

**NEW HAMPSHIRE PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
AND THE NH PROBATION & PAROLE COMMAND STAFF ASSOCIATION**

Presented by Frank Swirko, President  
New Hampshire Probation and Parole Officers Association

**In Opposition to HB 1657 (AS INTRODUCED) - AN ACT relative to the reporting and  
elimination of prolonged vacancies in state government.**

House Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
2026 Legislative Session

Good afternoon Madam Chairwoman and Members of the House ED&A Committee.

My name is Frank Swirko, and I serve as President of the New Hampshire Probation and Parole Officers Association. I am here today on behalf of both the NH Probation & Parole Officers Association and the NH Probation & Parole Command Staff Association.

The New Hampshire Probation and Parole Officers Association (NHPPOA) and the NH Probation & Parole Command Staff Association are separate labor unions representing distinct bargaining units within the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. Each union negotiates separate collective-bargaining agreements with the State of New Hampshire.

The unions are presenting this testimony jointly because both bargaining units are affected by staffing levels, supervisory capacity, and operational continuity within probation and parole.

**We are opposed to HB 1657.**

Probation and parole staffing levels are driven by caseloads, supervision intensity, and public-safety demands. Vacancies within the system frequently reflect recruitment challenges, training pipelines, and the demanding nature of the work — not an absence of need for the position.

HB 1657 treats vacancies as excess capacity rather than as indicators of staffing stress. Eliminating probation and parole positions — including supervisory and command-level roles — based solely on vacancy duration fails to account for operational realities. Once eliminated, these positions are difficult to restore, even when caseloads increase or public-safety demands grow.

From both a command-staff and line-officer perspective, this approach would increase workload strain, elevate operational risk, and weaken effective supervision and oversight. Higher

caseloads and reduced supervisory capacity directly undermine the effectiveness of community-based corrections.

Effective probation and parole operations depend on adequate staffing, manageable caseloads, and trained personnel. HB 1657 moves in the opposite direction by introducing a blunt, vacancy-driven mechanism that does not reflect how public-safety agencies actually function.

For these reasons, the NH Probation & Parole Officers Association and the NH Probation & Parole Command Staff Association respectfully urge the Committee to recommend **HB 1657 as Inexpedient to Legislate.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Francis M. Swirko". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Francis Swirko, President  
New Hampshire Probation  
and Parole Officers  
Association