

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Executive Council

JOSEPH D. KENNEY
EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR
DISTRICT ONE



STATE HOUSE ROOM 207
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February 4, 2026

Representative Erica Layon, Chair
House Executive Departments and Administration
Granite Place Room 231
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the E D & A Committee,

I support the intent of HB 1519, but I believe it needs to be amended to set terms for the Adjutant General position of a 5-year term with the approval of the Governor and Council.

As the law stands now, once an Adjutant General is nominated and confirmed by the Governor and Council, they are there for life, not unlike a judge position in the state of New Hampshire. I believe this is wrong and Governor and Council should not lose oversight. Right now, no one on our Governor and Council has nominated or given a positive confirmation of our present Adjutant General. In other New England states this would never be the case, they are given terms or align themselves with the incoming Governor's term. There are times that the Governor and Council need to have oversight of this position to address personnel, administrative or Military Department and Veterans Services issues.

Currently, the Vermont National Guard Adjutant General position is elected every two years by the Vermont Legislature, much like we elect a Secretary of State through the NH Legislature. In 2017, The state of Vermont elected the first female Adjutant General in the country.

In Maine, an Adjutant General is appointed by the Governor but reviewed by the Maine Legislative joint committee and then approved by the State Senate. Maine Adjutant General is now Brigadier General Dianne Dunn, the seventh female to become an Adjutant General in the country.

In Rhode Island, the Adjutant General position is a four-year term position appointed by the Governor Rhode Island. In Connecticut, the Adjutant General is a four-year position as well and appointed by the Governor of Connecticut.

The Massachusetts Adjutant General is appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts, and it typically serves concurrently with the Governor's term.

In New Hampshire, having a term of five years of an Adjutant General will give other officers an opportunity to apply for the position, prevent home steadying, open opportunities for women to become Adjutant General.

Presently, if a young Army or Air Force Colonel is nominated and confirmed as a NH Adjutant General in the National Guard, they could conceivably be there for 16 to 18 years in that position. This is not healthy and can create mission creep for an organization over time. I respect the last Adjutant General, General Clark, who stayed only five years and moved on.

Thank you for your consideration. I am more than willing to work with the committee on a clear amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Kenney", written over a printed name and title.

Joseph D. Kenney
District 1 Executive Councilor
Wakefield, NH
(603) 581-8780

Albany, Alexandria, Alton, Bartlett, Belmont, Berlin, Bridgewater, Bristol, Brookfield, Center Harbor, Chatham, Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Conway, Dalton, Danbury, Dover, Dummer, Durham, Eaton, Effingham, Errol, Farmington, Franklin, Freedom, Gilford, Gilmanton, Gorham, Hale's Location, Hart's Location, Hebron, Hill, Jackson, Jefferson, Laconia, Lancaster, Madbury, Madison, Meredith, Middleton, Milan, Milton, Moultonborough, New Durham, New Hampton, Northfield, Northumberland, Ossipee, Pittsburg, Randolph, Rochester, Rollinsford, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Shelburne, Somersworth, Stark, Stewartstown, Stratford, Tamworth, Tilton, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, Waterville Valley, Whitefield and Wolfeboro.

The past nine NH Adjutant Generals

- **Maj. Gen. David J. Mikolaities** – *2017–present* (current)
- **Maj. Gen. William N. Reddel III** – *2009–2017*
- **Maj. Gen. Kenneth R. Clark** – *2004–2009*
- **Maj. Gen. John E. Blair** – *1994–2004*
- **Maj. Gen. Lloyd M. Price** – *1984–1994*
- **Maj. Gen. John Blatsos (Blatsos/Blatso)** – *1975–1984*
- **Maj. Gen. Francis B. McSwiney** – *1956–1975*
- **Maj. Gen. John Jacobson Jr.** – *1954–1956*
- **Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bowen** – *1939–1954*