



State of
New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

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

Web Site Address: <https://gc.nh.gov>

Vol. 48

Concord, N.H.

Thursday, February 19, 2026

No. 5

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 4 (Cont'd)

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 5

Thursday, February 19, 2026

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

Prayer was offered by Guest Chaplain, Reverend Renee Rouse, Pastor and Teacher of the Northwood Congregational Church, UCC Northwood, N.H.

Let me pray. We come before you, O God, creator of this earth, the very place we are. We come before you, O God, lifting up our Indigenous siblings who took care of this very space this building stands on; the very roads each and every one of us walk to get to the State House. If they had not been so diligent and loving of the land of New Hampshire, we would not maybe be here. We give all praise and thanksgiving to the Abenaki people, the very towns that are named after the Indigenous brothers and sisters who were here over 11,000 years ago, and took care of the place we sometimes, myself included, take for granted as we're walking down the street. Nashua, Contoocook, there are so many places that carry their name and yet we forget and think we did that. The very roads we drive on. So we thank you for all that they're about and I thank you for all who are here this morning that came with a heavy heart, that came with unanswered questions that you would answer their questions and they'd know it was from you. We also thank you, Lord, that you would remind each and every one of our Representatives here this morning that we are all human beings and we are all called to work together. We did not get here on our own. We were elected by the people who entrusted their trust in each and every person here. I am reminded that as a minister, that people who call me to minister have entrusted me with their very lives, and so, House of Representatives, you have been entrusted with the very life of everyone who lives in New Hampshire, because we are not separate from one another. I thank you, Lord, that I am also the daughter of the first African American who sat in these Chambers; the Honorable Henry B. Richardson, and as I come here each time, I'm reminded of the faithfulness of this place. I'm reminded to carry forth New Hampshire's passion for its people. Please remember as you do business today that we were the first state to have a constitution, but most importantly, we must remember, we were one of those first states that were called to bring together the Indigenous, the African American; all of the different places and countries that are represented by the people here. We must not forget who we are and whose we are as we do the work of this state. Amen and Amen.

Representative Jean Jeudy, member from Manchester, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Rev. Robert Thompson.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Belcher, Burroughs, Colby, Comtois, Flanagan, McMahon, Wayne Pearson, Prout, Rice, Stavis, Suiter and Tierney, the day, illness.

Reps. Richard Brown, Burnham, Cole, Gregg, Harvey, Leavitt, Tim Mannion, Michael Murphy, Sofikitis and Soucy, the day, important business.

Reps. Aldrich, Jacobs and Markell, the day, illness in the family.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Anelya Caesar and Graham Jerke, students at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, Pages for the day.

Camille Pattison, guest of Reps. Ray and Sue Newman, Nina Parrott, guest of Rep. Grote, and Tom Masciari, guest of Rep. Foote.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION NO.48

Memorializing Harry H. Bean of Gilford

WHEREAS, we have learned with profound sorrow of the passing of our colleague and friend, Harry H. Bean, who was serving his fourth term as a State Representative representing Belknap District 6, the towns of Gilford and Gilmanton and ward 2 in the city of Laconia; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Finance Committee for the last three of his four terms, Harry Bean was known for his quiet yet collegial presence, not speaking often, but when he did, he spoke with an articulate frankness, usually in a self-deprecating way; and

WHEREAS, a native of Belknap County, Harry Bean spent his life working and supporting his community and is widely credited for helping to ensure the longevity and continued operation of Gunstock Mountain; and WHEREAS, Harry Bean was a figure larger than life, as evidenced by being a world champion arm wrestler, portraying Santa Claus for community children, and taking care of his two Great Danes; and

WHEREAS, above all, Harry H. Bean was a devoted family man, who cherished his time with his wife Priscilla, his son, daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives in Regular Session convened, Harry H. Bean be granted the highest praise and accolades and our profound thanks for his service to the state, and the town he called home for many years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that expressions of our most heartfelt sympathy be extended to his family and that a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared for presentation to them.

Offered by the House of Representatives.

Adopted unanimously.

MEMORIAL REMARKS

Representative Weyler: I rise to make commemorative remarks about my friend and colleague, Harry Bean, Representative for Belknap, Gilford, Gilmanton, and Laconia Ward 2. Harry Bean was bigger than life. He would always stand out in a crowd. He was generally a quiet man, but when he spoke, it was a clear statement delivered with confidence. When he and I had discussions, he always opened with, "I may not have much education, but common sense tells me." Almost always, common sense was right. He was a good guy. He was a man of great energy and proud of the fact that he had risen up in life by working 80 hours per week. He had great support from his family, especially his wife Priscilla, who worked alongside him on those 80-hour weeks and supported all his hobbies and activities, including arm wrestling champ; I think she was one as well. It will be difficult to replace him in all those roles that he played. Serving in this House, we have had to say goodbye to far too many colleagues. Harry was not that old, from my perspective of 84 years, but he left us far too quickly. Some of his other colleagues may wish to speak now.

Representative Bogert: I've had the privilege to work with Harry for over 20 years, and I've worked with him closely for the last two terms. He provided a lot of guidance, and we had a lot of interesting conversations, as one might say, until we found a way to settle issues within our county and stuff. One of the greatest memories I remember is watching Harry and his beautiful wife Priscilla ride their motorcycle dressed up as Santa Claus and doing this trip around town and stuff. A lot of people were concerned with Harry, but to know Harry is to know that he had a big heart. He would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it, and all he ever asked in return is just don't lie to him. Just be honest. Tell him what you need and how he can help you, and he would help you. I'm going to miss that man. I've had long conversations with him, and surprisingly enough, the last conversation I had with him was before he went to the hospital, and we were discussing county delegation business. One would not have ever known he was so concerned about making sure things got finished. I'm going to miss him. Thank you.

Representative DeSimone: I met Harry Bean in his freshman year and realized in a moment what a kind, loving, caring, and intelligent man he was. If we had to lose such a wonderful, loving man, how appropriate that it would be on Valentine's Day; the day that we celebrate love, which is something he did every moment of every day of his life. He will be missed, but he will be remembered on Valentine's Day every year by me and many others. Thank you.

Representative Freeman: I met Harry Bean three and a half years ago when my husband and I moved to Tilton. And shortly after we moved to Tilton, my husband passed away. I'd known Harry and Priscilla maybe six months. Well, they took the long trip from Gilford to Manchester to attend my husband's service, stayed the entire day, and even went to the memorial afterwards. Every week for seven months, Harry Bean called me and said, "Hey, kid, you need anything?" Every time I saw Harry, it was a hug, and "hey, kid, how you doing?" Never have I experienced such kindness, generosity, and warmth from two people as Harry and Priscilla Bean. I will always be indebted to them for their compassion towards me and always look to Harry's model to carry on. We need to be strong, and Harry taught us how to do that in a very soft and quiet way.

Representative Aures: Good morning. Harry Bean was a wonderful, straightforward kind of guy and, as it's been said, very generous. When my wife retired a year ago, I had a motorcycle, but it wasn't a bigger motorcycle for two, and I was trying to decide what to do. Harry said, "Hey, take mine for a couple weeks." And so we did. We put about 500 or 600 miles on his motorcycle. We're going to miss him.

Representative Weyler: Thank you.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed in honor and in memory of the member from Gilford, the Honorable Harry H. Bean.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

HB 652-FN, abolishing the family division, creating the office of family mediation, and reassigning the jurisdiction of the family division, removed by Reps. Aldrich, Nalevanko, Kaczynski, Sabourin dit Choinière, Kelley, Comtois, Sirois, Perez, Bernardy, Post and Barton.

HB 1602-FN: creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program, removed by Reps. McFarlane, Granger, Tom Mannion, DeRoy, Drew, Mehegan, C. McGuire, Farrington, Noble and Walker.

HB 1572-FN, relative to licensure as a master licensed alcohol and drug counselor, removed by Reps. Layon, Dargie, Grote, de Vries, F. Davis, Kelley, DeRoy, Long, Sellers, and Heath Howard.

HB 1028, relative to the definition of renewable generation facility, removed by Reps. Granger, Walker, Larochelle, Bailey, Farrington, DeDe-Poulin, Maggiore, J. MacDonald, Miles, and Robley Hall.

Consent Calendar was adopted.

HB 1185-FN, relative to the offense of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The majority of our committee believes this bill is not necessary at this time due to the House passage of HB 257, also known as "Charlotte's Law." HB 257 establishes the crime of criminal neglect of a child and creates a new section in RSA 639 holding offenders accountable. It makes it a crime for anyone responsible for a child's welfare to negligently fail to provide necessary care, including food, clothing, medical care, or shelter, in a way that seriously endangers the child. Vote 16-0.

HB 1210, relative to child tax credit allocation in child support cases. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The majority of the committee believes courts already have the discretion to decide who may claim the children between parents in a manner that is fair and equitable, and tailored to the unique circumstances of each family, rather than imposing a one size fits all mandate based solely on support amounts. Finally, it risks incentivizing financial disputes and increasing litigation between parents instead of promoting cooperation, stability and what is truly in the best interest of the child. Vote 14-0.

HB 1080-FN, prohibiting the sale of condoms and personal lubricant that contain intentionally added per and polyfluoroalkyl substances. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill prohibits the sale of condoms and personal lubricant that contain intentionally added per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Department of Environmental Services has not completed rules for our new law regulating PFAS. The committee felt rather than creating a new PFAS category, the best way would be to address lubricants using current categories. Therefore, the bill needs more work to find the right fit. Vote 15-0.

HB 1154-FN, restricting the texting of unsolicited advertisements, including political campaigns. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would amend RSA 644:4 to restrict unsolicited text messages, including political campaign communications, by requiring prior express permission. Civil penalties range from \$250 to \$2,000 per incident, with enhanced penalties for repeated conduct and a required cost-free opt-out mechanism. The committee identified significant obstacles, including enforcement challenges posed by out-of-state senders and spoofers, burdensome consent record requirements, and First Amendment concerns about political speech regulation. Members noted that existing smartphone tools, such as number blocking and spam filtering, already address nuisance texts and continue to improve. Vote 16-0.

HB 1197-FN, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee finds that this bill makes technical and corrective changes to existing insurance statutes, including clarifying language and correcting statutory cross-references, without altering underlying policy or coverage requirements. The amendment makes additional technical and clarifying adjustments to ensure internal consistency and accurate administration of the insurance code. For these reasons, the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0519h)

Amend RSA 400-A:16, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Any individual or entity who transacts insurance in this state or is otherwise subject to the authority of the commissioner shall, upon request of the commissioner, provide the commissioner with all documents and information relevant to any investigation under this section within 10 working days, or shall request within the 10 working-day period, for good cause shown, additional time to respond. ***Failure to provide all the documents and information or request additional time to respond within 10 working days shall be a violation. The commissioner may by written notice with an effective date 30 days thereafter order the suspension, revocation, or non-renewal of the license of the individual or entity or impose an administrative penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. The individual or entity may request a hearing pursuant to RSA 400-A:17, III. Any order shall be suspended pending a final decision of the commissioner after the hearing.***

Amend the bill by replacing sections 2 and 3 with the following:

2 Annual Financial Statement. RSA 400-A:36, II is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

II. The commissioner may extend the time for filing or transmitting such statement for cause shown for a period of not more than 60 days. Life insurance companies shall not be required to file or transmit that part of their annual statement known as the gain and loss exhibit until the succeeding May 1. The commissioner may impose an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, or refuse to continue, or may suspend or revoke, the certificate of authority of any insurer intentionally failing to file or transmit its annual statement when due. The insurer shall pay the fee for filing or transmitting its annual statement as prescribed by RSA 400-A:29 at the time of filing or transmitting or with the premium tax return, but no later than March 15th.

3 Conduct of Examinations. RSA 400-A:37, III(b)(1) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(b)(1) Every company or person from whom information is sought, its officers, directors, and agents must provide to the examiners timely, convenient, and free access at all reasonable hours at its offices to all books, records, accounts, papers, documents, and any or all computer or other recordings relating to the property, assets, business, and affairs of the company being examined. The officers, directors, employees, and agents of the company or person must facilitate the examination and aid in the examination so far as it is in their power to do so. The refusal of any company, by its officers, directors, employees or agents, to submit to examination or the failure to comply with any reasonable written request of the examiners, including those pursuant to RSA 400-B:10, III, shall be grounds for suspension or refusal of, or nonrenewal of any license or authority held by the company to engage in an insurance or other business subject to the commissioner's jurisdiction, or fine. The commissioner may by written notice with an effective date 30 days thereafter order the suspension, revocation or nonrenewal of the license or authority of the individual or entity or impose an administrative penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. The individual or entity may request a hearing pursuant to RSA 400-A:17, III. Any order shall be suspended pending a final decision of the commissioner after the hearing.

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Insurance Claims Adjusters; License to Issue. Amend RSA 402-B:7, I to read as follows:

I. Upon satisfaction that such applicant is in all respects properly qualified and of good character ***after having considered the good cause factors listed in RSA 402-B:12***, and that the granting of such license is not against the public interest, the commissioner shall, upon the payment of the required fee, issue said applicant an insurance claims adjuster's license.

Amend RSA 402-B:12, VI as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI. Having been convicted of a felony ***or other offense of moral turpitude involving dishonesty, deceit, theft, willful misrepresentation, or which tends to discredit the profession.***

Amend the bill by replacing sections 7 - 8 with the following:

7 Public Adjusters; Resident License. Amend RSA 402-D:5, I(b) to read as follows:

(b) Has not committed any act that is a ground for ~~[denial,]~~ ***nonrenewal***, suspension, or revocation of license set forth in RSA 402-D:10 ***which the commissioner determines is against the public interest.***

8 Public Adjusters; License. Amend RSA 402-D:9, I to read as follows:

I. Unless denied licensure pursuant to RSA ~~[402-D:10]~~ ***402-D:5, I(b)***, persons who have met the requirements of RSA 402-D:5 or RSA 402-D:8 shall be issued a public adjuster license.

Amend RSA 402-D:10, I(f) as inserted by section 9 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(f) Having been convicted of a felony, ***or other offense of moral turpitude involving dishonesty, deceit, theft, willful misrepresentation, or which tends to discredit the profession.***

Amend the bill by replacing sections 10 - 11 with the following:

10 Producer Licensing; Application for License. Amend RSA 402-J:6, I(b) to read as follows:

(b) Has not committed any act that is a ground for ~~[denial,]~~ ***nonrenewal***, suspension, or revocation set forth in RSA 402-J:12 ***which the commissioner determines is against the public interest.***

11 Producer Licensing. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 402-J:7, I to read as follows:

I. Unless denied licensure pursuant to RSA [402-J:12] **402-J:6, I(b)**, persons who have met the requirements of RSA 402-J:5 and RSA 402-J:6 shall be issued an insurance producer license. An insurance producer may receive qualification for a license in one or more of the following lines of authority:

Amend RSA 402-J:12, I(f) as inserted by section 12 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(f) Having been convicted of a felony, **or other offense of moral turpitude involving dishonesty, deceit, theft, willful misrepresentation, or which tends to discredit the profession.**

Amend the bill by replacing section 17 with the following:

17 Public Adjuster; Resident License. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 402-D:8, I to read as follows:

I. Unless denied licensure pursuant to RSA [402-D:10] **402-D:5, I(b)**, a nonresident person shall receive a nonresident public adjuster license if:

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 20 with the following:

21 Producer Licensing; Nonresident License. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 402-J:8, I to read as follows:

I. Unless denied licensure pursuant to RSA [402-J:12] **402-J:6, I(b)**, a nonresident shall receive a nonresident producer license if:

22 Accident and Health Insurance; Student Insurance Policies. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 415:19-a to read as follows:

415:19-a Student Insurance Policies.

Student major medical expense coverage is hereby declared to be that form of accident and health insurance issued as large group coverage to enrolled students at an accredited college, university, or other educational institution. **Except for standalone group dental coverage and standalone group vision**, no coverage other than student major medical expense coverage shall be issued as student large group coverage. Student major medical expense plan coverage shall:

23 Continuing Care Communities; Refunds. Amend RSA 420-D:16-b, III to read as follows:

III. Payment of the refundable entrance fee shall be subject to any other state and federal laws except that ~~that [the first \$120,000, or \$240,000 for a couple, of the funds]~~ **an amount equal to the homestead right exemptions pursuant to RSA 480 of the refund** shall be exempt from attachment by creditors if the original entrance fee was payable from the proceeds of a house sold by the resident in New Hampshire.

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

HB 1198-FN, establishing the paint product stewardship program. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill establishes the paint product stewardship program. The legislature has already passed a similar bill, HB 451 (2026), but the Governor has not received it yet. The committee decided to keep this bill in case HB 451 does not become law. Vote 16-0.

HB 1444-FN, relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This amended bill requires all New Hampshire state, county, municipal, and political subdivision agencies to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024, Public Law 11831—specifically the American Security Drone Act (sections 1821–1833)—when purchasing new drones. These federal provisions prohibit the use of federal funds to buy or operate drones manufactured or assembled primarily in China or Russia. Most drones sold in the United States today, including commercial models, contain substantial onboard storage (often up to 1 TB via SSD cards) and many are capable of transmitting data over 4G/5G networks or through shortrange satellite links. Nearly all Chinese drone manufacturers produce models with shortrange transmission capability as a standard feature, typically using WiFi or 2.4GHz/5.8GHz radio frequencies. In addition, roughly 90% of the global commercial drone market relies on components made in China, including airframes, batteries, radios, cameras, and displays. Because Chinese law requires domestic companies to provide data to the government upon request, concerns have grown that even commercially sold drones could be compelled to transmit sensitive information—such as flight logs, operator locations, or highresolution imagery—to foreign governments. Such data could theoretically be used to map critical US infrastructure or monitor military activity. Although no publicly available evidence confirms that this has occurred, these concerns have led the FCC to prohibit drones from several Chinese manufacturers from operating in critical frequency bands within the United States. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0558h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Chapter; Prohibition on Purchase or Acquisition of Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 162-U the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 162-V

PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE OR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

162-V:1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, “unmanned aircraft system” or “drone” means the same as “aircraft” as defined in RSA 422:3, VI.

162-V:2 Prohibition on Purchase or Acquisition of Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems by the State.

I. Effective January 1, 2028, no state agency shall purchase or acquire a drone or unmanned aircraft system other than those cleared pursuant to RSA 162-V:3.

II. To the extent practicable, state agencies shall purchase or acquire only those drones and unmanned aircraft systems cleared pursuant to RSA 162-V:3 prior to January 1, 2028.

III. Effective January 1, 2028, no state funds shall be used to purchase or acquire a drone or unmanned aircraft system whose purchase would be prohibited by paragraph I.

IV. A contract or agreement for the purchase or acquisition of a drone or unmanned aircraft system in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

162-V:3 Prohibition on Purchase or Acquisition of Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems by Localities.

I. Effective January 1, 2028, no county, city, town or other political subdivision shall purchase or acquire a drone or unmanned aircraft system that does not meet the requirements of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024, Public Law 118-31, or that has been included on the “covered list” of devices deemed by the Federal Communications Commission to pose an unacceptable risk to the national security to the United States or to the security and safety of United States residents.

II. A contract or agreement for the purchase or acquisition of a drone or unmanned aircraft system in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

2026-0558h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the state or local governments from acquiring certain drones or unmanned aircraft systems after January 1, 2028.

HB 1463-FN, requiring the insurance department to conduct an analysis and produce a report detailing compliance with the state’s managed care and medical utilization review laws. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill requires the Insurance Department to conduct an analysis and produce a report detailing compliance with the state’s managed care and medical utilization review laws. The Insurance Department already has an ongoing commission working on mental health. Some of the issues brought up by the sponsor have already been addressed in past sessions. Vote 15-1.

HB 1481-FN, enabling on-premises licensees to sell drinks made with distilled alcohol for take-out. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The language in this bill is identical to the language in HB 529 (2025), as amended, allowing the delivery and take-out of drinks containing liquor to holders of the restaurant delivery license. There is no further need for this bill, since the language already exists in HB 529. HB 529 passed the House with amendment on January 7, 2026 and has been introduced to the Senate and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee. Vote 16-0.

HB 1558-FN, requiring proof of insurance or adequate financial responsibility for vehicle registration. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee recognizes the importance of financial responsibility and public safety. However, after review, the committee determined that this bill would add administrative complexity and impose additional registration requirements without clearly improving compliance or safety outcomes. Existing law already requires drivers to maintain financial responsibility, with enforcement appropriately tied to vehicle operation. The committee also noted that conditioning vehicle registration on proof of insurance could create unintended barriers for residents who rely on vehicle access for work, healthcare, and daily necessities, and may impose restrictions in advance of any violation. The committee believes public policy should remain proportional and consistent with existing enforcement frameworks, relying on established mechanisms rather than preemptive regulatory requirements. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1568-FN, relative to mandatory minimum insurance coverage requirements for motor vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would enact mandatory minimum insurance coverage requirements for motor vehicles at the time of registration. Given that there is no way to ensure the coverage could not be cancelled after registration and this bill would require town clerks to administrate, the committee felt this bill created more problems than it solved since NH’s uninsured rate is less than 10%. Vote 13-2.

HB 1589-FN, establishing the digital choice act. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would establish a Digital Choice Act giving individuals control over personal data held by social media platforms, including the right to delete data and data portability requirements. Violations would be subject to penalties under RSA 358-A:2. Opposition testimony raised concerns that mandating open interfaces could create cybersecurity vulnerabilities

and enable third-party data harvesting. Constitutional issues were identified, including First Amendment compelled speech and Dormant Commerce Clause conflicts. Major platforms already offer voluntary data deletion and download options. The committee recommends this bill as Inexpedient to Legislate due to constitutional vulnerabilities and enforcement challenges with out-of-state platforms. Vote 16-0.

HB 1606-FN, regulating real property ownership by Chinese nationals and providing for civil, criminal, and administrative penalties. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lilli Walsh for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill intends to restrict PRC (People's Republic of China) nationals from acquiring ownership or controlling interests in real property in NH. The bill proposes statutory changes addressing issues that were also the subject of SB 162-FN. While HB 1606 seeks to advance similar policy goals, it does so in a more limited and less comprehensive manner. The committee finds that the policy objectives in this bill have already been addressed through SB 162-FN, which was incorporated into HB 2 (Ch. 141:346, Laws of 2025), the state budget. SB 162, as included in HB 2, represents a broader, more comprehensive, and fully implemented approach to the issue than that proposed in HB 1606. As a result, HB 1606 is not only duplicative, but also a weaker version of policy that has already been enacted. Because the legislature has already acted decisively on this matter through the budget, HB 1606 no longer advances a necessary or meaningful legislative purpose. Vote 16-0.

HB 1673-FN, allowing certain liquor manufacturers to sell to on-premises licensees. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Potucek for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The intent of this legislation was for a single liquor manufacturer to be able to sell his own distilled spirits directly to his on-premises restaurant, located at the same address. Current law, under RSA 178:27-b Direct to Consumer Shipments of Alcohol to New Hampshire Residents, already allows him to do this in limited quantities. Paragraph I.(a) states (in part), "The permit shall authorize the holder to sell and deliver alcoholic beverages to consumers 21 years of age or older located within the state of New Hampshire and businesses licensed by the commission for on-sale and off-sale of alcoholic beverages." The division of enforcement communicated with the bill sponsor and the licensee to resolve this issue under current law, rather than proceeding with new legislation. Vote 16-0.

HB 1679-FN, establishing a beverage container redemption program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill creates a refundable \$0.10 deposit on individually sealed glass, metal, or plastic beverage containers. Consumers may reclaim the deposit by returning empty containers to a redemption center or participating retailer. Distributors must collect deposits from retailers, reimburse them and redemption centers for refunded deposits, and may charge a designated handling fee. The bill outlines operational requirements for both retailers and redemption centers and authorizes fines of up to \$500 per violation per day. It also establishes a recycling fund to receive unclaimed deposits. Unlike redemption centers, retailers are not subject to sanitation requirements governing where returned containers may be stored relative to food. Bottle bills also tend to disproportionately affect lowincome and fixedincome households, including those relying on WIC and SNAP, who may face barriers to retrieving deposits promptly. The system duplicates existing municipal recycling programs while adding new burdens for distributors and retailers and creating opportunities for fraud, particularly through crossborder redemption driven by differing deposit amounts between New Hampshire and neighboring states. Implementing the program would require dedicated facilities to sort, count, and prepare redeemed containers for market—facilities separate from the materials recovery centers already operating in New Hampshire. Aluminum cans and PET bottles, which make up most depositeligible containers, are currently the most valuable materials in local recycling streams. Shifting these materials into the redemption system would reduce revenue that municipalities rely on to offset recycling costs, undermining local recycling efforts. Vote 16-0.

HB 1725-FN, relative to the regulation of artificial intelligence technologies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill would establish an AI governance framework, including disclosure requirements for AI systems, restrictions on government misuse, such as social scoring, and a regulatory sandbox for testing AI products. The committee recognized the bill's intent to balance consumer protection with innovation but identified concerns, including the need for clearer definitions and the rapidly evolving nature of AI technology. The bill contains some positive elements, particularly the regulatory sandbox concept, which the sponsor may wish to refine and reintroduce in a future session. Vote 16-0.

HB 1761-FN, expanding the New Hampshire paid family and medical leave program. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Manoj Chourasia for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The paid family medical leave program is very successful as a volunteer plan. The bill as introduced would have mandated expansion. The sponsor proposed an amendment that would have made the bill a study commission. However, the committee suggested and the sponsor agreed that the bill be Referred for Interim Study. Vote 16-0.

HB 1812-FN, requiring periodic evaluation of mental health access adequacy by an independent third party. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The committee recognizes the importance of ensuring timely and adequate access to mental health services and appreciates the intent of the sponsors to improve accountability and transparency in this area. After review, the committee determined that this bill is duplicative and unnecessarily complex in light of existing statutes and multiple mental health–related bills currently under consideration. The committee also notes that the legislature has recently enacted reforms to expedite the licensing process for mental health professionals, directly addressing access and workforce capacity concerns that this bill seeks to evaluate. Given the number of active initiatives already focused on improving mental health access, adding a separate, third-party evaluation framework risks creating confusion, overlapping oversight, and inconsistent standards without a clear benefit to patients or providers. The committee believes continued progress is best achieved by allowing recently enacted and pending reforms to be implemented and evaluated before imposing additional reporting and evaluation requirements. Vote 16-0.

HB 1087-FN, relative to citizen’s arrests by private persons. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee, at the request of the sponsor, agreed that the bill had far reaching implications that could have negative unforeseen consequences for both law enforcement and the general public. The fundamental goal of ensuring citizens who lawfully use force in self defense do not face unjust civil or criminal repercussions, is worthy of further study and must be approached in a careful manner with advanced input from all three branches of government. Vote 13-0.

HB 1203-FN, relative to the return of firearms following a not guilty verdict or dismissal of the proceeding. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after extensive discussions with the courts and law enforcement came to the conclusion that the bill as written was unnecessary. The courts have just completed a five month system-wide implementation of an expedited process to return firearms to anyone who had them seized by law enforcement. This process will ensure that court orders to return the property are issued in a timely manner and at no additional cost to the property owners. The committee inquired about the time required by law enforcement to respond and return the property after the issuance of the order. The committee was assured that while rare delays of days may occur if the officer in control of the property is absent, it is generally the policy of law enforcement to relinquish responsibility for any firearms in their custody as soon as possible. Law enforcement is advised that the way to avoid prescriptive laws that could expose them to further liability, is to implement standardized policies state-wide that respect the constitutional rights of New Hampshire citizens and return their property with all due haste. Vote 13-0.

HB 1413-FN, reinstituting the death penalty in cases of capital murder. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after hearing from hundreds of citizens, in person and through online submissions, came to the unanimous conclusion that the overwhelming number of the citizens of this state do not wish for the death penalty to be reinstated. While we would contend that the American system of justice is the best in the world, it is not perfect and it does make mistakes. One of the things that makes our system great is its ability and willingness to rectify mistakes. A mistaken execution cannot be undone. Further, the committee is not blind to the fractious nature of our national political system, with allegations of the politicization our justice system being made from all corners. Now is not the time in our history to empower the government with the ability to execute its citizens. History gives us numerous examples of countries where only capital murder warranted death one day and where “crimes against the state” were added next. Vote 13-0.

HB 1576-FN, relative to the enforcement of criminal restitution obligations. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kathleen Paquette for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill modernizes New Hampshire’s restitution system by strengthening enforcement of court-ordered restitution while improving oversight and communication with victims. The bill requires mandatory financial reevaluations of offenders, authorizes adjustments to payment schedules when an offender’s ability to pay increases, ensures restitution obligations continue to a victim’s estate, and requires timely disbursement of collected funds. It further clarifies the Department of Corrections’ legal obligation to administer restitution in a manner that is transparent, reduces unnecessary barriers to disbursement, and treats victims with dignity and respect. The amendment removes the misdemeanor penalty and suspension of driver or professional licenses for nonpayment, keeping the focus on enforcement mechanisms that promote victim restitution rather than additional punitive measures. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0366h)

Amend RSA 651:64, V(a) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V.(a) In the event of noncompliance, the department of corrections shall initiate enforcement actions, which may include:

- (1) Wage garnishment.
- (2) Interception of tax refunds.
- (3) Placement of liens on real property and assets.
- (4) Referral to the appropriate prosecuting authority for consideration of prosecution for contempt,

pursuant to RSA 651:67.

Amend the bill by deleting section 4 and renumbering the original sections 5 and 6 to read as 4 and 5, respectively.

HB 1587-FN, requiring police body-worn camera footage be subject to the right-to-know law. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee heard from many different stake holders regarding the issue of body cameras and the one thing they all agreed on, is that they could not agree. It can be argued that the existing law on its face prohibits the sharing of body camera video with the defense during discovery. The courts have not read it that way and defense has had access to the videos. So, while the existing law could have been better written, it is accomplishing its goals. Proposed changes to clarify the existing law all seemed to create new ones. Law enforcement made the justifiable argument that loosening the law to allow greater access to body camera footage, would come with an enormous expense to law enforcement agencies in the form of officer hours required to view every video released and redacting anything from the video that would be exempt from public disclosure. This would include everything from the inside of people's private homes, to a random person in the background who might be a minor. Without state funding for these requirements, many departments would simply discontinue the use of body cameras before bearing this cost. The issue of public access to camera footage, particularly for individuals involved in civil complaints about, or litigation with a law enforcement officer or agency will need to be addressed, but it must be done carefully with the input of everyone involved. It will also require more time than the committee has available this session. The committee will discuss the matter with stake holders and formulate language for a commission to study the matter and recommend legislation if it is determined to be necessary. Vote 12-0.

HB 1595-FN, establishing a domestic violence program and relative to orders of protection, stalking offenses, and annulment of criminal records. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This legislation, while well intended, is not ready to become law. If enacted it would establish a domestic violence program under the judicial branch and expand judicial training requirements regarding domestic violence, establish a lethality assessment program and several other changes and/or additions to how domestic violence offenses are managed in the state. During the public hearing the sponsor admitted that many questions were raised and the stake holders did not testify to the bill with the understanding the context would be further researched until the next biennium. Vote 13-0.

HB 1632-FN, relative to the lethality assessment program screening tool. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee listened to stake holders involved in the prevention of domestic abuse, law enforcement and the courts. The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is a copyrighted program that uses a scoring algorithm to determine the probability of an accused being or becoming dangerous. The committee agreed that such a tool may be useful as part of a comprehensive response to domestic violence by law enforcement, but felt that mandating its use is over prescriptive. Programs such as this are continually being developed and modified as best practices are shared around the country. The legislature picking a specific one and mandating it, inappropriately micromanages law enforcement's ability to nimbly respond to changing science and pick the best fit for their community. The committee agreed that a far better solution is to recommend to the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission that it examine and include some form of lethality assessment as a part of the state accreditation process. Such a recommendation was made and the commission will be taking up the issue at its next meeting. Vote 13-0.

HB 1633-FN, expanding the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee, after hearing from victims of sexual violence and their advocates, agreed that the simple acts of requiring notification of a victim's rights by a medical facility, and clarifying who should be considered a sexual assault survivor will lead to more evidence being collected and more perpetrators being convicted. More importantly, it will assist victims of these horrible crimes to better participate in the process of bringing their attacker to justice. Vote 12-0.

HB 1686-FN, relative to establishing an intelligent speed assistance program as an alternative to license suspension for certain motor vehicle offenses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. If adopted NH would be establishing a program, administered by the Department of Safety, requiring an intelligent speed assistance device to be installed on motor vehicles of drivers found to be habitual traffic offenders or convicted of operating at dangerously excessive speeds. The committee had concerns regarding the cost of installment, the unintended consequences of family members having the device on their vehicles not being operated at the time by the offender, emergency situations that may require a temporary accelerated speed, etc. The bill also has increases in penalties that

would be in addition to the cost of the installed device. The cost to install was not taken into consideration if the operator is found to be indigent, meaning most likely this cost would be at the expense of the NH taxpayer. Every vehicle is equipped with an intelligent speed device. We call it a speedometer. Vote 13-0.

HB 1730-FN, making all offenses against minors involving sexual penetration or contact felony-level offenses punishable by death. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill, with the replace all amendment, enhances the level of certain sexual assault related offenses involving minors to a felony by amending the introductory paragraph of RSA 632-A:2, I. Any person whom the defendant had or has a certain authority by virtue of their role in a correctional institution, the secure psychiatric unit, or a juvenile detention facility, or their role as an adult or juvenile probation officer. The court has ruled that a minor under the supervision of an authoritative figure in one of the aforementioned facilities is not able to “submit” to sexual contact. By removing the words “and uses this authority to coerce the victim to submit” makes these heinous crimes a felony. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0420h)

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

AN ACT enhancing the level of offense for certain sexual offenses.

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

1 Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 632-A:2, I(n) to read as follows:

(n) When the actor is in a position of authority over the victim [~~and uses this authority to coerce the victim to submit~~] under any of the following circumstances:

2 Felonious Sexual Assault. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 632-A:3, IV(a) to read as follows:

IV.(a) Engages in sexual contact with the person, or causes the person to engage in sexual contact on himself or herself in the presence of the actor, when the actor is in a position of authority over the person [~~and uses that authority to coerce the victim to submit~~] under any of the following circumstances:

3 Registration of Criminal Offenders; Sexual Offense. Amend RSA 651-B:1, V(a) to read as follows:

(a) Capital murder, RSA 630:1, I(e); first degree murder, RSA 630:1-a, I(b)(1); aggravated felonious sexual assault, RSA 632-A:2; felonious sexual assault, 632-A:3; sexual assault, 632-A:4, I(a) [~~or RSA 632-A:4, HH~~]; violation of privacy, RSA 644:9, I(a) or RSA 644:9, III-a; or a second or subsequent offense within a 5-year period for indecent exposure and lewdness, RSA 645:1, I.

4 Registration of Criminal Offenders; Offense Against a Child. Amend RSA 651-B:1, VII(a) to read as follows:

(a) Any of the following offenses, where the victim was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense: capital murder, RSA 630:1, I(e); first degree murder, RSA 630:1-a, 1(b)(1); aggravated felonious sexual assault, RSA 632-A:2; felonious sexual assault, RSA 632-A:3; sexual assault, RSA 632-A:4, I(a) [~~or RSA 632-A:4, HH~~]; kidnapping, RSA 633:1; criminal restraint, RSA 633:2; false imprisonment, RSA 633:3; incest, RSA 639:2; violation of privacy, RSA 644:9, I(a) or RSA 644:9, III-a; a second or subsequent offense within a 5-year period for indecent exposure and lewdness, RSA 645:1, I; indecent exposure and lewdness, RSA 645:1, II and RSA 645:1, III; or prostitution, RSA 645:2.

5 Registration of Criminal Offenders; Tier I Offender. Amend RSA 651-B:1, VIII(a) to read as follows:

(a) RSA 632-A:4, I(a); RSA 632-A:4, I(b); [~~RSA 632-A:4, HH~~]; RSA 644:9, I(a); RSA 644:9, III-a; or a second or subsequent offense within a 5-year period for indecent exposure and lewdness, RSA 645:1, I.

6 Repeal. RSA 632-A:4, III, relative to sexual assault in certain positions of authority, is repealed.

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

2026-0420h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill reclassifies as felonies certain sexual assault conduct related to engaging in sexual contact or penetration with a person over whom the defendant had certain authority by virtue of their role in a correctional institution, the secure psychiatric unit, or a juvenile detention facility, or their role as an adult or juvenile probation or parole officer.

HB 1737-FN, relative to reinstating the death penalty for certain offenses against minors under 13 years of age. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee, after hearing hours of testimony and from hundreds of New Hampshire citizens, came to the unanimous conclusion that this bill should be recommended as inexpedient to legislate. The overwhelming majority of New Hampshire citizens do not wish for the death penalty to be reinstated under any circumstances. With regard to this specific bill, we heard testimony that the vast majority of crimes against children are perpetrated by either a family member or someone close to the family. The thought that their coming forward could result in the death of a close family member, no

matter how evil they may be, would likely lead to many children not coming forward at all, thus enabling their abuser to continue harming them or others. Furthermore, perpetrators after realizing what they have done and the fact that they could face death, may come to the conclusion that it would be best to permanently silence their victim. In other words, if they face the death penalty either way, they may determine they have nothing to lose by removing the one person who could send them there. Vote 13-0.

HB 1740-FN, relative to the protection of persons from domestic violence. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. NH has a longstanding civil domestic violence statute providing critical lifesaving protections for survivors. This bill would significantly restrict access to civil protections while it attempts to rewrite the existing statute and undermine ongoing efforts to strengthen domestic violence policy in the state. This legislation, if adopted, would impact a victim's access to life saving services including a 24/7 emergency hot line, hospital and court accompaniment, support at child advocacy centers, support groups and emergency shelter placement. Additionally it would require a mandatory arrest requirement making a survivor involve the authorities before they are emotionally prepared or if they are experiencing escaping threats that have not yet resulted in an arrest leaving the victim vulnerable and without the advocacy these programs provide. Vote 12-1.

HB 1749-FN, reinstating the death penalty for murder offenses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. If enacted, this bill would allow the death penalty for capital murder and first and second degree murder, and further authorize the court in cases where the death penalty is not imposed to sentence the defendant to life in prison or any other term the court orders. The death penalty, for many victims' families, is a never ending reminder of the crime committed against their loved one. Because a defendant has what feels like countless appeals, the act of being put to death is likely to never come to fruition. The committee had several bills of this content and each bill led to the same conclusion. Over time, the families begin to heal and each time the defendant has an appeal heard the families are reminded and made to relive the horrific event over and over again to no end. Death penalty cases require intensive judicial resources throughout pretrial proceedings, jury selection, and post-conviction litigation. The NH public defenders' contracts exclude capital representations. These cases would be handled by assigned counsel resulting in an exorbitant financial obligation to the state. Additionally, NH has life without the possibility for parole as an alternative to the death penalty so having that be an option in this bill is irrelevant. Vote 13-0.

HB 1729-FN-A, relative to the creation of a centralized enterprise resource planning service, and making an appropriation therefor. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. David Luneau for Education Funding. This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop and issue a competitive request for proposals (RFP) for qualified vendors to provide a centralized, enterprise resource planning (ERP) service for New Hampshire public school districts. The committee believes a centralized ERP service could reduce school district administrative costs and prove to be a valuable tool for school districts as well as the DOE. Vote 18-0.

HB 1776-FN, requiring higher educational institutions to report the reception of foreign grants, donations, and contracts to the department of education and the general court. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Raymond Peeples for Education Funding. This bill requires higher education institutions to report the reception of grants, donations, and contracts that exceed \$50,000 over the length of the funding relationship from a foreign source. Within the bill, there are a few structural changes needed to the language. A clear impact study done on the scope and application of the law is also needed. Accountability is key and this bill has many strong points, but it needs further work before it is ready to move forward. Vote 18-0.

HB 1827-FN-A, establishing a grant program to support school districts extraordinary needs and fiscal capacity disparities relative to providing an adequate education. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. The non-germane amendment, which replaced all in HB 1827, more comprehensively requires the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel beyond that which is currently done at the local level by the employing school administrative unit, school district, chartered public school, or non-public approved special education school in New Hampshire. The bill requires the department to establish and implement a secure system for conducting a check of all educational personnel identified in this section of law in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification database utilizing the applicant's social security number. The bill further authorizes the department to work with the Division of State Police to complete the records check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The department will destroy all records report information within 60 days of receiving said information, and the records check is valid for 5 years. The department may require educational personnel to pay for the records check. An applicant who had an educator license revoked in another state or in New Hampshire shall not be employed. This more in-depth records check of school employees strengthens the process, better protecting all students, school personnel, and others. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0573h)

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

AN ACT requiring the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Department of Education School Employee Criminal History Records Check. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after section 13-c the following new section:

189:13-d Department of Education School Employee Criminal History Records Check.

I. As used in this section:

(a) "Educational personnel" means an individual who is employed, either part time or full time, by a school administrative unit, school district, public school, public charter school, public academy, or non-public approved special education school in the state of New Hampshire who is not in a position requiring an educator credential.

(b) "Clearance" means a document issued to educational personnel that reflects that a criminal history record check was completed and that none of the violations listed in RSA 189:13-c, V were found.

II.(a) The department shall complete a confidential criminal history record check on all educational personnel. The criminal history record check clearance shall be valid for a period of 5 years.

(b) The department shall establish and implement a secure system for conducting a check of all educational personnel listed in this section in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) database by utilizing the applicant's social security number.

III.(a) Educational personnel shall submit to the department a criminal history records release form, as provided by the division of state police, which authorizes the division of state police to conduct a criminal history records check through its state records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to release a report of the individual's criminal history record information, including confidential criminal history record information, to the background check coordinator of the department, as described in RSA 21-N:8-a, I-a.

(b) Educational personnel shall submit with the release form a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency or an authorized employee of the department of education. In the event that the first set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, a second set of fingerprints shall be taken in order to complete the criminal history records check. If, after 2 attempts, a set of fingerprints is invalid due to insufficient pattern, the department may, in lieu of the criminal history records check, accept police clearance from every city, town, or county where an applicant or candidate has lived during the past 10 years.

IV.(a) The department shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this paragraph. The department shall destroy all criminal history record information within 60 days of receiving said information.

(b) The department may require educational personnel to pay the actual costs of the criminal history records check.

V.(a) Any person who has been charged pending disposition for or convicted of any violation or attempted violation of RSA 318-B:2 for possession of a controlled drug with the intent to sell, felony level, within the last 10 years, RSA 630:1; 630:1-a; 630:1-b; 630:2; 630:3; 631:1; 631:2; 631:2-b; 632-A:2; 632-A:3; 632-A:4; 633:1; 633:7; 636:1; 638:1; 638:15-a; 639:2; 639:3; 645:1, II or III; 645:2; 649-A:3; 649-A:3-a; 649-A:3-b; 649-B:3; or 649-B:4; or any violation or any attempted violation of RSA 650:2 where the act involves a child in material deemed obscene in this state, or under any statute prohibiting the same conduct in another state, territory, or possession of the United States, shall not be granted a clearance, nor shall they be employable or contracted in a public school, public charter school, public academy, or non-public approved special education school within the state of New Hampshire.

(b) A school administrative unit, school district, public school, public charter school, public academy, or non-public approved special education school in the state of New Hampshire shall not employ any individual who has had their educator license credential revoked in New Hampshire or any other state.

VI. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, governing the rights of educational personnel and their ability to appeal a denial of a clearance pursuant to a charge pending disposition for or a conviction of any of the offenses under paragraph V.

2026-0573h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel.

HB 1077, including domestic violence prevention as a wellness subject to be taught to pupils. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. As the state takes a hands off approach to dictating curriculum, and given districts are free to include this in their health education classes, this legislation may present unanticipated consequences. For these reasons, this committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1093, relative to public charter schools and the state building code and governmental land use exemptions. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. The bill as amended classifies buildings owned, operated, or occupied by charter schools as “public school buildings,” in regard to the state building code and the state fire code. Doing so eases the burden for charter schools seeking to renovate structures and standardizes the permitting process for all forms of public schools. Vote 16-1.

Amendment (0489h)

Amend the bill by deleting sections 2 and 3 and renumbering the original section 4 to read as 2.

2026-0489h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies that public charter school facilities are included in the definition of public school buildings for purposes of state building code compliance.

HB 1778-FN, relative to prohibiting the use of personal identity ideology in public school instruction and policies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Education Policy and Administration. This bill prohibits the teaching of personal identity ideology in schools. It also requires the State Board of Education to develop and implement policies related to the prohibition of teaching personal identity ideology. The committee agreed that the wording was vague and the prime sponsor asked that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate, the committee agreed. Vote 17-0.

HB 1163-FN, requiring the secretary of state to create and maintain a uniform election records management system. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for Election Law. The original intent of this bill sought to create a single standard operating procedure to govern the development of election law procedures, election law forms and election law templates. Unfortunately, in drafting, the concept of a system as defined by procedure morphed into a large, complex computerized system with an even larger fiscal note. Some members of the committee believe the original intent of the bill has significant merit and it should not have been given an enormous fiscal note. However, as drafted, the committee believed the bill to be unwieldy and moved Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1429-FN, relative to the of hand-counting ballots at large polling places. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. James Guzofski for Election Law. This bill authorizes a moderator to pause ballot counting overnight and establishes procedures for securing ballots and resuming tabulation. The committee found that current election law requires timely and continuous tabulation and reporting of election results. The committee further found that the bill conflicts with existing statutes governing ballot counting and election returns and introduces unnecessary procedural complexity into election administration. The committee determined that the proposal does not address a demonstrated deficiency in current law and that existing procedures are sufficient to ensure accurate and timely ballot counting. For these reasons, the committee recommends that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 16-0.

HB 1520-FN, defining citizenship for the purposes of voting. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for Election Law. The bill attempted to address the issue of nonresident voting for which thousands of voters use out-of-state licenses to vote in New Hampshire. Regardless of the merits, the cost for implementation as originally proposed is prohibitive, and the sponsor recommended Inexpedient To Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1054, establishing a committee to study the decline of insect populations in New Hampshire. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill was proposed in response to the well established problem that insect populations are declining around the world, including in the United States. The intent was to determine the extent and causes of the problem in New Hampshire and possible legislative approaches to mitigation. It was pointed out to the committee that the size of this research project would substantially exceed what a study committee could achieve in two months. The prime sponsor requested Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 13-0.

HB 1086-FN, prohibiting the sale of certain agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Linda Haskins for Environment and Agriculture. The original bill banned the sale and use of corn, wheat and soybean seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides and also required the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) to create a waiver program for using said seeds. Because of many concerns of farmers being unable to obtain untreated seed from the seed companies that they deal with, and the uncertainty of what other methods could be used to protect their crops from pests without causing other unfavorable environmental impacts, the amended bill establishes a study committee to investigate prohibiting the sale of certain agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids.

The study committee will look at what other places like Quebec, Vermont, and New York have done, and to also look at studies performed at Cornell on the use of neonicotinoids. The study committee will also examine what seed dealers are doing to address the issue and how they are reacting to market demands for untreated seed. We know these chemicals are demonstrably toxic, and the committee will determine all plans for restricted use of neonicotinoid pesticides and their impact on yields in addition to the availability of alternatives for NH farmers. It is important to note that the amended bill no longer has a fiscal impact because the DAMF does not have to create a waiver program nor deal with fines or other criminal penalties. Vote 13-2.

Amendment (0474h)

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

AN ACT creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.

2 Membership and Compensation.

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

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

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

II. Legislative 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:

I. Data from Quebec on the results of that province's ban on neonicotinoid treated seeds, including a breakdown of affected crop types and acreage of each, changes in crop yields using non-treated and alternatively treated seed, availability and cost of seed alternatives in preferred hybrids and with alternative coatings, observed environmental changes with the use of alternative coatings, changes in pesticide application practices, interactions of cover cropping practices, pest load, and seed coating use, and use of the waiver process.

II. Data from Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on the use and effects of neonicotinoid treated seeds and observed changes to yields and agricultural practices, including cover cropping and pesticide use, when neonicotinoid seed treatments are discontinued.

III. The steps being taken by New York and Vermont to insure that farmers will have seed available in preferred hybrids and preferred alternative treatments.

IV. The steps seed dealers producers and dealers are taking to meet the needs of markets in New York, Vermont, and Quebec.

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 90 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

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

2026-0474h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill creates a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.

HB 1153-FN-LOCAL, relative to dog license fees and establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill creates a committee to study RSA 466: Dogs and Cats. Over the course of the years, multiple changes in this chapter have led to poor organization, statutes that are difficult to understand, and outdated information. The committee, with assistance from department and municipal officials, will identify elements of the chapter that need to be clarified, reorganized, or eliminated. The intent is to leave current policy unchanged but rewrite the statutes to make them clear and accurate. Vote 14-1.

Amendment (0288h)

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs.

Amend the bill by deleting section 1 and renumbering the original sections 2-7 to read as 1-6, respectively.

2026-0288h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs.

HB 1157-FN, relative to licensure as a pet vendor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill was a department request to close a loophole in the current pet vendor statute. This law requires that a person selling more than 30 dogs, cats, or ferrets in a year be licensed as a pet vendor. Some people were circumventing this by ascribing sales of slightly fewer than 30 animals to each of multiple residents of the same home, so the total number of animals sold without licensure significantly exceeded 30. The bill corrects this by associating the vendor license requirement with a specific physical facility as well as the person who is the potential licensee. Vote 14-0.

HB 1254, defining biostimulants, plant regulators, nutritional chemicals, and vitamin hormone products. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This bill, although well intended, is not ready for prime time. This subject of defining biostimulants is not urgent and is being discussed at the federal level and by the national organization called the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO). Vote 14-0.

HB 1274-FN-LOCAL, relative to dog licenses. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill corrects an accidental reduction of dog license fees created in 2024 by HB 1626. That bill sought to adjust several dedicated funds within the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Foods, including the Animal Population Control Fund and the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Fund. The intent was to decrease the funding of the Animal Population Control Fund by 25 cents and reassign that amount to the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Fund, but because of the peculiar way the RSAs are presented in Chapter 466, the amount collected by municipalities was inadvertently reduced by 25 cents. This bill corrects that error so the municipalities can collect the fee amounts they did in the past. Vote 14-1.

HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. The underlying bill restricts the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, sets penalties, and requires the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) to create an educational program about the use of such pesticides and alternatives. The committee felt that it was much more appropriate to direct the Pesticide Control Board (PCB) to do their job as specified in RSA 430:31 regarding restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides with the amendment as they have the membership and expertise to fully examine and make appropriate rules on this very important issue of neonicotinoid pesticide usage and restrictions. This amendment directs the PCB to adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the reclassification of certain neonicotinoid pesticides as "restricted use" and directs the PCB to make rules regarding neonicotinoid pesticide application which may include but are not limited to a long list of pesticide application concerns which we have listed in this amendment. The PCB has already begun work on this issue, so they already have a head start on this process, but most importantly, we give them a deadline date of January 1, 2027 to have plans in place to address concerns specified in the bill, and any others that the PCB determines in their deliberations on the issue. Additionally, we are directing them to devise a plan to notify apiaries registered with DAMF regarding neonicotinoid pesticides in areas that will affect those hives. It is important to note that there is no longer any fiscal impact with this amended bill, as there are no criminal penalties specified, and the DAMF will not have to utilize extra department resources to address neonicotinoid pesticide restrictions. Vote 13-2.

Amendment (0465h)

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

1 New Subdivision; Neonicotinoid Pesticides. Amend RSA 430 by inserting after section 58 the following new subdivision:

Neonicotinoid Pesticides

430:59 Definitions. In this subdivision:

- I. "Bloom" means appeared from the onset of flowering or inflorescence until the petal fall is complete.
- II. "Neonicotinoid pesticide" means any pesticide containing one or more of the following active ingredients: acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid, or thiamethoxam.
- III. "Ornamental plants" means perennials, annuals, and ground cover purposefully planted for aesthetic reasons.

IV. "Structural pest control" means wood preservative pesticide applications of neonicotinoids conducted within enclosed structures, or for remedial treatment, foundation treatments applied directly to a structure's foundation, or limited exterior perimeter applications confined to within 5 feet of the building foundation perimeter, when performed by a certified applicator and applied in a manner that prevents unreasonable risk to pollinators, flowering plants, and surrounding soils.

430:60 Neonicotinoid Pesticide Use Restricted.

I. The pesticide control board shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the re-classification of certain neonicotinoid pesticides as “restricted use” and shall make rules regarding neonicotinoid pesticide application which may include but are not limited to the following provisions:

(a) The pesticide control board may ban the use of any neonicotinoid pesticide for a non-agricultural purpose, non-forestry landscape, lawn, turf, or ornamental garden except to control invasive species or as authorized in RSA 430:61.

(b) The pesticide control board may authorize the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticides by state certified applicators when such use and application is conducted in accordance with best management practices established by the department of agriculture, markets, and food.

(c) The pesticide control board may authorize the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticides for:

(1) Products used for the prevention or treatment of fleas, ticks, or heartworm in companion animals or livestock.

(2) Products intended for the treatment of lice and bedbugs and any other indoor use.

(3) Application of neonicotinoid pesticides indoors, provided such application does not result in exposure to pollinators.

(4) Application of neonicotinoid pesticides by a state certified applicator for wood preservation and foundation treatments applied within a specified building foundation perimeter to manage structural pests.

(5) Application of neonicotinoid pesticides for invasive species management.

(6) Use of neonicotinoid pesticides for bonafide academic, governmental, or scientific research purposes, including field trials, provided such use complies with all applicable state and federal requirements.

(7) Products labeled and intended solely for aquarium use or contained aquatic systems to control aquatic pests.

(8) Application to plants grown in enclosed greenhouses or controlled environments that are inaccessible to pollinators.

(9) Application to fruit tree orchards so long as:

(A) The state certified applicator documents that pest pressure cannot be reasonably managed through integrated pest management or other less harmful pesticides;

(B) Application is performed by a state certified applicator and occurs outside of any bloom period of the treated plant; and

(C) For any aerial or airborne application as per recommended usage.

II. With regard to neonicotinoid use on state property the pesticide control board may determine that no neonicotinoid pesticides shall be used on any property owned, leased, or managed by the state of New Hampshire, including but not limited to state parks, forests, recreational areas, highway rights-of-way, leased lands, and grounds surrounding state buildings, except:

(a) For control of invasive species;

(b) For structural pest control within state buildings when applied by licensed pest control operators; or

(c) Exemptions approved by the pesticide division of the department of agriculture on an “as needed” basis meeting the following conditions:

(1) The state certified applicator documents that pest pressure cannot be reasonably managed through integrated pest management or other less harmful pesticides;

(2) Application is performed by a state certified applicator and occurs outside of any bloom period of the treated plant; and

(3) For any aerial or airborne application as per recommended usage.

III. The pesticide control board shall devise a plan to notify apiaries registered with the department of agriculture, markets, and food when neonicotinoid pesticides will be applied in areas that may affect their hives.

IV. The pesticide control board shall have all plans for restricted use of neonicotinoid pesticides in place by January 1, 2027.

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

2026-0465h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill restricts the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and requires the pesticide control board to develop rules about the proper application of neonicotinoid pesticides.

HB 1511, relative to the membership of the agriculture in the classroom committee. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Liz Barbour for Environment and Agriculture. This bill addresses membership of the Agriculture in the Classroom Committee. The amendment replaces the existing Granite State Dairy Promotion seat with broader language providing for one representative of the New Hampshire dairy industry, appointed by the governor.

Granite State Dairy Promotion has dissolved, and leaving it in statute creates an appointment that cannot be filled. The amendment preserves dairy representation while removing reference to a single entity. The bill also corrects a scrivener's error by replacing "commissioner" with "committee" in the annual reporting section, clarifying responsibility. The bill does not change the committee's mission or authority. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (0472h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 The Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food; Agriculture in the Classroom; Agriculture in the Classroom Committee. Amend RSA 425:25, III(f) to read as follows:

(f) A representative of [~~Granite State Dairy Promotion~~] *the New Hampshire dairy industry*, appointed by the governor.

HB 1621-FN, requiring a baseline environmental impact study to be completed prior to development of certain manufacturing and storage facilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill would have required a baseline environmental impact study (a comprehensive assessment of the existing environmental conditions at the time of application) as a precondition for permitting development of any manufacturing or storage facility over 50,000 square feet. The intent was to prevent a company like St. Gobain from developing a facility in a community that would then cause substantial environmental harm. The mechanism for performing the study was broad and unclear, the permitting process that would be conditioned on the study was not clearly identified, and the correlation between the size of the facility and the potential of environmental harm was unclear. We felt that the underlying intent of the bill was good, but we did not see a path to amending it that would fulfill that intent. Vote 16-0.

HB 1622-FN, requiring the state to develop additional solid waste disposal capacity. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Nicholas Germana for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill formally prioritizes the General Court's preference for the expansion of existing landfills or the development of suitable brownfield sites over greenfield development for the future waste capacity need. The bill also, in response to a 2023 ruling by the New Hampshire Supreme Court, defines capacity need in relation to public benefit. Any application for additional disposal capacity must demonstrate that it meets a capacity need for New Hampshire waste for at least one half of permitted lifetime of the facility. New landfills may only begin operation in the first year in which the Department of Environmental Services projects a capacity shortfall. Finally, this bill requires the Department of Environmental Services to list in the Biennial Solid Waste Report the existing capacity for currently operating landfills as well as potential future capacity for these operations in the event of future expansion. Vote 13-1.

Amendment (0629h)

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

AN ACT relative to the state's solid waste disposal capacity.

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

1 Statement of Purpose. The general court hereby finds that:

I. New landfill capacity should be developed in expansions of existing permitted landfills instead of on greenfield sites.

II. Existing sites have already been carefully studied before being permitted and have been found suitable for landfilling by the department of environmental services.

III. The department of environmental services typically has decades of familiarity with conditions at such sites and the expansion of an existing use is generally consistent with the overall objectives of land use controls.

2 New Subparagraph; Solid Waste Management; Public Benefit Requirement. Amend RSA 149-M:11, V by inserting after subparagraph (d) the following new subparagraphs:

(e) For an applicant seeking to expand an existing and fully permitted RCRA Subtitle D landfill, the department shall find that the expansion shall satisfy the state's capacity need if, during the years for which the permit shall be granted, the state will face a capacity shortfall for at least one-half of those years.

(f) For an applicant seeking to develop a new landfill at a site where none currently exists, the department shall find that the new project shall satisfy the state's capacity need if, during the years for which the permit shall be granted, the state will face a capacity shortfall for at least one-half of those years. However, the department shall not allow the new landfill to begin accepting waste until the first year in which a shortfall is expected to exist.

3 Directive; Department of Environmental Services.

I. In its consideration of applications for additional landfill capacity in the state, the department of environmental services shall give first preference to expansions, where appropriate, in accordance with existing statutes and rules and consistent with any existing municipal agreements.

II. Second preference shall be given to development of brownfield sites, where appropriate, in accordance with existing statutes and rules and consistent with any existing municipal agreements. If a greenfield application is received, and there are no pending applications for an expansion or brownfield development, the department may process the greenfield application after the developer reviews and explains the choice of a greenfield site with reference to the list of sites developed by the department.

III. Using existing data, the department shall compile a list of all existing landfills in operation and all known closed landfills. The department shall use the tools at its disposal to determine, to the best of its ability, which sites would be unsuitable for future development because they are too close to schools, homes, airports, surface waterbodies, or other features to align with department setback regulations. A final list, excluding the sites deemed unsuitable for development, shall be made public.

IV. For its biennial solid waste reports, in addition to existing capacity at currently operating landfills in the state, the department shall report on potential future capacity for these operations in the event of future expansion.

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

2026-0629h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of environmental services to give first preference to applications for additional landfill capacity.

HB 1789-FN, relative to extended producer responsibility. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. The intent of this bill is well intentioned; however, it creates a huge state bureaucracy with substantial administrative and oversight duties, along with complex regulations, and enforcement responsibilities. An amendment at this time would be too complex to even address these issues. Vote 14-0.

HB 1024, prohibiting investments by the New Hampshire retirement system in businesses owned by a sitting president or their family. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Heath Howard for Executive Departments and Administration. The unanimous vote from the committee for interim study is because of concerns over the potential for the fiduciary responsibilities of the NH Retirement System being overridden by this legislation and HB 1585. There is also a constitutional concern, with Part 1, Article 36-a of the NH Constitution stating "The employer contributions certified as payable to the New Hampshire retirement system or any successor system to fund the system's liabilities, as shall be determined by sound actuarial valuation and practice, independent of the executive office, shall be appropriated each fiscal year to the same extent as is certified. All of the assets and proceeds, and income therefrom, of the New Hampshire retirement system and of any and all other retirement systems for public officers and employees operated by the state or by any of its political subdivisions, and of any successor system, and all contributions and payments made to any such system to provide for retirement and related benefits shall be held, invested or disbursed as in trust for the exclusive purpose of providing for such benefits and shall not be encumbered for, or diverted to, any other purposes. "We would like to study both of these bills to learn more about how they would impact the NHRS Board of Trustees and their ability to make decisions that are in the best interest of our retirees. Vote 14-0.

HB 1126, repealing the certification requirement to perform residential mold assessments. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill repeals the state license for mold assessors and remediators, a regulation that currently serves an incredibly narrow scope. Because the law exempts most general contractors and property owners, it functions as an inconsistent barrier to entry rather than a comprehensive public safety measure. National industry standard certifications already provide the necessary oversight required by insurance companies and lenders, making state licensing a redundant layer of bureaucracy. By eliminating this unnecessary hurdle, New Hampshire can foster a more competitive market, lower costs for homeowners, and streamline the state's regulatory code. Vote 15-0.

HB 1170, relative to stipends for retired group II members of the state retirement system. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would provide an annual stipend of up to \$5,000 per year for group II retirees who have been retired for 10 years. As a defined benefit plan, the state retirement plan does not adjust for inflation and this bill proposes a one-size-fits all approach to do so at a significant cost. Further, this would provide the same benefit for retirees receiving benefits of \$5,000 annually or \$100,000 annually. For these reasons, and the fact that this body made significant changes to the retirement system in the 2025 session, we recommend ITL. Vote 15-0.

HB 1328-FN, relative to alcohol and other drug use professionals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. As amended, the bill adjusts the membership for the alcohol and other drug use professionals board, eliminates the license type of licensed clinical supervisors and updates the qualifications of both the recreational therapists and speech language assistants. The bill represents requests from these individual boards. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0618h)

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

AN ACT relative to alcohol and other drug use professionals and relative to the qualifications to obtain certain occupational licenses.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Alcohol and Other Drug Use Professionals; Board Established. Amend RSA 330-C:3, I to read as follows:

I. There is established a board of licensing for alcohol and other drug use professionals. The board shall comprise 7 members to be appointed by the governor with the consent of the council. The members of the board shall be citizens of the United States and shall include [4] **3** master licensed alcohol and drug counselors, one licensed alcohol and drug counselor, ~~[one]~~ **2** certified recovery support **workers** ~~[worker]~~, and one member of the general public.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following and renumbering the original sections 4 and 5 to read as 6 and 7, respectively:

4 Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 326-F:5, V to read as follows:

V. The minimum qualifications of, requirements for direction and supervision of, and scope of tasks that may be performed by speech-language assistants. Such qualifications shall include a minimum of a 2-year associate's degree granted by a speech-language pathology program **or an equivalent program** accredited by an accrediting organization approved by the board.

5 Recreational Therapists; Eligibility for Licensure. Amend RSA 326-J:5, I(c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) Successfully complete an academic program with a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited college or university ~~[with a major in therapeutic recreation or a major in recreation or leisure with an option in therapeutic recreation]~~.

(d) Successfully complete a period of field experience as defined by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) ~~[approved by the educational institution where the applicant has met his or her academic requirements]~~.

2026-0618h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Amends the membership of the board of licensing for alcohol and other drug use professionals.
- II. Eliminates the license type of licensed clinical supervisor.
- III. Modifies the qualifications for licensure for recreational therapists.
- IV. Amends the qualifications for speech-language assistants.

HB 1585-FN, relative to environmental, social, and governance-related investment strategies by the state retirement system. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Jeremy Slottje for Executive Departments and Administration. The committee finds that this bill would require significant changes to the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) which may or may not result in improving the concerns addressed by this bill. Proxy votes are an important tool of corporate policy, and review of the current policy adopted by the NHRS shows that only votes motivated by financial benefit are permitted with votes based upon social issues prohibited. Additionally, today's investment policy includes the following charge: "Making all decisions solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to the members, retirees, and their beneficiaries." As of fiscal year end 2025, the unfunded liability for the pension plan is \$5.2 billion and remains on track to be fully funded by 2039. Vote 14-0.

HB 1683-FN, relative to the modification of administrative rules by the joint legislative committee on administrative rules. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill seeks to provide greater oversight of the rulemaking process. The bill as introduced is broad and far reaching, and the prime sponsor brought forward a more targeted amendment. The committee believes that this idea deserves further study, and therefore recommends interim study. Vote 14-0.

HB 1199, enabling the fish and game department to create a permit and fee for the use of fish and game staff by other state agencies and departments. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Spillane for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The committee unanimously agreed with this bill, as amended. It allows the fish & game Director, in consultation with the fish & game Commission, to create permits and fees to be paid by other departments within NH when they require the use of F&G resources beyond the normal departmental responsibilities, such as when DES or Ports and Harbors requires F&G biologist appraisal of land or ocean bed before a change of use permit is granted, or federally funded dredging takes place. As amended it also allows F&G to use a portion of their lifetime license funds held in the dedicated fund to modernize and update the online licensing program to decrease costs and increase efficiency. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0527h)

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

AN ACT enabling the fish and game department to create a permit and fee for the use of fish and game staff by other state agencies and departments.

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

1 New Section; Interagency Support Permit and Reimbursement. Amend RSA 206 by inserting after section 33-h the following new section:

206:33-i Interagency Support Permit and Reimbursement.

I. The executive director of the fish and game department may establish, after consultation with the fish and game commission, a permit or fee structure for the provision of department personnel, equipment, or expertise to other state agencies or departments, when such support is requested or required for the fulfillment of that agency's statutory duties, by rule adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A.

II. The permit or fee shall be based on the actual cost to the department, including but not limited to:

- (a) Personnel time, including salary and benefits.
- (b) Use of department vehicles, vessels, or equipment.
- (c) Administrative overhead associated with coordination and reporting.

III. All revenues collected under this section shall be deposited in the fish and game fund established under RSA 206:33.

2 Lifetime Licenses. Amend RSA 214:9-c to read as follows:

214:9-c Lifetime Licenses.

I.(a) The executive director, at the department of fish and game headquarters only, shall issue lifetime hunting, freshwater fishing, or combination hunting and freshwater fishing licenses similar to that issued on an annual basis under RSA 214:9, III to any resident applicant upon payment of the proper fee, which shall be established by the executive director in accordance with the provisions of paragraph II.

(b)(1) In addition, the executive director may issue lifetime licenses to any resident under 16 years of age.

(2) In addition further, the executive director may issue discounted lifetime licenses to residents ~~who have not yet reached~~ **at any time on or before** their first birthday. The executive director shall establish the discounted amount of such lifetime licenses in rules adopted under RSA 541-A, except that the fee for a combination hunting and freshwater fishing lifetime license for a resident who has not yet ~~reached~~ **passed** his or her first birthday shall be set by the executive director as prescribed in paragraph II.

(3) The parent or legal guardian of the applicant shall be a resident pursuant to RSA 207:1, XXIII. The hunting license or hunting portion of the combination license shall not be valid until the licensee has met the requirements of RSA 214:23-a. Upon meeting the requirements of RSA 214:23-a, the licensee shall have the hunting license or the combination hunting and fishing license validated at the fish and game department headquarters only.

(4) The executive director, upon application, may issue a discounted lifetime license to a resident who is a permanently disabled veteran and complies with the provisions of RSA 214:13.

II. The discounted amount of a permanently disabled veteran's lifetime license shall be 50 percent of the cost of a lifetime license calculated pursuant to paragraph II of this section.

III. The executive director shall obtain an actuarial table based on an appropriate annuity from the commissioner of insurance and shall set the fee for the various licenses, including newborns, annually on July 15 of each year for the following year based on the age of the applicant. The fee for any applicant under 16 years of age shall be the same as the fee for a 16-year-old applicant, except for newborns which shall be set by the executive director. In addition the applicant shall pay the agent's fee in accordance with RSA 214-A:4.

IV. In no case shall any lifetime license issued be transferable or any portion of the cost of the license refundable.

V. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the monies received from the sale of such lifetime licenses shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate fund to be known as the prepaid fish and game license fund. The state treasurer shall invest the monies in the fund and shall annually transfer to the fish and game fund from the prepaid fish and game license fund an amount equal to 9 percent of the principal balance in the fund each year and any interest that accrues to the prepaid fish and game license fund in excess of 5 percent **as unrestricted funds, available for expenditure for any lawful purpose authorized under RSA 206:38.**

VI. In addition, the state treasurer shall pay the amount of one annual license fee to the fish and game fund from the proceeds of each lifetime license sold during the current year, the balance going into the prepaid fish and game license fund.

VII.(a) The state treasurer shall establish a separate, nonlapsing account within the fish and game fund, separate from the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraphs IV and V, to be known as the fish and game modernization and sustainability account. Up to \$600,000 of the principal of the prepaid fish and game license fund may be credited to the fish and game modernization and

sustainability account in each of the fiscal years 2027 and 2028, and \$50,000 shall be continually appropriated and credited to the account annually beginning in fiscal year 2029, in a single lump sum payment, provided that no such payment shall reduce the balance of the prepaid fish and game license fund below \$1,000,000.

(b) Moneys in the fish and game modernization and sustainability account shall be used exclusively for the following purposes:

(1) Supporting business operations, technological modernization, and outreach efforts that improve the sale, distribution, and management of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses.

(2) Enhancing digital and operational systems.

(3) Advancing public education and engagement on fish, wildlife, and marine resources through technology enabled communication, community outreach, and targeted informational programs.

[VI-] **VIII.** Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall entitle the holder thereof to the same privileges and subject the licensee to the same restrictions as a holder of an annual license.

[VII-] **IX.** The executive director shall issue a bear license and tag upon application by the valid holder of a lifetime hunting or combination license. Such license and tag shall be valid for the current bear season only. The bear license and tag shall be issued at no charge and each shall be of a type and design approved by the executive director. Lifetime licensees holding bear licenses shall comply with all provisions of RSA 208 relative to tagging, transportation and possession of bear.

[VII-a-] **X.** A person holding a valid lifetime fishing license or lifetime combination hunting and fishing license, issued prior to January 1, 2011, may make an application for a saltwater license at no charge to be issued by the executive director to fish for saltwater smelt, saltwater shad, and saltwater salmonoids only. Such licenses shall be valid for a calendar year only.

[VII-] **XI.** The executive director shall, if necessary, adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the issuance and validation of the lifetime licenses.

3 New Subparagraph; Fish and Game Modernization and Sustainability Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (410) the following new subparagraph:

(411) Moneys deposited into the fish and game modernization and sustainability account established in RSA 214:9-c.

4 Effective Date.

I. Sections 2-3 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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

2026-0527h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables the fish and game department to create a permit and fee for the use of fish and game staff by other state agencies and departments.

HB 1784-FN, relative to the health care consumer protection trust fund. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Matt Drew for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill removes the Executive Council approval for expenditures while retaining approval by the advisory commission and the Governor, and puts a number of constraints on grants and spending from the fund. The sponsor requested that this bill be Referred for Interim Study, so the committee agrees. Vote 18-0.

HB 1010, relative to residential development on commercially zoned land. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Calvin Beaulier for Housing. As amended, this bill is a compromise to provide clarity to both property owners and municipalities when multifamily dwelling units may be constructed above retail or office space. This is a follow up to HB 631 which was signed into law last year. The intent is not to expand or diminish local control. Instead this bill specifies what measures municipalities may take when evaluating road, water, or sewer infrastructure for these developments. Such scrutiny is in existing law but is not currently defined, this has the potential to generate frustration and unnecessary expenditures for both property owners and municipalities. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0274h)

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

AN ACT relative to multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land.

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

1 Multi-Family Residential Development on Commercially Zoned Land; Amendment to Zoning Regulations; Conversion of Multi-Family Dwelling Units Permitted. Amend RSA 674:80 to read as follows:

674:80 Amendment to Zoning Regulations.

I. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, municipalities shall allow multi-family ~~[residential development]~~ **dwelling units, as defined in RS 674:43, I** on commercially zoned land, provided that adequate

infrastructure, including roads, water, and sewage systems, shall be available ~~or provided~~ to support the development. ***Where infrastructure is not adequate it may be provided by the applicant in accordance with regulations. In determining whether infrastructure is adequate, the planning board may:***

(a) For road infrastructure, require a traffic impact study to ascertain the potential impacts to the existing traffic conditions in the vicinity of the project, including but not limited to, the ability of existing road infrastructure to accommodate increased vehicular traffic, the availability of sidewalks, and infrastructure to ensure pedestrian safety.

(b) For water infrastructure, require that the applicant receive permission from the operator of a public water system to connect to the system or, in the absence of a public water system, receive a well permit from the department of environmental services to install a well. However, in accordance with local regulations established pursuant to RSA 674:36 or 674:44, II, a planning board may require as part of the complete application a water supply study conducted by a hydrogeologist, geologist, or engineer with experience in water supply issues if the applicant proposes to use a well that will not be subject to regulation as a community water system under RSA 485:1-a, I or a large groundwater withdrawal under RSA 485-C:2, IX-a, as the water supply for the project.

(c) For sewage infrastructure, require that the applicant receive permission from the operator of a public sewer within the boundary prescribed by RSA 147:8 or as negotiated between the applicant and operator to connect to the system.

II. The planning board may deny an application submitted pursuant to paragraph I, if the planning board determines that:

(a) The volume of traffic is not supported by the road design at the conclusion of construction or the developments layout and design does not ensure pedestrian safety;

(b) The applicant is unable to secure a source of water, or, if applicable, the water supply study determines that one or more neighboring wells will be unable to meet existing demands; or

(c) The applicant is unable to dispose of wastewater and sewage in accordance with regulations.

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

~~HH.]~~ **IV.** A municipality may require all available ground floor space or a percentage thereof to be dedicated to retail or similar uses.

~~IV.]~~ **V.** A municipality ~~[shall provide an exemption to any requirements regarding setbacks, height, or frontage of a building being converted to multi-family or mixed-use through adaptive reuse, provided that the building's floor area, height, and setbacks do not change]~~ ***shall allow nonconforming structures to be converted to multi-family dwelling units or mixed use provided that the structure is not altered to further violate zoning district dimensional requirements.***

VI. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt proposed multi-family dwelling units on commercially zoned land from subdivision or site plan review regulations.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026 at 12:01 a.m.

2026-0274h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Permits municipalities to allow multi-family dwelling units on commercially zoned land, subject to the local planning board confirming the infrastructure is adequate.

II. Authorizes the local planning board to deny applications to build multi-family dwelling units on commercially zoned land in certain circumstances.

III. Removes the ability for municipalities to provide an exception for requirements relative to the conversion of structures into multi-family dwelling units, and replaces such exception to permit the waiver of requirements so long as the converted dwelling unit is not altered to further violate zoning dimensional requirements.

HB 1065-FN, relative to multi-family and mixed-use development in commercially zoned areas. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Paige for Housing. This bill was one of several bills under consideration this year that sought to provide clarification to definitions used in RSA 674:80, which deals with mixed-use development in commercial zones. We support much of the language in this bill and the sponsor's effort to provide greater clarity, but came together on an amendment to a different bill to address these same concerns. The committee is unanimous in its support of that compromise, which brought together different stakeholders, and for this reason recommends this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 17-0.

HB 1120, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Aron for Housing. The committee finds that existing law already provides municipalities and the state with authority to address water supply, groundwater protection, and environmental impacts through planning, zoning, and subdivision review. This bill would authorize additional discretionary local requirements,

including water studies, private well testing, and expanded cost assessments, which could increase regulatory complexity and development costs without clear, uniform standards. The committee believes land-use regulation should remain predictable and proportional, and that current statutes already strike an appropriate balance between water resource protection and property rights. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill. Vote 17-1.

HB 1143, relative to the remediation of mold in rental housing. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The majority of the committee believes this bill would put undue burdens on our housing provider community in an already strained housing supply. This bill would extend the right to mold remediation inspections for municipal inspectors. This bill would allow at any time a municipality the right to inspect any rental unit for mold exposure. Housing providers already have to pass rigorous inspection requirements for mold remediation and the committee does not believe further inspections are necessary at this time. Vote 17-1.

HB 1349, relative to exemptions from multi-family zoning requirements for small or low-density communities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The committee unanimously believes this bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. This bill would exempt low density towns from the requirement in the new law regarding residential development in commercial zones by right. The committee heard testimony from the town administrator in Newington stating that they did not want to have to develop their commercial land into economically viable mixed-use zones in decaying and dilapidated shopping malls. The committee believes proposals like the one at the Fox Run Mall are precisely the areas in which the development of mixed-use communities would be fruitful. The committee does not believe exemptions based on population or density are warranted at this time. Vote 17-0.

HB 1371, prohibiting application fees for residential rental agreements. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The committee believes this bill is not needed at this time. This bill as proposed would rewrite the application fee language that was carefully compromised and implemented last year. This bill would expand the application fee language into RSA 356-C:12 which is the prohibition section of the RSA. Under current law in RSA 540 there is language that allows the housing provider to collect an application fee but if they choose not to rent the unit to the applicant they must return the fee beyond the actual cost of conducting a background check, credit check, and reasonable administrative costs from vetting the tenant. The committee does not believe these changes need to be made at this time. Vote 16-2.

HB 1496, repealing the cap on residential parking spaces. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. David Paige for Housing. Excessive parking requirements raise construction costs and take up land that could otherwise be used for housing, reducing the number of homes that can be built on a site. The existing cap on per-unit municipal parking requirements is a reasonable safeguard that balances the need for parking with the need to limit these impacts. By eliminating that cap entirely, this bill would open the door to excessive parking mandates that discourage new residential development and further increase project costs. The committee believes the inevitable result would be fewer homes built and higher rents and prices for everyday Granite Staters, exacerbating New Hampshire's housing affordability challenges. Vote 16-0.

HB 1523-FN, relative to disclosure requirements for condominium associations. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The committee believes this bill should be found Ought to Pass with Amendment. This bill with the underlying amendment would line up New Hampshire's homeowners' associations transparency language with the current condo association transparency language. Under this proposal, homeowners' associations would be required to present upon request detailed minutes of meetings, receipts and expenditures made by the board, and institute conflict of interest requirements for board members as well as a number of other requirements in current condominium law. The amendment removes the enforcement mechanism in the bill in which the committee believes the fiscal note would be null. Additionally the amendment would move out the effective dating giving opportunities for homeowners' associations to procure required documentation. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0380h)

Amend RSA 292:8-m, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. If an owner or board of directors member, or an immediate family member of an owner or board of directors member, has a pecuniary interest in a company seeking to contract with the homeowners' association, the homeowners' association shall not enter into the contract unless:

(a) The pecuniary interest is disclosed in writing and prominently to all members before or at the same time as the notice of the meeting held in accordance with the homeowners' association bylaws;

(b) The contract is approved by a majority of the votes cast by the membership at the meeting with a quorum present; and

(c) The interested person recuses from voting.

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

HB 1525, relative to zoning restrictions concerning dwelling unit occupancy. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Sherri Reinfurt for Housing. The bill intends to repeal legislation that just became effective September 1, 2025 which restricts municipalities to zone housing that prevents three unrelated people from living together. The committee agrees that the bill runs counter to New Hampshire's urgent need for more housing options, not fewer. Committee members expressed concern that requiring housing eligibility to be based on relational or familial status unnecessarily reduces available housing and limits flexibility in how existing homes are used. Restricting the number of unrelated occupants can prevent lawful practical living arrangements, even when a dwelling is fully capable of safely accommodating additional residents. The committee emphasized that if a home can support occupancy based on health, safety and infrastructure standards such as septic, capacity, sewer access and building codes, then residents should be permitted to live there regardless of whether they are related. Members also noted that concerns driving this legislation are often specific to college towns or localized situations and should be addressed at a municipal level, not through a statewide mandate that impacts every community including those where the issue does not exist. In summary, the committee found it inconsistent to acknowledge the state's housing shortage while simultaneously imposing additional restrictions that reduce housing availability that this bill would do. For these reasons, the committee recommended this bill as Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1553, relative to pet-related fees and rent in residential tenancies. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Sherri Reinfurt for Housing. The majority recommends against advancing legislation that limits pet rent to one percent of a tenant's base rent. While well-intentioned, this proposal would create unintended consequences that outweigh its potential benefits. First, the bill interferes with private lease agreements and replaces flexible, market-based decision-making with a rigid statutory cap. Pet-related costs vary widely by property type, unit condition, and location. A one-size-fits-all limit fails to reflect these differences. Second, pets create real and recurring costs for housing providers, including increased maintenance, cleaning, property damage, and insurance risk. In many lower-rent units, a one percent cap would amount to only a few dollars per month, insufficient to offset these expenses. Third, the proposal is likely to reduce, not expand, pet-friendly housing. Faced with capped pet rent, housing providers may prohibit pets altogether, impose stricter restrictions, or raise base rent for all tenants to recover costs—penalizing renters without pets. Finally, small property owners would be disproportionately impacted. Unlike large operators, they often lack the financial capacity to absorb additional costs and may respond by tightening leasing policies or exiting the rental market. Existing landlord-tenant laws already provide safeguards against unfair practices. The majority finds no compelling evidence that pet rent constitutes a widespread abuse requiring legislative intervention. For these reasons, the majority concludes that this legislation would undermine housing choice, reduce pet-friendly units, and increase costs for renters overall. Vote 17-1.

HB 1598-FN, relative to notice for tenants and landlords engaged in eviction processes. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Dillon Dumont for Housing. New Hampshire continues to face a severe housing shortage, with low vacancy rates contributing to high rents and limited options for renters. Lengthy eviction processes can discourage property owners from renting units, particularly smaller landlords or those managing single-family or small multifamily properties, as prolonged non-payment ties up properties without income and increases financial risk. This reduces overall rental supply, exacerbates affordability challenges, and deters investment in new or maintained rental housing—critical when the state needs more units to meet demand. Through countless hours of hard work, housing providers, New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA), and the subcommittee created an amendment that resulted in a compromise satisfying needs on all sides. The majority of the committee believes the amended bill strikes an appropriate balance by streamlining evictions for clear violations (non-payment or material breaches) while preserving due process elements. Vote 15-3.

Amendment (0463h)

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

AN ACT relative to notice and proceedings for tenants and landlords engaged in eviction processes.

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

1 Actions Against Tenants; Writ; Service; Discovery; Record; Default. Amend RSA 540:13, II-V to read as follows:

II. The writ shall be accompanied by a notice from the district court, printed in no smaller than 12-point type, informing the tenant that:

(a) If the tenant wishes to contest the eviction, he ~~[must]~~ **or she shall** file an appearance in the district court no later than the return day appearing on the writ **and file an answer not more than 5 days after the return date stating the defendant's affirmative defenses and/or counterclaims.**

(b) The tenant shall not be evicted unless the court so orders; however, such an order may be granted if the tenant does not file an appearance.

(c) At the time the tenant files his appearance, he **or she** may request that the court make a sound recording of the eviction hearing by checking an appropriate box on the appearance form.

(d) If the tenant wishes to appeal the district court's decision, he ~~[must]~~ **or she shall:**

(1) File a notice of intent to appeal with the district court within 7 days of the notice of the district's decision; and

(2) File a notice of appeal in the supreme court within 30 days of the notice of the district court's decision; and

(3) Pay all rent, as it comes due, between the date of the notice of intent to appeal the district court's decision and the final disposition of the appeal.

(e) If the tenant files any post-judgement motions, including, but not limited to, a motion for reconsideration, the tenant shall pay all rent, as it comes due, between the date of the motion and the final ruling on the motion.

III. The writ of summons and the notice provided in paragraph II shall be returnable 7 days from the date of service of the writ by the sheriff. The writ of summons shall provide an opportunity for the landlord, at the landlord's option, to make a claim for an award of unpaid rent. If the landlord elects to make a claim for unpaid rent, the court shall consider any defense, claim, or counterclaim ***pled*** by the tenant which offsets or reduces the amount owed to the plaintiff. If the court finds that the landlord is entitled to possession on the ground of nonpayment of rent, it shall also award the landlord a money judgment. If the court determines that the amount owed by the landlord to the tenant, as a result of set-off or counterclaim exceeds or equals the amount of rent and other lawful charges owed by the tenant to the landlord, judgment in the possessory action shall be granted in favor of the tenant. If the court finds that the tenant's counterclaim exceeds the amount of the nonpayment, a money judgment shall issue in favor of the tenant. Any decision rendered by the court related to a money judgment, shall be limited to a maximum of \$1,500 and shall not preclude either party from making a subsequent claim in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover any additional amounts not covered by the \$1,500 judgment.

IV. Both parties shall have a right to engage in discovery prior to the hearing on the merits within such time frame as may be established for eviction actions by the Rules of the District Court, ***provided, absent good cause or agreement of the parties, any motion for continuance to allow time to complete discovery shall be filed no later than 5 days after the return day appearing on the writ. Any party that requests discovery shall state the defense, claim, or counterclaim relevant to the request.***

IV-a. If the tenant raises a defense at the hearing on the merits that the landlord did not have prior notice of, the landlord shall be entitled to a continuance of the hearing not to be more than 7 days unless landlord requests a longer time to prepare a response.

V. If the tenant files an appearance, a hearing shall be scheduled to occur within 10 days after such filing, with allowance for additional time pursuant to paragraph IV, with notice of the hearing mailed to the parties no fewer than 6 days prior to the hearing. If the tenant fails to file an appearance or fails to appear at the hearing on the merits, ***the tenant shall be considered in default, and*** the court shall mail a notice of default to the [address] ***addresses*** set forth on the summons [at least 3 days prior to the issuance of the writ of possession:] ***the day following default. If both the plaintiff and defendant appeared at the hearing on the merits, the court shall mail a notice of judgment to the addresses set forth on the summons as soon as possible, but no later than 2 days after the hearing on the merits. Seven days after mailing such notice, if the prevailing party was the landlord, then the court shall enter judgment for the landlord and issue the writ of possession forthwith.***

V-a. Any motion to continue or otherwise delay the hearing on the merits should not be granted without good cause or by agreement of the parties.

2 Actions Against Tenants; Discretionary Stay Dependent on Payment of Rent. Amend RSA 540:13-c, I to read as follows:

I. Any tenant default under this chapter shall preclude any discretionary stay. If the defendant ~~[defaults, or]~~ confesses judgment, or if on trial the court rules that the landlord has sustained his complaint, judgment shall be rendered that the landlord recover possession of the premises and costs. A writ of possession shall be issued, provided that, the court may order the tenant shall not be dispossessed until a date not later than ~~[3 months]~~ ***60 days, unless the defendant proves that a longer discretionary stay will not result in financial harm to the plaintiff, damage to the premises, or ongoing threats to the health or safety of the landlord or other tenants, and that the defendant needs additional time due to factors such as tenant age, familial status, disability, or limited English proficiency, whereupon the court may grant a discretionary stay of not more than 75 days*** from such [default,] confession of judgment[;] or ruling of the court ***that the landlord has sustained his complaint***, provided the court decides that under all the circumstances justice requires such stay, based on the reasonableness and good faith of the parties in their respective reports, complaints, demands, and evidence. In the event of any such stay of dispossession, the tenant shall pay the landlord weekly in advance the weekly former rent, or the proportional weekly part of the former rent if rent was payable less often than weekly, and on default of any such advance weekly payment a writ of possession shall be issued ***forthwith*** and the sheriff shall evict the tenant as soon as possible.

3 New Paragraph; Actions Against Tenants; Judgment. Amend RSA 540:14 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. No delay of service by the sheriff shall later invalidate a writ of possession that was valid when the plaintiff directed the sheriff to serve it.

4 Prohibited Practices and Security Deposits; General Prohibitions. Amend RSA 540-A:2 to read as follows: 540-A:2 General Prohibition.

I. No landlord shall willfully violate a tenant's right to quiet enjoyment of his tenancy or attempt to circumvent lawful procedures for eviction pursuant to RSA 540. ~~[No tenant shall willfully damage the property of the landlord or prevent completion of necessary repairs or willfully deny tenants their right to quiet enjoyment of their tenancies.]~~

II. *No tenant, members of the tenant's household, guests, or other occupants of the premises shall willfully damage the property of the landlord, prevent completion of necessary repairs, or willfully deny tenants their right to quiet enjoyment of their tenancies.*

III. *No tenant, members of the tenant's household, guests or other occupant of the premises shall willfully engage in behavior which unreasonably and adversely affects the health or safety of other tenants, the landlord, or the landlord's agent; or willfully prevent the landlord from making emergency repairs.*

5 Prohibited Practices and Security Deposits; Remedies. Amend RSA 540-A:4, VII to read as follows:

VII. Upon a ~~[showing]~~ **ruling of the court follow a hearing on the merits** of a violation of RSA 540-A:2 or RSA 540-A:3, I, II, or III, the court shall grant such relief as is necessary to protect the rights of the parties. Such relief may include:

(a) An order prohibiting the defendant from continuing the activity or activities which violate RSA 540-A:2 or RSA 540-A:3; ~~[and]~~

(b) An order that the defendant, members of a tenant's family, guests or occupants must immediately vacate the rented or leased premises and not return to the rented or leased premises or the common areas of such without further order of the court. Such order shall only be issued against the person or persons who have been found to have violated RSA 540-A:2, III; and

(c) At least 5 days prior to the hearing on the merits the parties shall provide each other with a copy of each document he or she intends to offer into evidence, which may be done electronically. If either party fails to comply with this requirement, upon the request of the party who did not receive the documents, the court shall continue the hearing for no more than 5 days.

~~[(b)]~~ **(d)** An award of damages to the plaintiff for the violations of RSA 540-A, breach of warranty of habitability, breach of the covenant of quiet enjoyment or any other claim arising out of the facts alleged in the plaintiff's petition.

~~[(c)]~~ **(e)** For purposes of RSA 540-A:3, IX:

(1) When the defendant claims to be a subtenant or an implied tenant, the defendant shall bear the burden of proof to establish such status. Evidence to prove tenancy may include, but is not limited to:

(A) An unexpired written lease signed and dated by the tenant and landlord or the tenant and landlord's agent;

(B) A copy of canceled checks or money orders dated within one month of date-of-offer of such proof, indicating it was paid to the landlord or landlord's agent and which was made by, or on behalf of, the tenant;

(C) A copy of cash rent receipts dated within one month of date-of-offer of such proof, that was signed and dated by the landlord or landlord's agent;

(D) Written proof of rent payment made within one month of date-of-offer of such proof from Venmo, ACH payment, EFT payment, or other electronic direct payment methods to the account of the landlord or landlord's agent; or

(E) Copy of emails, texts, or other electronic messages which when taken together establish an agreement between the landlord or landlord's agent that the occupant may reside at the premises.

(2) This subparagraph shall not be construed to prevent an occupant claiming to be an implied tenant from presenting evidence in support of their claim that based on the totality of the circumstances the landlord, landlord's agent, or non-rental owner impliedly agreed to allow the occupant to reside at the premises.

(3) By itself, evidence of utilities, other services, IDs, or documents showing the address of the residence shall not be sufficient evidence without authorizing documentation from the lessor or the non-rental owner.

(4) In all cases if the court rules in favor of the plaintiff, the court shall order the immediate removal of the unauthorized occupants by law enforcement and the plaintiff shall be awarded actual damages or \$1000, whichever is greater.

(5) If the court finds that the occupant sublet from the tenant but the lease between the landlord and the tenant prohibits subletting, and the occupant failed to establish being an implied tenant, the plaintiff may dispose of any remaining personal property as they see fit after 48-hours notice to the occupants. Notwithstanding RSA 540-A:4, VII(c)(4), in such cases damages shall not be awarded to the plaintiff.

(6) In all other cases of non-rental property and rental property, plaintiff may dispose of any remaining personal property as they see fit and without notice to the occupants and occupants may be arrested for trespass.

(7) If the court rules in favor of the occupants, then the occupants shall not be removed from the premises. Such ruling shall be without prejudice to any subsequent possessory action filed pursuant to RSA 540.

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

2026-0463h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends various landlord/tenant laws to makes it easier for landlords to evict tenants for non-payment of rent or for a material breach of a rental agreement.

HB 1608-FN, relative to grand jury minutes and relative to the defense and indemnification of certain government officers and employees. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for Judiciary. This bill proposes mandatory recording of grand jury minutes and grants criminal defendants the right to obtain a copy of the minutes. Furthermore, it expands state indemnification by the attorney general to cover assistant county attorneys, county attorneys, and municipal prosecutors, shifting the responsibility from counties and municipalities. While federal grand juries already record minutes, implementing this in New Hampshire could lead to increased procedural complexity during trials. The committee recognizes the bill's potential benefits and merit but stresses the need for additional time to thoroughly assess its impacts, especially considering where we are in the current budget cycle. Vote 15-0.

HB 1671-FN, relative to prohibiting state Medicaid payments to facilities that discriminate against employees, students, or trainees for exercising lawful medical or religious vaccine exemptions. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Marjorie Smith for Judiciary. This bill would prohibit state Medicaid payments to facilities that discriminate against employees and others for exercising lawful medical or religious vaccine exemptions. The bill combines civil rights and Medicaid laws. The sponsor and others acknowledged lack of clarity in applicability. The committee concluded that the bill raised important issues but required in depth consideration before it was ready to be voted on. Thus, the committee recommends the bill be Referred for Interim Study. Vote 15-0.

HB 1825-FN-A, relative to the regulation of the practice of law, establishing an independent legal licensing board, and making an appropriation therefor. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Paige for Judiciary. This bill would create a lawyer licensing and disciplinary board separate from – and in addition to – the Judicial Branch's operation of its admissions and disciplinary functions. The committee opposes the bill. First, the bill is fiscally irresponsible. While it makes a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 from the general fund to establish the board, future operation costs are indeterminable. Put another way, significant questions remain as to whether non-general fund sources will amount to revenue adequate to cover future expenses. Second, the bill would undermine well-settled constitutional principles, including separation of powers. Federal and state court decisions have established that the regulation of the practice of law, including admission to the bar and regulation of attorneys, is a judiciary function. Third, it is unclear what problem this legislation is attempting to resolve, further calling into question the need for yet another layer of regulatory oversight. Vote 16-0.

HB 1150, requiring disclosure of complaints to public employees within 5 business days. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jack Flanagan for Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill was recommended Inexpedient to Legislate due to the fact that the bill was incorporated with HB 1109 heard in House Executive Departments & Administration; it was a unanimous vote in Labor. Vote 20-0.

HB 1033, establishing a commission to study the legislative bill enrollment process. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan for Legislative Administration. Currently, bills may be tracked from drafting through the House and Senate chambers on the General Court website, enabling the public to track exactly where the bill is on its journey to becoming a law. However, after the bill has been passed by the second chamber, there are a number of steps before it heads to the Governor's desk for signature. The bill goes to the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) for a final check to catch typographical errors and ensure that all the statutory references are correct. Then, it goes to the Speaker of the House for signature, and then on to the President of the Senate for signature. The Secretary of State's Office is responsible for transferring the bill file through these steps and tracking the bill's current whereabouts. There is no public-facing tracking system during this period. Anyone wanting to know where the bill is at any moment of time must contact the Secretary of State's Office for the information. This bill establishes a commission consisting of legislators, the House and Senate Clerks, and the Secretary of State or designee to study the process until the bill reaches the Governor's desk, and to make any recommendations for improvement to the process by November 1, 2026. The amendment adds a representative from the Office of Legislative Services to the commission. Vote 11-0.

Amendment (0399h)

Amend RSA 14:8-a, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after subparagraph (e) the following new subparagraph:

(f) The director of the office of legislative services or designee.

HB 1038, establishing a committee to study raising awareness of the law providing immunity from liability in certain cases involving drug overdoses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Vanessa Sheehan for Legislative Administration. This bill would establish a committee to study how it would be best accomplished to raise awareness of the existing immunity law involving drug overdoses. Committee research found that there are already at least two commissions in statute involved with drug overdose, addiction, treatment, and prevention. The majority of the committee believes that, in the interest of time and efficiency, the sponsors of this legislation should bring the concerns of raising awareness of the immunity law involving drug overdoses to these already established commissions that meet regularly. Vote 10--1.

HB 1498, requiring all agendas, minutes, and reports of study committees and statutory commissions be made available to the public on the general court website and specific state agency websites. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Shane Sirois for Legislative Administration. The unanimous opinion of the committee is, after hearing expert testimony from our House Clerk, that the goals of this legislation are highly problematic and unrealistic. This bill adds a new paragraph to our right to know laws that requires “[a]ll agendas, minutes, and reports of legislative study committees and statutory commission meetings [to] be posted on an appropriate state department’s website, as well as the general court’s website, within 5 days of the meeting.” NH already has an enviable right to know policy and process. Research indicates this legislation would apply to over 300 such committees and commissions. The Legislative Administration Committee recognizes an unknown number of these committees and commissions sometimes meet away from the State House or Legislative Office Building. They might meet off-site entirely and some commissions might be chaired by non-legislators or not have any legislators even appointed. Meetings may or may not be posted in House or Senate calendars. Recognizing these realities, the committee feels it would be unreasonable to ask the House or Senate clerks to track missing reports and/or send reminders for any required information in order to fulfill the “posting the information on the General Court website” order. Vote 11-0.

HB 1161, removing the requirement for municipalities to have an advisory board for development districts. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to eliminate the mandate in RSA 162-K:14 requiring legislative bodies to establish an advisory board for each development district within their municipality. Development districts are designed to ensure equitable representation of both business and community interests and remain active until all associated debts are repaid or the district’s purpose is achieved—a process that can often span decades. Currently, 35 New Hampshire communities maintain development districts, with some overseeing multiple districts. Recruiting and retaining advisory board members for such a large number of districts is challenging, especially given the potential for multi-year or even decades-long commitments. Additionally, the statute does not define specific roles or standardized responsibilities for advisory boards. Therefore, allowing municipalities the flexibility to form advisory boards—and to determine their unique rules and responsibilities as needed—makes sense. For these reasons, the committee believes that making advisory boards optional rather than mandatory for development districts is a prudent course of action. Vote 18-0.

HB 1380-LOCAL, requiring the assessment of real property and land be based on replacement or cost-based value. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill proposes to create a new chapter in RSA 75 titled “The Replacement Value Property Assessment Act” (SAFE). Under the act, real property would be assessed in an entirely different way than how it is currently valued by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). Rather than basing assessments on comparative sales of properties in the municipality, the SAFE Act would base them only on current replacement value. The bill’s sponsor cited rapidly rising sale prices of New Hampshire homes as evidence of speculation rather than actual value, and claimed that basing those prices on replacement cost alone would lower taxes for homeowners. The committee heard testimony from the DRA as well as assessors who showed that the system this bill proposes is unworkable for a number of reasons. To cite just two, the bill requires the DRA to produce an annual report, beginning in 2028, listing categories such as the number and outcome of taxpayer appeals under the new, proposed system and the average change in assessed value compared to what they would have been under the previous system. The bill also, if passed and signed into law, would have an effective date of July 1, 2026. The DRA stated that it would be nearly impossible to convert to this system and, even if it were, would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, require more employees, and take several years to implement. The agency further stated that the annual report mandated in this bill relied on data to which the DRA does not have access. For these reasons and because of similar testimony from assessors who appeared at the hearing, the committee recommendation is Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 1417-FN, enabling municipalities, cities, and towns to adopt a land value tax system and making an appropriation therefor. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to establish a differential taxation system throughout the state that would value land at a different rate than structures on that land. As the committee heard from several experts in taxation and assessment, such a change would require a major overhaul of the current system of taxation in New Hampshire, which values land and buildings as units. Such an overhaul would constitute a major policy decision with considerable cost impacts for municipalities and the state. While the committee voted unanimously to Inexpedient to Legislate the bill, we noted that a land valuation tax system was an idea worth pursuing as it could have the potential to incentivize owners of vacant or derelict buildings to either improve those buildings or sell them to developers should the value of the land they were sited on increase. Under such a system, many properties across the state could see active redevelopment that could lead to much needed new housing, daycare centers, and other priority uses. Members of the Municipal and County Government Committee hope to work with the sponsor in the future to further develop this idea. Vote 18-0.

HB 1531-FN, requiring applicants for games of chance facilities licensees and game operator employer licensees to enter into host community agreements with municipalities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would have prohibited the New Hampshire Lottery Commission from issuing or renewing a gaming license until a finalized host community agreement with the municipality was in place. The committee realizes that games of chance facilities are extremely important to assist in the funding of hundreds of nonprofits and as an important avenue for state revenue. Communities that have established these and State of New Hampshire, licensed facilities receive a substantial amount of property tax revenue. In addition, RSA 287-D:4-a requires those facilities to annually operate a "minimum of 7 but not more than 10 dates for the benefit of the town or city where the game operator employer is located." In the bill's methodology it states that "licenses could expire before agreements are reached, potentially leading to closures of game rooms for unknown periods of time and losses in gaming revenue." Further, "a one-month delay in the license renewal for The Nash (based on September 2025 revenue data) would result in a loss of over \$1.2 million in state revenue." In addition to, the loss of employment for the employees, a decrease to the rooms and meals tax, and a substantial loss of revenue to an established New Hampshire business. The committee feels that any host community agreement would be an unnecessary and unreasonable burden on the games of chance licensees. Vote 18-0.

HB 1649, prohibiting certain tax dollars from being donated to non-profit organizations. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. This bill would have prohibited any city, town, village district, or unincorporated place from appropriating or expending any taxpayer funds, whether through a budget or warrant article, to donate such funds to any non-profit organization. The committee realizes that nonprofit organizations play an important role in providing needed services within our communities. With minimal financial funding provided by towns and cities, the nonprofits are able to deliver services more cheaply than a government run agency. Nonprofits have lower administrative costs, less rigid procurement costs, are able to adapt quickly to changes to local needs and are able to recruit volunteers, apply for grants and receive donations. Presently, citizens of each town or city, through the budget process, have the opportunity to remove funding for any nonprofit they feel is not appropriate. Vote 18-0.

HB 1677, requiring a recommendation by a local budget committee or governing body when including warrant articles with a tax impact in an estimate for raising taxes under a local tax cap. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jim Maggiore for Municipal and County Government. This bill aims to specify that only warrant articles recommended by either the budget committee or the governing body should be considered when determining what counts against the tax cap on the official ballot. Initially, all financial warrant articles must be included in the tax cap calculation as if every article will pass, not just those recommended by the budget committee or governing body. If this bill were enacted, it could allow a community to exclude recommendations on financial warrant articles altogether, resulting in no items counting against the tax cap. Due to these concerns, the committee unanimously voted to recommend this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 18-0.

HB 1711-FN, relative to governmental land uses. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Fracht for Municipal and County Government. This bill makes several changes to RSA 674:54 I-II-b. First, it puts recent court decisions clarifying government land use by "authorized agents, contractors and sub-contractors" of an agency of the state, or any of its political subdivisions, into statute by conferring on them the same status, in regard to local land use regulation, as the state agency for which they work, or are contracted by, or for which their clients receive state funding. Second, a public hearing by the local governing body or planning board on the proposed land use would be changed from optional to required. This increases transparency and encourages public comment. Any recommendation resulting from the hearing

remains non-binding. Third, municipalities would be permitted to request documentation proving that the agent, contractor or sub-contractor is, in fact, acting as an agent of the state or any of its political subdivisions and that it possesses the necessary licenses or certifications to carry out its mission. Other minor changes include changes in the time frame for required notifications and public hearing and re-setting the trigger for the requirements of the RSA from “substantial change of use or new use” to “any change of use or any new use.” This bill puts court decisions into statute and makes the process more transparent by requiring notification and a public hearing prior to any new land use or change in land use by a public agency or its agents, contractors or sub-contractors. Vote 18-0.

HB 1759, relative to the disqualification of a member of a local land use board. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. David Fracht for Municipal and County Government. This bill eliminates a logical inconsistency in the requirements for recusal for a member of a land use board. Currently, if a board member feels that he meets the specific criteria for recusal, he/she must recuse. If other members of the board feel that the member should recuse, for instance due to a conflict of interest, the board currently takes a non-binding vote and the member may, or may not recuse. Under this bill, the vote would be binding. A committee amendment added due process to the original bill providing an opportunity for all parties to present supporting evidence in open session prior to a vote being taken. This bill sets forth a mandatory procedure under which land use board members are required to recuse themselves thus eliminating the possibility of an appeal based on conflict of interest which could cost the municipality many thousands of dollars in legal fees. Furthermore, it provides transparency for both applicants and board members. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0240h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Disqualification of Member. Amend RSA 673:14, II to read as follows:

II. When uncertainty arises as to the application of paragraph I to a board member in particular circumstances, the board shall, upon the request of that member or another member of the board, vote on the question of whether that member should be disqualified. ***Where the member seeks clarification as to whether recusal is required, he or she shall clearly state the circumstances causing uncertainty. The remaining members may ask questions and deliberate prior to voting. Where the member or alternate member believes that another member should recuse himself or herself, that member shall clearly state the facts and present evidence upon which such belief is based. The subject member or alternate member shall have an opportunity for rebuttal and to present evidence. The remaining members may ask questions and deliberate prior to voting.*** Any such request and vote shall be made prior to or at the commencement of any required public hearing. Such a vote shall be ~~[advisory and non-binding]~~ **binding**, and may not be requested by persons other than board members, except as provided by local ordinance or by a procedural rule adopted under RSA 676:1.

HB 1037, extending the commission to study OHRV use in New Hampshire and adding a member from the department of tourism. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Suzanne Vail for Resources, Recreation and Development. In 2022, the NH House of Representatives created the HB 1188 Commission to Study the Use of OHRVs in New Hampshire, as a service to the public and advisory group to the legislature. The commission’s purpose is to conduct a comprehensive review of OHRV use, safety, and stakeholder conflicts, with the goal of identifying common ground among impacted communities, including businesses, landowners, and abutters. The commission files an annual report documenting its findings and recommends legislation to the General Court. Since its creation, the commission has brought together OHRV users and clubs, abutters to trail connectors, conservation advocates, Fish and Game, local and state law enforcement, transportation experts, etc, to develop solutions for issues arising from shared use of forestlands and connecting roads. This bill extends the commission’s expiration date to November 1, 2029, at the request of commission members, to further study OHRV education for adults and to develop strategies to reduce traffic and congestion on shared roadways. The bill also adds a representative from the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development to the commission. Vote 14-0.

HB 1089, extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill, which addresses a critical regulatory gap, enabling the state to prevent unregulated impacts from both large and small water system projects and respond effectively to emerging contamination issues. The bill amends RSA 485-C:26 to authorize the Department of Environmental Services to impose consistent standards and procedures on all new community water system sources, regardless of their size. Contamination from PFAS (“forever chemicals”) has affected thousands of wells and public water supplies, with significant incidents in Merrimack, Londonderry, and other communities. Many residents still lack access to safe drinking water, and new threats continually arise. Naturally occurring toxins such as arsenic, uranium, and radon are prevalent in New Hampshire groundwater, with up to 30% of bedrock

wells exceeding safe arsenic levels and over half of the state at risk for radon contamination. Infrastructure deficiencies and oversight gaps result in approximately 60% of residents relying on private wells, which are not subject to regular testing or regulation, rendering them particularly susceptible to contamination. Vote 14-0.

HB 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill strengthens New Hampshire's ability to protect its waters, public health, and economy. By including cyanobacteria and other harmful algal blooms in the existing Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Study Committee, the state will be better prepared to tackle the complex, interconnected challenges facing its aquatic ecosystems, following the success of this existing committee. The Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Study Committee has effectively supported state efforts to manage invasive species, coordinated with agencies, and recommended best practices. The committee's structure, which includes three state representatives, one senator, NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game Department, the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, NH Lakes Association, NH Rivers Council, Connecticut River Watershed Council, NH Marine Trades Association, Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, and two public members, makes it ideally suited to take on the additional challenge of harmful algal blooms and cyanobacteria without forming a new committee. Vote 13-0.

HB 1397, relative to the notice to abutters for the intent to cut. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Nicholas Bridle for Resources, Recreation and Development. The committee reviewed testimony regarding the proposed requirement for additional abutter notification within the intent-to-cut process. Testimony consistently indicated that the intent-to-cut serves as a tax administration tool rather than a land-use permitting mechanism, and that existing statutes already provide appropriate notice and transparency. The committee also considered testimony describing the practical constraints of timber harvesting, including seasonal timing and operational limitations, and concluded that the bill would add procedural burden without clear public benefit. For these reasons, the committee recommends the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 15-0.

HB 1475-FN, directing the department of energy to study the portion of electric distribution costs attributable to fixed versus usage-based charges. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is no longer necessary. The intent was to have the Department of Energy analyze whether a formal investigation of fixed versus use-based costs for electricity is warranted. After the bill request was signed off, the Public Utilities Commission opened a docket to investigate this very subject, negating the need for this bill. Vote 18-0.

HB 1567, relative to the valuation of telecommunications use of public rights-of-way. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. The past decade has seen several contentious disputes over how to assess utility property for tax purposes. All these past disputes required an assembly of stakeholders into a study commission to hash out an acceptable assessment formula. This bill attempted to place such a formula into statute without engaging other stakeholders, which would be a prescription for lawsuits that would cost cellular telephone users and internet subscribers rate increases to cover potentially substantial legal fees. The committee felt that this process needs a more deliberative and collaborative approach that the bill did not provide. Vote 17-0.

HB 1739-FN, relative to energy infrastructure, economic development, and workforce training for large-scale data facilities. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Harrington for Science, Technology and Energy. There are many things wrong with this bill, but one really stands out. It states there will be a grid modernization agreement that includes a binding agreement between a developer and the Department of Energy and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) that includes cost sharing energy sourcing. There is no provision in law for these state agencies to enter into a binding agreement with anyone on a cost sharing agreement. Vote 18-0.

HB 1743-FN, requiring disclosure of radiation levels emitted by smart meters. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for Science, Technology and Energy. The testimony for this bill revealed that the amount of radiation emitted by smart meters is very small, or the order of a cell phone. It is also not ionizing radiation, which can potentially be harmful. Consequently, the majority of the committee finds this bill unnecessary. Vote 17-1.

HB 1287, adopting the federal definition of "veteran." **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. New Hampshire had one of the strictest definitions for veteran status in the country, and this bill seeks to correct that. No one would argue that an individual that served their country, but was discharged for either violating "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or for not accepting a COVID shot would not be defined as a veteran. Those individuals would now be covered under the expanded definition that would include "General Discharge, under Honorable Conditions" that even the Department of Veterans Affairs accepts as qualifying status for benefits. As such, the committee voted unanimously to support this bill. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0198h)

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

AN ACT relative to special number plates for veterans and eligibility therefore.

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

1 Statutory Construction. Amend RSA 21:50, I(a)(2) to read as follows:

(2) Has been discharged or released from duty in the United States armed forces with:

(A) An honorable discharge; or

(B) An uncharacterized discharge based on a service-connected injury, illness, or disability; or

(C) *A general discharge under honorable conditions.*

2 Special Number Plates for Veterans. Amend RSA 261:87-b, I to read as follows:

I. The director is hereby authorized to issue special number plates to be used on motor vehicles owned by veterans of the United States armed services, in lieu of other number plates. The design of these special plates shall be determined by the commissioner, and shall be distinct from the design or designs of those plates issued under RSA 261:86. Such plates shall be issued to veterans as defined in RSA 21:50, I(a) and veterans discharged or released from duty in the United States armed forces with a general discharge under honorable conditions upon application, proof of veteran status in a form authorized by RSA 21:50, I(b), and payment of the regular motor vehicle registration fee and the \$4 per plate fees under RSA 261:75. [The director shall also issue such plates to any person providing proof of honorable discharge from the armed services of any nation allied with the United States during World War II and proof of such person's service during World War II.] Renewals of such special number plates shall be charged the fee assessed for standard motor vehicles as prescribed under RSA 261:141. The plates furnished pursuant to this section are non-transferable, except that the surviving spouse may use the plates indefinitely after the death of the veteran until the date that the surviving spouse remarries.

3 Eligibility. Amend RSA 261-C:3 to read as follows:

261-C:3 Eligibility. Multi-use veterans decal plates shall be issued only to those veterans defined in RSA 21:50, I[(a)]. Additionally, an individual shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the director of the division of veteran's services that he or she was a member of a specific branch of service or was awarded the medal represented on the requested decal. The plates furnished pursuant to this section are non-transferable except that the surviving spouse may use the plates indefinitely after the death of the veteran until the date that the surviving spouse remarries.

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

2026-0198h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes rules regarding the distribution of special number plates for veterans and eligibility therefore.

HR 21, urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to support the repeal of the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. With the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2025, the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) was repealed. The last remaining authorization from the Global War on Terror is the original 2001 AUMF, and this resolution requests our federal congressional delegation support efforts to repeal it. Osama bin Laden has been dead for over a decade, as well as the leadership structure that supported the attacks of September 11, 2001. The broadly worded 2001 AUMF which was rapidly passed after those attacks, has been used as justification in actions across over 20 countries, and against targets that had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks. With it remaining in effect, it leaves the door open for further military misadventures that could result in future blowback that could be very concerning. Should the time come for specific military action, Congress should put forth a vote for it, not hide behind a quarter-century-old authorization with no sunset provision. Thus, the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment. Vote 16-1.

Amendment (0088h)

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

A RESOLUTION urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to support the repeal of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

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

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force of 2001 (2001 AUMF), Public Law 107-40, passed on September 14, 2001, to authorize military action against those responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and

Whereas, this authorization has been used by multiple administrations over more than 2 decades to justify military operations across numerous countries, far beyond its original intent, resulting in prolonged conflicts often referred to as "forever wars"; and

Whereas, the 2001 AUMF has been cited to authorize military actions in at least 22 countries, despite its original purpose being limited to targeting al-Qaeda and associated forces, and lacks a sunset provision, allowing its indefinite use; and

Whereas, the primary targets of the 2001 AUMF, including al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, killed in 2011, and his successor Ayman al-Zawahiri, killed in 2022, have been eliminated, rendering the original justification for the authorization largely obsolete; and

Whereas, Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution vests Congress with the sole authority to declare war, and the prolonged reliance on outdated AUMFs undermines Congress's constitutional responsibility to deliberate and authorize military actions; and

Whereas, the people of New Hampshire value peace, constitutional governance, and the responsible use of military force, and oppose the perpetuation of open-ended military engagements without regular congressional review and approval; and

Whereas, repealing the 2001 AUMF would reassert Congress' constitutional authority, ensure military actions align with current national security needs, and honor the sacrifices of United States service members by requiring deliberate legislative approval for future conflicts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the New Hampshire house of representatives urges the New Hampshire federal delegation, including Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, and Representatives Christopher Pappas and Maggie Goodlander, to actively support and co-sponsor legislation in Congress to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force of 2001 Public Law 107-40.

That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the house clerk to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

2026-0088h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This resolution urges New Hampshire's congressional delegation to support the repeal of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

HR 32, urging the United States Congress to rescind President Donald Trump's tariffs. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Christal Lloyd for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This measure urges the United States Congress to review the efficacy of relevant tariff policies. The amendment removed the specific mention of the current President and broadened the focus of the resolution to all recent administrations, not just the current one. An economic "emergency" was declared under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) on April 2, 2025, resulting in an immediate 10 percent base tariff on all foreign goods imported and even higher tariffs on specified trading partners. The sudden increase in costs for these goods created a new burden for all granite staters, and particularly for low-income families. The higher costs for imported goods also created extra challenges for New Hampshire businesses. Of particular concern to many of our constituents are subsequent new tensions with our Canadian neighbors, as unlike most states, NH has an international border. Canadian tourism to NH was down 30% last year, thus taking a large toll on the many businesses who depend on visits from our northern friends. Some observers claim that 100,000 New Hampshire jobs are linked to international trade. The committee executive session for this resolution occurred on February 6th – Ronald Reagan's birthday. It was pointed out that the Reagan administration pursued free trade and avoided the protectionism that invited trade wars, using targeted tariffs very sparingly. Our country subsequently enjoyed record economic growth in the 1980s. In the 1990s, the Clinton administration maintained similar trade policies and our nation continued to enjoy record prosperity. It was pointed out that a tariff is a tax, and that import costs are passed on to consumers. One member stated that "taxation is theft." There was bipartisan consensus that light should be shined on this situation. Given economic developments since April 2, 2025, we felt it prudent to raise awareness and encourage multi-level discussion and review of relevant tariff policies, especially as they impact New Hampshire. Vote 15-2.

Amendment (0419h)

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

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to review the efficacy of the tariff policies of earlier presidential administrations, including tariffs implemented during the national emergency declared on April 2, 2025.

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

Whereas, on April 2, 2025, a national emergency was declared pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) which resulted in a 10 percent base tariff on all foreign goods imported from foreign countries into the United States and even higher tariffs on specified trading partners; and

Whereas, low-income American households have been hit hardest by the price increases caused by these tariffs with subsequent price increases on essential goods like food, clothing, electronics, and used vehicles; and

Whereas, economists broadly agree that tariffs are taxes on imports which are passed on to consumers and businesses in the form of higher prices; and

Whereas, recent tariffs have led to higher living costs for New Hampshire residents and higher operating costs for New Hampshire businesses; and

Whereas, Canada is New Hampshire's number one export market, totaling \$1.4 billion in annual goods; and

Whereas, Canadian government officials have said that a tariff on imports from Canada increase costs for New Hampshire residents for goods such as gas, seafood, groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables like blueberries and potatoes, durable goods and house-building materials; and

Whereas, over 100,000 New Hampshire jobs are linked to international trade; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the New Hampshire house of representatives urge the United States Congress to review the efficacy of the 2025 IEEPA State of Emergency declaration as well as the efficacy of tariffs policies of earlier administrations; and

That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the house clerk to the President of the United States; to the President of the United States Senate; to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation; and the New Hampshire state librarian.

2026-0419h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This resolution urges the United States Congress to review the efficacy of the 2025 IEEPA State of Emergency declaration as well as the efficacy of tariff policies of earlier presidential administrations.

HB 1410-FN, creating a new classification for electric vehicles. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. The committee felt there are issues arising from the growing use of electric bikes and other electric micromobility devices. However, crafting legislation is proving difficult given how broad this category is and the wide range of ways these vehicles are used. We felt more time was needed to look into the issue. Vote 16-0.

HB 1466-FN, relative to obtaining a certificate of title for certain trailers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. The committee believes boat trailers over 10 years old present a minimal theft risk, given their highly specific use and relatively low value. As amended, this bill allows voluntary titling for owners who want it. That preserves the option to protect property, while reducing the burden of tracking down paperwork for older, lightly used trailers. Paperwork that too often complicates otherwise straightforward vessel transactions, wasting both the state's time and the time of our constituents. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0382h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Exempted Vehicles. Amend RSA 261:3, I(j) to read as follows:

(j) Trailers with gross weight of less than 3,001 pounds, **and any boat trailer over 3,001 pounds whose manufacturer's model year is over 10 years old;**

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 3:

2 New Paragraph; Certificate of Title; Exempted Vehicle; Voluntary Certificate of Title. Amend RSA 261:3 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. For any vehicle where a certificate of title need not be obtained pursuant to this section, a person may obtain a voluntary title for such vehicle by submitting to the department a previously issued, current or expired New Hampshire certificate of registration, a valid out-of-state certificate of title, an application for a certificate of title, or a current New Hampshire vehicle identification number verification form as prescribed by the director. For the purposes of this section, a temporary registration issued pursuant to RSA 261:57 shall not meet the requirement of a previously issued New Hampshire certificate of registration.

2026-0382h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Adds an exemption from certificate of title requirements for boat trailers over 3,001 pounds if their manufacturer's model year is more than 10 years old.

II. Allows a person who owns a title-exempt vehicle the ability to voluntarily request a title.

HB 1482-FN, authorizing the department of motor vehicles to adopt seasonal tourism-themed license plates. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matthew Pitaro for Transportation. New Hampshire is very proud of its natural features and boasts a thriving tourism industry for all four seasons however the Transportation Committee feels that completely removing the Old Man of the Mountain from our state license plates would be too detrimental to our state's long-standing cultural heritage. Normally, custom plates and custom decals are reserved for non-profit orga-

nizations. Allowing four new distinct plates representing New Hampshire's four seasons will cause confusion and ambiguity with how we convey New Hampshire identity. The current requirement to include our state motto "Live Free or Die" along with the image our fallen man of the mountain remains the preferred method of exposing our shared cultural identity and heritage. Vote 15-0.

HB 1533-FN, relative to the use of electric bicycles and alternative electric micromobility devices. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. The committee felt there are issues arising from the growing use of electric bikes and other electric micromobility devices. However, crafting legislation is proving difficult given how broad this category is and the wide range of ways these vehicles are used. We felt more time was needed to look into the issue. Vote 16-0.

HB 1549, establishing that titles, bills of sale, and identification documents are required only at initial registration or transfer of ownership. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. As amended this bill establishes that a title or bill of sale must be present at initial registration to prove ownership transfer and establish state registration. This is effectively a housekeeping bill that codifies the procedure in use by majority of municipalities by clarifying that you don't need to reestablish ownership each time a registration is renewed if ownership has not changed. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0625h)

Amend RSA 261:148 as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

261:148 Permit Required. No vehicle, except an OHRV, snowmobile or moped, owned or controlled by a resident of this state shall be registered under the provisions of this chapter until the owner or person controlling the same has obtained a permit for registration from the city or town wherein he resides. ***The documentation requirements of paragraphs I through III shall apply only at the time of initial registration of a vehicle in this state or upon transfer of ownership.*** This section shall not apply to vehicles which constitute stock in trade of a manufacturer or of a bona fide dealer. The town or city clerk shall issue such permits to vehicles exempted from registration fees under RSA 261:92 at no charge. If the town or city has adopted the provisions of RSA 231:130-a, no such permit shall be issued unless the town or city clerk's records reveal no outstanding parking violations in this state. No such permit shall be issued unless the owner or person controlling the vehicle presents to the town or city clerk:

I. A current, government-issued photo identification card and a certificate of title, if required by the provisions of this chapter, or application for such certificate of title; or

II. In the case of a vehicle exempted from the title requirements of this chapter, a current, government-issued photo identification card and:

(a) A bill of sale from such previous owner; or

(b) If the previous owner was a dealer in vehicles, a temporary registration certificate or an application for a certificate of title.

III. The bill of sale required by the provisions of paragraph II shall contain the following information:

(a) The date of the sale;

(b) A description of the vehicle including:

(1) Make;

(2) Model;

(3) Vehicle identification number;

(4) Model year;

(5) Year of manufacture;

(6) Type of body; and

(7) Number of cylinders.

(c) Name and address of purchaser; and

(d) Signature and address of seller.

IV. In the case of any vehicle, a certificate of registration to the same owner for a current or previous registration period. The clerk may waive the requirement for a physical copy of the certificate of registration if the clerk has access to the electronic system of record and can verify the information for the current or previous registration period.

V. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require presentation of a certificate of title, bill of sale, or identification documents at annual registration renewal, except where ownership has changed or the vehicle is being registered in the state for the first time.

2026-0625h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits the requirement to present ownership and identification documents to the initial registration or transfer of a vehicle and affirms that prior registration is sufficient for renewal.

HB 1551-FN, relative to permanent vehicle registrations. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matthew Pitaro for Transportation. This bill represents an initial attempt to create and implement a permanent vehicle registration system in New Hampshire. Although in principle the concept of allowing a permanent registration to alleviate the inconvenience of renewing registration annually especially for older vehicles has merit, this bill as presented lacks the consideration in the potential consequence if this bill were to move forward. As an example, much more work would be needed to address the registration system that commercial vehicles conform to. Despite the appeal of being able to pay one large fee for a permanent vehicle registration has broad support, this bill has already shown that actually implementing their option raises too many uncertainties when it comes to choosing which types of vehicle should be eligible, what the cost structure would look like, and what can be forecasted if we were to implement this kind of change. As such, the Transportation Committee unanimously feels that this bill is Inexpedient to Legislate while it lacks supporting research, study, explanation, and empirical data. Vote 15-0.

HB 1560-FN, relative to annual motor vehicle inspection standards and reinstatement. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matthew Coker for Transportation. This bill would bring back annual vehicle inspections in essentially the same form this body voted to repeal by a wide bipartisan margin last year. It includes no meaningful reforms or changes to address the concerns we heard about a program that was burdensome and unfair to the people of this state. Bringing it back would not only reintroduce a costly, bureaucratic process, it would also be confusing and disruptive for our constituents. This body made a decision, it's time to move on to the other issues facing this state. Vote 15-1.

HB 1594-FN, establishing a weight-based tiered registration fee schedule for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Seth Miller for Transportation. The additional fee for electric vehicles is used to offset the gas tax that those owners will not pay. This bill adjusts the fees to make that equitable for smaller, lighter vehicles such as mopeds while still ensuring they are properly registered. Vote 14-1.

Amendment (0322h)

Amend RSA 261:141-C, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. In addition to any other registration fees required under this chapter, the division of motor vehicles shall assess an annual electric vehicle registration fee according to the following schedule:

<u>Vehicle Type</u>	<u>GVWR</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
Battery electric vehicle (BEV)	1-1000 lbs	\$0
Battery electric vehicle (BEV)	1001-3,000 lbs	\$50
Battery electric vehicle (BEV)	3001-8,000 lbs	\$100
Battery electric vehicle (BEV)	Over 8,000 lbs	\$150
Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)	Any weight	\$50

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

HB 1682-FN, relative to registration and road access for low-capacity and low-weight battery-operated vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Seth Miller for Transportation. The key intent of this bill is addressed in HB 1594, which already passed out of committee. We do not need to duplicate those efforts. Vote 15-0.

HB 1698, relative to electronic credentials. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Matthew Pitaro for Transportation. With the passage of HB 2, provisions for the acceptance of electronic credentials were added to RSA 263-A even though the provisions that are now effective include acceptable use and privacy safeguards. This bill adds the additional guardrails that expressively state that acceptance of electronic credentials is not mandatory and that individuals are in no way compelled to display or maintain electronic credentials. The entire Transportation Committee felt that the clarifications that this bill provides are prudent. Vote 15-0.

HB 1703-FN, relative to establishing a registration fee for bicycles and electric bicycles using state or municipally funded bike paths, trails, or roadways. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Thomas Walsh for Transportation. This bill was a first draft attempt to create a user fee for the extensive bike lane and trail infrastructure that is being created similar to OHRV and snowmobile user fees. It was never the intent to require all bicycles on all roads to be registered. The reasoning is that we were asked to raise motor vehicle registration fees last year. We are being asked to raise tolls and a gasoline road toll increase has been suggested to try to close a \$400 million dollar shortage in the Highway Fund for road projects around the state. The Highway Fund is a constitutionally protected restricted fund, (Part Second, Art. 6-a), which is only supposed to be used for projects and expenses directly related to the operation of motor vehicles. Any use of these funds for the creation of other modes of transportation infrastructure is unfair and arguably unconstitutional.

This bill sought to address that unfairness. Thousands of people opposed this bill through online testimony and insulting e-mails sending a clear message that they do not want to help pay for these improvements. The focus now should be making sure not a penny of Highway Fund money is spent on anything not directly related to the operation of motor vehicles. That is, after all, where the money comes from. Vote 16-0.

HB 1090-FN, subjecting certain motor vehicles to meals and rooms taxes. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Spahr for Ways and Means. This bill and amendment addressed “cleaning up” a couple of sections of the meals and rooms tax statutes. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0434h)

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

AN ACT relative to meals and rooms taxes.

Amend the bill by deleting section 2 and renumbering the original sections 3-5 to read as 2-4, respectively.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 3 and 4 with the following:

3 Taxation; Tax on Meals and Rooms; Disposition of Revenue. Amend RSA 78-A:26, II to read as follows:

II. Beginning on July 1, [1999] **2027**, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall pay over all revenue collected pursuant to RSA 78-A:6, [H-a] **III** to the state treasurer for deposit in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39.

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

2026-0434h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill creates a flat tax rate on meals.

HB 1102-FN, increasing the research and development tax credit cap. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mary Murphy for Ways and Means. The research and development tax credit cap has not increased since 2018 and the incentive is significantly oversubscribed every year. The committee’s opinion is that this credit has resulted in businesses reinvesting the credit into hiring and equipment to grow their business, resulting in increased jobs and recurring revenue to the state. Currently, this credit helps mostly small businesses because the grants are \$50,000, but they rarely give out the full amount of the grant due to demand exceeding the total amount of grant money. The cap would be increased to \$100,000 and the total aggregate amount of the tax credit would go from \$7 million to \$10 million. New Hampshire’s research and development tax credit is currently uncompetitive with other states and we need to rectify this if we are to continue to recruit life sciences, technology, and advanced manufacturing companies to our state. Finally, public testimony (in person, written, and online) was overwhelmingly in favor of increasing this tax credit. Vote 19-0.

HB 1293, taxing certain properties owned by charitable or non-profit organizations. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill would amend RSA 72:23 to tax the value and lands of charitable organizations and societies that exceed \$1,000,000 in any municipality and have it be taxable at the municipal rate. A town at an annual meeting, or governing body of a city, may vote to increase the amount of the exemption. If a municipality and the charitable organization or society mutually enter into a written agreement for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes in accordance with RSA 72:23-n, this shall not apply during the duration of the agreement. During the public hearing, we heard testimony from municipalities and the New Hampshire Municipal Association that supported the bill. We also heard testimony from numerous charitable organizations and non-profits that opposed the bill. Based upon the conflicting testimony, the majority of the committee chose to send this to Interim Study. Vote 18-1.

HB 1435-FN, relative to changes to the Winnepesaukee river basin control replacement fund. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Ohm for Ways and Means. The Winnepesaukee basin sewer system currently has a replacement fund balance exceeding \$5 million. Current law requires ratepayers to pay 5% annually of the current replacement cost, currently estimated at \$350 million, resulting in an average residential sewer payment of \$160 per quarter. Bonding is currently being used to fund all major repairs, and the replacement fund is only utilized for liquidity between bonding intervals, not as a sinking fund to replace the entire system over a 20-year period. About \$1 million a year is typically needed from the replacement fund for emergency repairs, and emergency repairs are unlikely to exceed \$5 million. A reduction in the funding rate to 2%, as proposed in the bill, is expected to maintain appropriate funding for emergency repairs and reduce the sewer charge to ratepayers. Vote 19-0.

HB 1474-FN, relative to the formula of distribution of revenue from the meals and rooms tax. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dennis Malloy for Ways and Means. This bill would change the formula for the municipal distribution of 30% of the Rooms, Meals, and Rental tax (RMR). It lowers or eliminates completely the RMR tax payout

to a combined 109 communities in New Hampshire and will increase the property taxes on businesses and residents in the affected communities. Many other towns and cities would enjoy a double-digit percentage revenue increase. Communities, both large and small, that contribute most to the RMR would lose. Two of the largest New Hampshire municipalities will reap \$2 million and \$3 million windfalls, respectively, if this goes into effect. An area of the state where tourism is vital to the economic wellbeing will lose \$3 million. This bill pits our communities against each other, picking winners and losers. Many of the communities that lose out are economic engines for the state, and their losses will damage our economy. Vote 18-1.

HB 1624-FN, relative to the elimination of certain special funds. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Susan Almy for Ways and Means. The annual report for 2025 of the Joint Committee on Dedicated Funds recommended the repeal of three inactive funds. The radiation long-term care responsibility was transferred decades ago to the Seabrook nuclear facility. The mosquito control fund was defunded in 2016 and the responsibility for outbreaks shared between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. The third fund was enacted only in 2021, to work on a monument to the recovery care issue, and someone put in \$1,000, but there has been no further sign of activity or planning for it. The money is being transferred to the alcohol abuse and prevention fund. The amendment simply corrects a wrong reference. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0482h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Balance of New Hampshire Recovery Monument Special Account; Lapse to Alcohol Abuse Prevention Fund. On the effective date of this section, the balance of the New Hampshire recovery monument special account, formerly established in RSA 4:9-p, shall lapse to the alcohol abuse prevention fund established in RSA 176-A:1.

HB 1646-FN, creating an off-site infrastructure improvement tax credit for the value of qualified off-site infrastructure improvements constructed or funded by business organizations that directly benefit the public. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill creates a new credit against the Business Profits Tax (BPT) for the value of qualified off-site infrastructure improvements constructed or funded by business organizations that directly benefit the public. These improvements need municipal approval. The committee believes this bill has merit, however, on the fiscal impact statement, the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) indicated the following: the bill does not define further on what improvements would be considered “qualified” and instructs the DRA to adopt rules to the documentation and verification of eligible improvements and calculation of the credit. The department would not be able to do this without additional legislative guidance as agencies may only make rules to implement and not as a substitute for legislation. The bill does not indicate a taxable period for which the credit could be first claimed. The credit has no caps, so the revenue decrease is indeterminable. Vote 19-0.

HB 1647-LOCAL, relative to the taxation of farm and farm structures. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. James Tierney for Ways and Means. This bill is well intentioned, but needs a lot more parts added to it to make it fair to all the municipalities’ tax payers. Testimony revealed several questions such as: why should a farm house be taxed at less than market value? Why should a farm building be assessed at more than double its replacement cost, as stated in testimony given? Why is the bill making implied changes to current use that may be detrimental to current use and municipal tax bases? These are just some of the unanswered questions as to why the committee voted unanimously for Interim Study. Vote 19-0.

HB 1668-FN, relative to the application of the Internal Revenue Code to provisions of the business profits tax. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill updates the version of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) used for the purposes of the Business Profits Tax (BPT) to the code “as amended” beginning with taxable periods on or after January 1, 2027. This change would make every federal amendment to the IRC applicable to New Hampshire automatically upon adoption (rolling conformity). Currently, New Hampshire is a static conformity state using the IRC in effect on December 31, 2018, subject to adjustments found in RSA 77-A:3-b. The Department of Revenue Administration currently does not have the staffing levels to keep up with the constant changes to the IRC that would occur with going from static conformity to rolling conformity. The department indicated that revenues would decrease by an indeterminable amount. The prime sponsor was willing to kill the bill. Vote 19-0.

TO BE WITHDRAWN

HB 1191, relative to parental notice for non-academic surveys in public schools.

HB 1232, relative to insurance coverage for telemedicine services.

The Speaker referred House Bills numbered 1086 and 1431 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

The Speaker referred House Bill numbered 1093 to the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration. The Speaker referred House Bills numbered 1197, 1444, 1576, 1633, 1730, 1827, 1622, 1523, 1598 and 1466 to the Committee on Finance.

The Speaker referred House Bills numbered 1199 and 1594 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Rep. Faulkner declared a Conflict of Interest on HB 1560-FN and did not participate in the vote on the consent calendar.

REGULAR CALENDAR

HB 1641-FN, relative to petitions for certain orders of protection where the subject of the order is either released on bail or on probation. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.** Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While the intent behind this bill, to streamline processes for protective orders in cases of domestic violence, stalking, and civil restraining matters, may appear beneficial on the surface, it overlooks critical risks to victims. Mandating electronic filing of petitions, except in extraordinary circumstances, reduces options for survivors at a time when they need more avenues to seek safety, not fewer. Electronic filing, while convenient in some contexts, should remain an option rather than the default, as it can expose victims to heightened danger. Survivors of domestic violence often face abusers who exert control through surveillance of their electronic devices. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 97% of U.S. domestic violence programs report that survivors experience technology-facilitated abuse. Specifically, 71% of abusers monitor victims' device activities, and 54% install stalkerware or spyware on phones and computers. Another survey found that 79% of programs report abusers monitoring survivors' social media accounts, and 74% indicate abusers frequently check in via text or calls to track victims. Requiring electronic submission of a petition could inadvertently alert an abuser who is covertly monitoring the victim's phone, computer, or online activity, allowing them to intercept the process before protection is granted. Statistics underscore the peril of this exposure: the most dangerous period for a domestic violence victim is when they attempt to leave the relationship, with a 75% increase in violence upon separation lasting at least two years. Up to 77% of domestic violence-related homicides occur upon separation. The first step toward escape is often seeking a protective order, and if an abuser discovers this attempt through device monitoring, it could precipitate immediate violence, leaving the victim without timely intervention. Some highlight delays in the current paper-driven system and the unbuilt electronic sharing platform funded two years ago. However, these issues can be addressed without compromising victim safety by mandating electronic filing. Improving paper processes, ensuring rapid manual transmission where needed, or providing secure, in-person electronic filing options at courthouses or crisis centers would better serve survivors. Victims deserve systems that prioritize their immediate safety over procedural efficiency that could endanger them further. Vote 12-1.

Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill requires the clerk's office in every circuit and superior court to transmit domestic violence, stalking, and civil restraining orders to prosecutors and probation offices within 24 hours, except weekends, when the defendant is subject to bail or probation. The current system is paper-driven and complex. The resulting delays can lead to defendants who are out on bail or probation, who become the subject of a protective order, to remain free, at risk to their victims, despite violating their bail or probation conditions. It should be noted that two years ago, the legislature authorized the Department of Safety and Judicial Branch to develop and implement a platform that would have enabled electronic sharing of an individual's bail condition status with law enforcement. \$1.7 million was appropriated for this purpose, but the system was never built. Victims of domestic violence and stalking deserve better.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Rhodes moved that **HB 1641-FN**, relative to petitions for certain orders of protection where the subject of the order is either released on bail or on probation, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 287 members having voted in the affirmative, and 48 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1557-FN, modifying the state average expenditure per pupil relative to students in special education. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Education Funding. Currently, the state contributes to very high cost special education students by paying for 80% of costs over 3.5 times the statewide average student cost (roughly \$70,000) and 100% of costs over ten times that average (about \$200,000). Further, if appropriated funds are insufficient, grants will be reduced proportionally. Of the 32,000 students with IEPs, this policy funds the highest cost 900. This bill lowers the cut off so that the state would pay 80% over 1.5 times rather than 3.5 times, and it also removes the possible proportional reductions. It is not known how many thousands of additional students would be covered. The committee received multiple bills on this subject. The majority chose not to advance this particular one, partly due to its unknown main cost and very high administrative cost. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Hope Damon for the **Minority** of Education Funding. Special Education is legally required and critically important. It is well known that the costs per student and per district can vary dramatically and unpredictably. Current statute only provides state Special Education Aid when the student's services exceed 3.5 times the state average cost per pupil. That high threshold means districts must absorb extraordinary costs for services required by law and beneficial for the student. This bill would lower the threshold to 1.5 times the state average or about \$30,000. Further, districts pay the full cost of special education up front and then submit documentation for reimbursement if costs are over the 3.5 times average cost per pupil. Most years, the state does not appropriate enough funds, so the reimbursement amounts are prorated. When the state doesn't provide anticipated special education aid funds, it affects all students as budget trade-offs are required. This bill removes the proration clause from law, increasing predictability for districts and helping stabilize district budgets. To really appreciate how necessary it is to improve state funding of special education, consider this data: 1. more than 31,000 students, about 20%, need special education services; 2. the average cost to educate a student with a disability is nearly \$50,000 per year; 3. in 2024, state and federal funding covered less than 17% of special education costs, leaving districts forced to shift the burden to local property taxpayers to cover 83%; and 4. in 2024, 70 NH school districts spent over 25% of their entire budgets on special education. We have a constitutional obligation to provide an adequate education for all students. This bill is a targeted, practical step to make the existing program work predictably, reliably, and effectively. The minority believes we cannot wait for other proposals that have unknown outcomes in the legislative process. Voters are begging us for property tax relief – it is urgent to provide this special education aid.

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

Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 184 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 184

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie	Bennett, Cindy	Bernardy, JD	Bridle, Nicholas
Bryer, Scott	Mannion, Dennis	Thomas, Douglas	DeSimone, Debra
DeVito, Sayra	Donnelly, Tanya	Drago, Mike	Dunn, Ron
Edwards, Jess	Foote, Charles	Ford, Mary	Guthrie, Joseph
Guzofski, James	Harb, Robert	Janigian, John	Khan, Aboul
Kuttab, Katelyn	Miner, Laurence	Walsh, Lilli	Layon, Erica
Litchfield, Melissa	Love, David	Lundgren, David	Lynn, Bob
Pearson, Mark	McDonnell, Valerie	McGrath, Linda	Melvin, Charles
Milz, David	Nadeau, Brian	Nelson, Jodi	Osborne, Jason
Perez, Kristine	Porcelli, Susan	Potucek, John	Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Pearson, Stephen	Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt	Selby, Donald	Soti, Julius
Summers, James	Sweeney, Joe	Sytek, John	Dolan, Tom
Tudor, Paul	Verville, Kevin	Vose, Michael	MacDonald, Wayne
Weyler, Kenneth	Wilson, Vicki		

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn	DeDe-Poulin, Denise	DeLemus, Susan	DeRoy, Susan
Farrington, Samuel	Granger, Michael	Kaczynski, Thomas	Potenza, Kelley
Hall, Robley	Turcotte, Len	Walker, David	

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret	Grant, George	Hemingway, Wayne	Aron, Judy
Aron, Michael	Rollins, Skip	Smith, Steven	Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 157
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David	St. Clair, Charlie
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Paige, David	McAleer, Chris	Woodcock, Stephen
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CARROLL

Ames, Dick	Berch, Paul	Fox, Dru	Faulkner, Barry
Gruber, James	Jones, Philip	Germana, Nicholas	Newell, Jodi
O'Rorke, Terri	Parshall, Lucius	Weber, Lucy	

CHESHIRE

Almy, Susan	Baldwin, Heather	Bolton, Bill	Cormen, Thomas
Fellows, Sallie	Fracht, David	Hakken-Phillips, Mary	Sullivan, Jared
Lovett, Peter	Lucas, Janet	Muirhead, Russell	Oppel, Thomas
Rockmore, Ellen	Spahr, Terry	Stringham, Jerry	Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra	Bergeron, Dan	Booras, Efstathia	Budathoki, Suraj
Chourasia, Manoj	Chretien, Suzanne	Cornell, Patricia	Darby, Will
Dargie, Paul	DiSilvestro, Linda	Elberger, Susan	Davis, Fred
Foss, Lily	Georges, Mary	Grill, Jessica	Grund, Stephanie
Harriott-Gathright, Linda	Hartnett, Tim	Herbert, Christopher	Jack, Martin
Jeu, Jean	Juris, Louis	Kerwin, Erin	Kluger, Lee Ann
Foxx, Loren	LeClerc, Daniel	Leishman, Peter	Lloyd, Christal
Long, Patrick	Howard, Molly	Murray, Megan	MacKenzie, Mark
Manohar, Sanjeev	McGhee, Kat	Murphy, Nancy	Petrigno, Peter
Plamondon, Marc	Preece, David	Newman, Ray	Raymond, Heather
Rombeau, Catherine	Rung, Rosemarie	Ryan, Linda	Newman, Sue
Salvi, Santosh	Seibert, Christine	Spier, Carry	Staub, Kathy
Swanson, Dale	Telerski, Laura	Tellez, Trinidad	Vail, Suzanne
Veilleux, Daniel	Dolan, William	Thomas, Wendy	Wheeler, Jonah
Wilhelm, Matthew			

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy	Caplan, Tony	Kelly, Eileen	Ebel, Karen
Gallager, Eric	Gibbs, Merryl	Hicks, Matthew	Lane, Connie
Luneau, David	Hall, Muriel	Newsom, James	Payeur, Stephanie
Sargent, Gregory	Schamberg, Thomas	Snodgrass, Jim	Wallner, Mary Jane
Woods, Gary			

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy	Cahill, Michael	de Vries, Erica	Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie	Grote, Jaci	Haskins, Linda	Murray, Kate

Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochele, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1563-FN-LOCAL, relative to the special education aid formula. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. Within New Hampshire, approximately 890 children have disabilities for whom the cost of special education is greater than 3.5 times the average per pupil expenditure, which approximates \$70,000. In recent years, funding appropriations for special education are derived from four primary sources: differentiated aid (\$68 million), special education aid (\$50 million), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)—federal (\$50 million) and the local education agency (LEA) (\$809 million) for an approximate total cost of \$977 million. 85% of special education aid costs are the responsibility of the LEA. In addition, it is very difficult for school districts to plan for these high occurrence costs, as children often move between districts. The IDEA, enacted in 1975, included a commitment to pay 40% of the “excess costs” of special education, but Congress has consistently failed to meet this target. As of 2025 data, federal contributions are at an all-time low, with New Hampshire receiving less than 10%, and most likely 6%. This shortfall has created a massive financial burden on local districts, as stated earlier, it’s unsustainable. A year ago, the amount appropriated for special education aid fell short by \$16 million, resulting in a proration amount of 68%. The Education Funding Committee, along with other groups such as the current Commission to Study the Costs of Special Education, have worked with the Department of Education attempting to gather necessary data supporting needed changes to the state’s current special education aid formula. Data collection information for students with IEPs below the 3.5 times average per pupil expenditure level is not currently available at the state level. This bill, as amended, requires the department to distribute aid to school districts for pupils whose special education costs start at a \$50,000 value, rather than the \$70,000 current level, with graduated percentage state and local financial contribution responsibilities changing at \$60,000 and again at \$200,000. The proposed bill also addresses issues associated with Medicaid, annual COLA adjustments, and much more. This bill recognizes that local districts cannot sustain ever-increasing costs associated with special education aid, as local challenges associated with funding these special education services has resulted in many districts emptying reserve accounts and taking needed funds from vital curriculum accounts. This bill has the unanimous support of the Education Funding Committee. Lastly, it is recognized that to achieve a desired end, the legislature may have to move in incremental steps over the next few years as the department compiles necessary supporting data. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0546h)

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

1 Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18, III to read as follows:

III.(a) The department of education shall distribute aid available under this paragraph as entitlement to such school districts as have a special education pupil for whose costs they are responsible, for whom the costs of special education in the fiscal year [~~exceed 3 and 1/2 times the most current state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution~~] **exceed \$50,000**. If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special education aid in accordance with this section is insufficient therefor, the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally based on entitlement among the districts entitled to a grant, provided that the department of education shall distribute to the school district not less than 80 percent of the district’s entitlement in the fiscal year. ***Beginning July 1, 2029 and each year thereafter the proration percentage distributed to the school district shall be no less than 90 percent of the district’s entitlement in the fiscal year.*** The state may designate up to \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated as required by this paragraph, for each fiscal year, to assist those school districts which, under guidelines established by rules of the state board of education, may qualify for emergency assistance to mitigate the impact of special education costs. The state may designate up to an additional \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated under this paragraph for each fiscal year for any community of 1,000 or fewer residents to mitigate the impact of special education costs when emergency assistance is necessary to prevent significant financial harm to such district or community. Upon application to the commissioner of education, and approval by the commissioner, such funds may be accepted and expended by

school districts in accordance with this chapter; provided, however, that if a school district has received emergency assistance funds for certain children with disabilities, it shall not receive special education aid for those same children with disabilities. If any of the funds designated for emergency assistance under this paragraph are not used for such emergency assistance purposes, the funds shall be used to assist school districts in meeting special education cost increases in their special education programs as provided by this paragraph.

(b) The school district shall be liable for ~~[3 and 1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution]~~ **\$50,000 per pupil plus 90 percent of the additional cost up to \$60,000**, plus 20 percent of the additional cost, up to ~~[10 times the estimated state average expenditure]~~ **\$200,000 per pupil**, ~~[for the school year preceding the year of distribution.]~~ **and 10 percent of the cost above \$200,000 per pupil.**

(c) The department of education shall be liable for **10 percent of the cost per pupil from \$50,000 to \$60,000 and** 80 percent of the cost above ~~[the 3 1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure]~~ **\$60,000** per pupil ~~[for the school year preceding the year of distribution, up to 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution. The department of education shall be liable for all costs in excess of 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution.], up to \$200,000, and 90 percent of the cost above \$200,000.~~

(d) Beginning July 1, 2028 and every year thereafter, the department of education shall adjust formula costs in subparagraphs (a)-(c) with an increase of 2 percent annually.

2 New Paragraph; Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18 by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

XII. A district shall be deemed eligible for special education aid when the costs associated with an individual student, after offsets applied by the district for the benefit of the student and for other available revenue sources, exceed \$50,000 of the expenditure per pupil pursuant to subparagraph III(a).

(a) In calculating costs associated with an individual student, the costs shall be incurred solely as a result of the provision of special education and related services to the student's individual education program pursuant to RSA 186-C:7.

(b) All services included in a claim for special education aid shall be specified and documented in an IEP and tied to the child's disability related needs and program. Such costs shall be necessary, reasonable, directly benefit the student's education and disability needs as outlined in their IEP. The state shall provide funding to school districts to help offset such expenses, but districts shall also be responsible for a portion of the costs.

(c) The district shall demonstrate and document that it has fully accessed, to the maximum extent possible, other available revenue sources, including Medicaid and private insurance, or provide documentation as to why other revenue sources were unavailable to the district for special education aid.

(d) Other available revenue sources, including Medicaid and private insurance, shall be applied by the district as offsets to reimbursable costs for each special education cost reimbursed through special education aid.

(e) A pupil's local education agency (LEA) shall provide documentation on the specific costs being claimed for each student. If there are questions about an LEA's claim and its costs are not documented, the claim may be disqualified. Appropriate documentation is included in the IEP for each student. All services included in the claim shall be specified in the IEP, and tied to the child's disability-related needs and programs. All documentation should connect each cost to the IEP, demonstrating that it is an actual cost of special education specific to the students. Appropriate documentation in support of the IEP may include, but not be limited to, daily schedules, payroll records, and invoices.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2028.

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.

Motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1574-FN, authorizing school districts to extend free and reduced lunch benefits for special education students. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller for the **Majority** of Education Funding. A recent change in our education statutes allows special education students to stay in school until they turn 22, but they would no longer qualify for free or reduced lunch benefits after they age out of the federal USDA lunch program after turning 21 years old. This bill requires that the Department of Education reimburse school districts for those meal funds they can no longer receive from the federal government due to the issue described above. As initially written, this bill had significant technical flaws which would have led to an Inexpedient to Legislate motion, but extensive bipartisan committee work led to an amendment, which finally fixes those language issues. As amended, the bill addresses a clear need in the most fiscally responsible way possible - the actual amount expected to be spent is slightly over \$60,000, making the request for an \$80,000 appropriation is more than sufficient to address these concerns. Vote 17-1.

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill as amended appropriates \$80,000 to pay for meals for fewer than 100 students who age out of the federal meals program. Right now, all the money for meals and the administration of the program come from the federal government. This would initiate state spending in this area. The minority believes this number of students—fewer than one per school district—is too small to effectively start a new state program. The new administrative costs on both sides may constitute a significant fraction of the \$80,000. Not every school problem requires state-level attention. Individual schools are more than capable of dealing with this locally.

Majority Amendment (0632h)

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

AN ACT relative to the extension of free and reduced price breakfast and lunch for students under the age of 22 and making an appropriation therefor.

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

2 New Paragraph; Free and Reduced Meals Expanded for Students Over 21. Amend RSA 189:11-a by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

I-a.(a) Any student who is 21 years of age, enrolled in their resident school district or a chartered public school, and who qualified for the National School Lunch Program or the National School Breakfast Program at age 20 shall remain eligible to receive breakfasts and lunches at rates consistent with applicable federal standards until the earliest of the following occurs:

- (1) The student reaches 22 years of age;
- (2) The student graduates from school;
- (3) The student withdraws from school; or
- (4) The student otherwise completes the student's educational program.

(b) All public school districts and chartered public schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program or the National School Breakfast Program shall be eligible for reimbursement for breakfasts and lunches served to qualifying students at the reimbursement rates established under each applicable federal program by the department of education consistent with this section.

(c) For any meal served to a qualifying student under this paragraph, reimbursement shall first be sought under the applicable federal National School Lunch Program or National School Breakfast Program to the maximum extent permitted by federal law. State reimbursement shall be available only for meals that are not eligible for federal reimbursement. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to permit duplicate reimbursement for the same meal.

(d) The department of education shall include, in its biennial budget and in each subsequent budget submission, a specific request for funding sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this paragraph.

(e) The state board of education may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the administration of extended breakfast and lunch aid under this paragraph.

3 Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated the sum of \$80,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 to the department of education for the purpose of implementing and administering the extended school meal eligibility and reimbursement program established under this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this act the amount not otherwise appropriated.

4 Applicability. RSA 189:11-a as inserted in section 2 of this act shall apply to all eligible students enrolled beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

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

2026-0632h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends breakfast and lunch aid for all students that are the age of 21 who previously qualified for the National School Lunch Program or National School Breakfast Program at the age of 20. The bill also permits participating schools as eligible to receive reimbursements for school breakfasts and lunches that are provided to qualifying students and makes an appropriation for such purpose.

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.

The majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1791-FN-A, directing the department of education to establish a grant program at the post-secondary educational level for individuals with developmental disabilities, and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill creates a new grant program to help colleges support developmentally disabled students. \$100,000 is allocated for the purpose. All colleges comply with the

Americans with Disabilities Act to accommodate disabilities. NH public colleges and universities have detailed internal budgets, but the funding from the state is a lump sum. If the colleges see a benefit in this program, they can include it in their own budgets. The University of New Hampshire previously had a similar program based on federal grants, but decided to drop it. The state funds the colleges in the biennial budget. Revenues in the six months since the budget passed have been poor, and extra funds are not available for this purpose. Vote 10-8. Rep. Wayne Burton for the **Minority** of Education Funding. The bill establishes an inclusive postsecondary and career preparation program for students with developmental disabilities and makes an appropriation. The amendment replaces the original language by paring back the scope of the bill and assigning responsibility to the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH), targeting the largest audience and requiring progress reports to the Public Higher Education Study Committee every six months. The receipt of a high school diploma, while indicative of success at the secondary level, for students on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), this important step does not mean the student is disability-free. Transition programs designed to support students in postsecondary programs are offered in every state in the union, except New Hampshire. This bill would begin rectifying that deficiency by authorizing and funding an Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) and Career Preparation Pilot Program in the CCSNH which now counts approximately 1,000 students in this category over the seven CCSNH campuses. Manchester Community College is typical with one accessibility counselor working with over 250 students, often with multiple diagnoses, including autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, attention deficit and speech and language disorders, and traumatic brain injury. While doing incredible work, they are stretched too thin and have asked for this program. This bill provides students with developmental disabilities support and experience necessary to seek and sustain competitive employment. Some suggest they already have an adequate tool through Title 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. That is profoundly untrue. IPSE programs provide specialized instruction, therapies (speech, occupational, or counseling), individualized goals, accommodations, and assistive technology. Progress is monitored regularly. A 504 Plan provides accommodations only – no support plan.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 187 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 187

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzowski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
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**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rourke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jeudy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie

Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas

Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Payeur, Stephanie
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

HB 1799-FN, relative to required state funding for providing an opportunity for an adequate education. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for the **Majority** of Education Funding. The Department of Education (DOE) states that modifications contained in this bill regarding state funding formula rates and changes to the statewide education property tax grant would result in an increase in state funding to districts of approximately \$600 million in FY27. For charter schools and Education Freedom Accounts, state funding in FY27 would increase by approximately \$75 million. Approximately \$675 million in additional state spending on education programs would come from the Education Trust Fund in FY27 and similar levels of funding would be needed each fiscal year thereafter. It should be noted that the bill would significantly increase education trust fund expenditures beyond anticipated balances in the fund, as well as the state's general fund and revenue stabilization account (rainy day fund). The bill would also establish another adequacy education funding commission with a responsibility to consider a full range of potential revenues that could be realized from state levies on or state revenue sharing from distinct classes of property, income, and enterprise. Income revenue is synonymous to sales or income taxes, of which the State of New Hampshire has wisely rejected in support of our New Hampshire Advantage. On January 7, 2026, this body voted down HB 651, a bill increasing the adequacy base cost to \$7,356.01 per pupil. That bill was inspired by conclusions reached by the court about school funding adequacy and the court's decision to instruct the legislature to spend more. Once again, this bill echoes court findings, which requires the DOE to adjust the base cost of adequacy to \$7,379.56 per pupil. As stated in January, the court needs to stay out of the legislative lane. The legislature, not the courts, holds the constitutional responsibility to determine what constitutes an "adequate education" and how much funding is required. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Dick Ames for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill seeks to conform the state's public school funding system to two new court rulings handed down in 2025 in the *ConVal* and *Rand* cases. When properly funded through appropriate state budget processes in the next budget cycle, or before that if possible, this bill's formula will enable school districts to meet, at an admittedly minimum level, our state-level constitutional school funding obligations, thereby ensuring funding, with other currently available funding streams, sufficient to provide every child with the opportunity for a constitutionally adequate education while also enabling significant, constitutionally mandated local property tax relief across the state. At the core of this bill is the bill's declaration of its commitment to provide and fund, in cooperation with local school districts but without excessive reliance on local property taxes, a constitutionally compliant, high quality, public education system for all of NH's children. To do this, the bill sets new annual per pupil cost factors for determining each municipality's state grant. On average, these new cost factors will increase the state's annual adequacy grants to municipalities for their respective school districts across the state by about 1.7 times the current level of adequacy funding. The bill mandates development of a new system for statewide oversight of disparities in achievement, a system that will require the Commissioner of Education and each school district to establish and implement public school targets and plans for addressing persistent disparities in achievement among student subgroups in the aggregate and within subcategories, including subject matter and relevant grade levels. HB 1799 establishes an Adequate Education Funding Commission to study and identify transition and revenue options other than local property taxes for the full funding of

state grants to public schools for consideration and action by state officials involved in the development of the state budget for fiscal years 2028-2029. The bill also changes the structure of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) to require all SWEPT collecting municipalities to pay 100% of all SWEPT revenue collected to the Department of Revenue Administration for deposit in the state's Education Trust Fund. This bill does not seek to change the amount to be collected by the SWEPT.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 185 - NAYS 159

YEAS - 185

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Pernel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
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Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
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 - 159**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

HB 1803-FN, rendering a recipient of an education tax credit scholarship ineligible to receive education freedom account funds in the same program year. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill is yet another attempt designed to prohibit students from maximizing upon available financial resources in support of school choice. If passed, this bill would render a recipient of an Education Tax Credit scholarship ineligible to receive Education Freedom Account funds in the same program year. Both the Education Tax Credit and the Education Freedom Account programs provide parents and students more of an educational return on their dollar than remaining in a school not delivering and meeting social, emotional, or academic needs. When a student leaves a public school district, the residents no longer pay the local portion of public school tuition for the student. In short, the Education Freedom Account has been a lifeline for thousands of students all around New Hampshire. The Education Tax Credit program, established in 2012, promotes another school choice program that is revenue neutral. The tax credit applies to the business's business enterprise tax or business profits tax liability. Financial support directed to the Children's Scholarship Fund, from businesses receiving tax credits, enables parents of limited means to send their kids to a non-public school, or different public school that agrees to accept them. Currently, a parent may apply to the Children's Scholarship Fund for funds available from both the Education Freedom Account and the Education Tax Credit programs. On average, the Education Freedom Account award is approximately \$4,900 to \$5,300 per pupil and the Education Tax Credit is approximately \$4,911 per pupil and, when combined, accessibility to a non-public school or other alternative choice program is attainable. This bill is squarely aimed at undermining New Hampshire's exceptionally strong and rapidly growing choice programs. Over the years, including the present, the legislature has increased public school spending significantly, but the outcomes remain flat. Up to this point in time, only a small fraction of the public school system student total enrollment has opted for choice; however, for those who have, they are receiving a better return on the dollar that meets their social, emotional, and academic needs. This bill disregards our responsibility to meet the needs of all children, including families and students who don't fit into a one-size-fits-all system. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Sallie Fellows for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill will prevent students from participating in both the Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) and Education Tax Credit (ETC) programs at the same time. The cost for these two programs will be \$56,000,000 this year. The ETC, established 15 years ago, currently has 655 students with an average grant of \$3,400, though some receive over \$5,000. The EFA program has 10,600 students with an average grant of \$4,900. Both programs are administered by the Children's Scholarship Fund. The fiscal analysis for this bill revealed that 95% of ETC recipients also receive EFA grants. Some are receiving more than \$10,000 per year. This two-program double dipping is unfair, and there is no evidence legislators expected this to happen. Limiting students to one program will make room for as many as 1,000 additional ETC recipients. The bill also clarifies the existing requirement that Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) tuition must be paid from EFA grants, not billed separately to the state by VLACS. The VLACS correction is projected to reduce state expenditures by approximately \$900,000 next year.

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

Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 191 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 191

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
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 - 157
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rourke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda

Booras, Efsthathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan

Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, Thomas

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Guthrie, Joseph
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

HB 1826-FN, relative to the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill would amend RSA 198:40-a I-II to update the base cost of an opportunity for an adequate education, along with the three forms of differentiated aid, to the exact figures passed by this body in early 2025, but rejected by the Senate. As the 2026-27 budget settled on different figures for the biennium, and as the revised figures proposed in this bill would not take effect until July 1, 2027, this bill is not timely. The majority believes it is premature to revise these figures for the next biennium at this early date as the committee continues to look at alternative options for funding an adequate education. Final conclusions in this regard deserve to be made in the 2027 legislative budget cycle. Vote 11-7.

Rep. David Luneau for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill increases the state grant to school districts by nearly \$1,000 for every student who receives special education services. While we believe the bill fails to acknowledge the current funding formula is unconstitutional, fails to redefine that formula to reflect real adequacy costs, fails to increase public school funding to meaningful levels, and fails to do so in a way that complies with the state's constitutional requirement to provide all students an adequate public education, it does increase state funding to school districts by \$25 million which reduces the burden on local property taxes by that amount.

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

Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 192 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 192

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

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DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
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 - 157**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, TerriBerch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, LuciusFox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, LucyFaulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi**GRAFTON**Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, EllenBaldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, TerryBolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, JerryCormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alistandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, JonahBeauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, MatthewBergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, WilliamBooras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy**MERRIMACK**Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, GaryCaplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Schamberg, ThomasKelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Snodgrass, JimEbel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Wallner, Mary Jane**ROCKINGHAM**Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, EricCahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Markde Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, GeraldEdgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni**STRAFFORD**Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, AliceBixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, JanetBurton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, ThomasButler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John**SULLIVAN**

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

HB 1831-FN, repealing the education trust fund targeted aid cap. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Keith Erf for the **Majority** of Education Funding. One of the primary goals of the state distribution of school funding is the provision of base level per pupil aid to all students of New Hampshire combined with additional aid targeted to less wealthy communities. The two metrics of measuring wealth in the current budget are equalized property value per pupil and the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch. The equalized property value is a measure of the property tax base of a community. The number of students receiving free and reduced lunch is a measure of poverty in the community. This bill would repeal RSA 198:41, I(e), a provision in last year's FY 26-27 budget bill, which limited the targeted aid component of the annual total education grant to \$3,750 per pupil for any municipality with an average daily membership in residence of more than 5,000 students. The argument in favor of this bill is a claim that this took away about \$10 million

from the total directed to Manchester, that those funds rightfully belong to Manchester, and that they should be restored. This argument ignores a major distortion in the allocation of the state's education funding benefits embedded in the FY 24-25 budget passed in 2023 that spiked funds to Manchester and other cities with large student populations at the expense of many smaller towns around the state, many of which have even less property value per student to tax. Understanding why this limitation came to pass and why it should not be repealed requires some history and explanation of the mechanics of our complex education funding model. In New Hampshire, the education grant for a given municipality is determined by calculating "the per pupil cost of providing the opportunity for an adequate education" (under RSA 198:40-a, I-III), and then adding two forms of targeted aid, the extraordinary needs grant and the fiscal capacity disparity aid (FCDA) grant. In the spring of 2023 House version of the FY 24-25 budget, which began July 1, 2023, FCDA is restored in order to shift more funds toward those municipalities that have a low equalized value of taxable property per pupil. The Senate's version of the FY 24-25 budget, however, stripped out FCDA, introducing the new construct of extraordinary needs grants that is based upon the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch in combination with equalized property value per pupil. This change dramatically realigned the allocation of funds across communities. Over the two school years FY24-FY25, Manchester's per pupil distribution spiked by over 40% while the average of the 35 lowest property value per pupil towns increased by only 7.9%. In 2025, pains were taken in the House's version of the FY 26-27 budget to restore a modest measure of FCDA to our most property poor towns beginning with FY27 so as not to impact local budgeting for the 25-26 school year which was occurring in spring 2025. This was accomplished by capping the FCDA grants, limiting the total FCDA grants to \$13.4 million. This was done, without increasing the total amount dedicated to the targeted aid part of our education funding model, by also capping the extraordinary needs grant to partially draw back on the abnormally high allocation to Manchester. Those provisions were included in the budget as signed by the Governor, together with a provision making up the difference to Manchester from the rainy-day fund for the 26-27 school year giving Manchester more time to adjust to the fairer distribution. With these changes to current law, Manchester's growth in per pupil aid grows by over 54% from FY24-FY27 projected. At the same time, the aid to those 35 communities benefiting from the new FCDA grant grows at an average of only 15.5%. This bill seeks to remove this fairer distribution for school year 27-28 and beyond. This means Manchester's per pupil grant continues to grow at a faster rate than any other communities, thus crowding out distributions to other lower property value per pupil communities. This will only decrease the fairness of the system to target aid to the communities where it is needed most. It should be noted that this increasing disparity is unrelated to the source of revenues coming in to the Education Trust Fund. There will always be a limit to available funding and that means Manchester and other large cities will continue to crowd out more and more funding to smaller communities over time. In summary, this biennium's budget was crafted after careful consideration of all the state's needs. Manchester is projected to receive a total grant of \$125 million in school year 26-27, up 45.8% from the \$86 million they received four years ago. The 35 FCDA communities combined are projected to receive \$219 million, up from \$205 million four years ago, up only 6.7%. If this bill is passed, Manchester will continue receiving growth in aid exceeding that of the lower property value communities year after year, increasing the disparity in aid. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Suzanne Chretien for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill would remove the cap on targeted aid for the Manchester School District, allowing it to receive the full amount of the extraordinary needs grant that every other district is entitled to and receives. In the 2026-27 state budget, this funding was restored by the Senate with the Governor's support but only for this biennium. The cap only applies to school districts with over 5,000 students – and that means Manchester. Only Manchester, which educates nearly 12,000 students, meets that threshold. Every child in NH deserves an adequate education regardless of their zip code. Despite having the greatest student needs in the state, the per pupil cost in Manchester is \$17,733, compared to the state average of \$21,545. Manchester is a city challenged by significant poverty, with over half the students qualifying for free and reduced meals. At least 25% of Manchester students have individualized education plans (IEPs) and receive benefit from special education services, which we know are costly. Additionally, 20% of the students are from families where English is not their primary language, so they need ELL services. Over seventy languages are spoken by students in the Manchester School District. Many students and their families experience housing insecurity. This means the after school programs, provided by the school district to help with homework, keep children off the streets and safe while their working poor parents are on the job, are essential to these children's well-being and success. Without targeted aid, the district simply will not be able to sustain these programs. The committee heard strong support from many stakeholders in Manchester and no one spoke against this bill. Online testimony is 96% in favor of Ought to Pass.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Peternel moved that HB 1831-FN, repealing the education trust fund targeted aid cap, be laid on the table. Rep. Luneau requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 187 - NAYS 158**YEAS - 187****BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Bergeron, Dan
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kenny, Catherine
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
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 - 158 BELKNAP

Nagel, David St. Clair, Charlie

Paige, David McAleer, Chris

Ames, Dick Berch, Paul
Gruber, James Jones, Philip
O'Rorke, Terri Weber, Lucy

Almy, Susan Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie Fracht, David
Lovett, Peter Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen Spahr, Terry

Murray, Alistandra Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul DiSilvestro, Linda
Davis, Fred Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin Jeudy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal Long, Patrick
MacKenzie, Mark Manohar, Sanjeev
Paquette, Kathleen Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie Ryan, Linda
Seibert, Christine Spier, Carry
Telerski, Laura Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William Thomas, Wendy

Bricchi, Tracy Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric Gibbs, Merryl
Luneau, David Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Balboni, Peggy Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark Ward, Gerald

Bay, Luz Bixby, Peter
England, Myles Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy Howland, Allan
Larochele, John Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter Selig, Loren
Wade, Alice Wall, Janet

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

CARROLL

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Fox, Dru Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

Bolton, Bill Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Booras, Efstathia Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia Darby, Will
Dupont, Pierre Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary Grill, Jessica
Hartnett, Tim Herbert, Christopher
Juris, Louis Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel Leishman, Peter
Howard, Molly Murray, Megan
McGhee, Kat Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc Preece, David
Raymond, Heather Rombeau, Catherine
Newman, Sue Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne Veilleux, Daniel
Wheeler, Jonah Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Kelly, Eileen Ebel, Karen
Hicks, Matthew Lane, Connie
Newsom, James Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris Reynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Burton, Wayne Butler, Billie
Gilmore, Gary Howard, Heath
Johnson, Erik LaMontagne, Jessica
Smith, Marjorie Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Damon, Hope Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted.

Rep. Bergeron voted Yea and Intended to vote Nay.

HB 1835-FN, relative to the formula for distribution of aid to school districts. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Walter Spilsbury for the **Majority** of Education Funding. This bill boldly proposes to replace the existing differentiated aid grant to school districts (embedded in the adequacy formula) of \$2,100 for each pupil receiving special education services with a comprehensive requirement that the state "reimburse school districts on a quarterly basis 80 percent of the cost" of all special education services. This commitment would obligate the state to assume nearly \$800 million of the almost \$1 billion currently spent in New Hampshire on such services, with no indication as to where that sum would come from. The committee considered three

bills aimed at increasing the state's share of special education funding and fashioned a more realistic combination of measures into an amendment of HB 1563. With the committee's 18-0 vote to recommend Ought to Pass with Amendment on HB 1563, the majority believes this bill is no longer useful this term. Vote 10-8. Rep. Hope Damon for the **Minority** of Education Funding. This bill would remove special education differentiated aid from the adequacy, charter aid, and Education Freedom Account formulas. Instead, the state Department of Education would receive reimbursement requests from school districts and fund 80% of the cost of services provided to a child with a disability who has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This represents a long overdue restructuring of special education funding and a significant increase in state responsibility. Every school district, whether small or large enrollment, rural or city, has been severely challenged to fund the necessary costs of special education without making compromises that adversely affect all students' education or costing taxpayers exorbitant property taxes. The minority recognizes that other proposed legislation, such as HB 1563, may be a better vehicle for addressing special education funding, but wanted to keep this option available.

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

Motion was adopted.

HB 1467-FN, establishing the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement program. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Valerie McDonnell for Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, would establish a Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement upon high school graduation for high-achieving students in the disciplines of civics and social studies. Qualifying students in participating districts would have the seal affixed to their diploma and noted on their transcript. The committee believes this would be a timely addition to the "More Time on Civics" legislation (SB 216) ratified in 2023. Vote 17-0.

Majority Amendment (0522h)

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

AN ACT relative to the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement program.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement Program. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after section 11-d the following new section:

189:11-e Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement Program.

I. A school board or school administrative unit board may affix the New Hampshire state seal of civic excellence and engagement on a diploma awarded to a student graduating from high school, as defined in RSA 194:23. The seal shall signify a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in civics education and engagement by satisfying the established criteria. The criteria shall include, but is not limited to:

(a) Successful completion of civics education beyond the minimum requirements prescribed by law or adopted locally;

(b) Demonstrated proficiency in civics knowledge, including comparative forms of governance, through a standardized assessment, portfolio of work, or other mastery based assessment as approved by the school board or school administrative unit board; and

(c)(1) Participation in at least one extracurricular activity or project evidencing citizenship and constitutional republican government knowledge attainment as approved by the school board or school administrative unit board; or

(2) Participation in student government activities.

II. The state board of education shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the seal of civic excellence and engagement program in order to assist school boards and school administrative unit boards in the consistent application of this section in recognizing high student proficiency. Such rules shall further articulate the qualification criteria to promote rigor and consistency in application statewide, including comparable expectations for civic engagement activities across districts and clear definition of the civic knowledge and skills to be measured, while allowing multiple locally determined pathways for assessment.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect on July 4, 2026.

2026-0522h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes the required criteria for a high school student to be awarded the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement.

II. Authorizes school boards and school administrative unit boards to award qualifying graduating high school students the distinction of a seal affixed to their diploma and completion of the program referenced on their transcript.

III. Authorizes the state board of education to adopt rules relative to the program.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.
Amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1571-FN-A, requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curriculum and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**
Rep. Kristin Noble for Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, directs the Department of Education to revise the academic standards for math, English, and science beginning in June 2026 and then every 10 years. This would also require a new state assessment to be developed to align to the new standards. This bill also directs the department to provide a recommended list of high-quality instructional materials that would best align to the new academic standards. School districts may choose from the list when purchasing instructional materials, but it will not be required. Vote 16-1.

Amendment (0412h)

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

1 New Paragraph; Educational Content of an Adequate Education; Decennial Revision Required. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a by inserting after paragraph II-a the following new paragraph:

II-b. The statewide academic standards, as defined in RSA 193-E:2-a, VI(b), shall be reviewed for possible revision every 10 years, beginning in June 2026. The department of education shall initiate a revision of these standards, as well as the current science standards, to ensure alignment with high-quality criteria that emphasize rigor, clarity, and relevance. The revised standards shall reflect a coherent progression of knowledge, skills, and competencies across grade levels. The development process shall include meaningful participation by students, parents, and educators, consistent with the intent of RSA 193-C:1, III.

2 New Subparagraph; Educational Content of an Adequate Education; Curriculum and Materials List Added. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, V by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new subparagraphs:

(c) The department shall make available a list of high quality curriculum and instructional materials based upon the revised standards from which school districts may select new curriculum and materials.

(d) The state shall revise the statewide education improvement and assessment program, as established in RSA 193-C, to align with the revised standards developed pursuant to RSA 193-E:2-a, II-b.

3 Appropriation; Revision of Statewide Academic Standards. The sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and the sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, are hereby appropriated to the department of education for the purpose of funding support systems for the development and implementation of revised statewide academic standards pursuant to RSA 193-E:2-a, II-b. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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

2026-0412h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to revise the statewide academic standards decennially beginning in June 2026 and makes an appropriation for such purpose.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.
Amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

HB 1792-FN, prohibiting school districts and personnel from the instruction of critical race theory and LGBTQ+ ideologies in schools as well as establishing a private right of action for violations. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, known as the Charlie Act and named for the late Charlie Kirk, aims to substantially reorient public education towards American ethics, patriotism, and republican government and curb indoctrination into revolutionary, divisive ideologies, critical theories, violations of civil rights law and bias, and violations of the inherent and inalienable right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children. We believe schools should be seeking to promote unity, patriotism, competency, strong work ethic, discipline, and respect. They should not be focusing on values that cause division. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Loren Selig for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. The minority of the committee believes this bill, should be found Inexpedient to Legislate because the bill is vague and potentially unconstitutional, particularly under the First Amendment's free-speech protections and existing state laws that prohibit discrimination and hostile educational environments. Consequently, it could chill educators' ability to

address real issues of discrimination or respond appropriately to student needs. The bill's sweeping prohibition of certain ideas in the classroom raises additional serious constitutional concerns by potentially violating the First Amendment and due process protections, inviting costly litigation and undermining established legal principles. If enacted, the bill would require the Department of Education to provide guidance on compliant instruction and could subject educators to discipline, including possible certification revocation. However, the bill does not provide dedicated funding for enforcement, and its fiscal impact is indeterminable, with potential added costs for legal advisory support and litigation defense.

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

Reps. Coker and Selig spoke against.

Reps. Peternel and Osborne spoke in favor.

Rep. Cornell requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 184 - NAYS 164

YEAS - 184

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph

MacDonald, John

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob

Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
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
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 164**BELKNAP**

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Taylor, Brian

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Vandecasteele, Susan

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica

Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on **HB 1792-FN**, prohibiting school districts and personnel from the instruction of critical race theory and LGBTQ+ ideologies in schools as well as establishing a private right of action for violations. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE ON HB 1792

Representative Coker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate it. So, I rise today to speak against House Bill 1792. I really debated on whether or not I wanted to speak about this, but honestly, I just can't sit there in silence. I just kind of live with that. What disturbs me most about this bill isn't the bill itself, it's the pattern. When one side gains power, it immediately looks for ways to silence the other side, to restrict ideas, and to control what can be discussed; to punish what makes it uncomfortable. We criticized the left when they were doing this, and now we're trying to do this. We used to believe in debate. We used to believe bad ideas should be defeated in the open, not banned, not buried, not outlawed by government force. To my colleagues on this side of the room, I've spoken to many of you privately. You've told me you don't think this is a good bill, but you feel pressure from the party platform. I understand that. But maybe it's time we lead the party when it strays from what normal people, just trying to afford to live their lives, actually want. We were not elected to be mindless robots. We were elected to think. If I could trade my seat in this body to kill this bill, I would do it in a split second, because I believe the principles of free thought are that important. There is no chance, none, that I'm going to replace left woke with right woke, and that's exactly what this bill does. Vote no. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: The House will be in order, and it'd be nice if the House quieted down so we could hear the speakers. Representative Peternel is recognized to speak for the committee report.

Representative Peternel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a speech that I was really hoping I wouldn't have to give. The title of this bill is the Countering Hate and Revolutionary Leftist Indoctrination and Education Act, or the Charlie Act. It was written in honor of Charlie Kirk, a man we saw murdered in cold blood because he dared to speak freely and truthfully. He boldly dared to hold events on college campuses with the express purpose of having open dialogue with fellow citizens who hold opposing viewpoints. He should not have lost his life defending our right to free thought and speech. Unfortunately, this is where our country is, largely due to the progressive leftist ideology that gaslights us with their upside down view of the truth.

Speaker Steven Smith: The member will suspend for a minute. So, I guess what I want to ask is, how long would you like this to take? Because every time there's a disruption in this hallowed chamber, I am going to stop and talk, I don't know, for 15 or 20 seconds. My advice is, if you can't handle hearing things you disagree with, maybe this is not the room for you to be in at the moment. The member will continue.

Representative Peternel: They use words like kindness, love, and tolerance. They claim that hate has no place here. What they mean is, they will be kind, loving, and tolerant if we blindly follow their philosophy. How do I know this? Because I have friends of 30 years who will no longer look me in the eye, avoid me at the sign of peace during mass, yet I am the same person I have always been. But because I have been elected by a particular party with a philosophy that differs from them, because I dare to speak freely, I am treated like I am not a human being. Recently, I had a phone conversation with a teacher, a friend, a friend of almost 30 years. We raised our kids together. We have had many thoughtful conversations, and I tried to remind her of that, but she tossed headlines at me as if to reduce my humanity to the level of the propaganda that she seemed to idolize. When I got off the phone, I was devastated. My thought was that this must be how people felt during the Civil War, when brothers had to fight brothers. The left tells us that we are creating the division, but the division has already been created by the media and the leftist indoctrination in the public schools. While attending a class at Columbia Teachers College, I watched my friend take notes about their prescribed ideology causing division. Having witnessed this from the highest teaching institution, I know that what I say is true. In the words of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, a popular television evangelist from the 1950s, America is suffering not so much from intolerance, which is bigotry, as it is from tolerance, which is indifference to truth and error, and a philosophical nonchalance that has been interpreted as broad-mindedness. Please vote ought to pass on House Bill 1792 and return truth to public education, because this is how we improve our public schools. Mr. Speaker, I request a roll call.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question? The member does not yield. Members are reminded to talk about the bill and never assign motive. It's just words on paper. Discuss those words and their legal impact, what you think will happen, I guess, but not the reason the words were put on the paper. Representative Selig is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Selig: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to HB 1792-FN. If this bill becomes law, it will create expensive lawsuits, not better schools. It opens new avenues to sue school districts and even individual teachers over vague complaints. That means higher legal bills, higher insurance premiums, and more taxpayer money diverted away from classrooms. Local property taxpayers, not the state, would foot the bill. We should be investing in literacy, math support, career pathways, and student services, not attorneys and liability coverage. Second, this bill is simply too vague to follow. Terms like revolutionary leftist indoctrination and LGBTQ ideologies are not clearly defined educational standards. They are political talking points. Teachers and administrators will have no consistent way to determine what is permitted and what is prohibited. That guarantees confusion, uneven enforcement, and fear-based censorship. It invites politically motivated complaints meant to silence legitimate differences of perspectives. Laws should be clear and workable. This one is neither. Let me be plain. Teachers in New Hampshire are not indoctrinating students into Marxism or any other political ideology. As a former teacher, if I could indoctrinate my students, it would have been to shower and show up with their homework. They are teaching students to teach, sorry, teachers are teaching students to think deeply about complex issues, to ask hard questions, to analyze evidence, and to articulate their own ideas. That's not indoctrination. That's education. Strong classrooms encourage inquiry, discussion, and respectful disagreement. They prepare students to be thoughtful citizens, not passive followers. Third, this bill clashes with the school's duties to protect all students. Educators are legally required to stop bullying and harassment and ensure that every student feels safe. When a student is targeted, teachers must respond and affirm that every child deserves equal respect. Under this bill, doing so could expose them to accusations and legal risk, which creates a no-win situation. Fourth, this bill further undermines local control. New Hampshire has long trusted local school boards to oversee curriculum and reflect their community's values. HB 1792-FN micromanages classroom speech from the State House and locks partisan culture war language into statute. We should ask ourselves, would Republicans support a bill censoring conservative viewpoints if Democrats controlled the legislature? Of course not. Neither should Democrats support a bill that goes the other way. Overly partisan provisions have no place in statute, regardless of which party advances them. Finally, this bill weakens honest, old-fashioned education. Real education does not require condemning ideas before students can examine them. It requires teaching students how to compare systems, Marxism and Fascism, Communism and Capitalism, and evaluate their strengths, their weaknesses, their historical consequences. How can clubs function if certain arguments are off limits? How do we foster critical thinking if teachers fear personal lawsuits for facilitating discussion? Our history shows that questioning government policy is not unpatriotic. It's profoundly American. The suffragettes secured women's right to vote because citizens spoke out. The civil rights movement expanded liberty because people challenged unjust laws. We do students a disservice if we teach only our triumphs and hide our failures. A mature democracy studies both, celebrating progress while learning from mistakes. HB 1792-FN does not strengthen education. It invites litigation, spreads confusion, puts educators in jeopardy, undermines local control, and chills the inquiry that makes education meaningful. Our students deserve classrooms where they are taught to think, not what to think. Where informed, respectful dissent is recognized as the cornerstone of American democracy. And thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also ask for a roll call vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Osborne is recognized to speak for the committee report. And to quote the sergeant from Hill Street Blues, "Hey, let's be careful out there."

Representative Osborne: All right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of HB 1792. Let me start with a question. What is the purpose of a public school? Is it to teach children to read, to write, to do math, to understand science and history? Or is it to sort six-year-olds by their skin color and tell them who's the oppressor and who's the victim? Because right now, in schools that you and I fund with our tax dollars, children are being subjected to critical race theory and radical gender ideology, not as mere topics of discussion, but as doctrine, as gospel, as the very price of admission to participation in public education. A self-described liberal parent from the Hillsborough-Deering School District testified before the committee that her son is, I quote, "overwhelmed with sexual content and racial misinformation at his high school." Now, this woman has worked as a sex offender counselor at the New Hampshire State Prison. Her words, "it's obvious to me." Now, when someone who has spent her career identifying predatory behavior tells you that something is wrong in our schools, you listen. And she's not alone. Over 300 people submitted testimony in support of this bill, parents, grandparents, and taxpayers. A gay man from Newton wrote that the woke agenda, his words again, pushed by the education establishment does not speak for him. A couple from Hillsborough said simply, education used to be about reading, writing, and arithmetic. Let's get back to the basics. These aren't culture warriors. These are just parents who want their kids to learn to read and do math. Now, what does this bill actually do? Because we're being told that it bans books, that it silences teachers, that it erases history. Read the bill. HB 1792 prohibits school districts from instructing, not discussing, not mentioning, instructing children in critical race theory and radical gender ideology. It does not ban a single book from a shelf. It does not prevent a teacher from teaching the full unvarnished history of this country, including slavery, including the civil rights movement, including every hard truth that we want our children to learn about. But what it does do is draw a bright line. You cannot use a public school classroom to tell a child that they are inherently racist because of the color of their skin. You cannot use a public school classroom to push sexual ideology on

children whose parents do not consent to it, and if a school district crosses that line, parents have the right to hold them accountable, and that's what the private right of action in this bill does. It gives parents, not bureaucrats, not unions, parents the power to enforce it. Now some are going to call this bill extreme. Now let me tell you what's actually extreme. What's extreme is telling a third grader to rank their racial privilege. What's extreme is a teacher telling a 12-year-old girl that maybe she's actually a boy without her parents' knowledge. What's extreme is spending millions of dollars on DEI consultants, while our kids fall behind in reading and math. That's extreme. This bill is the correction. A former representative of this body said it best in her testimony. She doesn't want New Hampshire to become another Venezuela, a country destroyed by the very ideology that's being smuggled into our children's classrooms under the banner of equity and inclusion, and she's right. When schools stop teaching children to be Americans and start radicalizing them to become activists, we are on a dangerous path. And I'll close with this; the Constitution that we all swore oath to, the First Amendment, it doesn't just protect speech, it protects conscience. No child should be compelled by the state to affirm an ideology that contradicts their own values. No parent should have to choose between a public education and their child's innocence. A vote for the Charlie Act is a vote for parents, a vote for academic excellence, a vote for the basic idea that schools should teach reading, writing, and arithmetic and leave the rest to their families. And a vote against it is to maintain the status quo. And the status quo, unfortunately, is indoctrination. I urge you to support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question? The member does not yield. Representative Cornell requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? That is well seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1792. Representative Balboni is recognized for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Balboni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that the language in HB 1792 is too vague and similar to that of the 2021 Divisive Concepts Law, which the federal court has ruled unconstitutional, and if I value local decision-making and believe that communities, parents, and school boards are best positioned to guide curriculum and instruction, as well as address discrimination and bullying issues, and finally, if I believe in free expression and thoughtful civic discourse, and I am concerned about exposing local taxpayers to potentially costly litigation over due process, First Amendment, and equal protection claims, would I now press the red button to join the 1,271 granite staters who registered their opposition to this bill and allow our teachers to focus on educating and protecting all students while avoiding unnecessary state overreach and legal risk?

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Noble is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Noble: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that public schools should be promoting universal values such as resilience, kindness, and respect, if I know that public schools should be neutral and not tipping the scale in either direction of the political spectrum, if I know that we need to get the culture wars out of the classroom, and if I know that parents have been self-segregating from the public schools for years so that their family values are not undermined, and that is a fact, would I then press the green button?

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass on House Bill 1792. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 184 in the affirmative, 164 in the negative. The committee report is adopted, and House Bill 1792 is referred to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1083-FN, requiring the disclosure of the source of certain political donations in state elections. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Clayton Wood for the **Majority** of Election Law. By requiring disclosure of the "original sources" of funds for independent expenditures, the bill would create additional administrative complexity and enforcement burdens for both regulated entities and the Secretary of State. Current campaign finance laws already impose robust disclosure requirements, and expanding them in this manner risks unintended consequences without clear evidence that it would meaningfully enhance transparency or public trust. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Russell Muirhead for the **Minority** of Election Law. Transparency is the heart of combating political corruption. Citizens need to know who is contributing to campaigns to understand the influence that weigh on elected officials. When no one can tell where political donations come from, big money can corrupt democracy. This bill would require any organization that makes huge contributions to statewide elections to show citizens where the money comes from. It does not cap or regulate donations – it only imposes the basic requirement of transparency. More specifically, this bill would require that any person or entity that contributes more than \$500,000 to a governor's race or more than \$50,000 to a campaign for state house, state senate or executive council to disclose the names of those whose donations constitute the original sources of the funds. Voters deserve to know who is paying for their elections and who is trying to influence their elected officials. For that reason, the minority opposes Inexpedient to Legislate.

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

Rep. Wood spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 188 - NAYS 161**YEAS - 188
BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Horrigan, Timothy
Turcotte, Len

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 161 BELKNAP

Nagel, David St. Clair, Charlie

Paige, David McAleer, Chris

Ames, Dick Berch, Paul
Gruber, James Jones, Philip
O'Rorke, Terri Parshall, Lucius

Almy, Susan Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie Fracht, David
Lovett, Peter Lucas, Janet
Rockmore, Ellen Spahr, Terry

Murray, Alistandra Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will Dargie, Paul
Davis, Fred Foss, Lily
Grund, Stephanie Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin Jeudy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann Foxx, Loren
Leishman, Peter Lloyd, Christal
Murray, Megan MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy Panek, Sandra
Preece, David Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie Ryan, Linda
Seibert, Christine Spier, Carry
Telerski, Laura Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William Thomas, Wendy

Bricchi, Tracy Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric Gibbs, Merryl
Luneau, David Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane Woods, Gary

Balboni, Peggy Cahill, Michael
Gilman, Julie Grote, Jaci
Knab, Allison Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric Vallone, Mark
Wilson, Vicki

Bay, Luz Bixby, Peter
England, Myles Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan Johnson, Erik
Levesque, Cassandra Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Sullivan, Brian Cloutier, John
Palmer, William

CARROLL

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Fox, Dru Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Bolton, Bill Corman, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, Jerry Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Bergeron, Dan Booras, Efstathia
Chretien, Suzanne Cornell, Patricia
DiSilvestro, Linda Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary Grill, Jessica
Hartnett, Tim Herbert, Christopher
Juris, Louis Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole LeClerc, Daniel
Long, Patrick Howard, Molly
Manohar, Sanjeev McGhee, Kat
Petrigno, Peter Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather Rombeau, Catherine
Newman, Sue Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne Veilleux, Daniel
Wheeler, Jonah Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Kelly, Eileen Ebel, Karen
Hicks, Matthew Lane, Connie
Newsom, James Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

de Vries, Erica Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda Murray, Kate
Maggiore, Jim Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Burton, Wayne Butler, Billie
Gilmore, Gary Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth Schmidt, Peter
Stone, John Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Damon, Hope Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1600-FN, requiring the division of motor vehicles to make available the opportunity to register to vote at the time of application for or renewal of a drivers license or nondrivers identification card. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. As amended, this bill codifies a long-sought agreement between the Secretary of State and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the sharing of information that will ease the voter registration process while robustly protecting election integrity. The amendment eliminates voter registration at the DMV from the bill and instead allows town clerks to query a database to confirm information that a prospective voter has already provided to the DMV, such as proof of citizenship. The Secretary of State and

the DMV are currently operating under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that allows either party to withdraw with 60 days' notice. This bill would remove the ability of either party to withdraw, ensuring that the information-sharing process remains in place and protected for the future. A bipartisan group of committee leaders intends to bring a floor amendment to address an unfunded mandate concern. As drafted, the bill requires that the system be available at all polling locations. During committee discussion, members agreed that while this may be desirable, it is not feasible in certain locations. The forthcoming amendment will remove that requirement for polling places while maintaining the requirement at town clerk offices, which merely means having internet access, something every town clerk already maintains. Vote 16-0.

Amendment (0626h)

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

AN ACT relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days.

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

1 Department of State; Centralized Voter Registration Records. Amend RSA 654:12, VI to read as follows:

VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in accordance with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity to the city and town clerks. The secretary of state ~~[shall work with]~~ **and** the city and town clerks ~~[to ensure access on election day at the polling location]~~ **shall ensure that each polling place in the state has direct electronic access to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place.** If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that qualification. Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

2 Centralized Voter Registration Database. Amend RSA 654:45 to read as follows:

654:45 Centralized Voter Registration Database.

I.(a) The secretary of state ~~[is authorized to]~~ **shall** plan, develop, equip, establish, site, and maintain a statewide centralized voter registration database and communications system, hereinafter referred to as the voter database, connecting users throughout the state. The voter database shall include the current information on the voter registration forms, the accepted absentee ballot applications, the voter checklists, and voter actions as recorded on the marked checklist maintained by each city, ward, and town in the state. The database shall maintain addresses in accordance with United States Postal Service standardized addresses as described in the current USPS Publication 28.

(b) The secretary of state shall provide for a verification process that voters sharing a place and date of birth, along with a substantially similar name to include nicknames or likely maiden/married name changes, are unique voters. Should any voter appear to be a duplicate, that information shall be forwarded to the supervisors of the checklist of the cities or towns involved for review and confirmation. The supervisor of the checklist shall notify the secretary of state of the result of such review, and should the records show that a single individual may have voted more than once in any election such information shall be forwarded to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution.

II. Any election official in the state authorized by this chapter to have direct access to the voter database may obtain immediate electronic access to the information contained in the voter database related to individuals registered or registering to vote in the election official's jurisdiction. The office of the clerk is hereby designated as a database access point for each town or city. The secretary of state may authorize additional database access points in a town or city, **and shall provide direct electronic access at each polling place in the state on election day for all local, state, and federal elections** ~~[including election day access points at polling places]~~.

III. The voter database shall, upon certification by the secretary of state, be the official record of eligible voters for the conduct of all elections held in this state.

IV.(a) The voter database shall have the following minimum components:

(1) An electronic communications system that provides access for election officials from at least one point in each city and town within the state **during each calendar year and for direct electronic access at each polling place in the state on election day for all local, state, and federal elections.**

(2) An interactive computer program allowing local election officials access to records contained in the database with a process to add, delete, modify, or print a voter registration record related to the election official's jurisdiction. The system shall be designed so that there can be regular updates to the database, the records reflect the name of each registered voter with no duplication, and the names of ineligible voters are removed. The system shall contain safeguards to ensure that the names of properly registered voters are not removed in error.

(b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of the department of safety and the federal Social Security Administration as are required by law, and with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this purpose the voter registration record

database ~~[may]~~ **shall** be linked to the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency or division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the accuracy of the information to be entered or contained in the voter database. The link authorized by this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles; provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall ~~[authorize]~~ **provide, via a secure electronic transmission,** the release of information from the voter database necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II. The commissioner of safety ~~[may authorize the release of]~~ **shall provide, via a secure electronic transmission,** information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records to the extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies or to complete voter registration. The commissioner of safety and the secretary of state ~~[are authorized to]~~ **shall** enter into an agreement that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those services. ~~[The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to pay the cost for the services.]~~ The system shall facilitate the completion, identification, and correction of voter registration records, including but not limited to when a registered voter has died or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the same individual to the department of safety or to verify citizenship for voter registration.

(c) Access by local election officials to the voter database shall be limited to the supervisors of the checklist, city registrars and deputy registrars, and town or city clerks and their deputies, as determined by the secretary of state. Access by local election officials shall be subject to the limitations of paragraph VI, and shall be limited to the records of individuals who are currently registered to vote in the official's jurisdiction and individuals who are applying to register to vote in the official's jurisdiction.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2022, the secretary of state shall, no less than annually, cause voter records to be checked with the United States Postal Service for changes of address. All records identified as moving shall be provided to the city or town supervisors of the checklist for verification pursuant to RSA 654:39, III.

V. The secretary of state shall:

(a) Specify the employees of the department of state authorized to access records contained in the voter database, subject to the limitations of paragraph VI.

(b) Provide adequate technological security measures to deter unauthorized access to the records contained in the voter database.

(c) Issue guidelines to implement the voter database.

VI. The voter database shall be private and confidential and shall not be subject to RSA 91-A and RSA 654:31, nor shall it or any of the information contained therein be disclosed pursuant to a subpoena or civil litigation discovery request. The secretary of state is authorized to provide voter database record data to the administrative office of the courts to assist in the preparation of master jury lists pursuant to RSA 500-A and to the clerk of the District Court of the United States for the District of New Hampshire to assist in the preparation of federal court jury lists. The voter checklist for a town or city shall be available pursuant to RSA 654:31. Any person who discloses information from the voter database in any manner not authorized by this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

VII. The city and town clerk shall enter, maintain, and keep up to date election official contact information and polling place information as determined by the secretary of state in the statewide centralized voter registration database for use by the secretary of state in effecting election laws.

VIII.(a) The secretary of state may enter into an agreement to share voter information or data from the statewide centralized voter registration database for the purpose of comparing duplicate voter information with other states or groups of states. The secretary of state shall only provide information that is necessary for matching duplicate voter information with other states and shall take precautions to make sure that information in the database is secure in a manner consistent with RSA 654:45, VI. The secretary of state ~~[may]~~ **shall** solicit input from the department of safety and the department of information technology and shall ensure that any information or data shared between the agencies that is of a confidential nature remains confidential.

(b) The secretary of state shall investigate any duplicate matches of voters resulting from any comparisons of the statewide centralized voter registration database with other states. If the investigation results in the inability to confirm the eligibility of a person or persons who voted, or there is reason to believe a person or persons voted who were not eligible, the secretary of state shall forward the results to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution.

(c) Upon completion of any investigation authorized under RSA 654:45, VIII(b), the attorney general and the secretary of state shall forward a report summarizing the results of the investigation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, ***the minority leaders of the house of representatives and the senate***, and the chairpersons of the appropriate house and senate standing committees with jurisdiction over election law.

IX. [Repealed.]

3 New Paragraph; Motor Vehicles; Records and Certification. Amend RSA 260:14 by inserting after paragraph III-e the following new paragraph:

III-f. Motor vehicle records relevant to voter registration shall be provided to the secretary of state pursuant to RSA 654:45. These records may be further transferred by the secretary of state or otherwise made available by the secretary of state to city or town clerks, supervisors of the checklist, or other election officials for purposes of voter registration.

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

2026-0626h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the secretary of state, town, and city clerks to ensure that each polling place in the state has direct electronic access to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place.

The question being adoption of committee the amendment.
Amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Lane offered floor amendment (0771h).

Floor Amendment (0771h)

Amend RSA 654:12, VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in accordance with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity to the city and town clerks. The secretary of state shall work with the city and town clerks to ensure access on election day at the polling location ***to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place***. If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that qualification. Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

Amend RSA 654:45, II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Any election official in the state authorized by this chapter to have direct access to the voter database may obtain immediate electronic access to the information contained in the voter database related to individuals registered or registering to vote in the election official's jurisdiction. The office of the clerk is hereby designated as a database access point for each town or city. The secretary of state may authorize additional database access points in a town or city, including election day access points at polling places ***during the operational hours of the polling place***.

Amend RSA 654:45, IV(a)(1) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(1) An electronic communications system that provides access for election officials from at least one point in each city and town within the state.

Amend RSA 654:45, VIII(c) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) Upon completion of any investigation authorized under RSA 654:45, VIII(b), the attorney general and the secretary of state shall forward a report summarizing the results of the investigation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, ***the majority and minority leaders of the house of representatives and the senate***, and the chairpersons of the appropriate house and senate standing committees with jurisdiction over election law.

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 30, 2026.

2026-0771h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the secretary of state, town, and city clerks to ensure that each polling place in the state has direct electronic access to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0771h)
Rep. Berry spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0771h) was adopted.

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

HB 1627-FN, creating a single primary ballot. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James Guzofski for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill replaces New Hampshire's existing party-based primary system for state and congressional elections with a single primary ballot allowing all registered voters to vote for any candidate, regardless of party affiliation. The committee found that the proposal represents a fundamental restructuring of the state's primary election process without evidence of a demonstrated failure in the current system. The majority expressed concern that the bill would significantly alter long-standing election administration practices, introduce substantial operational complexity for election officials, and require extensive voter education to prevent confusion. The committee further noted that the bill eliminates party nomination mechanisms that have historically structured and administered primary elections in New Hampshire. The majority also considered the fiscal note, which identifies substantial and ongoing implementation and voter education costs, without any accompanying appropriation or clear demonstration that such expenditures are necessary to address an existing problem. For these reasons, the majority recommends that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 14-2.

Rep. Russell Muirhead for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill would replace partisan primaries with a single ballot non-partisan primary. Currently, voters can only vote for one party's candidates when they vote in primary elections. Yet many voters – over 40 percent of whom register as unaffiliated with any party – would like to vote for one party's candidate in one race (the governor's race, for instance) while voting for another party's candidate in another race (for U.S. Senate, for instance). Voters pay for the administration of elections – not parties. Therefore voters should be able to vote for any candidate they most support. That is the principle of democracy, and that is the principle behind this bill.

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

HB 1838-FN, establishing a voter-owned elections fund and commission and raising vehicle registration fees. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Robert Wherry for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill proposes establishing a voter-owned elections fund and commission and increasing vehicle registration fees, with the additional revenue directed to the voter-owned elections fund. The Election Law Committee identified concerns regarding the proposed increase in vehicle registration fees, the creation of an additional commission separate from the Ballot Law Commission, and the bill's enforcement mechanism. The fiscal note exceeded \$1,000,000, and this projected cost, combined with the other identified concerns, led the majority of the committee to conclude that the bill should be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 10-7.

Rep. Russell Muirhead for the **Minority** of Election Law. Campaigns cost money, and someone is going to pay for them – that "someone" is usually a corporation or organized interest groups that demand our laws are shaped in ways they want. Corporations and interest groups that pay for campaigns are not irrational: they expect a return on their investment. And they get it. Meanwhile, the cost of campaigns makes it difficult, even impossible, for citizens who cannot pick up the phone and collect hundreds of thousands of dollars from vested interests and wealthy friends to run a viable campaign for statewide offices like Executive Council. This bill rectifies that by creating a voter-owned election fund – a fund owned by voters instead of big money. The fund would be established by a \$1.00 fee on motor vehicle registrations (and a \$5.00 fee on vanity plates). Each voter would be given four \$25 certificates they can contribute to any qualified candidate for Executive Council. Candidates "qualify" for voter-owned funds by collecting 500 unique contributions of \$5.00 to \$125. That is not easy. But it creates a path for salt-of-the-earth citizens who know their neighbors, who volunteer for everything, who give more than they get, to run a viable campaign and serve the public – even if they are not plugged into big money. As things are, the donor class dominates our democracy. The way to solve that is to make every voter a donor. That's what this bill would do.

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

HB 1457-FN, relative to natural organic reduction of human remains. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill allows for the natural organic reduction of human remains and provides regulation for the practice. The bill is based on the statute for cremation since both processes involve changing the form of the deceased body and, currently, 80% of deceased in New Hampshire are cremated. The bill also addresses the requirement for the facility. The bill as amended addresses unclaimed remains, the need for a "natural organic reduction" certificate similar to the cremation certificate and clarify the "disposition container" questions that were raised during the hearing. The majority of the committee considered this bill an option for disposition of human remains upon death. Vote 10-4.

Rep. Stephen Pearson for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is flawed, it is based on the current cremation statute. This process is very different from cremation, it is a 4 to 8 week process of composting a human corpse into a composted byproduct. Major concerns are: disease control regarding the by-product, water and air contamination, with PFAS, organic pathogens and other contaminants remaining in the composted remains. The composted remains are not approved for use in human food production. Other considerations are transportation, disposition, and retrieval issues, and it could be impractical as a form of disposition during an epidemic or pandemic.

Majority Amendment (0560h)

Amend RSA 325-B:1, III as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. "Disposition container" means a container in which human remains are placed and means a container made of wood, wicker, grass, cardboard, or other biodegradable container, or a shroud made of cotton, linen, wool, hemp or other biodegradable or plant material.

Amend RSA 325-B:1, XIV as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

XIV. "Natural organic reduction certificate" is a document created by the NOR facility certifying NOR has been completed on a specified deceased person.

Amend RSA 325-B:22, I as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Insofar as is possible, upon completion of the NOR, all of the recoverable reduced remains of the NOR shall be removed from the NOR chamber and any foreign matter or anything other than bone fragments shall be removed from such residue and shall be disposed of by the NOR authority. The remaining bone fragments shall be processed by pulverization so as to reduce the fragments to unidentifiable particles. This paragraph shall not apply when the commingling of human remains during NOR is otherwise authorized by law. The presence of incidental and unavoidable residue in the NOR chamber from a prior NOR is not a violation of this paragraph.

Amend RSA 325-B:22, IV as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. Some or all of the reduced remains shall be delivered or released by the NOR authority to the representative specified by the authorizing agent on the NOR authorization form. The owner of the NOR authority or his or her representative and the party receiving the reduced remains shall sign a NOR receipt form. The form shall include the name of the deceased, the date, time, and place of receipt of the reduced remains, and the signatures of the NOR authority or his or her representative and the authorizing agent or his or her representative. Upon delivery, the reduced remains may be further transported within this state in any manner without a permit.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

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

On a division vote, with 301 members having voted in the affirmative, and 48 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1458-FN, relative to the licensing of massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Erica Layon for the **Majority** of Executive Departments and Administration. As introduced, this bill attempted a light approach to establishments which delivered an expected \$600,000 per biennium cost. As amended, this bill provides the tools necessary for law enforcement to identify the people responsible for human trafficking and/or money laundering in facilities which appear to offer massage or bodywork but instead make their profits from exploiting vulnerable women. By defining a massage or bodywork establishment as an independent location with more than one professional working, this bill does not interfere with sole proprietors and allows massage therapy to continue within chiropractic offices, residential living facilities, and even popups in the grocery store. As amended, the bill will require the person or people responsible for operating a 13 FEBRUARY 2026 HOUSE RECORD 33 facility offering massage or bodywork services to be licensed in the practice and to obtain a proprietor license after providing their social security number or taxpayer ID number and passing a state police background check for sexual crimes, kidnapping, and human trafficking. Inspections will operate under the existing power of the office of professional licensing. By focusing on ensuring that all establishments are operated by identifiable individuals, this bill provides a cost-effective way to empower law enforcement to prosecute human traffickers and provides a tangible pathway to prevent people with convictions for sex crimes or interference with freedom from opening these facilities in our state at an expected cost in line with existing professional licensing fees. Vote 9-5.

Rep. Heath Howard for the **Minority** of Executive Departments and Administration. The committee heard two bills related to massage establishment licensure with extreme similarities. The minority of the committee favors the other bill, but believes that the overlapping language and changes to the same statute could lead to problems if both pieces of legislation are passed. By going through interim study, we will have additional

time to learn if the other bill is sufficient in addressing the issues raised during the hearings and it gives us time to reassess how to write language that better incorporates this bill into the language of the other bill. Both pieces of legislation are well intended and seek to solve the real problem of human trafficking, but we cannot let potentially overlapping language leave a gap.

Majority Amendment (0638h)

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

AN ACT relative to the licensing of massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities.

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

1 New Paragraphs; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. Amend RSA 328-B:2 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraphs:

VI-a. "Massage establishment" means a commercial location where massage is advertised, and where massage is performed by more than one person. "Massage establishment" does not include locations where massage is offered as an adjunct to medical care in a location or facility operated by licensed healthcare professionals operating within their scope of practice, temporary and incidental massage offered in the open in public accommodations, or other exceptions as permitted by rules.

VI-b. "Massage establishment proprietor" means the person operating a massage establishment, specifically a person responsible for the lease or ownership of the massage establishment, daily operations, and hiring or contracting with massage therapists practicing within the establishment. "Massage establishment proprietor" does not include a property owner not involved in business operations. A proprietor shall ensure that they and all massage therapists employed or contracted for by the establishment hold a massage therapy license.

2 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Prohibited Acts. RSA 328-B:3, II is repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:

II. Act as a massage establishment proprietor without holding the proprietor license and a massage therapy license issued pursuant to this chapter.

3 New Subparagraphs; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-B:4, VII by inserting after subparagraph (l) the following new subparagraphs:

(m) Exemptions from the definition of massage establishment which maintain the intention to require a proprietor license only for those locations where there are multiple massage therapists working in a location where there is no other oversight or visibility to the public or passersby. The board shall recommend an exemption to the definition of massage establishment to permit occasional assistance by another licensed massage therapist.

(n) The qualifications for a massage establishment proprietor including verification of identity through provision of a social security number or tax identification number and no prior convictions under RSA 633, RSA 632-A, RSA 645:2, RSA 649-A or similar laws in other states, as verified by a background check conducted by the department of safety, division of state police.

4 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Advisory Board of Massage Therapists. Amend RSA 328-B:5 to read as follows:

328-B:5 Advisory Board of Massage Therapists.

The executive director shall establish the advisory board of massage therapists. The board shall consist of 3 massage therapists who are licensees in the state of New Hampshire. The members shall be appointed for 3 years, staggered so that the term of one member expires each year, and they shall hold office until successors are appointed~~[- and shall serve on the board without any compensation]~~. In no event shall a member serve more than 2 full consecutive terms. The board shall:

I. Review the qualifications of applicants for licenses.

II. Review the qualifications of individuals desiring to conduct massage workshops or seminars who are not licensed in this state.

III. Review the continuing education programs for licensees.

IV. ***Review the exemptions to the definition of massage establishments and qualifications for a massage establishment proprietor license.***

V. Advise the executive director regarding the implementation of this chapter.

5 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; License Renewal. Amend RSA 328-B:7 to read as follows:

328-B:7 License Renewal. All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire ***in accordance with RSA 310:8*** ~~[on the last day of the birth month of the licensee in the even-numbered year, upon approval of the executive director of the renewal application and submission of the required renewal fee.]~~.

6 New Paragraph; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Definitions. Amend RSA 328-H:2 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. "Bodywork establishment" means a commercial location where reflexology, structural integration, and/or Asian bodywork therapy is advertised, and where it is practiced by more than one person. "Bodywork

establishment” does not include locations where bodywork is offered as an adjunct to medical care in a location or facility operated by licensed healthcare professionals operating within their scope of practice, temporary and incidental bodywork offered in the open in public accommodations, or other exceptions as permitted by rules.

7 New Paragraph; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Definitions. Amend RSA 328-H:2 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. “Proprietor” means the person operating an establishment at a specific location which offers services licensed under this chapter by 2 or more practitioners. “Proprietor” shall include a person responsible for the lease or ownership of the establishment, and the hiring or contracting with practitioners operating within the establishment. A “proprietor” shall not include a property owner not involved in business operations. A proprietor shall ensure that they and all bodywork practitioners employed or contracted for by the establishment hold a practitioner license.

8 New Paragraph; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Prohibited Acts. Amend RSA 328-H:4 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. Operate a bodywork establishment without holding a proprietor license and practitioner license issued pursuant to this chapter.

9 New Subparagraphs; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-H:5, VIII by inserting after subparagraph (l) the following new subparagraphs:

(m) Exemptions from the definition of bodywork establishment which maintain the intention to require a proprietor license only for those locations where there are multiple practitioners working in a location where there is no other oversight or visibility to the public or passersby. The board shall recommend an exemption to the definition of bodywork establishment to permit occasional assistance by another licensed practitioner.

(n) The qualifications for a bodywork establishment proprietor including verification of identity through provision of a social security number or tax identification number and no prior convictions under RSA 633, RSA 632-A, RSA 645:2, RSA 649-A or similar laws in other states, as verified by a background check conducted by the department of safety, division of state police.

10 Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Renewal of Practitioner License. RSA 328-H:9 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

328-H:9 Renewal of License. All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire in accordance with RSA 310:8.

11 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 2, 2027.

2026-0638h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a licensure requirement to operate massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities and establishes standards for the operation of such facilities.

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. Layon offered floor amendment (0833h).

Floor Amendment (0833h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. RSA 328-B:2, VII is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

VII. “Massage establishment” means a commercial location where massage is advertised, and where massage is performed by more than one person. “Massage establishment” does not include locations where massage is offered as an adjunct to medical care in a location or facility operated by licensed healthcare professionals operating within their scope of practice, temporary and incidental massage offered in the open in public accommodations, or other exceptions as permitted by rules.

VII-a. “Massage establishment proprietor” means the person operating a massage establishment, specifically a person responsible for the lease or ownership of the massage establishment, daily operations, and hiring or contracting with massage therapists practicing within the establishment. “Massage establishment proprietor” does not include a property owner not involved in business operations. A proprietor shall ensure that they and all massage therapists employed or contracted for by the establishment hold a massage therapy license.

Amend the bill by replacing section 6 with the following:

6 Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Definitions. RSA 328-H:2, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. “Bodywork establishment” means a commercial location where reflexology, structural integration, and/or Asian bodywork therapy is advertised, and where it is practiced by more than one person. “Bodywork establishment” does not include locations where bodywork is offered as an adjunct to medical care in a location or facility operated by licensed healthcare professionals operating within their scope of practice, temporary and incidental bodywork offered in the open in public accommodations, or other exceptions as permitted by rules.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (0833h).

Rep. Layon spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (0833h) was adopted.

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

Majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1469-FN-A, relative to the licensing and inspections requirements for massage therapy establishments, and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill requires that massage establishments be licensed through the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC). The advisory board and office are responsible for establishing rules for the license including standards, conditions, inspection standards and public display of certificate, among other requirements. The licenses are for those establishments with more than one therapist, however, those sole massage therapists that provide services without an appointment need a massage establishment license. The licensees are inspected upon a complaint per OPLC existing enforcement statutes. Vote 13-1.

Amendment (0615h)

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

AN ACT relative to the licensing requirements for massage therapy establishments.

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

1 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Regulation. Amend RSA 328-B:1 to read as follows:

328-B:1 Regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. The general court, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of New Hampshire, establishes a regulatory program for massage therapists, including establishing basic qualifications for licensure of massage therapists *and massage establishments*.

2 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. RSA 328-B:2, VII is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

VII. "Massage establishment" means a commercial location where massage is advertised, and where massage is performed by more than one licensed massage therapist. "Massage establishment" does not include locations where massage is offered as an adjunct to medical care in a location or facility operated by licensed health care professionals operating within their scope of practice, temporary and incidental massage offered in the open in public accommodations, or other exceptions as permitted by rules.

3 New Paragraph; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Definitions. Amend RSA 328-B:2 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. "Sole proprietor" means any person who owns a business by himself or herself and does not have any employees within his or her business.

4 New Paragraphs; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Prohibited Acts. Amend RSA 328-B:3 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraphs:

VII. Operate an establishment without an establishment license.

VIII. Operate an establishment unless such establishment is at all times under the direct supervision and management of a professional licensed under this chapter.

5 New Paragraph; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-B:4 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Regulate and adopt rules on massage establishments, including:

(a) Standards for licensing massage establishments.

(b) Conditions, requirements, and standards for operation under an establishment license, including health and safety standards.

(c) Standards for inspections of establishments.

(d) Requirements to open, close, relocate, or renew an establishment.

(e) Requiring public display of licensure and secure recordkeeping procedures.

(f) Qualifications for exemption of schools, health facilities, or others from massage establishment license requirements in RSA 328-B:14.

(g) Required documentation to verify sole proprietor or independent contractor designation.

6 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Advisory Board. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 328-B:5 to read as follows:

328-B:5 Advisory Board of Massage Therapists.

The executive director shall establish the advisory board of massage therapists. The board shall consist of 3 massage therapists who are licensees in the state of New Hampshire. The members shall be appointed for 3 years, staggered so that the term of one member expires each year, and they shall hold office until successors are appointed~~[, and shall serve on the board without any compensation]~~. In no event shall a member serve more than 2 full consecutive terms. The board shall:

7 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; License Renewal. Amend RSA 328-B:7 to read as follows:
 328-B:7 License Renewal. All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire *in accordance with RSA 310:8* ~~[on the last day of the birth month of the licensee in the even-numbered year, upon approval of the executive director of the renewal application and submission of the required renewal fee].~~

8 Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. RSA 328-B:8, V is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V. Has engaged in illegal activity, including but not limited to prostitution or human trafficking.

9 New Paragraph; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Exemptions. Amend RSA 328-B:10 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Nothing in this chapter shall require a residential care or health facility licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2 to obtain an establishment license under this chapter.

10 New Section; Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments; Licensure of Establishments. Amend RSA 328-B by inserting after section 13 the following new section:

328-B:14 Massage Establishment Licensure.

I. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, as owner, manager, or agent to open, establish, conduct or maintain an establishment without first having obtained an establishment license. Any New Hampshire licensed massage therapist may obtain an establishment license upon application and payment of fee provided that the establishment meets all requirements established in the rules of the board. Massage establishment licenses granted pursuant to this chapter shall be conspicuously posted within the establishment.

II. In addition to licenses issued under paragraph I, the executive director may issue an establishment license to an applicant who does not hold a personal massage therapist license provided that the owner employs a licensed massage therapist as manager. This paragraph shall not authorize such owner to personally engage in massage therapy.

III. The requirement for establishment licensure under paragraph I shall not apply to a sole proprietor of his or her business or independent contractors. If a sole proprietor or independent contractor is providing services without a prior appointment, the sole proprietor or independent contractor shall obtain an establishment license.

IV. Only establishments issued a license by the executive director shall use the terms "licensed massage establishment" or "massage establishment."

V. The license fees for establishments shall be determined in rules adopted by the executive director under RSA 541-A.

11 Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Definitions RSA 328-H:2, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. "Bodywork establishment" means a commercial location where reflexology, structural integration, and/or Asian bodywork therapy is advertised, and where it is practiced by more than one person. "Bodywork establishment" does not include locations where bodywork is offered as an adjunct to medical care in a location or facility operated by licensed healthcare professionals operating within their scope of practice, temporary and incidental bodywork offered in the open in public accommodations, or other exceptions as permitted by rules.

12 New Paragraph; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Definitions. Amend RSA 328-H:2 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. "Sole proprietor" means any person who owns a business by himself or herself and does not have any employees within his or her business.

13 New Paragraphs; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Prohibited Acts. Amend RSA 328-H:4 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

VI. Operate a reflexology, structural integration, or Asian bodywork therapy establishment without an establishment license.

VII. Operate a reflexology, structural integration, or Asian bodywork therapy establishment unless such establishment is at all times under the direct supervision and management of a practitioner licensed under this chapter.

14 New Subparagraph; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-H:5, VIII by inserting after subparagraph (l) the following new subparagraph:

(m) Regulate establishments including:

(1) Standards for licensing massage establishments.

(2) Conditions, requirements, and standards for operation under an establishment license, including health and safety standards.

(3) Standards for inspections of establishments, including inspections conducted as part of the initial licensure process.

(4) Requirements to open, close, relocate, or renew an establishment.

(5) Requiring public display of licensure and secure recordkeeping procedures.

(6) Qualifications for exemption of schools, health facilities, or others from reflexology, structural integration, or Asian bodywork therapy establishment license requirements in RSA 328-H:18.

15 New Paragraph; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-H:10 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. Has engaged in illegal activity including but not limited to prostitution or human trafficking.

16 Reflexologists, Structural Integrators, and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Exemptions. Amend RSA 328-H:13 to read as follows:

328-H:13 Exemptions.

I. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a person licensed by this state pursuant to any other provision of law from performing the occupation for which he or she is licensed.

II. Nothing in this chapter shall require a residential care or health facility licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2 to obtain an establishment license under this chapter.

17 New Section; Reflexologists, Structural Integrators; and Asian Bodywork Therapists; Licensure of Establishments. Amend RSA 328-H by inserting after section 17 the following new section:

328-H:18 Establishment Licensure.

I. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, as owner, manager, or agent to open, establish, conduct or maintain an establishment without first having obtained an establishment license. Any New Hampshire licensed reflexologist, structural integrator, or Asian bodywork therapist may obtain an establishment license upon application and fee provided that the establishment meets all requirements established in the rules adopted by the executive director. Establishment licenses granted pursuant to this chapter shall be conspicuously posted within the establishment.

II. In addition to licenses issued under paragraph I, the board may issue an establishment license to an applicant who does not hold a personal reflexologist, structural integrator, or Asian bodywork therapist license provided that the owner employs a licensed reflexologist, structural integrator, or Asian bodywork therapist as manager. This paragraph shall not authorize such owner to personally engage as a practitioner under this chapter.

18 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; New Classified Position. One investigative paralegal position, labor grade 22, is hereby established as a classified position in the office of professional licensure and certification.

19 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2026-0615h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires massage establishments to be licensed and regulated by the office of professional licensure and certification (OPLC). The bill also adds compensation to members of the advisory board of massage therapists and establishes a new investigative paralegal position within the OPLC.

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.

Committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1555-FN, relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill was introduced to address challenges faced by business owners who are subject to significant unexpected new costs to update buildings when fire codes change. Providing protection for business owners who must finance the cost of code mandated updates after taking a significant financial risk to open a business is an important policy decision, but not one which the committee was able to address this year. As amended, the bill will provide greater pathways for appeals of decisions and facilitate greater code flexibility. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0668h)

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

1 New Paragraph; State Board of Fire Control; Approval of Plans for Construction or Revision of all State Buildings Required. Amend RSA 153:8-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. The state fire marshal shall also be responsible for hearing appeals of any decision issued by the local fire chief, or the fire chief's duly authorized subordinates, in accordance with RSA 154:2, II. The state fire marshal shall hold a hearing within 40 days of the receipt of an appeal, unless an extension of time has been granted by the state fire marshal at the written request of one of the parties, and shall render a decision in writing within 30 days of the conclusion of the hearing. The review of the state fire marshal shall be de novo. The hearing shall not be bound by the formal rules of evidence, and the state fire marshal may consider the evidence in the record transmitted by the fire chief or such other relevant evidence as may be admitted by the state fire marshal. In considering the appeal, the state fire marshal may affirm, modify, or reverse any decision issued pursuant to RSA 154:2, II(b). Any party aggrieved by a decision of the state fire marshal may appeal that decision to the building code review board in accordance with RSA 155-A:11.

2 New Paragraph; State Building Code; Enforcement Authority. Amend RSA 155-A:7 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. The state fire marshal shall have the power to approve, disapprove, or allow alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment and code modifications to the state building code for all municipalities.

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

2026-0668h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the state fire marshal to hear de novo appeals of local fire chief decisions within set time-lines and grants them statewide authority to approve, deny, or allow project-specific alternatives and code modifications under the state building code.

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.
Committee report was adopted, and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1811-FN, repealing statutory immunization requirements for children. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matt Drew for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee believes that informed consent is the cornerstone of ethical medical practices. The vaccine mandates replace informed consent with the weight of state power. These mandates reduce trust in our public health authorities and are counter-productive. The amendment is a compromise, and retains the polio vaccine as a mandate. Because of this, it also leaves the mandate and reporting structures in place. Finally, it adds a conscientious objection exemption which allows anyone to refuse a mandated vaccine – no one should be forced to place themselves at risk. Vote 10-8.

Rep. William Palmer for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill eliminates all childhood vaccine requirements. This is against the recommendation of the American Medical Association, the New Hampshire State Epidemiologist, the Infectious Disease Society of America, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. These groups represent close to one million physicians. All the medical professionals except one who testified at the hearing were opposed to this bill, noting that the benefits far outweigh the risks of the recommended vaccines. Removing the requirement would further erode New Hampshire's already declining vaccination rates putting children, staff and community at increased risk. A new study from Boston Children's Hospital found that New Hampshire's vaccination rate is already lower than the rest of the region putting the state at increased risk for outbreaks. In South Carolina, as of February 10th, there are 933 confirmed measles cases which is the largest outbreak in the United States in 30 years and 3 deaths from this disease in 2025. Members of the minority believe that the current statute should remain unchanged.

Majority Amendment (0644h)

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

AN ACT relative to immunization requirements against communicable diseases.

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

2 Communicable Disease; Immunization. Amend RSA 141-C:20-a to read as follows:
141-C:20-a Immunization.

I. All parents or legal guardians shall have their children, who are residing in this state, immunized against [~~diphtheria, mumps, pertussis,~~] poliomyelitis [~~; rubella, rubeola, tetanus, varicella, Hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib).~~].

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

- (a) Immunization under paragraph I;
- (b) Partial immunization relative to the age of the child as specified in rules adopted by the commissioner; or
- (c) Exemption under RSA 141-C:20-c.

III. [~~Nothing in this section shall require an immunization/vaccination requirement for diseases that are noncommunicable. Noncommunicable disease means a disease that is not infectious or transmissible from person-to-person.~~] *The department of health and human services may recommend vaccinations for school or day care enrollment. These recommendations shall be construed only as advisory opinions of the department and shall not be used to deny services or access to any person in the state of New Hampshire. The department and any political subdivision of the state of New Hampshire shall not require vaccinations under any circumstance other than as defined in paragraph II.*

3 New Paragraph; Communicable Disease; Exemptions; Parental Objection to Immunization Added. Amend RSA 141-C:20-c by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

III. A parent or legal guardian has a conscientious objection to immunization. The parent or legal guardian shall sign a statement that the child has not been immunized.

4 Medical Freedom in Immunizations. Amend RSA 141-C:1-a, I to read as follows:

I. Every person has the natural, essential, and inherent right to bodily integrity, free from any threat or compulsion by government to accept an immunization. Accordingly, no person may be compelled to receive an immunization [for COVID-19] in order to secure, receive, or access any public facility, any public benefit, or any public service from the state of New Hampshire, or any political subdivision thereof, including but not limited to counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school administrative units, or quasi-public entities.

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

2026-0644h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill

I. Decreases the number of required immunizations for children against communicable diseases.

II. Establishes a parental right to conscientiously object to the immunization of their child as an exemption to required vaccinations for communicable diseases.

III. Extends the right to bodily integrity to all immunizations, with the exception of immunizations still required by statute.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 166 members having voted in the affirmative, and 177 in the negative, the majority committee amendment failed.

The question now being Ought to Pass.

Rep. Potenza spoke in favor.

Rep. Lamontagne spoke against.

Rep. Drew spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Wayne MacDonald requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 155 - NAYS 192

YEAS - 155

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mooney, Maureen
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peebles, Raymond
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
DeVito, Sayra
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Nadeau, Brian
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
McDonnell, Valerie
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Summers, James
Vandecasteele, Susan
Wilson, Vicki

Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
McGrath, Linda
Perez, Kristine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin

DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
Melvin, Charles
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Selby, Donald
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Grant, George

Aron, Judy

Aron, Michael

Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 192**BELKNAP**

Bordes, Mike
St. Clair, Charlie

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

Minor, Sheri

CARROLL

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Taylor, Brian

Hamblen, Joseph
Woodcock, Stephen

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Murphy, Denis
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Boehm, Ralph
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Fedolff, Jim
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
Booras, Efsthathia
Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Beauchemin, Paige
Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Ohm, Bill
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Pitaro, Matthew
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Cahill, Michael
 Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Lynn, Bob
 Malloy, Dennis
 Milz, David
 Reynolds, Ned
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Vallone, Mark

Ball, Lorie
 Mannion, Dennis
 Foote, Charles
 Murray, Kate
 Paige, Mark
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Muns, Chris
 Pearson, Stephen
 Sytek, John
 Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
 de Vries, Erica
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Pearson, Mark
 Manos, Zoe
 Nelson, Jodi
 Scherr, Buzz
 Dolan, Tom
 Ward, Gerald

Bryer, Scott
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Grote, Jaci
 Kuttab, Katelyn
 Maggiore, Jim
 Meuse, David
 Porcelli, Susan
 Simpson, Alexis
 Turer, Eric
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Laroche, John
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Howland, Allan
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
 Howard, Heath
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Miller, Seth
 Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Girard, Dale

Cloutier, John
 Hemingway, Wayne

Damon, Hope
 Palmer, William

Drye, Margaret
 Rollins, Skip

and the motion failed.

Rep. Palmer moved Inexpedient to Legislate.

Motion was adopted.

Rep. Mary Murphy declared a Conflict of Interest and did not participate in the votes.

HB 1499-FN, relative to additional grounds for eviction under the landlord and tenant statute. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Calvin Beaulier for the **Majority** of Housing. With the amendment, this bill provides clarity for housing providers so that they can confidently evict tenants who either lie about who they are or hide their criminal convictions. The first provision allows eviction where a tenant uses personal identification that does not belong to them to obtain or maintain a tenancy. The other provision allows eviction for undisclosed recent felony criminal convictions, all federal immigration crimes including improper entry by alien, registration for sexual offenses, and registration for offenses against children. There is a safe-harbor provision for tenants who disclose a conviction in writing prior to the start of a lease, so housing providers can make an informed decision to lease their property. The eviction action can also be individualized to just the tenant who has violated the above provisions, leaving lawful tenants in place. Vote 10-8.

Rep. David Paige for the **Minority** of Housing. The minority opposes this bill not because landlords should be deprived of the authority to address dangerous or unlawful conduct, but because existing law already provides those tools. This legislation risks creating confusion and legal exposure without improving safety. Current New Hampshire law allows landlords to terminate a tenancy for good cause, including conduct that threatens the health or safety of other residents, damages property, interferes with tenants' peaceful enjoyment, or involves material misrepresentation connected to the tenancy. Landlords may already evict tenants who lie on rental applications, submit falsified documents, or engage in criminal behavior that reasonably jeopardizes residents or property. To the extent this bill merely seeks to reaffirm those principles, it is redundant. More troubling, however, is that the bill establishes new categorical eviction grounds that risk conflict with federal Fair Housing Act obligations. Passage of a state statute does not relieve landlords of their duty to comply with federal law. Federal fair housing guidance cautions against blanket evictions based on criminal history without individualized, conduct-based assessments tied to legitimate safety or property concerns. By encouraging broad eviction triggers untethered from the nature, severity, or recency of the underlying conduct, this bill risks placing landlords in a legal "minefield," where state law appears to authorize actions that federal law still prohibits. That uncertainty does not serve tenants, landlords, or our communities. The minority strongly reaffirms landlords' need for the authority to act decisively when tenant conduct threatens safety or property. We believe those tools already exist, and that layering on potentially conflicting standards is unwise and likely to lead to future litigation—a likelihood the majority has tacitly acknowledged through the incorporation of a severability clause. For these reasons, the minority recommends the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate.

Majority Amendment (0490h)

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

1 New Subparagraphs; Termination of Tenancy. Amend RSA 540:2, II by inserting after subparagraph (i) the following new subparagraphs:

(j)(1) Use of any personal identification that does not belong to the tenant or occupant to obtain or maintain a tenancy.

(2) Personal identification in this subparagraph includes but is not limited to any birth certificate, driver's license, government identification, passport, social security number, or taxpayer identification number.

(k)(1) The tenant or any occupant of the rented premises has been convicted of any of the following:

(A) Improper entry by alien under 8 U.S.C. section 1325(a) and the conviction is less than 3 years prior to the service of the eviction notice;

(B) Any crime in state, federal, or tribal court where the maximum penalty provided is imprisonment in excess of one year and the conviction is less than 5 years prior to the service of the eviction notice;

(C) Any offense which requires registration as a "sexual offender" as defined by RSA 651-B:1, IV, unless registration is no longer required prior to the service of the eviction notice; or

(D) Any offense which requires registration as an "offender against children" as defined by RSA 651-B:1, VI, unless registration is no longer required prior to the service of the eviction notice.

(2) Any conviction disclosed in writing by the tenant or occupant to the landlord prior to the start of any tenancy shall prevent the landlord from later terminating the tenancy for any specific conviction disclosed.

(3) If any provision of this subparagraph or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the subparagraph which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this subparagraph are declared to be severable.

2 New Paragraph; Termination of Tenancy. Amend RSA 540:2 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. Any eviction brought pursuant to RSA 540:2, II(j) or (k) may name as defendant only the person or persons alleged to have violated RSA 540:2, II(j) or (k) with out naming remaining members of the household and the court may enter judgment against only the named defendants.

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

2026-0490h AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows eviction if a tenant uses someone else's personal information to obtain the rental or if the tenant or an occupant has certain criminal convictions, including improper entry as a non-citizen or a conviction requiring registration as a sexual offender or offender against children. The landlord cannot use a conviction disclosed in writing before the start of the tenancy as grounds for eviction.

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. David Paige spoke against.

Rep. Beaulier spoke in favor.

Rep. Polozov requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 193 - NAYS 154

YEAS - 193 BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché

Corcoran, Travis
DiSilvestro, Linda
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesseling, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Rung, Rosemarie
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Daniels, Gary
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

MERRIMACK

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

STRAFFORD

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 154

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rourke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel

Booras, Efstathia
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter

Budathoki, Suraj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal

Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Alissandra Murray moved that the debate on **HB 1811-FN**, repealing statutory immunization requirements for children. be printed in the Permanent Journal.

DEBATE ON HB 1811

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Potenza is recognized to speak.

Representative Potenza: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honorable colleagues, where there is risk, there must be choice. The sky is not falling without mandates and the arguments claiming otherwise simply do not hold water. Much of what we hear from the departments, the special interests, the lobbyists and pharmaceutical stakeholders is double speak. This bill does not prohibit vaccination. It restores individualized medical decision making in circumstances where no population level risk exists. Mandates have no place in a constitutional republic, particularly when the evidence demonstrates real harm, serious implications and loss of life. Denying a person the right to informed consent is a denial of their fundamental human rights. Informed consent is not a technicality or a courtesy. It is the ethical line that separates medicine from coercion. The existence of my rights does not extinguish yours. Where your rights begin, mine do not end. A society that claims to respect bodily autonomy cannot selectively suspend it when doing so becomes politically convenient. And let me be clear about something else; a system that requires people to ask permission to exercise their rights is not freedom. An exemption is not choice. An exemption is an admission that the mandate should not exist in the first place. In a free society, the default position is liberty, not compliance, followed by bureaucratic forgiveness. People should not have to disclose private medical or religious information, fill out forms or seek approval from the government to control what happens to their own bodies. That is not freedom. That is not choice. Mandates do not belong in a free society. Before I give this next example, we need to acknowledge a basic truth. All medical interventions carry risk, including vaccination. There is no such thing as a risk-free medical procedure, which is precisely why informed consent and bodily autonomy matter. If we accept the logic used to justify vaccine mandates, we must confront its implications honestly. Ask yourself this. Would it be ethical or lawful to kill one healthy human being to save ten others through forced organ donation? The answer is unequivocally no. We reject that scenario because we recognize a foundational principle. No human being may be reduced to a means to an end. Bodily autonomy is not overridden by utilitarian math. Yet vaccine mandates rely on that very same reasoning, that an individual's bodily autonomy may be violated for a perceived collective benefit. This is where the argument collapses under its own weight. If bodily autonomy is inviolable in every other area of medicine, organ donation, blood transfusion, participation in clinical trials, it cannot subtly become conditional when the

subject is vaccination. Ethical standards do not change based on political urgency. Supporters of mandates often speak out of both sides of their mouths. They champion my body, my choice in one context while dismissing the same principle in another. They claim to support informed consent while endorsing policies that punish refusal, coerce compliance, or deny employment, education, or participation in society. Consent obtained under threat is not consent. It is coercion. Public health does not require abandoning ethics. Trust, transparency, and voluntary participation are not obstacles to public health. They are its foundation. Once the state claims the authority to override informed consent, there is no limiting principle left. At that point, the issue is no longer about vaccines. It's about power. Who decides when your body is no longer your own? The government? Not on my watch. A free society does not compel medical procedures through force or penalty. It persuades with evidence, respects individual judgment, and upholds human dignity, even when doing so is inconvenient. Please press the green button and support the committee's recommendation. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative LaMontagne is recognized to speak.

Representative LaMontagne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB 1811 will repeal all of the childhood immunization requirements that have been keeping children safe from potentially serious diseases for decades. You have heard that this bill is about restoring trust in medical authorities and conformed consent. Informed consent for childhood vaccines takes place in the doctor's office between the provider and parent. We already have that. This bill does not change that. Rather than restore trust, this will decrease trust in vaccines. For the state to say that we no longer require vaccines for children to go to school suggests to the public that the state was wrong about them before and that maybe vaccines aren't safe after all. This will reduce vaccination rates across the state. Declining vaccination rates around the country have led to diseases we once had under control to come back, as we have seen, with measles. A decade ago, we had an average of 200 measles cases a year. As of February 13th, the CDC has confirmed 900 cases so far in 2026. Empirical evidence from any injury resulting vaccines in the current schedule is one in a million. Measles will kill one in a thousand infected children. Our committee heard overwhelming testimony from public health experts and every medical professional association in the state. From primary care providers, nurses, pediatricians, they all begged with us not to pass this bill. But the majority chose to ignore this in favor of anecdotal testimonies in their previously held convictions. It does not give more parental choice. We already allow exemptions, no questions asked. That's not coercion. But if passed, this bill would threaten public health programs that protect all of us, including the unvaccinated. We have heard that other countries don't have vaccine requirements and have high vaccination rates. Well, those countries also have universal healthcare and high participation in all aspects of healthcare. In Japan, one country cited people visit their doctor an average of nine times a year. They have a primary care-based pro-wellness healthcare system. We have some kids showing up to school that haven't been to a doctor in years. Now, the committee amendment, which failed, would have just left polio in. Many people were afraid of not having a polio requirement anymore. But do we really think polio was the only disease we have to worry about? Last year, I told this body about my husband's father becoming permanently paralyzed from polio in 1955. Let me tell you another story. A good friend's older brother died in 1958 from meningitis; a brain infection now prevented by the HIB vaccine. Jerry never knew his brother because Jeffrey died before Jerry was born. His parents lost their first son, a healthy two-year-old, who succumbed rapidly to his infection and died in the hospital in the middle of the night. It was a tragedy from which his mother never fully recovered. There seems to be a generational amnesia about what childhood diseases were like before universal vaccines. As a late baby boomer, I had several illnesses like mumps and chicken pox. The vast majority of children survived these episodes without serious illness. But many children were very sick, became permanently disabled, or died from diseases we now protect them with, with vaccination. Prior to 1963, measles resulted in annually around 48,000 hospitalizations and 500 deaths a year. Measles was the leading childhood cause of deafness and death. My brother at five years of age was in the hospital for an entire month from pneumonia resulting from his measles infection. The American Academy of Pediatrics find that our nine vaccines required from school prevents every 10 years a million deaths and 32 million hospitalizations, saving over \$500 billion in direct medical costs. Do we want to bring that back? In other words, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Science has since taught us that vaccines significantly reduce the emergence of the virus and later complications such as shingles from chicken pox, brain damage from measles, and male sterility from mumps. What is right down the road if HB 1811 passes? New Hampshire has the lowest vaccination rate for measles in New England. Do you want to be the legislature that ushers in the next outbreak of measles a year or two down the road, costing the state millions of dollars in healthcare costs and perhaps the lives of a few children? Please believe in public health, believe in science, and vote against the OTP. And I ask for a roll call vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Drew is recognized, speak for the committee report.

Representative Drew: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to start off again with what this bill is not. HB 1811 is not a ban on vaccines. It does not reduce the availability of the vaccines. It does not interfere with state or federal recommendations or funding. It does not stop your doctor from administering any vaccines to you or your children. What it does do is remove the vaccine mandate from statute. What a vaccine mandate does is force some children to accept risk and injury in order to protect others. I urge you to listen to the op-

ponents of this bill. They will tell you about the dangers of contagious disease, which are real. They will tell you about the benefits of the vaccines. If they mention safety at all, they will assure you that the vaccines are very safe and effective. What they won't ever do is talk about the risks in detail. This is a narrative playbook designed to elicit compliance. The same narrative was deployed to support the COVID shot and for the same reason. Those who have been vaccine injured know this narrative because they've heard it all before, even as their vaccine injuries were occurring. Family after family has been belittled, mocked, and dismissed. Their young children quietly sacrificed on the altar of public health. That is the uncomfortable truth about vaccines. While they may work to protect the public from contagious disease, there is also a large group of people who have been hurt by these vaccines. Vaccine injuries are real, and they are not nearly as rare as opponents of this bill would have you believe. There are a number of people in this room, your neighbors and colleagues, who have been injured by vaccines, vaccines mandated by our State, and they have been ignored. I want you to look them in the eye and tell them that yes, you believe that their children should be forced to suffer so that yours can be safe. Don't force the risk of mandates on their children. Vote for this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative Drew: Yes, I do.

Speaker Steven Smith: Member yields. You may inquire.

Representative Wherry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would you believe that vaccines are not very safe and that they are so unsafe that they are the only medicinal product that has to have a liability shield so that people can't sue the manufacturer?

Representative Drew: I would, in fact, believe that, yes.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a follow-up?

Representative Drew: Yes, I do.

Speaker Steven Smith: Maybe next time the member should just sign up for a speech. Would you believe that I really mean that? Thank you.

Representative Wherry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well noted. Would you believe that vaccines are not very safe at all and that the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has had to pay out over \$5 billion to compensate those who have been injured by vaccines and their claims have been substantiated?

Representative Drew: Yes, I would believe that.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative MacDonald requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? That is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is the motion of Ought to Pass in House Bill 1811, and Representative Weber is recognized for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Representative Weber: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that correlation is not causation, and if I know that childhood diseases present less of a threat now than they did before, and that is not because they are not dangerous, but because they are relatively rare, and if I remember that my daddy dragged his left leg behind him for all of his life after the age of two because of his polio, would I remember and vote red?

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Wayne MacDonald is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Wayne MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that parents want to take care of their children's health and make their own best decisions as to how they proceed to do so, and Mr. Speaker, if I know that this bill seeks to achieve that end by respecting the rights of parents, and Mr. Speaker, if I know that parents will not be prevented from getting their children vaccinated under this bill, and Mr. Speaker, if I know that this legislation is consistent with other pro-parent and pro-family bills we have already passed in this chamber, then, Mr. Speaker, would I press the green button and support the Ought to Pass motion? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is the Ought to Pass motion on House Bill 1811. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button, if opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 155 in the affirmative, 192 in the negative. The motion fails. Representative Palmer moves Inexpedient to Legislate. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor, say aye; any opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The motion is adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1732-FN, relative to housing accessibility and voucher allocation in new multi-unit developments. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Julie Miles for the **Majority** of Housing. The committee shares the goal of expanding housing access for individuals with disabilities and for residents who rely on federal housing vouchers. However, after review, the committee determined that this legislation is not the appropriate means to achieve those objectives. This bill would impose new statewide mandates on multi-unit housing developments, including unit set-asides and design requirements, without regard to local conditions or project feasibility. The committee found that these requirements could increase development costs, complicate financing, and discourage new housing construction during an ongoing housing shortage. The committee also considered the fiscal note, which indicates new state costs without dedicated funding, including additional staffing and contracted services. Testimony

further raised concerns regarding administrative efficiency and agency roles. The committee believes that accessibility and voucher participation are better advanced through existing programs and incentive-based approaches that preserve flexibility while supporting housing production. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Allan Howland for the **Minority** of Housing. New Hampshire has a severe shortage of housing units that are designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities. To help address this issue, the amended version of this bill makes changes to two proven incentive programs. The Housing Champions program would incorporate universal design standards into its scoring criteria. Communities that achieve this designation are eligible for state grants that help fund infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Program would add up to two additional years of tax relief if at least 20% of a project's units meet universal design standards. These changes would help make more projects economically viable which would lead to more housing units. For this reason, the minority of the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

Rep. Howland spoke against.

Rep. Miles spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 187 members having voted in the affirmative, and 157 in the negative, and the motion was adopted.

HB 1786-FN, relative to creating a state assessment on non-homestead luxury second homes to fund state-wide housing development programs and address housing shortages and making appropriations therefor. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Alexander moved that **HB 1756-FN**, allowing organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption, be laid on the table.

Rep. Germana requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 189 - NAYS 158

YEAS - 189

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

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
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Lundgren, David
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Turcotte, Len

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 158
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

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

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1814-FN, establishing a 10-year strategic housing and infrastructure plan. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Calvin Beaulier for the **Majority** of Housing. This bill is a bureaucratic, centralized, state led approach to housing which will generate more square feet of paperwork than square feet of housing. It creates a massive new government program “modeled after the statewide transportation improvement program.” The plan does not actually build any housing directly, but appears to be a plan about planning for housing. In addition to the Governor, this plan requires participation from the Council on Housing Stability (which is getting three new members picked by the New Hampshire Municipal Association), each metropolitan planning organization, each rural regional planning commission, the Division of Planning and Community Development within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, and each municipality with a master plan which must now complete a “housing progress review” every five years. The plan is then submitted to the General Court each even numbered year on January 15th which must act on it by June 1 the same year. The fiscal note is incomplete as the Governor’s Office has not responded to the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant. This is concerning since the Governor is tasked with developing this plan. New Hampshire’s problem is not a lack of government planning, it’s a lack of housing. This bill will not fix that, only property rights and free markets can fix that. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Allan Howland for the **Minority** of Housing. Master plans provide the vision and rules that guide community development. Unfortunately, some of these plans are not revised for decades and as a result, the addition of new housing is stifled. Since the master plan provides the framework for a community development, long periods of inactivity stifle housing growth. This amendment would require municipalities that have adopted master plans but have not revised them in 10 years to review them and determine if amendments or revisions are needed. Additionally, five years after adopting a master plan, a housing progress review that included the latest regional housing needs assessment would be required. This would help the community determine if zoning regulations and incentives were effective and to make changes if they are not. These reviews would be shared with the Division of Planning and Community Development, which would be used to help coordinate state, regional, and municipal planning. The potential benefits of these changes to the planning process are why the minority of the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Alexander moved that **HB 1814-FN**, establishing a 10-year strategic housing and infrastructure plan, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 11:15 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

**SENATE MESSAGES
CONCURRENCE**

HB 1000, extending the indemnification of legislative security staff members to legislative sergeant-at-arms staff members while acting within the scope of their duties.

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered HB1000.
Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS

HB 266, relative to structural changes to the department of energy and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights and relative to the effect of murder on a decedent's estate. (Amendment printed SJ 2/19/26)

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

Motion was adopted.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Janigian, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of :

HB 1088-FN-A, transferring funding for the water well board from the general fund to a special nonlapsing fund.

HB 1768-FN, exempting honorably discharged New Hampshire veterans from metered parking fees at state parks upon presenting acceptable proof of status and raising the value of individual gifts and donations that may be received by the division of parks and recreation without the approval of the governor or the executive council.

HB 1274-FN-LOCAL, relative to dog licenses.

HB 1199, enabling the fish and game department to create a permit and fee for the use of fish and game staff by other state agencies and departments.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1639-FN, establishing investigatory grand juries housed under the county sheriffs' offices. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for the **Majority** of Judiciary. The original bill would have greatly expanded the grand jury process and grand jury powers in a manner that no member of the Judiciary Committee supported. After discussion and several votes on alternative ways of revising the bill, including the amendment proposed by the minority, the overwhelming bipartisan majority of the committee concluded that the bill needed further work and therefore that the most sensible recommendation was Refer for Interim Study. Vote 14-2.

Rep. Katelyn Kuttub for the **Minority** of Judiciary. The proposed amendment replaces the bill in its entirety and details the powers and duties of the grand jury, including how matters may be brought to the grand jury and the rights of the grand jury. It also requires that instructions on these rights and duties are given to members of the grand jury at least 10 days prior to their term of service. The current method of instruction is through a vintage video that is like watching an old episode of The Brady Bunch, but instead of family drama, it's all about grand jury procedures, only giving about as detailed as a summary you'd get on the back of a cereal box.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Refer for Interim Study.

Rep. Diane Kelley spoke against.

Rep. Lynn spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 257 members having voted in the affirmative, and 86 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

HB 1130-FN, relative to judicial performance evaluations. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill significantly strengthens the judicial performance evaluation process. It was crafted with input and consultation with the Judicial Branch. It adds new components to the evaluation of judges, including in-court observation and statistical analysis of case processing times. It also specifically includes both part time and full time judges, as well as senior judges and judicial referees. Most importantly, it provides that judicial evaluations of each judge shall be publicly available. The amendment provides that the commentary contained in evaluation questionnaires shall not be part of the published evaluations; this revision was made to accommodate the legitimate concerns of trial judges that such commentary often contains biased and/or slanderous comments by disgruntled litigants unhappy with the judge's ruling in their case. Vote 9-7.

Majority Amendment (0410h)

Amend RSA 490:32, VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI. The ***JPE program shall publish the performance evaluation report for each judicial officer evaluated, but shall not include in the published report the comments contained in the questionnaires submitted as part of the evaluation*** ~~[supreme court shall prepare a report on the implementation of the performance evaluation program described in this section within one year of the effective date of this section and submit such report to the governor, the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, and the chairpersons of the house and senate judiciary committees. Such report shall be made available to the public].~~ The supreme court shall annually file a report on the evaluation process, including, but not limited to, the number of evaluations performed by each court, the percentage of responses received, and a summary of the overall evaluation results and all actions taken to correct inadequacies and deficiencies. The annual report shall be submitted on or before June 30 of each year to the governor, the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, and the chairpersons of the house and senate judiciary committees. Such report shall be made available to the public.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Mark Paige spoke against.

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

YEAS 192 - NAYS 151

YEAS - 192

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Faulkner, Barry
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Thackston, Dick

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Gorski, Ted
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Panek, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Peebles, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

MERRIMACK

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

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

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

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

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
 Bryer, Scott
 DeVito, Sayra
 Edwards, Jess
 Guzofski, James
 Khan, Aboul
 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
 McGrath, Linda
 Nelson, Jodi
 Porcelli, Susan
 Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
 Sytek, John
 Vallone, Mark
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
 Mannion, Dennis
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Foote, Charles
 Harb, Robert
 Kuttub, Katelyn
 Litchfield, Melissa
 Pearson, Mark
 Melvin, Charles
 Brown, Pam
 Potucek, John
 Selby, Donald
 Dolan, Tom
 Verville, Kevin
 Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
 Thomas, Douglas
 Drago, Mike
 Ford, Mary
 Janigian, John
 Miner, Laurence
 Love, David
 Mandelbaum, Jennifer
 Milz, David
 Perez, Kristine
 Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
 Summers, James
 Tripp, Richard
 Vose, Michael

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Dunn, Ron
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Katsakiores, Phyllis
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 McDonnell, Valerie
 Nadeau, Brian
 Popovici-Muller, Daniel
 Pearson, Stephen
 Sweeney, Joe
 Tudor, Paul
 MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 Farrington, Samuel
 Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
 Granger, Michael
 Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
 Kaczynski, Thomas
 Turcotte, Len

DeRoy, Susan
 Larochelle, John
 Walker, David

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

**NAYS - 151
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CARROLL

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
 Jones, Philip
 Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
 Germana, Nicholas
 Weber, Lucy

Fox, Dru
 Newell, Jodi

Gruber, James
 O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Chourasia, Manoj
 DiSilvestro, Linda
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Petrigno, Peter
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Grill, Jessica
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Plamondon, Marc
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
 Cornell, Patricia
 Davis, Fred
 Grund, Stephanie
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Murray, Megan
 Mooney, Maureen
 Preece, David
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Telerski, Laura
 Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Murphy, Nancy
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Spier, Carry
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
 Gallagher, Eric
 Luneau, David
 Roesener, James
 Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
 Gibbs, Merryl
 Hall, Muriel
 Sargent, Gregory

Kelly, Eileen
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Snodgrass, Jim

Ebel, Karen
 Lane, Connie
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison

Cahill, Michael
 Grote, Jaci
 Paige, Mark

de Vries, Erica
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim

Edgar, Michael
 Murray, Kate
 Malloy, Dennis

Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie

Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

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

HB 1322-FN, reestablishing the judicial conduct commission. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Catherine Rombeau for the **Majority** of Judiciary. This bill seeks to re-establish under legislative authority a Judicial Conduct Commission to investigate allegations of misconduct against judges and other judicial officers. When the legislature previously created such a body, the New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional, holding that, while the legislature has the power to impeach and remove judges, the imposition of lesser discipline is beyond legislative power and resides with the Judicial Branch. Although this bill makes an attempt to get around the earlier Supreme Court decision by asserting that the purpose of the new commission would be to ascertain if grounds exist for impeachment, the bill contains language that would allow investigations of lesser, non-impeachable levels of misconduct. To this extent at least, the bill would likely be found unconstitutional. More importantly, even if limited strictly to impeachment, the bill is simply unnecessary because the legislature already has the process for initiating impeachment procedures in the rare instances where this is appropriate. There is simply no basis for creating a permanent commission with a roving mandate to search for instances of potentially impeachable offenses committed by judges. Creating such a body would fundamentally undermine the independence of the judiciary and violate the separation of powers enshrined in the New Hampshire Constitution, causing a chilling effect on impartial decision-making and incentivizing rulings that please the majority rather than uphold the law. Vote 15-1. Rep. Kevin Scully for the **Minority** of Judiciary. NH had a Judicial Conduct Commission until certain aspects of its powers were ruled to be unconstitutional by the NH Supreme Court. It is the minority's position that this proposed legislation satisfies all constitutional objections. The minority also believes that the legislature, which is accountable to the people, should reestablish appropriate oversight of the branch of government that is not.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Lynn moved that **HB 1322-FN**, reestablishing the judicial conduct commission, be laid on the table. On a division vote, with 250 members having voted in the affirmative, and 91 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1705-FN, establishing an employee assistance program for small town and volunteer first responders and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Granger for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill is an incredibly well-intentioned bill that aims to assist volunteer first responders handle some of the weight of their service, especially in regard to mental health treatment and post-traumatic stress disorder. It is the opinion of the majority that this bill, as written, would not accomplish its stated goals, but that the purpose of the bill is so important that it deserves special consideration over the summer to find a way to truly get a solution to our amazing volunteer first responders. We understand the purpose of the bill is to provide access to volunteers and small town first responders to the employee assistance program, however in discussion with Health and Human Services it seems that it would actually expand access to not just those groups but totally unrelated groups, and for totally unrelated purposes. The language we have also contains technical issues where it ends up being in labor statutes despite having basically nothing to do with employer/employee relations. It is the view of the majority of the committee that while this bill is unworkable in its current form, the sponsors' stated intent is important enough to justify a study on the matter allowing us to bring back a bill for next year that does it right and does it in a way that ensures that no volunteer first responder is ever left abandoned after they choose to run toward danger when the call comes. Our duty to our first responders and volunteers is such that the majority of the committee is emboldened to aggressively pursue action on this to accomplish the noble goal of the sponsors. Vote 11-9.

Rep. Brian Sullivan for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill as amended provides access to an employee assistance program (EAP) to volunteer first responders and towns with five or fewer full-time paid first responders. This is the same EAP that is provided to other state employees and operated under the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. The objective of the sponsors is to provide access to early intervention for the small town volunteers to mental health supports through the EAP. First responders often face traumatic experiences while providing support to victims of accidents and fires. Over time this can lead to the development of post traumatic stress disorders. The minority feels that the early intervention under the EAP could help avoid more involved treatment. The EAP can also provide referrals to providers who can provide more treatment. This would likely be covered by workers' compensation, but it is hoped that early intervention by the EAP might reduce or eliminate treatment under workers' compensation. The minority does not feel that Interim Study is warranted and that an Ought to Pass with Amendment motion is preferred.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Refer for Interim Study.

Rep. Drye spoke against.

Rep. Granger spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 167 members having voted in the affirmative, and 174 in the negative, the motion failed.

Rep. Brian Sullivan moved adoption of the minority committee report of Ought to Pass and offered minority amendment (0531h).

Minority Amendment (0531h)

Amend RSA 281-A:17-g as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

281-A:17-g First Responders Support Fund. There is established a first responders support fund, which shall be administered by the department of health and human services. This fund shall be used for costs incurred to enroll volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders into the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP). All fees, monetary grants, gifts, donations, or interest generated by these funds shall be deposited with the state treasurer in a special nonlapsing fund to be known as the first responders support fund and shall be continually appropriated to the department for the administration of this section.

Amend RSA 281-A:17-h, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders shall be eligible for the employee assistance program for small communities.

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Appropriation. The sum of \$114,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services to provide coverage for volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with no more than 5 full-time, paid first responders through the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP). This sum is in addition to any other sums appropriated to the department of health and human services for the biennium. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Minority amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Hamblen requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 194 - NAYS 154

YEAS - 194

BELKNAP

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
St. Clair, Charlie

Nagel, David

Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Woodcock, Stephen

Hamblen, Joseph

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius

Faulkner, Barry
Nalevanko, Rich
Thackston, Dick

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Barton, Joseph
Fracht, David
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

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

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Panek, Sandra
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Cahill, Michael
Foote, Charles
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Simpson, Alexis
Vose, Michael

Ball, Lorie
de Vries, Erica
Gilman, Julie
Murray, Kate
Walsh, Lilli
Malloy, Dennis
Muns, Chris
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Bridle, Nicholas
Dunn, Ron
Grote, Jaci
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

Bryer, Scott
Edgar, Michael
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Porcelli, Susan
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

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

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Rollins, Skip

Cloutier, John
Aron, Judy

Damon, Hope
Aron, Michael

Drye, Margaret
Palmer, William

NAYS - 154**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven

Freeman, Lisa

Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Rhodes, Jennifer

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin
Louis, Darrell

Berezhny, Lex
McFarlane, Donald

Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Sellers, John

Ladd, Rick

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe	Ammon, Keith	Barbour, Liz	Berry, Ross
Boehm, Ralph	Colcombe, Riché	Corcoran, Travis	Creighton, James
Kelley, Diane	Daniels, Gary	Drew, Matt	Dumont, Dillon
Dupont, Pierre	Erf, Keith	Griffin, Gerald	Gagne, Larry
Giasson, Henry	Gorski, Ted	Gould, Linda	Kenny, Catherine
Kesselring, Steven	Kofalt, Jim	Labrie, Brian	Murphy, Mary
Mazur, Lisa	McLean, Mark	Miles, Julie	Mooney, Maureen
Morton, Jonathan	Noble, Kristin	Notter, Jeanine	Ohm, Bill
Paquette, Kathleen	Pauer, Diane	Peeples, Raymond	Post, Lisa
Presa, Adam	Reinfurt, Sherri	Schneller, John	Scully, Kevin
Sheehan, Vanessa	Sirois, Shane	Slottje, Jeremy	Tenczar, Jeffrey
Mannion, Tom	Ulery, Jordan	Warden, Mark	Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise	Aures, Cyril	Aylward, Deborah	McGuire, Carol
Cambrils, Jose	McGuire, Dan	Devoid, Ricky	Gonzalez, Ernesto
Hill, Gregory	Mehegan, Peter	Moffett, Michael	Pitaro, Matthew
Plante, Raymond	Polozov, Yury	Boyd, Stephen	Seaworth, Brian
See, Alvin	Walsh, Thomas	Thibault, James	Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy	Bernardy, JD	Mannion, Dennis	Thomas, Douglas
DeSimone, Debra	DeVito, Sayra	Donnelly, Tanya	Drago, Mike
Edwards, Jess	Ford, Mary	Guzowski, James	Harb, Robert
Janigian, John	Kuttab, Katelyn	Miner, Laurence	Layon, Erica
Litchfield, Melissa	Love, David	Lundgren, David	Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie	McGrath, Linda	Melvin, Charles	Milz, David
Nadeau, Brian	Nelson, Jodi	Osborne, Jason	Brown, Pam
Popovici-Muller, Daniel	Potucek, John	Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt	Selby, Donald
Soti, Julius	Summers, James	Sweeney, Joe	Sytek, John
Dolan, Tom	Tripp, Richard	Tudor, Paul	Verville, Kevin
MacDonald, Wayne	Weyler, Kenneth	Wilson, Vicki	

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn	DeDe-Poulin, Denise	DeLemus, Susan	DeRoy, Susan
Farrington, Samuel	Granger, Michael	Kaczynski, Thomas	Potenza, Kelley
Hall, Robley	Turcotte, Len	Walker, David	

SULLIVAN

Grant, George	Hemingway, Wayne	Spilsbury, Walter
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and the minority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1427-FN, limiting the authority of a municipality, county, or school district to issue bonds. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Laurel Stavis for Municipal and County Government. This bill seeks to prevent municipalities, counties and school districts from issuing bonds to finance critical infrastructure except in certain situations designated as emergencies. The bill's sponsor proposed that a system of capital reserve accounts, funded by special assessments, be used instead of bonds. Aside from the economic impact such a system would impose on residents, given the years it would take to establish such capital reserves, no credible system was proposed that would provide public bodies with rules or guidelines on how to establish and maintain such systems. Contrary to what this bill suggests, bonding is an effective mechanism for managing inflation, since necessary infrastructure can be built as soon as the bond is issued, preventing the inevitable delay of establishing large capital reserves while the costs of building continue to increase. Counties, municipalities and school districts have statutory responsibilities to maintain essential services. Such services include prisons, nursing homes, courthouses, school buildings, fire department infrastructure, technology systems and a host of other facilities residents depend upon. The bill would prevent them from fulfilling these responsibilities, while at the same time, imposing unnecessary delays and unanticipated levies of "special assessments" to fund the bill's proposed capital reserves. Under RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, key regulations are set forth at the state level governing the issuance, terms, procedures and debt limits of municipal bonds. The hurdle for public endorsement of bonding is also high, requiring a 2/3 vote of the legislative body. This bill makes assertions that are not supported by facts, proposes a fiscal system that is unworkable, and all but guarantees that political subdivisions would be in violation of their legal obligations to provide services to residents. Vote 13-5.

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

Rep. Maggiore spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 234 - NAYS 112**YEAS - 234****BELKNAP**

Bogert, Steven
Nagel, David

Bordes, Mike
Minor, Sheri

Coker, Matthew
St. Clair, Charlie

Freeman, Lisa

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

Paige, David
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi
Thackston, Dick

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Murphy, Denis
Karasinski, Sly
Parshall, Lucius

COOS

King, Seth

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Booras, Efstathia
Daniels, Gary
Elberger, Susan
Gagne, Larry
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Georges, Mary
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Ryan, Linda
Seibert, Christine
Tellerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Mooney, Maureen
Pank, Sandra
Presa, Adam
Reinfurt, Sherri
Newman, Sue
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
DiSilvestro, Linda
Griffin, Gerald
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Morton, Jonathan
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Roesener, James
Seaworth, Brian
Woods, Gary

McGuire, Carol
Gallagher, Eric
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Boyd, Stephen
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Pitaro, Matthew
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Mehegan, Peter
Richards, Beth
Schamberg, Thomas
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Cahill, Michael
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Lundgren, David
Malloy, Dennis
Melvin, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Janigian, John
Miner, Laurence
Lynn, Bob
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Pearson, Stephen
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Edwards, Jess
Grote, Jaci
Murray, Kate
Walsh, Lilli
Paige, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Scherr, Buzz
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
DeVito, Sayra
Foote, Charles
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Muns, Chris
Porcelli, Susan
Simpson, Alexis
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Walker, David

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Cloutier, John
Aron, Judy

Damon, Hope
Aron, Michael

Girard, Dale
Palmer, William

NAYS - 112**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen

Ploszaj, Tom

Terry, Paul

Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
Tremblay, Marc

Korzen, Lori

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex
Sellers, John

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Drew, Matt
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Paquette, Kathleen
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gorski, Ted
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Pauer, Diane
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Sirois, Shane
Ulery, Jordan

Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Moffett, Michael
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Plante, Raymond
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Polozov, Yury

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Drago, Mike
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Pearson, Mark
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom

Bernardy, JD
Dunn, Ron
Kuttab, Katelyn
McGrath, Linda
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Verville, Kevin

Thomas, Douglas
Guzofski, James
Litchfield, Melissa
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Harb, Robert
Love, David
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Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
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Granger, Michael

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeRoy, Susan
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret

Grant, George

Rollins, Skip

and the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1603-FN, requiring state agencies to provide current and verifiable evidence of a species presence before imposing any land use restriction related to that species' habitat. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Tanya Donnelly for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This is a fair and forward-looking bill that protects property rights, promotes regulatory accountability, and offers valuable opportunities for landowner education and participation. Research indicates that land use restrictions are sometimes applied without current, direct evidence of a species' presence, often depending on models or historical data. This can impose unnecessary burdens on property owners and has been criticized as regulatory overreach. By requiring verifiable evidence and landowner involvement, it addresses recognized issues in current endangered species regulations and aligns with constitutional principles and effective conservation methods. This approach not only protects individual rights but also builds a foundation for more efficient, cooperative, and sustainable species protection in New Hampshire. The amendment was supported by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Vote 8-7.

Rep. Will Darby for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The bill as drafted would have prevented the State of New Hampshire from enforcing the federal endangered species act by invalidating the state's database of endangered and protected species. As described in the fiscal note, this would have resulted in costs of millions of dollars per year, and increased delays to perform endangered species reviews. Potentially worse would be federal enforcement of the endangered species act if New Hampshire was found unable to perform these reviews as required by federal law. Many organizations, including the Forest Society, The Nature Conservancy, the Loon Preservation Committee, and New Hampshire Audubon opposed the bill due to the restrictions it would place on protecting the state's most threatened wildlife species. While the majority of the committee's amendment removes the most concerning aspects of the original bill, it introduces new ambiguity and defers critical questions to future rule making. HB 2 transferred the environmental review responsibility from Fish and Game to the Department of Environmental Services; this transition is still underway, and both departments raised concerns about the timing of this bill and likely disruption such as increased environmental review delays. Additionally, the Fish and Game Commission opposes the amendment on numerous grounds and offered alternative amendment language that was not discussed. As this amendment did not receive a public hearing, there is no updated fiscal note, and because until very recently Fish and Game has performed this role, the minority of the committee recommends the bill be referred for interim study to consult with all stakeholders.

Majority Amendment (0518h)

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

AN ACT requiring the executive director of the department of fish and game to adopt rules relative to procedures for verifying accuracy of records collected relative to threatened and endangered wildlife and ensuring landowner permission is granted for the gathering of such record.

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

1 Conservation Programs. Amend RSA 212-A:9, III to read as follows:

III.(a) All other state departments and agencies, to the extent possible, consistent with their authorities and responsibilities, shall take such action as is reasonable and prudent to ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by them do not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species or result in the destruction or modification of habitat of such species which is determined by the executive director to be critical, by requiring that all such action is designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate harm to such species and habitat designated as critical. Other departments and agencies may consult with the executive director or hire their own internal wildlife biologists to carry out the requirements of this paragraph. The executive director shall assist other departments and agencies in carrying out this paragraph.

(1) The executive director shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A, not later than one year after the effective date of this chapter, to establish procedures to verify the accuracy of records for threatened and endangered wildlife records under this paragraph, including but not limited to the age of the data.

(2) The executive director shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A not later than one year after the effective date of this chapter, to establish procedures to ensure landowner permission is granted for the gathering of site-specific species location.

(b) For the purpose of this statute, "appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species" shall be defined in rules adopted by the executive director pursuant to RSA 541-A. The provisions of RSA 212-A or any rule promulgated under this chapter shall not be applicable to a state department or agency when that state department or agency, in the process of undertaking an action, is required by federal law or regulation to address the environmental impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat, of that action.

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

2026-0518h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the executive director of the department of fish and game to adopt rules relative to procedures for verifying accuracy of records collected relative to threatened and endangered wildlife and ensures landowner permission is granted for the gathering of such record. Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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(2) The executive director shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A not later than one year after the effective date of this chapter, to establish procedures to ensure landowner permission is granted for the gathering of site-specific species location.

(b) For the purpose of this statute, “appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species” shall be defined in rules adopted by the executive director pursuant to RSA 541-A. The provisions of RSA 212-A or any rule promulgated under this chapter shall not be applicable to a state department or agency when that state department or agency, in the process of undertaking an action, is required by federal law or regulation to address the environmental impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat, of that action.

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

2026-0518h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the executive director of the department of fish and game to adopt rules relative to procedures for verifying accuracy of records collected relative to threatened and endangered wildlife and ensures landowner permission is granted for the gathering of such record.

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. Darby spoke against.

Rep. Donnelly spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 192 members having voted in the affirmative, and 152 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

HB 1752-FN, requiring the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Arnold Davis for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill aims to establish a chain-of-custody process designed to support the NH Division of Forests and Lands in the investigation and prosecution of timber theft. In addition, the bill seeks to extend chain-of-custody requirements to the state carbon registry. The majority of the committee concluded that this bill provides the NH Division of Forests and Lands with essential tools needed to address violations related to timber theft. Furthermore, the committee determined that the amendment, by incorporating carbon-market tracking into the existing registry, would help safeguard New Hampshire’s natural resources from being sold or influenced by foreign adversaries. Vote 8-7.

Rep. Allison Knab for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The issue of stolen lumber is a large problem in New Hampshire, with tens of thousands of dollars lost each year in timber theft. The original version of this bill would have required the origin of cut timber to be included on the scale slip, which would assist the NH Division of Forests and Lands with identifying and prosecuting theft. The committee amendment added the tracking of carbon credits generated through carbon sequestered in New Hampshire

trees to the legislation. While this might be worthy of discussion and consideration, the committee was unable to hold a hearing on this amendment and many questions and concerns were left unresolved. Tracking carbon credits is a complicated process and it is unclear how feasible it would be, how enforceable, and how expensive. Maine, for example, considered a similar model and determined tracking ownership would be too costly to implement. Further, this more appropriately should be vetted through the Carbon Sequestration Programs Study Commission, which was established last year through HB 123 to study issues around carbon sequestration. There is also a two-year moratorium on new carbon sequestration in the state, so the minority of the committee does not believe this legislation needed to be rushed through.

Majority Amendment (0484h)

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

1 Short Title. This act may be known as and cited to as “The Forest and Land Protection Act.”

2 Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

I. New Hampshire forests and timber resources are vital economic and strategic assets of the state.

II. The generation of carbon sequestered in New Hampshire trees is a forestry business practice that should be regulated under RSA 227-J:15.

III. Carbon credits generated from New Hampshire trees represent the monetization of forest resources and therefore should be regulated as a forest product under RSA 227-J:15.

IV. The state has an existing New Hampshire carbon credit registry maintained by the department of natural and cultural resources, division of forests and lands, which currently records properties enrolled in carbon credit programs.

V. The expansion of carbon markets requires enhanced transparency, chain of custody and transaction-level reporting to protect landowners, taxpayers, and the public interest.

VI. Without clear statutory authority and preparation time, state agencies cannot adequately track ownership, transfers, or foreign influence in markets for carbon credits generated from carbon sequestered in New Hampshire trees.

VII. The legislature has a compelling interest in ensuring transparency, traceability, and state oversight over carbon credits generated from carbon sequestered in New Hampshire trees prior to the continuation or expansion of market activity.

VIII. The purpose of this act is to regulate carbon credits generated from carbon sequestered in New Hampshire trees as a forest product under RSA 227-J:15, and integrate carbon credit transaction reporting into the existing New Hampshire carbon credit registry.

3 Deceptive Forestry Business Practices. RSA 227-J:15, II is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

II. In this section, “adulterated” means varying from a standard of composition or quality prescribed by any statute providing criminal penalties for such variance, or set by established commercial usage. In this section, “mislabeled” means varying from a standard of truth or disclosure in labeling prescribed by any law providing criminal penalties for such variance, or set by established commercial usage. In this section, “scale slip” means a written or printed form or combination of forms which provide an accurate, readily understandable record containing the species of wood product, board footage of each individual log when the standard unit of measurement is per thousand board feet, or tonnage or cordage when not sold per thousand board feet, gross scale, defect, net scale, date wood was measured, origin of timber, and the name of the party scaling the wood.

4 New Paragraphs; Origin of Timber. Amend RSA 227-J:15 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. “Origin of timber” means the municipality with either a numeric street address or a map and lot number. In cases where a notice of intent to cut timber has been filed with a municipality, the notice of intent to cut timber number may be used as the origin of timber.

5 New Section; Forest Management-Derived Carbon; Chain of Custody. Amend RSA 227-J by inserting after section 15 the following new section:

227-J:16 Forest Management-Derived Carbon; Chain of Custody.

I. “New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon” means any carbon credit, offset, allowance, unit, certificate, or other tradable interest representing carbon sequestration or storage derived directly or indirectly from New Hampshire timber, forest biomass, or forestland.

II.(a) The origin of New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon shall be identified as the municipality and parcel from which the underlying timber or forestland is derived.

(b) A continuous chain of custody shall be maintained documenting the originating parcel, project developer, registry entry, and each sale, transfer, assignment, retirement or other conveyance.

(c) No New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon shall be transferred unless such chain of custody is complete and current.

III.(a) The department of natural and cultural resources, division of forests and lands shall keep, maintain, and administer all data required under this section as part of the forest carbon credit registry established in RSA 227-G:4.

(b) The registry shall serve as the official public record of the origin, chain of custody, ownership, transfer history, and status of all New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon.

(c) Any sale, transfer, trade, assignment, or retirement of New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon shall be reported to the department within 30 days, of the authorization of the transaction.

IV.(a) Ownership or control shall include direct or indirect beneficial ownership.

(b) The department shall investigate any intermediary entity, trust, partnership, fund or contractual arrangement to identify the ultimate beneficial owner.

(c) Beneficial ownership certification shall be required at initial registry entry and upon each transfer.

V. No New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon shall be sold, transferred or controlled directly or indirectly, by any entity that is headquartered in, controlled by, or beneficially owned in whole or in part by a foreign adversary, as designated under 15 C.F.R. section 791.4. Any transaction in violation of this paragraph shall be void and unenforceable.

VI. The department shall assess reasonable fees not to exceed \$300 for registration, reporting, registry maintenance, and compliance monitoring of New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon, structured comparably to existing forestry reporting requirements. The department shall set fees not to exceed \$300 in rules in accordance with RSA 541-A for registration, reporting, registry maintenance, and compliance monitoring of New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon.

VII. Any violation of this section relative to New Hampshire forest management-derived carbon shall constitute a deceptive forestry business practice under this chapter and be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50 per metric ton of carbon involved. Each day a violation continues shall be a separate offense.

VIII. The department of natural and cultural resources, division of forests and lands shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the administration of this section by July 1, 2027.

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Vose moved that **HB 1752-FN**, requiring the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 185 members having voted in the affirmative, and 155 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1539-FN, authorizing electric utilities to issue AAA-rated bonds for the purpose of storm cost recovery and infrastructure resilience. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is a straightforward measure that amends existing statutes to add storm recovery costs to the list of expenses the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) may allow utilities to securitize. Utilities have had to respond to numerous large and impactful storms over the past several years. This bill will provide utilities and regulators with a tool to limit the impact on customers' electric bills associated with storm cost recovery. This bill would allow utilities to access lower cost financing options and extend the period of cost recovery, subject to PUC approval, thus reducing the burden that NH's electric customers will experience on their energy bills. New Hampshire has used securitization in the past for other utility-related costs, such as the sale of generation assets to complete electric restructuring. This bill only applies to storm costs that the PUC has determined to be prudently incurred. Utilities must demonstrate that securitizing storm costs provides a meaningful benefit to customers, and the PUC must review and approve any proposals. The amendment changed the PUC review period from 60 to "a period not to exceed 180" days. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (0409h)

Amend RSA 369-B:3-c as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

369-B:3-c Finance Orders with Respect to Storm Costs. An electric utility may submit to the commission an application for a finance order with respect to incurred storm costs. Storm costs shall be paid off with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds if the commission determines that the issuance of such rate reduction bonds is in the public interest. A determination that such rate reduction bonds are in the public interest may be based on reasons including, but not limited to, a showing that retail customers would experience lower overall costs if such rate reduction bonds are issued, as compared to traditional recovery calculated over the same time period, or that such financing would mitigate bill impacts to retail customers as compared with alternative methods of financing or direct rate recovery of such storm costs. The commission shall issue a final decision on such application for financing of storm costs within a period not to exceed 180 days of its receipt of an application by an electric utility for a finance order.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.
Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Finance.

HB 1718-FN, relative to authorizing energy storage in connection with net metering. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Thomas Cormen for Science, Technology and Energy. Currently, when a customer-generator wishes to net meter, the energy put onto the grid must come directly from a renewable generation source, such as solar panels, or from a heat led combined heat and power system. This bill, as amended, allows energy from storage to be net metered as well, as long as the charging comes from the generation source, or the charging is under the control of an entity other than the customer-generator. The latter situation occurs when the utility or manufacturer may control the battery, typically in advance of a storm. Vote 17-0.

Amendment (0582h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Limited Electrical Energy Producers Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a, II-b to read as follows:

II-b. "Eligible customer-generator" or "customer-generator" means an electric utility customer who owns, operates, or purchases power from an electrical generating facility either powered by renewable energy or which employs a heat led combined heat and power system, with a total peak generating capacity, **or maximum nameplate rating**, of up to and including one megawatt, except as provided for a municipal host as defined in paragraph II-c, that is located behind a retail meter on the customer's premises, is interconnected and operates in parallel with the electric grid, and is used to offset the customer's own electricity requirements. **Energy storage, as defined in RSA 374-H:1, III, may be added to such a generation facility without affecting the generation facility's size determination relating to its eligibility to net meter. Such energy storage, if configured to allow electricity to be exported to the grid, shall be charged only from such generation facility, except as provided for in RSA 362-A:9, XXIV.** Incremental generation added to an existing generation facility, that does not itself qualify for net metering, shall qualify if such incremental generation meets the qualifications of this paragraph and is metered separately from the [nonqualifying] **non-qualifying** facility.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

4 New Paragraph; Net Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph XXIII the following new paragraph:

XXIV. The commission may determine terms and conditions for how a customer-generator may use and be compensated for exports to the grid from energy storage added to renewable energy generation sources in conjunction with net metering and related tariff provisions. The commission shall require such energy storage, if configured to allow electricity to be exported to the grid, to be charged only from such generation facility, unless charging is under the control of an entity other than the customer-generator or as otherwise authorized by the commission in an adjudicated proceeding.

5 Customer Energy Storage; Customer Energy Storage Systems. Amend RSA 374-H:2, II to read as follows:

II. Nothing in this section alters or supersedes either:

(a) The principles of net energy metering under RSA 362-A:9, **except to clarify that the commission has the authority to allow storage as part of the net metering**; or

(b) Any existing electrical permit requirements or any licensing or certification requirements for installers, manufacturers, or equipment.

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

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Finance.

HB 1741-FN, relative to the enrollment and use of distributed energy resource aggregations by electric utilities. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. John Schneller for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill posits an interesting idea to create virtual power plants comprised of aggregated customer-owned utility apparatus and battery capacity from multiple users that utilities can tap during periods of peak demand. The utilities already implement a similar program via NHSaves that uses demand response to achieve peak demand shaving. This program will be expanded in the next triennial energy efficiency plan. Implementation issues will inhibit this bill's realization in the near term, but the idea can be expanded in the future. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Tony Caplan for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would enable utilities to put together private energy resources such as batteries, thermostats, electric vehicles, etc. in virtual power plants that are dispatched on the grid at peak times to shave demand. These aggregated power plants have proved a powerful tool to lower electric costs in neighboring states. Although NH utilities have pilot programs in place, this bill asks them to maximize their programs to lower electric costs. The minority believes a Refer for Interim Study motion would be appropriate.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Vose moved that **HB 1741-FN**, relative to the enrollment and use of distributed energy resource aggregations by electric utilities, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1748-FN, establishing the New Hampshire energy efficiency and resource development authority. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would establish a NH energy efficiency and resource development authority. Public testimony uncovered several issues while at the same time posited potential merit in some of the bill's concepts. The majority of the committee feels interim study provides the best path forward. Vote 14-3.

Rep. Tony Caplan for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The minority is in favor of Inexpedient to Legislate as this bill raises serious questions rather than potential solutions to the problems it intends to solve. It creates an unaccountable quasi-government agency with no oversight to handle nuclear power development, nuclear power investments through a revolving loan program, and energy efficiency programs at the same time, with unclear staffing levels or funding for staff. In addition, the agency would be exempt from right-to-know laws and other public safeguards.

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

HB 1775-FN, relative to utility ownership of natural gas and nuclear power generation facilities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This is enabling legislation that expands potential utility ownership of production resources beyond solar to also include natural gas and nuclear power generation. As amended, any production unit must be less than five Megawatts (MW), meaning all can be connected to the utilities distribution system without interconnection to the Independent System Operator New England regulated transmission lines used by large power producers. The total investment capacity of any utility may not exceed 10% of their net distribution capacity measured in MW. This bill opens the door for entrepreneurs to develop and commercialize these assets in NH, creating high-tech manufacturing opportunities for the state and localized power production. It is consistent with the Governor's message that NH is open for business, specifically for reliable power production resources. Vote 11-6.

Rep. Tony Caplan for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The minority believes that the bill is well intentioned in recognizing the need for meeting anticipated new electricity demand. But the risk posed by utility ownership such as allowing ratepayer exposure to stranded costs in the construction of either nuclear or fossil fuel plants, and of market distortion by disincentivizing private investment, far outweigh the theoretical benefit of reverting to vertically integrated monopoly utility ownership, even when limits are set on total capacity.

Majority Amendment (0594h)

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1-3 with the following:

1 Purpose. Amend RSA 374-G:1 to read as follows:

374-G:1 Purpose. Distributed energy resources can increase overall energy efficiency and provide energy security and diversity by eliminating, displacing, or better managing traditional fossil fuel energy deliveries from the centralized bulk power grid, in keeping with the objectives of RSA 362-F:1. It is therefore in the public interest to stimulate investment in distributed energy resources in New Hampshire in diverse ways, including by encouraging New Hampshire electric public utilities to invest in renewable and clean distributed energy resources at the lowest reasonable cost to taxpayers benefiting the transmission and distribution system under state regulatory oversight. ***Reliable, dispatchable, and controllable power generation must also be available to provide all essential electric service when renewable distributed energy resources are not available. It is therefore in the public interest to stimulate investment in natural gas and nuclear technologies in order to provide reliable and efficient energy. Given the ability of nuclear technology to provide reactive power, it also ensures grid stability and supports voltage regulation.***

2 New Section; Investments in Natural Gas and Nuclear Resources. Amend RSA 374-G by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

374-G:2-a Investments in Natural Gas and Nuclear Energy Resources.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a New Hampshire electric utility may invest in or own natural gas or nuclear energy resources as whole generation units, or as part of a generation unit, located on or interconnected to the local electric distribution system. No individual generation unit may exceed 5 megawatts in size.

II. The cumulative nameplate capacity in megawatts of natural gas and nuclear electric generation owned by or receiving investments from an electric utility under this section shall not exceed 10 percent of the utility's total distribution peak load in megawatts.

3 Rate Filing; Authorization. Amend the introductory paragraph for RSA 374-G:5, I to read as follows:

I. A New Hampshire electric public utility [may] ***shall be eligible to*** seek rate recovery for its portion of investments in [distributed] ***natural gas and nuclear energy resources, in addition to renewable distributed energy resources***, from the commission by making an appropriate rate filing. At a minimum, such filing shall include the following:

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 178 members having voted in the affirmative, and 145 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. Bernardy spoke in favor.

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

YEAS 191 - NAYS 149

YEAS - 191

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Minor, Sheri

Bordes, Mike
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Paternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Taylor, Brian

MacDonald, John

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick
Spahr, Terry

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Gagne, Larry
Herbert, Christopher
Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Ulery, Jordan

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Giasson, Henry
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Scully, Kevin
Swanson, Dale
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gorski, Ted
Kesselring, Steven
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

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

ROCKINGHAM

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

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert

Bernardy, JD
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Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis

Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Pearson, Mark
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nelson, Jodi
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
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Walker, David

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Hall, Robley

DeRoy, Susan
Laroche, John
Turcotte, Len

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Spillsbury, Walter

NAYS - 149**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
O'Rourke, Terri

Berch, Paul
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

GRAFTON

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

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Cornell, Patricia
Elberger, Susan
Grund, Stephanie
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Telerski, Laura
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Chretien, Suzanne
DiSilvestro, Linda
Georges, Mary
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Knab, Allison
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Paige, Mark
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Maggiore, Jim
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Murray, Kate
Malloy, Dennis
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy

Howland, Allan
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Johnson, Erik
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

LaMontagne, Jessica
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

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

HB 1777-FN, relative to the enhanced 911 system fund. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The Department of Safety gave extensive testimony against this bill. The sponsor spoke of dedicated funds and lamented that funds were being redistributed within the department. This is not unusual and is in fact something that is practiced within many department budgets. The Executive Committee of the Hillsborough County Delegation, for example, meets once a month to authorize the transfer of funds within the various department budget line items. Vote 12-5. Rep. Wendy Thomas for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill would modernize and strengthen oversight of New Hampshire's Enhanced 911 System Fund by ensuring that the fees and revenues collected to support emergency communications are used strictly for their intended purpose, delivering and dispatching 911 calls and related operations. Under current practice, funds collected from telephone and wireless fees meant to support 911 services can be used broadly for various public safety purposes. This bill would refine these guidelines so that investments directly support core functions such as Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) operations, maintenance of communication systems, technology for call routing and processing, and personnel directly involved in emergency dispatch. At the same time, the bill would prohibit the use of these funds for unrelated expenses such as general public safety programs or infrastructure not directly tied to 911 call delivery, thereby increasing fiscal discipline and clarity in funding emerge.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Vose moved that **HB 1777-FN**, relative to the enhanced 911 system fund, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 217 members having voted in the affirmative, and 122 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1492-FN, relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Seth Miller for the **Majority** of Transportation. Following an accident, our constituents find themselves forced into a contract with a private party, unable to negotiate on the rates charged to have their vehicle towed. Rather than providing flexibility and support to owners in the aftermath of what is almost certainly a terrible experience we are currently, as a state, shamefully compounding those challenges. This bill provides and enforces key protections, helping to reduce that burden. Specifically, it requires tow operators to clearly disclose the right to appeal the fees, extends the period for appeal from 15 to 30 days, and allows appeals to be filed without first paying the impound fee. It also prohibits the suspension of a license for failure to pay that debt. Finally, it requires transparency around what the fees charged should be. Vote 10-6.

Rep. Ted Gorski for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill makes notifications to the process of towing vehicles from public highways. The minority had several issues with this bill. First, this bill has four amendments which is an indication that the bill is flawed in many ways. Secondly, one of the amendments removes the ability for the DMV to suspend an individual's drivers license due to not paying a towing debt. In previous testimony, towing companies have stated that this is their option when trying to collect a towing debt. The minority believes removing this option is a bridge too far in the bill.

Majority Amendment (0662h)

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

AN ACT relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways and 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.

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

1 Fees for Removal and Impoundment of Motor Vehicles. Amend RSA 262:35-a to read as follows:
262:35-a Review of Fees for Removal and Impoundment.

I. All fees charged for the removal and storage of any vehicle caused to be removed by an authorized official pursuant to RSA 262:32 or RSA 262:40-a shall be reasonable, and may reflect market variables, including, but not limited to, distance traveled to and from the storage facility, vehicle size and weight, the amount of time needed to remove and store the vehicle, any special equipment needed, and personnel

costs. ***The invoice for towing and impoundment of the vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appeal pursuant to this section.*** If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge the reasonableness of the fee charged, the owner or other person may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of the vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the ~~[release of the vehicle]~~ ***receipt of the invoice***, request in writing a review by the commissioner of safety. The commissioner of safety or designee shall review the claim to determine if there are sufficient grounds to conduct a hearing to determine whether the charge was reasonable. If the commissioner or designee determines that a hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be scheduled by the bureau of hearings within 20 days after review by the commissioner, at which time the extent of removal and storage fees shall be determined. The commissioner or designee shall approve or disapprove of the decision of the bureau of hearings within 7 days after the hearing was held. Notwithstanding RSA 262:25, any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner or designee under this section may appeal the decision to the superior court in the same manner as that prescribed in RSA 263:75, II and III. If no request for review is filed within the ~~[15-day]~~ **30-day** period, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle shall be deemed to have waived all rights to review under this section and shall be liable for the total amount billed.

II. Nothing in this section shall prevent a review of the reasonableness of the towing or other action as may be permitted by laws of this state by a court of competent jurisdiction.

III. Any time that a person is storing a vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision, the person may remove any items from within the vehicle that are not a part of or accessories to the vehicle. The person may hold any such items, other than wallets, purses, life essential clothing, mail, legal documents, car seats, eyeglasses, medicine, medical equipment, or house keys pending payment of any fees due under this subdivision. If fees remain unpaid after [20] **30** days, the person may dispose of the items.

2 Abandoned Vehicles; Procedure for Removal and Impoundment. Amend RSA 262:33, II and III to read as follows:

II. Whenever a vehicle is towed pursuant to RSA 262:31-a or RSA 262:32, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to the possession of the vehicle shall be entitled to recover said vehicle and release of the above lien by payment of all reasonable towing and storage charges. ***The invoice for towing and impoundment of the vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appeal pursuant to this section.*** If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge whether there was sufficient grounds for towing and impoundment, he or she may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of such vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the ~~[towing and impoundment]~~ ***receipt of the invoice***, request in writing a hearing.

III. The hearing shall be held before the head of the law enforcement agency which employs the authorized official who caused the vehicle to be removed and stored, or his or her designee. In the event such agency head or his or her designee determines sufficient grounds did not exist for the removal and storage of the vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall reimburse the owner or other person lawfully claiming possession for any amount paid to the custodian to secure release of the vehicle, ***or, if payment has not yet been made, order that the vehicle be immediately released from impoundment, with the agency assuming full liability of the lien.***

3 New Section; License Suspension; Failure to Pay Fines and Fees. Amend RSA 263 by inserting after section 56-g the following new section:

263:56-h License Suspension Prohibited for Unpaid Towing or Storage Fees.

I. Under no circumstances shall the director suspend, revoke, or fail to renew a driver's license for failure to pay removal and storage fees for a vehicle towed or stored for any reason.

II. A person whose driver's license has been suspended for outstanding vehicle removal or storage fees and who is otherwise eligible to drive shall have their driver's license reinstated and shall not be required to pay a reinstatement fee. No later than 30 days after the effective date of this section, the division shall, without requiring a reinstatement fee, reinstate the driver's license or nonresident operating privilege. In cases where a driver's license was not renewed due to outstanding removal and storage fees, the person shall be immediately eligible for license renewal and shall pay the same renewal fee as a driver not under suspension, but not a separate reinstatement fee.

4 License Suspension Restricted. Amend RSA 263:57, I to read as follows:

I. Any justice of ~~[a district or municipal court]~~ ***the circuit court*** or of the superior court may suspend any license issued to any person, for a period not to exceed 30 days, after a conviction of an offense under the provisions of this title, after ~~[due hearing]~~ ***a hearing where the driver had reasonable notice of the possibility of license suspension prior to the hearing***, for any cause ***not prohibited in RSA 263***, which he ***or she*** may deem sufficient.

5 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, XVIII to read as follows:

XVIII. The tow business shall provide state police with a complete updated list of all rates for the services it performs related to the towing and storage of vehicles, on the letterhead of the business, and shall update

such list when prices change. State Police shall not set the fees for these services nor use the rate schedule provided in determining placement on a rotation schedule. ~~[Price lists shall remain confidential except when determining the reasonable fee in a requested hearing conducted by the department of safety.]~~

6 Effective Date.

- I. Sections 3 and 4 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.
- II. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-0662h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Extends the time period for a vehicle owner to appeal the reasonableness of towing and impoundment fees to the department of safety.

II. Requires that invoices generated from towing and impounding vehicles clearly indicate the process for appealing said tow or impoundment.

III. Prohibits the division of motor vehicles from suspending a person's license or driving privileges based on their failure to pay a debt related to a commercial entity's towing or storage of a vehicle.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 315 members having voted in the affirmative, and 25 in the negative, the majority committee amendment was adopted.

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

Rep. Gorski spoke against

Rep. Miller spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 256 members having voted in the affirmative, and 84 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONTINUED

HB 1415-FN, establishing a special veterans license plate and creates a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ted Gorski for Transportation. This bill authorizes special veterans license plates with the "Live Free or Die" logo. The cost of these plates will be \$60. This fee will be transferred to the New Hampshire First for Veterans Number Plate Fund. This fund will be used to fund the administrative programs for the veterans. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (0602h)

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

AN ACT establishing a special veterans license plate and creating a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates and establishing the New Hampshire first for veterans program and authority.

Amend RSA 261:97-g as inserted by section 3 of the bill by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. A person who qualifies for special number plates pursuant to this section may be issued an additional plate for a motorcycle.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

4 New Subdivision; First for Veterans Program. Amend RSA 110-B by inserting after section 91 the following new subdivision:

First for Veterans Program

110-B:92 Declaration of Purpose. The general court declares it to be the purpose of this subdivision to:

I. Maintain the state's ability to attract and retain veterans to New Hampshire and attain and maintain a position as the most veteran-friendly state.

II. Acknowledge and address demand signals for critical resources, service, and support.

III. Recognize the gaps and the importance of public and private partnerships to identify, develop, and resource solutions to facilitate overcoming barriers to veterans, service members and their families.

IV. Learn, adapt, seek, and resource new and more transformational concepts that raise awareness of the state's veteran-friendly advocacy, policy, and laws.

V. Develop veteran employment support and improve focus on veteran well-being.

VI. Provide strategic messaging and transition assistance programs and reinforce critical gaps, including mental health care access, suicide prevention, substance use disorder, physical well being, employment, and housing stability.

110-B:93 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. "Authority" means the New Hampshire first for veterans authority.

II. "Board" means the board of directors of the New Hampshire first for veterans authority.

III. "Grant obligations" means the legal obligation arising from the use of program funds.

110-B:94 New Hampshire First for Veterans Program Established.

I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire first for veterans program. The program shall provide funding to promote the general welfare of the state's veterans, service members and their families by providing quality services.

II. The program will prioritize efforts that:

- (a) Contribute to ending veteran homelessness in New Hampshire;
- (b) Attract and retain veterans to New Hampshire and match their unique skills with veteran-friendly businesses and organizations and provide them with employment support;
- (c) Improve access to physical and mental health care, suicide prevention measures, oral health care options, and substance use disorder treatment;
- (d) Support military skills transfer, training, and certification; and
- (e) Address a broad range of educational opportunities, including institutions of higher learning, on-the-job training, and apprenticeships and initiatives focused on the trades.

110-B-95 New Hampshire First For Veterans Authority.

I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire first for veterans authority, which shall act as a both a public and private entity. The authority shall be constituted as a public instrumentality of the state. The authority and power conferred by this subdivision shall be deemed and held to be the performance of public and essential governmental functions. The authority shall be a nonprofit corporation organized under RSA 292.

II. The authority shall be governed by a board of directors composed of 22 members. Voting members shall not appoint designees to act in their places. A chairperson shall be elected from among the members.

III. Board members with voting powers shall be as follows:

- (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (c) Five members of the veterans council, appointed by the governor.
- (d) The commissioner of the department of military affairs and veteran services, or designee.

IV. Board members without voting powers shall be as follows:

- (a) A representative from the New Hampshire first for veteran board, or designee.
- (b) The commissioner of the employment security, or designee.
- (c) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.
- (d) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.
- (e) Persons belonging to the state veterans advisory committee or the military leadership team, appointed by the governor, with each having expertise, knowledge of, or experience in one of the following areas:
 - (1) Housing stability.
 - (2) Physical health care.
 - (3) Mental health care and suicide prevention.
 - (4) Military skills transfer, licensing, and certifications.
 - (5) Veteran-friendly businesses or organizations.
 - (6) Oral health care professions.
 - (7) Substance use disorder programs.
 - (8) Educational institutions.
 - (9) Apprenticeships, on the job training, or the trades.

V.(a) The terms of state agency members, member of the senate, and members of the house of representatives shall be coterminous with their respective terms in office.

(b) Members appointed by the governor may be removed from office for cause by the governor. Cause for removal shall include incapacity or failure to perform a member's duties. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of the office in the same manner as the original appointment. Legislative members shall be entitled to mileage reimbursement at the legislative rate.

VI. Seven voting members shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be made by a majority of those present and voting. The board shall meet quarterly and at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the chairperson.

VII. Board members shall not be subject to civil liability for acts performed in accordance with their duties under this subdivision.

110-B:96 Powers and Duties of the Authority. The authority shall have all the powers necessary and convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this subdivision and shall:

I. Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business.

II. Adopt criteria and guidelines for:

- (a) The acquisition of resource assets;
- (b) The restoration or rehabilitation of cultural and historical buildings or structures; and
- (c) The stewardship and monitoring of resource assets on which program funds are expended.

III. Adopt policies deemed important or necessary to carry out the purposes of this subdivision.

IV. Oversee and direct the expenditure of funds deposited in the New Hampshire first for veterans fund in accordance with the purposes of this subdivision, which shall include the authority to draw upon funds for program purposes and for administrative costs of the program.

V. Make and execute contracts for services necessary to carry out the purposes of this subdivision.

VI. Enforce grant obligations through contract, acceptance of rights to enforcement, or other legal actions as necessary to carry out the purposes of this subdivision.

VII. Prepare an annual report to be presented and filed, by no later than December 1, to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the governor, and the state library. The report shall detail the activities and administrative costs of the authority, as well as a complete financial accounting of the funds established under RSA 110-B:99 and 110-B:100. The report shall also include a historical summary of the program's activities to date. A copy of the report shall be made available by the authority to any interested person.

VIII. Conduct an independent audit by a certified public accountant of its books and accounts each fiscal year.

IX. Should the authority deem it appropriate:

(a) Adopt an official seal.

(b) Maintain an office and hire staff.

(c) Apply for, or accept from any source, gifts and donations of:

(1) Money, including money from appropriate fundraising activities;

(2) Labor, equipment, and supplies;

(3) Federal, local, private, and other matching funds and incentives; and

(4) Other assets to be deposited in the fund that may aid the authority in the conduct of its affairs.

(d) Employ or retain, as independent contractors attorneys, accountants, and other advisors, consultants, or agents as may be necessary without regard to any personnel or civil service law of the state to prescribe their duties and qualifications, and to fix and pay their compensation, if any.

(e) Appoint qualified individuals to serve as unpaid volunteers under such terms and conditions as deemed necessary. Said volunteers or advisors may be paid a stipend and/or reimbursed for any incidental expenses determined by the authority to be necessary and incurred while performing the business of the authority.

110-B:97 Executive Director. The board of directors shall nominate one for appointment by the governor to serve as an executive director. The executive director shall serve a term of 5 years, with reappointment or a vacancy to be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. At the request of the board, the governor may remove the executive director for cause. The chairperson of the authority shall not serve concurrently as the executive director. The executive director shall:

I. Coordinate the activities of state agencies directly involved with the administration of the program in accordance with this subdivision.

II. Evaluate the eligible resources proposed for protection or restoration under this program, and determine if these resources meet the criteria of the program, subsequent to instruction by the board.

III. At the direction of the board, administer the affairs of the program and be directly responsible for executing all policies of the board.

110-B:98 Status of Employees.

I. The authority may hire, fix, and pay compensation, prescribe duties and qualifications, and establish personnel policies without regard to any personnel or civil service law or personnel or civil service rule of the state. The employees of the authority shall not be classified employees of the state within the meaning of RSA 21-I:49. Any individual employed by the authority shall be deemed an employee at will and shall serve at the pleasure of the authority.

II. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I, any individual employed by the authority whose employment calls for 30 hours or more work in a normal calendar week, and whose position is anticipated to have a duration of 6 months or more, shall be entitled to elect to receive such health, dental, life insurance, deferred compensation, and retirement benefits as are afforded to classified employees of the state provided, however, that the election is made in writing within 30 days of the start of employment. Upon election by such individual, the authority shall pay from its revenues the state's share of such benefits. Any remaining costs of health, dental, life insurance, deferred compensation, and retirement benefits which an individual elects to receive pursuant to this section, shall be withheld from such individual's salary as a payroll deduction. Written notice of the availability of these benefit options shall be provided to each individual upon employment by the authority.

110-B:99 Trust Fund Established; Administration.

I. There is established in the office of the state treasurer the New Hampshire first for veterans trust fund. Moneys in the fund and any interest earned on the fund shall only be used for the purpose of this subdivision. The trust fund shall be non-lapsing interest bearing funds and shall be continually appropriated to the department of military affairs and veterans services.

II. The state treasurer shall invest the sums deposited in the fund in a prudent manner consistent with the purposes of this subdivision. Interest earned on moneys in the fund shall accrue to the fund to the extent allowed under law.

III. No funds of any state agency shall be transferred to the trust fund without authorization from the general court. Federal funds accepted by the joint fiscal committee or governor for purposes similar to those of this subdivision may be deposited in the trust fund.

110-B:100 Administrative Fund.

I. There is established in the authority a separate fund to be known as the first for veterans administrative fund. The total revenues generated to the administrative fund from this source shall not exceed \$200,000 for each fiscal year. Any revenue generated from this source in excess of the \$200,000 maximum per year shall be credited by the New Hampshire first for veterans trust fund in RSA 110-B:99. In its annual report, the authority shall include the amount of revenues exceeding the maximum which are credited to the New Hampshire first for veterans trust fund.

II. All sums so credited shall be appropriated to the authority for the following purposes:

(a) To pay the costs of administering and operating the authority, including all wages, salaries, benefits, and other expenses authorized by the board or the executive director. The authority may enter into a contract or agreement for provision of services to withhold on a monthly basis all payroll and benefit costs for employees.

(b) For the payment of all expenses incident to the management and operation of the authority consistent with its statutory purpose and as the board or the executive director may determine.

III. This fund shall constitute a continuing appropriation for the benefit of the authority. Any amount remaining to the credit of the authority at the close of any fiscal year, and any interest accrued, shall be nonlapsing and shall be carried over and credited to the fund for the succeeding year.

110-B:101 Program Administration; Matching Funds.

I. The authority shall distribute funds to further the purposes of this subdivision only to eligible applicants. Eligible applicants shall include:

(a) Municipalities or other political subdivisions of the state; and

(b) Publicly-supported nonprofit corporations exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

II. Other parties wishing to participate in the program may partner with one or more eligible applicants. At the option of eligible applicants and with the approval of the board, state agencies may hold rights in resource assets acquired through the program by eligible applicants. The applicant must demonstrate the commitment of the owner of the assets to participate in the proposed action.

III. Financial assistance to eligible applicants shall be provided through grants, block grants, and loans. Up to 50 percent of financial assistance provided each year may be provided through loans. Principal and interest paid on such loans shall be deposited in the land and community heritage investment program administrative fund established in RSA 227-M:7. Financial assistance may only be expended on eligible resources for the following purposes:

(a) Ending veteran homelessness in New Hampshire;

(b) Attracting and retaining veterans to New Hampshire;

(c) Matching veteran skills with workforce development needs;

(d) Businesses and organizations that honor and positively impact veterans, service members, and their families;

(e) Employment support;

(f) Improving access to physical and mental health care;

(g) Suicide prevention measures;

(h) Providing oral health care options;

(i) Substance use disorder treatment;

(j) Support military skills transfer, training, and certification; or

(k) Addressing a range of educational opportunities including institutes of higher learning, on the job training, apprenticeships and initiatives focused on the trades.

5 New Subparagraph; The State and Its Government; State Treasurer; Application of Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (410) the following new subparagraph:

(411) Moneys deposited into the New Hampshire first for veterans trust fund established in RSA 110-B:99.

(412) Moneys deposited into the first for veterans administrative fund established in RSA 110-B:110.

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

2026-0602h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes a special veterans license plate and establishes a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates.

This bill also establishes the first for veterans program, a program designed to attract, retain, and support veterans in the state.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.
Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Finance.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of

HB 1415-FN, establishing a special veterans license plate and creating a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates and establishing the New Hampshire first for veterans program and authority.

HB 1444-FN, relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

HB 1467-FN, relative to the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement program.

HB 1499-FN, relative to additional grounds for eviction under the landlord and tenant statute.

HB 1523-FN, relative to disclosure requirements for condominium associations.

HB1539-FN, authorizing electric utilities to issue AAA-rated bonds for the purpose of storm cost recovery and infrastructure resilience.

HB 1574-FN, relative to the extension of free and reduced price breakfast and lunch for students under the age of 22 and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 1598-FN, relative to notice and proceedings for tenants and landlords engaged in eviction processes.

HB 1603-FN, requiring the executive director of the department of fish and game to adopt rules relative to procedures for verifying accuracy of records collected relative to threatened and endangered wildlife and ensuring landowner permission is granted for the gathering of such record.

HB 1730-FN, enhancing the level of offense for certain sexual offenses.

HB 1792-FN, prohibiting school districts and personnel from the instruction of critical race theory and LG-BTQ+ ideologies in schools as well as establishing a private right of action for violations.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1536-FN, establishing penalties for unauthorized parking in designated electric vehicle and motorcycle spaces.

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

Rep. Matthew Coker for the **Majority** of Transportation. Parking in an EV charging spot when you aren't actively charging is inconsiderate. But as well-intentioned as this bill is, using law enforcement to police parking rules on private property isn't a good use of state resources. Property owners already have other legal tools to enforce their policies. Expanding the government's role to enforce these policies isn't necessary. Vote 9-6. Rep. Daniel Veilleux for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill addresses a narrow but increasingly common problem: the unauthorized use of parking spaces that are specifically designated for electric vehicle charging, motorcycles, and mopeds. These spaces are not convenience parking. They exist to serve a defined operational purpose and, in many cases, to support private investment in infrastructure that provides a service to the public. In practical terms, when a charging station is occupied by a vehicle that cannot use it, the station is effectively taken out of service. This is analogous to blocking a gas pump, a loading zone, or a fire lane. The issue is not the act of parking itself, but the interference with the lawful and intended use of property. Police already enforce private property rights in situations where interference is clear and observable, even without a complaint from the property owner. For example, an officer who observes someone removing merchandise from a closed store does not need the owner present to act; the interference with property rights is evident. Although blocking a clearly marked charging space, is not necessarily a criminal act, it presents the same enforcement principle. The authority to enforce exists; this bill simply provides clarity and consistency in its application. The bill relies on existing signage standards under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), ensuring that drivers receive clear notice before any enforcement action occurs. Enforcement requires such spaces to be clearly designated by a clearly visible sign. It only ensures that where such spaces have been lawfully established, they can be meaningfully enforced. The minority is not persuaded that this bill represents inappropriate enforcement on private property. Rather, it resolves ambiguity that currently undermines compliance and frustrates both drivers who rely on these spaces and the property owners who have invested in them. Enforcement without statutory clarity is uneven and often avoided altogether, which effectively nullifies the purpose of the designation. Finally, the goal is compliance and predictability, ensuring that infrastructure designed to provide a specific service can operate as intended. For these reasons, the minority believes this bill is a reasonable, limited, and practical response to a real problem and respectfully recommends that the committee vote against the inexpedient to legislate motion.

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

On a division vote, with 188 members having voted in the affirmative, and 149 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted.

HB 1758, relative to school bus drivers' certificates. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Seth Miller for the **Majority** of Transportation. Students today face the challenge of rides to school running hours longer than they should. This bill helps to address that with a simple tweak to existing policy, and without sacrificing the safety of those operations. It helps fill a critical need, particularly in the Mascoma Valley and other western parts of the state. Vote 8-7.

Rep. Charles Foote for the **Minority** of Transportation. The minority feels that while the bill is intended to address driver shortages, it waives New Hampshire Certification standards without ensuring equivalent oversight and safety protections. We heard testimony from the DMV stating Vermont does not accept licenses of NH drivers and requires that applicant complete a VT based training and testing prior to issuance of a license. The minority feels that this does not embrace a true good faith reciprocity agreement.

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

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 652-FN, abolishing the family division, creating the office of family mediation, and reassigning the jurisdiction of the family division. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Mark Pearson for Children and Family Law. The motion to recommend this bill as Inexpedient to Legislate originally passed the committee 12-2. The minority recommendation was to Refer for Interim Study. Rather than bring forth the Inexpedient to Legislate motion at the beginning of the calendar year, the bill was sent back to the Children and Family Law Committee. On February 10 of this year, we discussed the topic of family court further, and came once again to the conclusion the bill should be Inexpedient to Legislate. Our opinion has not changed. If anything, our belief has become stronger that the family court is the right place for family matters to be discussed and decided. Some decades after the establishment of French-style law courts as part of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, government leadership in England concluded that "equity courts" were needed to be added to existing tort and criminal courts and with such courts functioning with more flexible rules and procedures. The establishment of such new courts was in response to a growing request of the people. For hundreds of years equity courts have served an important function which is why most states and many countries have such. Family court is such a court of equity. Does family court need some work done on it? That was the conclusion of the two-year-long Special Committee on the Family Division of the Circuit Court and some changes were suggested and adopted. We know the work is not yet complete and look forward to more changes being made as members of the Children and Family Law Committee continue the work of reform. Vote 15-0.

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

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. DeSimone moved that **HB 652-FN**, abolishing the family division, creating the office of family mediation, and reassigning the jurisdiction of the family division, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 268 members having voted in the affirmative, and 66 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONT'D

HB 1602-FN, creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Lisa Freeman for Environment and Agriculture. Effective July 1, 2025, the legislature banned the disposal of lithium ion batteries, as they are very dangerous and have been known to cause fires in municipal transfer stations and other places dealing with handling these hazardous batteries headed for landfills. Since the ban, municipalities have been faced with trying to figure out how to deal with discarded batteries from their residents. Some have been using free battery recycling programs, which very soon will no longer be free. This bipartisan bill, and its amendment, deals with our ever looming and often dangerous situation around the disposal of lithium ion batteries, as well as other batteries, and allows for the establishment of a viable method to collect and recycle these batteries, which contain valuable materials such as cobalt, lithium, copper and steel. Other states have begun this type of recycling program, and by spearheading the first battery recycling programs in New England, New Hampshire has an opportunity to address and model independence in mineral recycling as well as decreasing dependence on Chinese mined minerals. This program supports our state's solid waste goals, and does not incur an extra cost to the state, or to municipalities, or to the taxpayer. The program was developed by manufacturers and battery stewardship organizations (BSOs) and they are the ones who perform the free collection and recycling of the materials. Any expenses regarding supporting this program in NH which are incurred by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) are defrayed by fund in the Solid Waste Management Fund. This program is broadly supported by industry and business, our fire chiefs, and our municipalities. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0405h)

Amend RSA 149-M:65 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

149-M:65 Definitions; Stewardship Program Established.

I. In this subdivision:

(a) "Battery-containing product" means a product that contains or is packaged with a rechargeable or primary battery that qualifies as a covered battery.

(b) "Battery material refining" means refining end-of-life batteries or battery materials back to usable battery materials suitable for reintroduction into the battery supply chain or for other beneficial manufacturing applications.

(c) "Battery recycler" means an entity or facility that abides by all applicable federal, state, local, and jurisdictional laws and performs either, or both, materials recovery and battery material refining.

(d) "Battery stewardship organization" means a producer that directly implements a battery stewardship plan required under this subdivision, or one or more third-party entities designated by a group of producers to implement such plan.

(e) "Collection rate" means the percentage, by weight, of covered batteries collected by a battery stewardship organization, calculated by dividing the total weight of primary and rechargeable batteries collected during the previous calendar year by the average annual weight of such batteries estimated to have been sold in New Hampshire by all producers participating in the approved plan during the prior three calendar years.

(f) "Covered battery" means a portable battery or a medium format battery. This does not include:

(1) Batteries contained in a medical device, as defined in 21 United States Code, section 321(h) as it existed as of the effective date of this section, not designed and marketed for sale or resale principally to consumers for personal use;

(2) Batteries that contains an electrolyte as a free liquid;

(3) Lead-acid batteries weighing more than 11 pounds;

(4) Batteries in a battery-containing product that is not intended or designed to be easily removable from the battery-containing product;

(5) Batteries that are being recalled for safety reasons; and

(6) Batteries designed to power a motor vehicle, part of a motor vehicle, or a component part of a motor vehicle assembled by, or for, a vehicle manufacturer or franchised dealer, including replacement parts for use in a motor vehicle.

(g) "Damaged and defective batteries" means batteries identified by the producer as defective for safety reasons, or that pose a risk of heat, fire, or short circuit, as described in 49 C.F.R. section 173.185(f) as of January 1, 2023, or as updated by department rule to align with federal standards.

(h) "Department" means the New Hampshire department of environmental services.

(i) "Easily removable" means designed by the manufacturer to be removed by the user with commonly available household tools.

(j) "Environmentally sound management practices" means practices that:

(1) Comply with all applicable laws and rules protecting workers, public health, and the environment;

(2) Provide for adequate record keeping, tracking, and documenting of material disposition; and

(3) Include comprehensive liability coverage for a battery stewardship organization, including environmental liability coverage that is commercially practicable.

(k) "Material recovery" means extracts and separates materials from end-of-life batteries into metals, compounds, intermediate fractions, and other components, and sending those materials, when appropriate, for further processing, refining, or use in batteries or other industry supply chains.

(l) "Medium format battery" means:

(1) A rechargeable battery weighing more than 11 pounds or rated above 300 watt-hours or both, but not exceeding 25 pounds of 2,000 watt-hours; or

(2) A primary battery weighing more than 4.4 pounds but not more than 25 pounds.

(m) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled mechanical device with a vehicle identification number (VIN) manufactured primarily for transporting people or property primarily on public roads, streets, and highways excluding rail-bound or airborne devices.

(n) "Portable battery" means:

(1) A rechargeable battery weighing no more than 11 pounds and rated at no more than 300 watt-hours; or

(2) A primary battery weighing no more than 4.4 pounds.

(o) "Primary battery" means a battery that is not capable of being recharged.

(p) "Producer" means the person responsible for compliance with requirements under this subdivision for a covered battery or battery-containing product sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into New Hampshire, as follows:

(1) For covered batteries:

(A) If sold under the brand of battery manufacturer, the producer is the manufacturer;

(B) If sold under a retail or third-party brand, the producer is the brand owner;

(C) If no person is identified under RSA 149-M:65, I(m)(1)(A) or (B), the producer is the licensee of a brand or trademark under which the battery is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into New Hampshire, whether or not the trademark is registered in New Hampshire;

(D) If no person is identified in RSA 149-M:65, I(m)(1)(A) through (C) within the United States, the producer is the importer of record for the battery into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the battery in New Hampshire;

(E) If no person is identified in RSA 149-M:65, I(m)(1)(A) through (D) with a commercial presence in New Hampshire, the producer is the person who first sells, offers for sale, or distributes the battery in or into New Hampshire.

(2) For battery-containing products:

(A) If the product is sold under the brand of the product manufacturer, the producer is the manufacturer of the product;

(B) If the product is sold under a retail or third-party brand, the producer is the brand owner;

(C) If no person is identified in RSA 149-M:65, I(m)(2)(A) or (B), the producer is the licensee of a brand or trademark under which the product is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into New Hampshire, whether or not the trademark is registered in New Hampshire;

(D) If no person is identified in RSA 149-M:65, I(m)(2)(A) through (C) located within the United States, the producer is the importer of record for the product into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the product in New Hampshire;

(E) If no person is identified in RSA 149-M:65, I(m)(2)(A) through (D) with a commercial presence in New Hampshire, the producer is the person who first sells, offers for sale, or distributes the product in or into New Hampshire.

(F) A person shall not be considered a producer if they only manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import a battery-containing product into New Hampshire, and the batteries used in that product are supplied by a producer that is a member of a registered battery stewardship organization under this subdivision. The battery producer must provide written certification of such membership to both the product manufacturer and the battery stewardship organization of which the battery producer is a member.

(q) "Program" means a program implemented by a battery stewardship organization under an approved battery stewardship plan.

(r) "Rechargeable battery" means a battery containing one or more voltaic or galvanic cells, electrically connected to produce energy, and designed to be recharged.

(s) "Recycling" has the same meaning as in RSA 149-M:4, XX.

(t) "Recycling efficiency rate" means the ratio of the weight of covered battery components and materials recycled by a program operator to the weight of covered batteries collected.

(u) "Retailer" means a person who sells or offers for sale covered batteries or battery-containing products in or into New Hampshire, including to other businesses.

II. Requirement that Producers Implement a Stewardship Plan. Beginning July 1, 2028, a producer that sells, offers for sale, or distributes covered batteries or battery-containing products in or into New Hampshire shall participate in an approved New Hampshire state battery stewardship plan through participation in and appropriate funding of a battery stewardship organization. A producer that does not participate in such an organization and plan shall not sell, offer for sale, or distribute covered batteries or battery-containing products in or into the state.

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 149-M:67, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each battery stewardship organization shall submit a stewardship plan to the department for approval by January 1, 2028, for covered batteries. The department may extend the submission deadline for good cause shown. A battery stewardship organization may submit a revised plan to update an approved plan. Each plan shall include the following elements:

Amend RSA 149-M:67, I(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) A description of how covered batteries and battery-containing products will be managed using environmentally sound management practices, including criteria for collection sites, safety training procedures, and a list of proposed sorters, transporters, processors, and battery recyclers used for recycling;

Amend RSA 149-M:68, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each battery stewardship plan shall include annual performance goals to measure the effectiveness of the program, including:

(a) The weight, by chemistry, of covered batteries collected;

(b) The weight of materials recovered from covered batteries collected, in total and by battery recycling method;

(c) The public convenience and accessibility of the collection system; and

(d) Targeted recycling efficiency rates for covered batteries by recycling method.

Amend RSA 149-M:70, II(d) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) Ensure medium format, recalled and damaged or defective batteries are collected in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements;

Amend RSA 149-M:72, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each battery stewardship organization submitting a battery stewardship plan, revision, or amendment shall reimburse the department for administrative costs incurred in implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. Each person collecting batteries independent of a battery stewardship organization pursuant to 149-M:74 shall reimburse the department for administrative costs incurred in implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. The reimbursement shall be sufficient to cover the department's full costs, including costs associated with rulemaking and other startup activities necessary prior to the initial plan submissions. The department shall calculate the reimbursement amount to be paid by battery stewardship organizations and independent collectors on a proportional basis relative to its costs. No later than 90 days before a plan is due, and every two years thereafter, the department shall identify its incurred costs and determine the reimbursement amount necessary to fully recover those costs. The total reimbursement collected shall not exceed the amount necessary to administer this chapter. The timing and method of payment shall be determined in consultation with the department.

Amend RSA 149-M:74 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

149-M:74 Collection of Batteries Independent of a Battery Stewardship Program.

I. A person may operate a fee-based collection and recycling program for covered batteries independent of a battery stewardship organization, with up to 10 sites that are not fee-based for political subdivision sites, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The person's services and facilities shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including U.S. Department of Transportation requirements and all applicable provisions of the department;

(b) The person accepts all covered batteries;

(c) The person receives no compensation from a battery stewardship organization with respect to the covered batteries, unless the battery stewardship organization has an agreement with the person;

(d) The person provides the following information to the department annually:

(1) The weight, by chemistry, of covered batteries collected;

(2) The weight of materials recovered from covered batteries collected, in total and by battery recycling method;

(3) The recycling efficiency rate for covered batteries by recycling method;

(4) A description of how each facility used for the disposition of covered batteries, whether recycled or otherwise, managed the batteries and battery components; and

(5) The weight and chemistry of covered batteries sent to each facility that is used for disposition of the batteries; and

(e) If a battery stewardship organization's performance goals would be impacted by the independent collection information provided under this section, the department shall:

(1) Consider the information when calculating the collection and recycling efficiency rate of the battery stewardship organization; and

(2) Provide the information to the battery stewardship organization.

II. Battery-containing products regulated pursuant to any statutorily created product stewardship program for electronic device collection and recycling will not be subject to duplicative obligations under this chapter.

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. McFarlane moved that **HB 1602-FN**, creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program, be laid on the table.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 84 - NAYS 254

YEAS - 84

BELKNAP

Bogert, Steven

Ploszaj, Tom

Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Hamblen, Joseph

Smith, Jonathan

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Qualey, James

COOS

Davis, Arnold

Korzen, Lori

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTONBarton, Joseph
McFarlane, Donald

Beaulier, Calvin

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGHAlexander, Joe
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Kofalt, Jim
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Post, Lisa
Slottje, JeremyBerry, Ross
Drew, Matt
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
PANEK, Sandra
Reinfurt, Sherri
Mannion, TomCorcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Gorski, Ted
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Pauer, Diane
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, JordanKelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Kesselring, Steven
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Seaworth, BrianAures, Cyril
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Thibault, JamesAylward, Deborah
Mehegan, PeterMcGuire, Carol
Plante, Raymond**ROCKINGHAM**DeVito, Sayra
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Nadeau, Brian
Potucek, John
MacDonald, WayneDonnelly, Tanya
Layon, Erica
Osborne, Jason
Sweeney, Joe
Wilson, VickiDrago, Mike
McGrath, Linda
Brown, Pam
Tripp, RichardHarb, Robert
Melvin, Charles
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Tudor, Paul**STRAFFORD**DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Turcotte, Len

Farrington, Samuel

Granger, Michael

SULLIVAN

Girard, Dale

Grant, George

NAYS - 254**BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Nagel, DavidBordes, Mike
Minor, SheriCoker, Matthew
St. Clair, CharlieFreeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul**CARROLL**Burroughs, Anita
McAleer, ChrisCrawford, Karel
Taylor, BrianPaige, David
Woodcock, Stephen

MacDonald, John

CHESHIREAmes, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Mattson, Rita
O'Rourke, Terri
Weber, LucyBerch, Paul
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, LuciusFox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, JenniferMurphy, Denis
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Thackston, Dick**COOS**

Durkin, Sean

Morency, Pete

Ouellet, Mike

King, Seth

GRAFTONAlmy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lucas, Janet
Sellers, JohnBaldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Muirhead, Russell
Spahr, TerryBerezhny, Lex
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Oppel, Thomas
Stringham, JerryBolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen
Sykes, George**HILLSBOROUGH**Murray, Alissandra
Bergeron, Dan
Colcombe, Riché
Dargie, Paul
Davis, FredAmmon, Keith
Booras, Efsthia
Cornell, Patricia
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, LilyBoyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, LarryBarbour, Liz
Chretien, Suzanne
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary

Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Jeuzy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Scully, Kevin
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Foxy, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Ohm, Bill
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wherry, Robert

Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Lascelles, Richard
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William
Wilhelm, Matthew

Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Morton, Jonathan
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Staub, Kathy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Hall, Muriel
Pitaro, Matthew
Sargent, Gregory
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Ebel, Karen
Hill, Gregory
Moffett, Michael
Polozov, Yury
Schamberg, Thomas
Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Richards, Beth
See, Alvin
Wood, Clayton

Devoid, Ricky
Gibbs, Merryll
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Boyd, Stephen
Snodgrass, Jim
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
Thomas, Douglas
Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Haskins, Linda
Knab, Allison
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Perez, Kristine
Pearson, Stephen
Sorensen, Carrie
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
de Vries, Erica
Edwards, Jess
Grote, Jaci
Janigian, John
Kuttab, Katelyn
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Milz, David
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Soti, Julius
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

Bennett, Cindy
Cahill, Michael
DeSimone, Debra
Foote, Charles
Guthrie, Joseph
Murray, Kate
Walsh, Lilli
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Muns, Chris
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Scherr, Buzz
Summers, James
Verville, Kevin
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Ford, Mary
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Nelson, Jodi
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Sytek, John
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
Kaczynski, Thomas
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Walker, David

Bay, Luz
DeRoy, Susan
Horrigan, Timothy
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Hemingway, Wayne
Rollins, Skip

Cloutier, John
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Damon, Hope
Aron, Michael

Drye, Margaret
Palmer, William

and the motion failed.

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.
Reps. Judy Aron and Potenza spoke in favor.
Rep. Drew spoke against.
Rep. Giasson requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 264 - NAYS 72

YEAS - 264 BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Nagel, David
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Minor, Sheri

Freeman, Lisa
St. Clair, Charlie

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita
MacDonald, John

Crawford, Karel
Smith, Jonathan

Paige, David
Taylor, Brian

Hamblen, Joseph
Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Mattson, Rita
O'Rorke, Terri
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

Murphy, Denis
Karasinski, Sly
Newell, Jodi
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
King, Seth

Durkin, Sean

Korzen, Lori

Morency, Pete

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Sullivan, Jared
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Fracht, David
Ladd, Rick
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
Franz, Linda
Louis, Darrell
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Dargie, Paul
Davis, Fred
Gorski, Ted
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kerwin, Erin
Lascelles, Richard
Howard, Molly
Murphy, Mary
PANEK, Sandra
Post, Lisa
Newman, Ray
Rung, Rosemarie
Schneller, John
Staub, Kathy
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Thomas, Wendy

Boyd, Bill
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
DiSilvestro, Linda
Foss, Lily
Gould, Linda
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McGhee, Kat
Paquette, Kathleen
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Ryan, Linda
Scully, Kevin
Swanson, Dale
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Barbour, Liz
Chretien, Suzanne
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Grill, Jessica
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Mooney, Maureen
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Reinfurt, Sherri
Newman, Sue
Seibert, Christine
Telerski, Laura
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Colcombe, Riché
Darby, Will
Elberger, Susan
Georges, Mary
Grund, Stephanie
Herbert, Christopher
Kenny, Catherine
Labrie, Brian
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Proulx, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Spier, Carry
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Kelly, Eileen
Gonzalez, Ernesto
Luneau, David
Payeur, Stephanie
Boyd, Stephen
Wallner, Mary Jane

Cambrils, Jose
Ebel, Karen
Hicks, Matthew
Hall, Muriel
Pitaro, Matthew
Sargent, Gregory
Wood, Clayton

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hill, Gregory
Moffett, Michael
Plante, Raymond
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Devoid, Ricky
Gibbs, Merryl
Lane, Connie
Newsom, James
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda
Khan, Aboul
Lynn, Bob
Malloy, Dennis
Meuse, David
Nelson, Jodi
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Soti, Julius
Vallone, Mark
Weinstein, Toni

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
de Vries, Erica
Foote, Charles
Guthrie, Joseph
Janigian, John
Knab, Allison
Paige, Mark
Mandelbaum, Jennifer
Milz, David
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Scherr, Buzz
Summers, James
Vose, Michael
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Cahill, Michael
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Guzofski, James
Murray, Kate
Kuttab, Katelyn
Pearson, Mark
Manos, Zoe
Muns, Chris
Perez, Kristine
Raynolds, Ned
Simpson, Alexis
Sytek, John
MacDonald, Wayne

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Harb, Robert
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Maggiore, Jim
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sorensen, Carrie
Turer, Eric
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Howard, Heath
Kaczynski, Thomas
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Walker, David

Bixby, Peter
DeRoy, Susan
Horrigan, Timothy
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Howland, Allan
Larochelle, John
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John

Butler, Billie
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

**NAYS - 72
BELKNAP**

Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino

Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Qualey, James

COOS

Ouellet, Mike

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Sellers, John

Beaulier, Calvin

Berezhny, Lex

McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Daniels, Gary
Griffin, Gerald
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Peeples, Raymond
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Drew, Matt
Giasson, Henry
McLean, Mark
Notter, Jeanine
Sheehan, Vanessa
Ulery, Jordan

Berry, Ross
Dumont, Dillon
Kesselring, Steven
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

Corcoran, Travis
Erf, Keith
Kofalt, Jim
Morton, Jonathan
Pauer, Diane
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Mehegan, Peter
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
Polozov, Yury
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Seaworth, Brian

ROCKINGHAM

DeSimone, Debra
Layon, Erica
Osborne, Jason
Tudor, Paul

DeVito, Sayra
Litchfield, Melissa
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Verville, Kevin

Drago, Mike
McGrath, Linda
Sweeney, Joe
Wilson, Vicki

Dunn, Ron
Melvin, Charles
Tripp, Richard

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Turcotte, Len

Farrington, Samuel

Granger, Michael

SULLIVAN

Hemingway, Wayne

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

HB 1572-FN, relative to licensure as a master licensed alcohol and drug counselor. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill, as introduced, provides for an alternative pathway to licensure as a master licensed alcohol and drug counselor (MLADC) and updates language for license reciprocity for speech-language pathologists and hearing care professionals as well as recreational therapists. As amended, the bill would only address the license reciprocity updates. The amended bill removes the alternative pathway for MLADC licensure because the stated intention was to increase access to reimbursable alcohol and drug counselors however there is a significant risk that the change in standards for MLADCs proposed in the bill could change the reimbursement landscape for MLADCs as a whole. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (0654h)

Amend the bill by deleting section 1 and renumbering the original sections 2-4 to read as 1-3, respectively.

2026-0654h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the qualifications for licensure for recreational therapists and the qualifications for speech-language assistants.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Layon moved that **HB 1572-FN**, relative to licensure as a master licensed alcohol and drug counselor, be laid on the table.

Motion was adopted.

BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 1028, relative to the definition of renewable generation facility. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Schneller for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill, which simply proposes to change one word in an existing statute (RSA 72:73), is too narrow and needlessly seeks to address one local municipal issue that is not a broad concern. The word change tightens rules to effectively disallow municipalities from negotiating specific payment in lieu of taxes agreements (PILOTs) relating to specific generating sources and is needlessly exclusionary. The bill was recommitted on February 19, 2026, when a new solution was proposed by its sponsor, but this resolution also proved unworkable. Vote 15-1.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Rep. Vose moved that **HB 1028**, relative to the definition of renewable generation facility. be recommitted to the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy.

Motion was adopted.

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 1837-FN, relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.

HB 1153-FN-LOCAL, establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs.

HB 1157-FN, relative to licensure as a pet vendor.

HB 1511, relative to the membership of the agriculture in the classroom committee.

HB 1126, repealing the certification requirement to perform residential mold assessments.

HB 1328-FN, relative to alcohol and other drug use professionals and relative to the qualifications to obtain certain occupational licenses.

HB 1010, relative to multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land.

HB 1033, establishing a commission to study the legislative bill enrollment process.

HB 1161, removing the requirement for municipalities to have an advisory board for development districts.

HB 1711-FN, relative to governmental land uses.

HB 1759, relative to the disqualification of a member of a local land use board.

HB 1037, extending the commission to study OHRV use in New Hampshire and adding a member from the department of tourism.

HB 1089, extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.

HB 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

HB 1287, relative to special number plates for veterans and eligibility therefore.

HR 21, urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to support the repeal of the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force.

HR 32, urging the United States Congress to rescind President Donald Trump's tariffs.

HB 1549, establishing that titles, bills of sale, and identification documents are required only at initial registration or transfer of ownership.

HB 1698, relative to electronic credentials.

HB 1090-FN, relative to meals and rooms taxes.

HB 1102-FN, increasing the research and development tax credit cap.

HB 1435-FN, relative to changes to the Winnepesaukee river basin control replacement fund.

HB 1624-FN, relative to the elimination of certain special funds.

HB 1467-FN, relative to the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement program.

HB 1088-FN-A, transferring funding for the water well board from the general fund to a special nonlapsing fund.

HB 1768-FN, exempting honorably discharged New Hampshire veterans from metered parking fees at state parks upon presenting acceptable proof of status and raising the value of individual gifts and donations that may be received by the division of parks and recreation without the approval of the governor or the executive council.

HB 1274-FN-LOCAL, relative to dog licenses.

HB 1199, enabling the fish and game department to create a permit and fee for the use of fish and game staff by other state agencies and departments.

HB 1415-FN, establishing a special veterans license plate and creating a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates and establishing the New Hampshire first for veterans program and authority.

HB 1444-FN, relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

HB 1467, relative to the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement program.

HB 1499-FN, relative to additional grounds for eviction under the landlord and tenant statute.

HB 1523-FN, relative to disclosure requirements for condominium associations.

HB 1539-FN, authorizing electric utilities to issue AAA-rated bonds for the purpose of storm cost recovery and infrastructure resilience.

HB 1574-FN, relative to the extension of free and reduced price breakfast and lunch for students under the age of 22 and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 1598-FN, relative to notice and proceedings for tenants and landlords engaged in eviction processes.

HB 1603-FN, requiring the executive director of the department of fish and game to adopt rules relative to procedures for verifying accuracy of records collected relative to threatened and endangered wildlife and ensuring landowner permission is granted for the gathering of such record.

HB 1730-FN, enhancing the level of offense for certain sexual offenses.

HB 1792-FN, prohibiting school districts and personnel from the instruction of critical race theory and LGBTQ+ ideologies in schools as well as establishing a private right of action for violations.

HB 1758, relative to school bus drivers' certificates.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Harriott-Gathright requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Black History Month and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Weber moved that the remarks made by Rep. Harriott-Gathright during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep Representative Haroitt- Gathright: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Honorable colleagues, I rise for unanimous consent to recognize Black History Month in our State of New Hampshire and pay tribute to past and current members of the House of Representatives of African American descent that were proud to speak their heritage. You may ask why celebrate Black History Month? Let me take the opportunity to enlighten you. It is a way of embracing and in remembering our past, appreciating our present, and thanking Jesus for imagining and more importantly knowing the possibilities for the future. Africans were brought to America in chains over 360 years ago, we all realize that. Although our ancestors built this country with free labor, they endured centuries of being treated as mere property, unable to experience freedom, unable to engage in free enterprise, or even be taught to read and write. There are those today that are aware and know the history and attempt to bring forward to this day. In 1857, New Hampshire declared that no one shall be denied citizenship on account of African descent, and along with Vermont, repealed the laws against the enlistment of Blacks in state militia. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves and in 1865, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in all states. 110 years later, New Hampshire elected the first African American to the New Hampshire State House. His name is the Honorable Henry B. Richardson, a Republican from Greenville, which was standard for African Americans at that time in history. We often say the two dominant parties have flipped their ideologies. Honorable Henry B. Richardson won the proud Republican nomination for his party in 1974. He was elected in 1975. That was a year of firsts; the first African American, the first Native American, the first 19-year-old. After serving two years in the New Hampshire House, the

Honorable Henry Richardson ran for State Senate and was even endorsed by the Manchester Union Leader. The Honorable Henry B. Richardson paved the way for representatives of the future, including myself and those in service now. Elected in 1986, the Honorable Linda Diane Long, a Democrat from Nashua, and the youngest African American to serve at that time in history, as well as the first African-American female to serve in the House of Representatives. In 1989, the Honorable Juanita Bell from Portsmouth served for two terms. That same year, the Honorable Lionel Johnson, Democrat from Manchester, began his 11 years of service in the New Hampshire House. The Honorable Jackie Witherspoon from Exeter served two terms and remains active today in Exeter, New York, and Washington, D.C. The Honorable Harvey Keye from Nashua, elected in 1998, also served two terms. The Honorable Harvey Keye, with another legislator, gave an impassioned speech on the House floor, which was instrumental in passing the Martin Luther King holiday in New Hampshire. The Honorable Claire Clark from Boscawen served for nine years. She was a tireless advocate for education. The Honorable, Carole Estes, a Democrat from Plymouth, served one term and gave a remarkable floor speech that helped pass civil unions. The Honorable Melanie Levesque of Brookline served two terms in the House and as the first African American to serve in the New Hampshire Senate. The Honorable Richard Komi from Manchester, originally from Nigeria, who served in the House from 2009 to 2010, ran for mayor of Manchester. Representative Chris Roberts of Keene served as well. Representative Caroletta Alicea, a Democrat in Boscawen, the daughter of the Honorable Claire Clark. Charlotte DiLorenzo, a Democrat in Newmarket. Our current legislators: Representative Jean Judy of Manchester, originally from, if I'm wrong, please correct me, but I believe you're from Haiti, Representative Jonah Wheeler, a Democrat from Peterborough, and Representative Mary Georges, a Democrat from Manchester, originally from the Congo. And Representative Linda Hariott-Gathright, a Democrat from Nashua, also the longest serving African American female in the House. Today we recognize these representatives cited for their achievements, not only for blazing a trail and being role models to what is achievable, but for transcending barriers of race and gender. It is important to note that the New Hampshire House is a diverse fellowship of legislators, African Americans, Irish, Native American, Latino, French, Italian, Greek, Haitian, Armenian, Japanese, Scandinavian, and Indian American. If I missed one, please update me at the end of this, please. Our intent is to include every nationality in New Hampshire that's represented here in at the Statehouse, because we all deserve representation, acknowledgment of our journey, and the promises that were set forth in our Constitution. We have a diverse group of legislators, and we are proud because we believe we were all elected because of the content of our character and our willingness to serve. This is Dr. Martin Luther King's dream. It has been our privilege to have the daughter of the Honorable Henry B. Richardson with us this morning in bringing forth our opening prayer, and the song as well, and the Reverend Robert Thompson with his eloquent voice, filling the chamber with love and conviction for our anthem. We thank you, Mr. Speaker, staff, and colleagues for sharing this moment with us. Godspeed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Alissandra Murray requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Anti LGBTQ Rhetoric and addressed the House.

REMARKS

Representative Alessandra Murray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dear colleagues, I rise today in deep concern about HB 1792, a bill that this body just passed to censor speech in our classrooms and what it represents, not just for me or my LGBTQ colleagues, but for all Granite Staters and for how our stories are shared. When we debate bills like this, we are not debating abstractions, we are talking about real people, our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues, our children, and the most dangerous thing that can happen in this chamber is not disagreement, it's dehumanization. New Hampshire is among the top five states with the highest percentage of LGBTQ residents. We are not an invisible minority. We are woven into every community in the state, every county, every town, every single one of you has LGBTQ constituents. When LGBTQ people are spoken about as threats instead of as human beings, when our identities are reduced to political talking points, when our mere existence is framed as something to be managed, restricted, or pushed out of public life, the impact of those words does not remain in this hall. It follows us home. It follows us into schools. It follows us into workplaces and doctor's offices. It tells a young person listening from the gallery or watching online that their government sees them as a problem to solve, as something to erase from the narrative, and that message has consequences. We are seeing devastating mental health outcomes among LGBTQ youth in states where laws like this have advanced. States like ours. Bills like HB 1792 have caused a 72% increase in suicide attempts among LGBTQ youth. This is not just a statistic or a set of numbers. These are real people with real lives. Words matter. Policy signals matter, and when young Granite Staters hear rhetoric like we heard today, many internalize the message that they do not belong. You may have seen some of the heartbreaking quotes from some of these community members when you walked into the building today. Speaking to this issue, one read, with the legislation that's been introduced, even if it doesn't pass, it creates an environment that's permissive of anger and vitriol towards our community. But this is the one that really broke my heart.

I don't feel welcome in the state anymore, and I don't want to leave. Because if we all leave, who's left? You don't want to leave each other behind. So, do we leave? If so, when? When is it bad enough? New Hampshire's motto is live free or die, and that promise does not come with an asterisk. It does not apply only to those who fit neatly into someone else's definition of acceptable. Freedom in this state has always meant something fiercely individual, the right to exist as you are without the government singling you out for exclusion. My colleagues, we can disagree on policy without stripping people of dignity. We can debate legislation without diminishing someone's right to exist. We can hold different views without endorsing language or frameworks that cast an entire community as less worthy of belonging or as a threat to others simply for seeking the same rights and freedoms everyone else enjoys. When we pass legislation that explicitly targets LGBTQ people, we send a signal about who this state is for and who it is not. This chamber should be a place where every single Granite Stater knows that they are seen as fully human, fully worthy of dignity, fully protected under the law. Because history will not ask whether our political parties want to vote today. It will ask whether we upheld the dignity of the people we were sent here to serve. Thank you.

RECESS MOTION

Rep. Osborne moved that the House stand in recess for the purposes of the introduction of bills, enrolled bill amendments, enrolled bill reports and receiving messages.

Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 3:51 p.m.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SENATE MESSAGE

ACCEDES TO REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

HB 751-FN, establishing a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state, and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights.

The President appointed Sens. Birdsell, Lang and Prentiss.

RECESS

(Packard in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bill numbered HB266

Rep. Kofalt, Sen. Avard for the Committee

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS

First, second reading and referral

RESOLUTION

Rep. Steven Smith offered the following: **RESOLVED**, that in accordance with the list in the possession of the Clerk, Senate Bills numbered SB56,SB88,SB101,SB223,SB256,SB298,SB400,SB401,SB402,SB405,SB409,SB410,SB411,SB412,SB413,SB415,SB416,SB418,SB421,SB422,SB423,SB426,SB427,SB428,SB429,SB430,SB432,SB433,SB434,SB435,SB439,SB440,SB450,SB451,SB454,SB457,SB460,SB461,SB467,SB469,SB472,SB473,SB481,SB486,SB487,SB488,SB489,SB490,SB492,SB495,SB496,SB497,SB499,SB500,SB501,SB502,SB503,SB505,SB507,SB508,SB510,SB513,SB515,SB516,SB521,SB522,SB524,SB525,SB526,SB529,SB530,SB531,SB534,SB542,SB543,SB550,SB559,SB560 shall be by this resolution read a first and second time by the therein listed titles and referred to the therein designated committees.

Motion was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS

First, second reading and referral

SB 56, relative to consolidating the New Hampshire health and education facilities authority within the business finance authority.

SB 88-FN, prohibiting state government entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants.

SB 101-FN, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights.

SB 223-FN, prohibiting student identification cards from being used as photo identification for purposes of obtaining a ballot.

SB 256-FN, establishing safety and care requirements for clinician-administered drugs.

SB 298-FN, relative to sober living house certification and operational standards.

SB 400, relative to duties and reporting requirements of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board.

SB 401-FN, relative to removing an obsolete annual reporting requirement by municipal overseers of public welfare to the department of health and human services and repealing the department of health and human services reporting requirement on 10-year demographic cost projections.

SB 402-FN, eliminating certain non-compete agreements for physician associates.

SB 405, relative to amounts reported by political committees.

SB 409-FN, relative to the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer.

SB 410, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

SB 411, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories.

SB 412, relative to the conditional release of delinquent minors and children in need of services.

SB 413, relative to the detention of a minor attaining the age of 18 during the pendency of a delinquency action.

SB 415, relative to a certain exemption in interest in condominium units.

SB 416, relative to the pooling and sharing of tips among tipped employees.

SB 418, prohibiting municipalities from requiring licenses for the production and sale of homestead food products.

SB 421, relative to the membership and duties of the trauma medical review committee and establishing a study committee to review the membership and duties of other boards and an appointment related to emergency medical services.

SB 422, relative to membership of the governor's commission on addiction, treatment, and prevention.

SB 423, reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

SB 426, repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee.

SB 427-FN, relative to the joint committee on employee classification.

SB 428, relative to the maximum amount of terms an individual can serve on the electricians' board.

SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor.

SB 430, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents and legal guardians.

SB 432-FN, authorizing the application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription and establishing a skin cancer prevention education program.

SB 433-FN, establishing the seizure safe schools act.

SB 434, relative to regulation of public school materials.

SB 435, relative to the zoning board of adjustment variance criteria.

SB 439, relative to municipal data center zoning.

SB 440, relative to the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy districts by municipalities.

SB 450-FN, relative to a state parks pass pilot program for recovery centers and community mental health centers.

SB 451, amending the title of the position of senior deputy secretary of state.

SB 454-FN, requiring the department of health and human services to update existing relevant public health outreach programs by incorporating information to aid public understanding and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

SB 457-FN, relative to the licensing of physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada.

SB 460-FN, relative to the offense of loitering or prowling.

SB 461, relative to the definition of hemp.

SB 467-FN, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses and establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting.

SB 469, allowing the director of the division of motor vehicles to adopt administrative rules regarding the use of electronic signatures and relative to signature requirements where ownership of a vehicle is transferred to an insurer after payment of damages.

SB 472, removing the maximum age on the tenure of office for the position of deputy adjutant general.

SB 473, defining the term "field officers" within the national guard.

SB 481-FN-A, relative to the sale of the Sununu youth services center property.

SB 486, relative to the administrative procedure act.

SB 487, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member.

SB 488, enabling the governor to declare a state of emergency due to the failure of the legislature to pass a budget or continuing resolution to fund the New Hampshire state government by July 1 of the first year of a biennium.

SB 489, altering the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals.

SB 490, establishing a task force to assess the development of housing at Great Bay community college and authorizing the college the right to use vacant property for the purpose of developing housing.

SB 492-FN, authorizing the department of military affairs and veterans services to license and lease property in which the department holds a property interest.

SB 495, increasing the limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll County.

SB 496, relative to supervision and registration requirements for associates of broker-dealers.

SB 497, removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

SB 499, relative to the membership, duties, and reporting requirements of the traffic safety commission.

SB 500, relative to restroom access for certain commercial motor vehicle operators.

SB 501, relative to authorization of seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency by a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse.

SB 502-FN, removing references to the department of business and economic affairs and the office of planning and development, and makes various changes to how certain committees and commissions participate or operate.

SB 503, relative to the use of spruce-pine-fir lumber.

SB 505-FN, relative to applications for guide licenses and repealing the fee for temporary registration of nonresidents relative to OHRVs.

SB 507, establishing a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances.

SB 508, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period.

SB 510, ensuring state-operated, publicly accessible spaces have designated smoking areas undetectable to visitors.

SB 513-FN, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.

SB 515-FN, relative to judicial determinations related to children placed in a qualified residential treatment program in certain juvenile matters and appointment of counsel in certain circumstances.

SB 516, relative to certain unclassified positions in the department of health and human services.

SB 521-FN, relative to unauthorized camping on private property.

SB 522, re-establishing the commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire.

SB 524, enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

SB 525, raising the maximum amount of state guarantees in force.

SB 526, establishing a New Hampshire-Greece trade council.

SB 529-FN, giving preference to lumber sourced in the United States on all state-funded building projects.

SB 530-FN, relative to fetal death reporting to the Centers for Disease Control.

SB 531-FN, establishing a task force to study the feasibility of the creation of cosmetology related programming in Coos County.

SB 534-FN, relative to foreign funding and influence in constitutional amendment and local ballot question campaigns.

SB 542, limiting the game dates available to charities at gaming facilities.

SB 543-FN, relative to long-term care eligibility and making an appropriation therefor.

SB 550-FN, relative to insurance coverage for services provided by naturopathy providers.

SB 559-FN, reducing the minimum allowable speed limit on locally controlled roads.

SB 560, modernizing the New Hampshire coordinate system.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

RESOLUTION

Rep. Steven Smith offered the following: RESOLVED, that in accordance with the list in the possession of the Clerk, Senate Bills numbered SB562,SB564,SB565,SB567,SB568,SB569,SB571,SB572,SB577,SB578,SB585,SB589,SB590,SB592,SB594,SB599,SB610,SB620,SB622,SB629,SB632,SB633,SB639,SB641,SB642,SB644,SB649,SB652,SB653,SB656,SB660 shall be by this resolution read a first and second time by the therein listed titles and referred to the therein designated committees.

Motion was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS

First, second reading and referral

SB 562, relative to a home damage mitigation and resiliency program.

SB 564, prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions.

SB 565-FN, requiring the commissioner of the insurance department to prepare and publish a report regarding fortified home and commercial standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs.

SB 567-FN, relative to the composition of the board of dental examiners.

SB 568, relative to the department of safety's procedures for the processing of employee candidate background checks.

SB 569, relative to the qualifications for hearings officers within the department of labor.

SB 571, relative to the requirements to be issued a certificate as a certified public accountant.

SB 572, relative to New Hampshire hospital real estate.

SB 577-FN, prohibiting the use of specific color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools.

SB 578, relative to play-based curriculum and physical education curriculum.

SB 585-FN, relative to audits for communications districts.

SB 589-FN, relative to port electrification, microgrid development, and cybersecurity standards for energy and water systems.

SB 590-FN, relative to electric aggregation plans.

SB 592, enabling regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors and creating a commission to study transferring ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program to an alternative authority.

SB 594-FN, eliminating the use of agitators in instances where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water.

SB 599-FN, relative to the renewable energy fund.

SB 610-FN, requiring an opportunity for public comment prior to proposed long-term care rate increases under certain circumstances.

SB 620-FN, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

SB 622-FN, relative to the offense of identity fraud.

SB 629, renaming the new roundabout on Route 302 at the East Conway Road intersection to "Oliveira Circle."

SB 632-FN, relative to a certain highway sign in Concord.

SB 633-FN, relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund.

SB 639, establishing a committee to study the health and safety impacts of Red Dye 40 and other food additives in food and beverages sold in New Hampshire.

SB 641-FN, relative to examination requirements for licensure as a chiropractor.

SB 642-FN, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board.

SB 644-FN, requiring background checks for solid waste and hazardous waste facility owners.

SB 649-FN, increasing fines for using a hand-held mobile electronic device while driving a motor vehicle.

SB 652-FN, changing the maximum award of tax credits for overpayment of due taxes.

SB 653, enabling counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets.

SB 656-FN, establishing a web-based occupational license application portal for veterans and military spouses.

SB 660, relative to photo identification cards issued solely for the purpose of voting.

RECESS

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Roy, Chairman of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of

HB 1837-FN, relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.

HB 1086-FN, creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.

HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

RECESS

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

MOTION TO VACATE

Rep. Kofalt moved that the House vacate the reference of **SB 256-FN**, establishing safety and care requirements for clinician-administered drugs, to the Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. Motion was adopted.

The Speaker referred **SB 256-FN** to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

RECESS