for environmental justice.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Corman requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding his father's 100th birthday and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Weber moved that the remarks made by Rep. Corman during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Corman Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I promise that this will be short and non-political. I rise to recognize someone, a man who grew up in orphanages and foster homes throughout Brooklyn, raising himself. Underage, enlisted in the Army in World War II; becoming a captain in the Army Air Corps. After the war, worked his way up through the lithography industry in New York, eventually owning a plant and employing 30 people. He volunteered with various police support organizations in New York. After retiring, moved to Florida and spent several years as a volunteer quartermaster at the Delray Beach Police Department, in his 80s, pulling 14-hour shifts, to make sure that he could overlap with all three shifts of police who might need equipment. And after that, volunteered at the Criminal Justice Academy at Atlanta Community High School. This man, last month, turned 100, and I was with him that day. That was my father, B. Perry Corman. And I just want to recognize and honor him. Happy birthday, Dad. I love you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Budathoki requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Venezuela/US Relations and addressed the House.

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, vacate motions and receiving messages.

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 4:33 pm.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Speaker made the following changes to committee assignments:

Rep. Berezhny removed from the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy.

Rep. Kaczynski removed from the Committee on Public Works and Highways.

RECESS

SENATE MESSAGES

CONCURRENCE

HB 451-FN, establishing the paint product stewardship program.

HB 480, relative to restoration of competency to stand trial for criminal defendants.

HB 705, relative to health care cost transparency.

NONCONCURRENCE

HB 68, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement.

HB 171, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.

HB 208-FN, relative to certification requirements for school nurses.

HB 233, requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

HB 431, establishing a commission to study the costs of special education.

HB 676, relative to the composition and responsibilities of the parent and education service provider advisory commission, and establishing education freedom account impact and parent satisfaction surveys.

REFERRED FOR INTERIM STUDY

HB 105-FN, creating a new conservation license plate and directing the additional fee to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.

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

HB 410-FN, limiting local authority to adopt restrictions on the building and development of residential properties.

HB 452-FN, relative to the issuance of drivers' licenses for aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire.

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

HB 486-FN, relative to grandparents' visitation rights.

HB 697-FN, relative to witness fees in criminal cases.

HB 733-FN, relative to reporting requirements for persons or entities financing lawsuits.

HB 741-FN, allowing parents to send their children to any school district they choose.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENTS

HB 451-FN, establishing the paint product stewardship program.

Amendment 2026-0125EBA

Amend RSA 149-M:65, VII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 1 with the following:

VII. "Manufacturer" means a manufacturer of a paint product who sells, offers for sale, or Motion was adopted.

HB 705, relative to health care cost transparency.

Amendment 2026-0126EBA

Amend RSA 420-J:20 through 420-J:26, as inserted by section 1 of the bill, by renumbering sections RSA 420-J:20 through 420-J:26 to read as RSA 420-J:27 through RSA 420-J:33, respectively.

Amend section 1 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:

inserting after section 26 the following new subdivision:

Amend RSA 420-J:28, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing lines 2-3 with the following:

under RSA 420-J:29 in 3 machine-readable files, in accordance with the method and format requirements described in RSA 420-J:30, and updated as required under RSA 420-J:30, III.

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 420-J:29, II(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 7 with the following:

Consistent with RSA 420-J:32, II, nothing in this paragraph requires the disclosure of information

Amend RSA 420-J:29, III(d)(3) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 6 with the following:

RSA 420-J:32, II, nothing in this paragraph requires the disclosure of information that would violate

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 420-J:30, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 1 with the following:

I. Pricing information from the machine-readable files described in RSA 420-J:29 shall be

Amend RSA 420-J:30, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:

420-J:29 and the information submitted to the commissioner described in this subdivision on a

Amend RSA 420-J:30, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:

this subdivision and make it available to the public through an online tool that facilitates market

Motion was adopted.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered HB480 and Senate Bills numbered SB 189, SB 268.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avarad for the Committee

RECESS