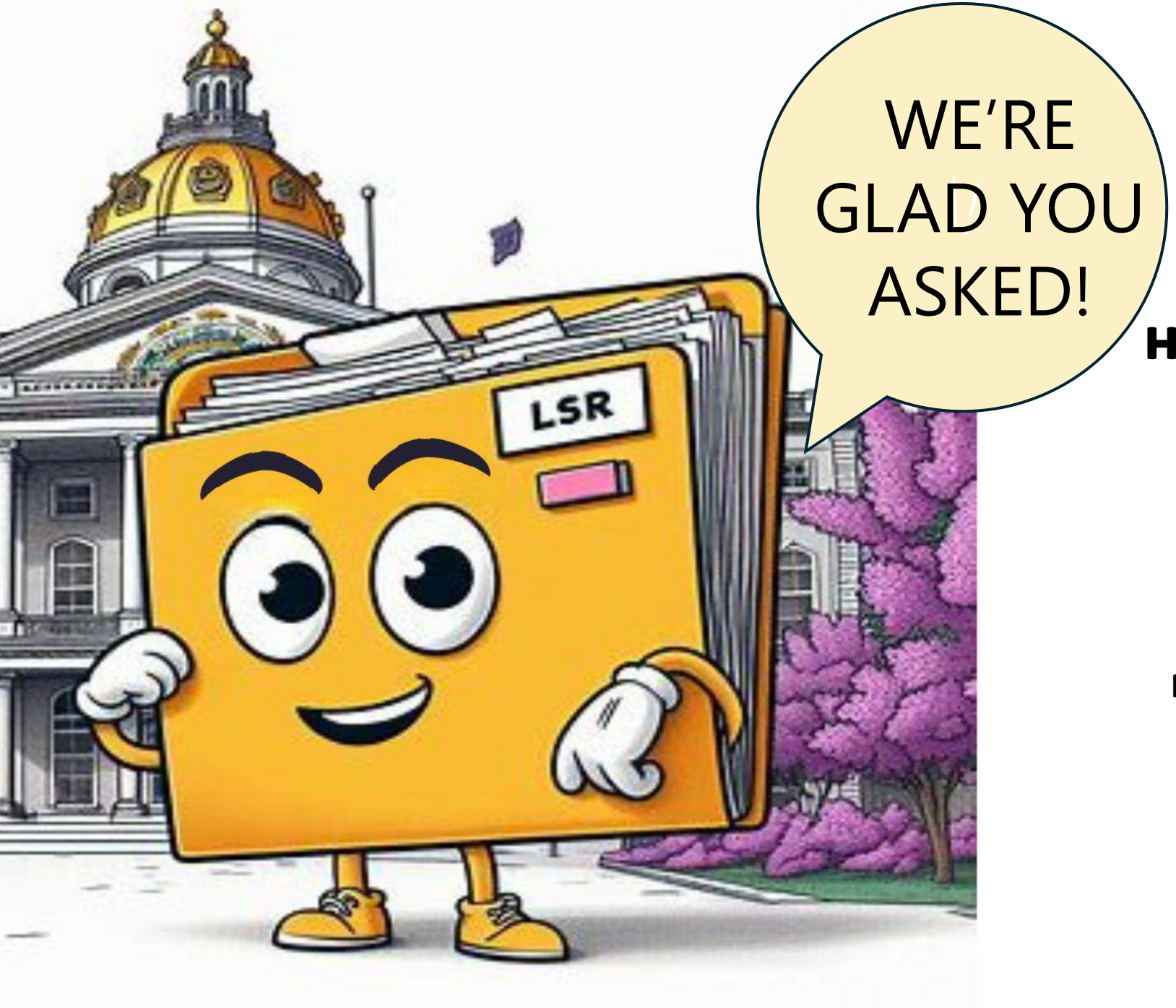

How Do I Read a NH Bill Draft?

Part II: Amending Language

Presented by the OLS Legal Division

Office of Legislative Services
State House, Room 109
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Each Bill Section Has a Purpose

- Bills are divided into sections.
- All sections are numbered.
- We refer to parts of the bill by their section numbers and <u>not</u> the line numbers that run down the left-hand side of a page.

bill section number (this is section 1 of the bill)

1 1 Control or Possession of Hypodermic or Like Instruments Without Prescription Prohibited for
2 Minors. Amend RSA 318:52-e to read as follows:
3 318:52-e Control or Possession of Hypodermic or Like Instruments Without Prescription
4 Prohibited for Minors. No person under 18 years of age shall have under such person's control or
5 possess a hypodermic syringe[~~,~~] ***or*** hypodermic needle, [~~or any instrument adapted for the~~
6 ~~administration of drugs by injection,~~] unless the person has received a written or oral prescription
7 issued under RSA 318:52-c***, or the recipient is acting as an authorized agent for another as***
8 ***defined in RSA 318:42, I under direct supervision***. For the purpose of this subdivision, no such
9 prescription shall be valid which has been outstanding for more than [~~one year~~] ***2 years***. ***Use of a***
10 ***hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle contrary to the intent of the prescription is not***
11 ***permitted under this statute.***

Amending Language in Bill Sections

- Insert new chapter.
- Insert new subdivision.
- Insert new section (statutory (RSA) section, <u>not</u> a bill section).
- Insert new paragraph.
- Insert new subparagraph.
- Read as follows (you'll see bold/italics or strike throughs in the statutory text).

Examples

A new chapter:

1 New Chapter; Prohibition on Balance Billing Covered Persons for Health Care Services. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 358-S the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 358-T

PROHIBITION ON BALANCE BILLING COVERED PERSONS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES

[start inserting statutory sections beginning with 358-T:1]

A new subdivision:

1 New Subdivision; Operational Canine Trauma Transport. Amend RSA 153-A by inserting after section 36 the following new subdivision:

Operational Canine Trauma Transport

153-A:37 Operational Canines; Hospital Treatment.

[new text in regular font]

A new statutory section:

1 New Section; Protective Legislation; Discrimination in the Workplace; Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. Amend RSA 275 by inserting after section 41-d the following new section:

275:41-e Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians.

[new text in regular font]

Examples

New paragraph(s):

1 New Paragraphs; Fees for Records. Amend RSA 91-A:4 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. [new text in regular font]

*If both paragraph VII and VIII already exist in 91-A:4, we'd add the new paragraph as VII-a so that paragraphs VIII on down wouldn't have to be renumbered. We try to keep numbering the same, if possible, to avoid messing up statutory cross-references.

New subparagraph(s):

1 Municipal Land Use Master Plan; Waste Reduction Section. Amend RSA 674:2, III by inserting after subparagraph (o) the following new subparagraph:

(p) [new text in regular font]

Read as follows:

Note that "read as follows" amending language is for a bill section that amends already existing statutory text, hence the use of bold/italic and strike throughs.

1 Literacy Skill Development in Elementary Grades. Amend RSA 189:53 to read as follows:

189:53 Literacy Skill Development in Elementary Grades.

Beginning July 1, 2027, all school districts ***and chartered public schools*** [~~which~~] ***that*** provide elementary education shall [~~have~~] ***provide measurable, evidence-based*** instruction in literacy for all students through grade [~~3~~] ***5***, including***:....***

Now you know how to read amending language in a draft bill.

Thank you for asking. We're Glad You Asked!