

April 10, 2025
No. 17

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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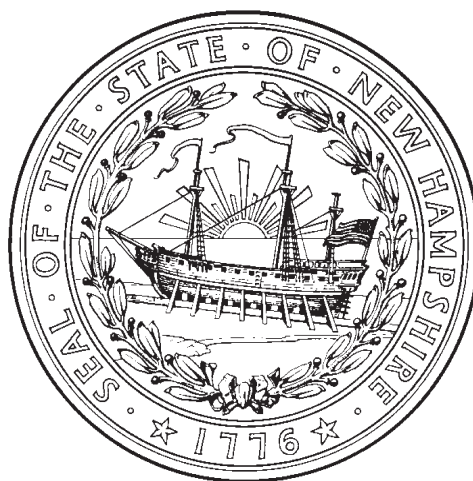
Senate Meeting Schedule Website Address:

<https://gc.nh.gov/senate/schedule/dailyschedule.aspx>

All Standing Committee hearings will be livestreamed on the NH Senate's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/NewHampshireSenateLivestream>

Links are also available on the Senate Meeting Schedule.



**First Year of the 169th Session of the
New Hampshire General Court**

SENATE CALENDAR

**THE SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON THURSDAY,
APRIL 17, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SENATE CHAMBER**

The Senate Session on Thursday, April 17, 2025, in the Senate Chamber
will be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@NewHampshireSenate/streams>

Please note, this link will not be live until the Senate Session on
Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 17-FN, relative to insurance cost-sharing calculations.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Health and Human Services, SJ 6**

SB 20-FN, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.**01/31/2025, Finance, SJ 4**

SB 21-FN, relative to establishing a New Hampshire state trooper recruitment loan debt relief program and making an appropriation therefor.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 35-FN, making an appropriation for rail trail project matching funds.**01/31/2025, Finance, SJ 4**

SB 38-FN, relative to state recognition of biological sex.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion Ought to Pass, Judiciary, SJ 9**

SB 59-FN, establishing a recruitment incentive program within the community college system for public safety communicators and dispatchers and making an appropriation therefor.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 64-FN, relative to an appropriation to the department of justice for the purpose of funding the New Hampshire child advocacy centers.**01/31/2025, Finance, SJ 4**

SB 70-FN, creating a mobile driver's license and non-driver identification card.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 81-FN, increasing the annual real estate transfer tax revenue contribution and making an appropriation to the affordable housing fund.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 86-FN, relative to the housing finance authority's affordable housing guarantee program.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 113-FN-A, making appropriations to the department of health and human services for homeless services and homeless prevention.**01/31/2025, Finance, SJ 4**

SB 114-FN-A, making appropriations to the department of health and human services to support community and transitional housing through community mental health centers.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 115-FN, making an appropriation for regional drinking water infrastructure.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 116-FN, relative to the Pillsbury Lake Village District community water system, and making an appropriation therefor.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 117-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of education to fund the online tutoring program.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 120-FN, relative to insurance coverage for biomarker testing.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Health and Human Services, SJ 6**

SB 122-FN, relative to financial eligibility for the Medicare savings program.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 125-FN, relative to clinical eligibility criteria for nursing facility and home and community based care.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 127-FN-A, relative to public guardianship and the office of the public guardian and making appropriations to the department of health and human services.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 128-FN, relative to children’s mental health services for persons 18 years of age and younger.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 131-FN-A, relative to long-term care eligibility and making an appropriation therefor.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 132-FN, relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 135-FN, relative to rate setting parity for Medicaid state plan case management services.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 137-FN, relative to hospital stays covered under the state Medicaid plan.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 158-FN, raising the funding cap for the New Hampshire community development finance authority.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 168-FN-LOCAL, regulating online gambling and directing net proceeds to the education trust fund, the general fund, and to reimburse municipalities for elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf tax exemptions.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion Committee Amendment # 2025-0390s, Ways and Means, SJ 6**

SB 181-FN, relative to workers’ compensation for firefighters with cancer.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 199-FN, relative to establishing a new recruitment and retention program for new New Hampshire state troopers.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 227-FN, relative to site setbacks for landfills.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion Rerefer to Committee, Energy and Natural Resources, SJ 6**

SB 238-FN, establishing the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prevention and treatment program and making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for this purpose.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 239-FN, appropriating funds to the fish and game department for continuing environmental review and to cover a deficit for previously instituted salary increases.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 240-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for eligible water projects.**02/13/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 5**

SB 242-FN, relative to the cost of living adjustments for certain group II retirees in the New Hampshire retirement system.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 6**

SB 244-FN-A, relative to expanding access to primary health care services, increasing the size of the health care workforce, and making appropriations therefor.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 246-FN, providing maternal depression screening for new mothers; increasing access to health care services for new mothers; enabling new parents to attend infant pediatric medical appointments; and developing a plan for perinatal peer support certification.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 255-FN, establishing and developing crisis stabilization services.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion Ought to Pass, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 264, relative to the therapeutic cannabis program.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Judiciary, SJ 9**

SB 274-FN, establishing a 4-year pilot program to improve rail trails in New Hampshire, including the establishment of 2 funds, the rail trails program fund and the emergency trail repair fund, and making appropriations therefor.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 276-FN, relative to raising the research and development tax credit.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 277-FN, relative to the application of utility property taxes and statewide education property taxes to electric generating facilities.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 279-FN, establishing the housing champion business loan program and making appropriations to the department of business and economic affairs and the business finance authority.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 9**

SB 286-FN, creating the New Hampshire office of film and creative media.**03/20/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 8**

SB 288, establishing an advisory council on the system of care for healthy aging in New Hampshire.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Health and Human Services, SJ 9**

SB 290-FN, relative to the definition of “torture” in animal abuse cases.**03/06/2025, Pending Motion Rerefer to Committee, Judiciary, SJ 6**

SB 296, increasing the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program.**03/13/2025, Pending Motion Committee Amendment # 2025-0794s, Education Finance, SJ 7**

SB 303, directing the commissioner of the department of education to compile a report on the effects of the dissolution of the United States Department of Education on New Hampshire and its residents.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Executive Departments and Administration, SJ 9**

SB 304, directing the commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs to assemble a report on the effects of tariffs on Canada and New Hampshire residents.**03/27/2025, Pending Motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Executive Departments and Administration, SJ 9**

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 204, relative to criteria for reporting child support delinquencies to federal agencies.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

The current wage garnishment system in place is based on a weekly salary. However, if a person is paid bi-weekly, for example, they would be flagged for a missed payment in the system, and it would register them as delinquent on their child support payments. HB 204 seeks to remedy this problem.

HB 213, relative to wage garnishment for child support.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-0.

Senator Long for the committee.

HB 213 is a simple fix to the child support payment plan. Currently, parents or parties involved in child support cases are allowed to set up approved payment plans rather than wage garnishment. This legislation simply requires the court system to inform both parties of their options. The Amendment, 2025-1487s fixes a clerical error.

HB 478, establishing a foster care oversight subcommittee within the oversight commission on children's services.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Long for the committee.

This bill establishes a foster care oversight subcommittee within the oversight commission on children's services. This legislation will provide the much-needed resources and assistance to foster care families.

COMMERCE

HB 98, relative to professional limited liability company (PLLC) assistant manager status.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would permit a single-member professional limited liability company (PLLC) to designate an assistant manager, who is not a qualified person, to manage the PLLC in the case of the death, incapacity, or disqualification of the manager. Currently, if there is no manager available, a non-official alliance is formed with an individual within the profession to help dissolve the organization. This bill would allow the assistant manager to only operate in a corporate capacity for one year, and they could not provide professional services.

HB 150, enabling homestead operations to use commercial kitchen equipment in preparing food for sale.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-1.

Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would define commercial kitchen equipment and allow for its use in homestead food operations as long as it can be washed, rinsed, and sanitized in the processing area. This type of equipment is used to withstand heavy use and high-volume cooking. The Department of Health and Human Services did not anticipate this bill would have an impact on food safety nor increase foodborne illnesses.

HB 279, establishing a committee to study recipe and process approval for homestead foods.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would establish a committee to study recipe and process approval for homestead foods. Under a homestead license, process reviews are required when minor changes to a recipe are made. Currently, there are only 63 recipes that can be made without process review. Reviews can take up to 6 weeks to complete, and they can cost up to \$400. The study committee would examine if there are ways for home-based producers to safely customize and differentiate their products.

HB 304, relative to labeling requirements for food produced in homestead kitchens.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would change labeling requirements for food products produced in homestead kitchens. To address concerns about privacy, home-based producers would be allowed to use either their physical address or an e-mail address on their labels. If there are recipe changes, even minor ones, separate labels are necessary for each batch. This can pose logistical issues, especially if producers are using fresh seasonal ingredients in their products. This bill would allow for a package to have a reduced label with a QR code that would be linked to a website showing changes in the recipe. The full list of ingredients would still be posted next to the point of sale. Importantly, all allergens would still need to be on each package. The Department of Health and Human Services did not believe this bill would have a fiscal impact or an impact on food safety.

HB 307, relative to the food production area for homestead food.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would allow homestead food production in a food production area. Currently, if an individual produces homestead food, it must be produced in the kitchen of their residence. This bill would create an option to have an alternative food production area within the home as long as certain sanitation equipment and conditions are present. The area must have a handwashing sink, appropriate equipment and food storage capacity, cleanable food contact surfaces and floors, and pets must be excluded from the area.

HB 371, relative to the definition of occasional food service establishment.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would expand the definition of occasional food service establishment by allowing them to serve no more than 4 days during a 28-day period. This would allow home-based food producers, small farmers, and budding entrepreneurs, an opportunity to build their customer base through clearer messaging and more reliable services. In addition, this bill would allow food to be consumed off-premises, which would enable greater participation in the marketplace from producers without capital. The Department of Health and Human Services did not believe this bill would have a fiscal impact nor would it increase foodborne illnesses.

EDUCATION

HB 184, establishing a committee to study changing school start times.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

HB 184 would establish a study committee to examine changing school start times by reviewing national legislation and evidence-based research. The bill would study a range of potential time change recommendations for different schools throughout the state with the intent of supporting student health. The bill was voted inexpedient to legislate based on bussing concerns and a history of other study committees of a similar nature.

HB 193, relative to the maximum number of credits per course eligible for the dual and concurrent enrollment program.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ward for the committee.

HB193 limits state-funded dual and concurrent enrollment to courses with a maximum of four college credits. Students may take up to four classes each year. The bill ensures broader access to the program by allowing limited funds to be distributed more equitably across students. Courses exceeding four college credits each may still be taken at a student's own expense.

HB 208-FN, relative to certification requirements for school nurses.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ward for the committee.

HB 208-FN allows superintendents and school boards to nominate and appoint school nurses, provided they are licensed and registered with the Board of Nursing. The bill removes prior certification requirements. The Senate Education Committee voted to re-refer the bill back to committee with the expectation of future collaboration with stakeholders.

HB 222, repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0.

Senator Prentiss for the committee.

HB 222 would repeal the requirement for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between chartered public schools and local school districts regarding how students with disabilities receive special education services. The bill is intended to reduce administrative burdens while preserving existing special education oversight and collaboration. The committee voted to re-refer the bill back to committee to allow the MOU system to work over the course of another year before further consideration.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 86-FN-L, increasing the cost of service for notice of civil forfeiture of unlicensed dogs to the rate for certified mail.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

Cities and towns are required to send a certified letter to dog owners who fail to license their dogs, notifying them of their non-compliance. HB 86 would assess the cost of that certified letter to the non-compliant individuals. The committee believes that the non-compliant owner should bear these costs rather than the taxpayers. Therefore, the committee recommends Ought to Pass on HB 86.

HB 91, relative to the presence of a fire department at a fireworks display.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

HB 91 would permit municipalities that issue permits to display fireworks to have local fire department personnel inspect display sites and provide presence at fireworks displays. The committee believes this would impose unnecessary burdens on local fire departments and event organizers without clear evidence that it will significantly affect safety outcomes. For this reason, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on HB 91.

HB 92, requiring recusal of members of zoning boards of adjustment and planning boards in certain circumstances.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

HB 92 requires individuals serving on both the planning board and zoning board of adjustment to recuse themselves from voting on matters previously decided by the planning board and under appeal to the zoning board. The committee believes that recusal promotes transparency and accountability and that passing this bill would strengthen New Hampshire's municipal system without overly complicating its operations. The amendment simplifies the bill's language to help prevent potential misinterpretations. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment on HB 92.

HB 99, relative to a waiver from property taxes for disabled veterans.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gray for the committee.

HB 99 increases the amount of tax credit that a town can choose to adopt for qualified, service-connected permanently and totally disabled veterans to \$5,000. This credit would be in lieu of any other tax credits available to veterans. The committee believes this credit would reach the most vulnerable veterans. It is for this reason that the committee recommends Ought to Pass on HB 99.

HB 261, relative to election audits.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gray for the committee.

HB 261 moves the timing of election audits of higher level offices, which are required when a state representative's race is to be recounted, until after the completion of recounts for the state representative's race. The committee believes that changing the order of when audits are conducted would not alter the procedural aspects of an audit and would make witnessing recounts more efficient. For these reasons, the committee recommends Ought to Pass.

HB 265, requiring that a public body's meeting minutes include start and end times of the meeting and the printed name and signature of the recording secretary
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.
Senator Long for the committee.

HB 265 requires that a public body's meeting minutes include the start and end times of a meeting and the printed name and signature of the recording secretary. The committee amendment removes the need for a signature because the committee believes that we are in an era where digital authentication is widely accepted and that removing this phrase simplifies compliance for individuals and entities affected by the bill while still preserving the intent. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment on HB 265.

HB 269, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.
Senator Rochefort for the committee.

HB 269 removes the requirement that there be a Saturday session of the supervisors of the checklist prior to Election Day, provided that the session occurs as required by statute. In the past, the Saturday requirement to hold a session has caused issues when a severe weather event coincides with that day, resulting in checklist supervisors being forced to hold the session during severe weather to fulfill the statutory requirements. The committee believes removing "Saturday" from the statute would give checklist supervisors flexibility without sacrificing fairness or access. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends that HB 269 Ought to Pass.

HB 294, relative to the processing of absentee ballots.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.
Senator Long for the committee.

HB 294 removes the ability of 10 voters to postpone the processing of absentee ballots. The committee believes that allowing a small group to halt the process of counting ballots on election day creates unnecessary bottlenecks, overburdens local officials, and risks voter disenfranchisement. By eliminating this provision, HB 294 strikes a balance between fairness and practicality, ensuring that ballots are counted promptly while still allowing challenges through existing oversight mechanisms. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends that HB 294 Ought to Pass.

HB 327-FN, relative to filing for office and witnessing affidavits.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.
Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

HB 327 allows the Secretary of State to serve as a filing official and enables town clerks to witness candidate filing affidavits regardless of whether they are a notary public or not. The committee believes that town clerks are trained, elected officials responsible for managing elections, which makes them qualified to verify identities and signatures without needing notary status. The committee also believes that allowing this would streamline the filing process, as town clerks are readily available during office hours and the need to find a separate notary public would no longer be necessary. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Ought to Pass on HB 327.

HB 426, relative to property tax exemptions for charitable organizations for the prior tax year.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.
Senator Gray for the committee.

HB 426 permits a charitable organization to request a property tax exemption for the 2024 tax year if they demonstrate to the selectmen that they were prevented by accident, mistake, or misfortune from filing the statement of financial condition before June 1, 2024, and provides for appeal of the decision to the board of tax and land appeals or the superior court. Last year, the legislature passed HB 1055, allowing charitable organizations to file late applications for property tax exemptions if approved before the tax rate is set. The effective date for HB 1055 was April 1, 2025. HB 426 would retroactively apply HB 1055, ensuring that charitable organizations who may have missed deadlines in 2024 aren't unfairly penalized. For this reason, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Ought to Pass on HB 426.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 87-FN, prohibiting the posting of land not owned by the poster.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

HB 87-FN prohibits individuals from posting signs or posters that restrict access or activity on land they do not own or have no legal right to control. Anyone who knowingly posts such signs without a legal or reasonable basis is guilty of a class B misdemeanor and faces a \$200 fine for a first-time offense or \$500 for subsequent offenses. The bill also maintains penalties for removing or damaging property or signage belonging to others.

HB 167-FN, prohibiting the sale of ski, boat, and board waxes that contain intentionally added per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

HB 167-FN prohibits the sale of ski, boat, and board waxes in New Hampshire that contain intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The restriction aims to reduce environmental contamination and potential health risks associated with PFAS exposure. The bill adds these products to the list of consumer items regulated for PFAS content under existing state law.

HB 179-FN, relative to hazardous waste accident fees.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 179-FN revises the penalty structure for unpaid hazardous waste accident expenses in New Hampshire. Under the amended bill, a \$1,000 daily penalty is imposed on responsible parties beginning 90 days after nonpayment, with the total penalty capped at 25% of the accident cost. No additional penalties will apply if the party responsible follows an established payment plan. This change is intended to incentivize timely payment without imposing excessive financial burdens.

HB 211-FN, relative to the use of air rifles for hunting game.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 211-FN authorizes the use of air rifles for hunting game such as moose, bear, and deer in New Hampshire, provided the rifles meet minimum caliber and muzzle energy standards set by the Fish and Game Department. The bill defines “air rifle” and clarifies when it is considered loaded, and updates rules related to night hunting and firearm discharge in compact areas. The bill also directs the Fish and Game Department to create and administer a specific hunting tag program for air rifle users. The Fish and Game Department anticipates a minor revenue increase, under \$10,000 annually, and states costs related to implementation are indeterminable.

HB 277, relative to the use of the term “foal” and “colt.”

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

HB 277 updates terminology in RSA 644:8 to replace the word “colt” with the more inclusive term “foal” in reference to young horses. It also clarifies that a person may not possess or sell a foal under 90 days old that has been separated from its mother, unless the mother has died before the foal reached 90 days.

HB 508-FN, relative to decreasing assessment rates for entities providing VoIP and IP-enabled services, as well as certain local exchange carriers and their affiliates.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator McConkey for the committee.

HB 508-FN reduces the assessment rate from 33% to 10% on the gross utility revenue of certain local exchange carriers and their affiliates, as well as on all providers’ gross revenue from New Hampshire retail customers for VoIP and IP-enabled services. The reduction applies to services that offer voice capabilities, excluding cellular mobile radio service providers. The LBA estimates the fiscal impact will be less than \$10,000 annually through FY 2028.

HB 655-FN, relative to fish and game violations and permits.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

HB 655-FN increases mandatory fines for illegally hunting or possessing certain animals, with amounts ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 depending on the species. It requires license suspension for repeat offenders and makes a third violation within seven years a Class A misdemeanor. The bill also ends lifetime cross-bow permits for disabled hunters, requiring re-verification after seven years.

HB 779-FN, allowing the sale of rabbit meat in intrastate commerce.

Ought to Pass, Vote 2-1.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 779-FN allows the intrastate sale of up to 1,000 uninspected, processed whole rabbits annually by unlicensed producers, provided the meat is raised, processed, and sold within New Hampshire. Sales are permitted directly to consumers at farms, farmstands, farmers markets. Producers must complete educational requirements and register with the Department of Agriculture for disease traceability.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 64, relative to extending hiring preferences for military members and their spouses to the state and private businesses, and establishing purchase preferences for disabled veterans and military spouses regarding state supply purchases.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

HB 64 expands the definition of veteran for purposes of veteran hiring and employment preferences to include a veteran's spouse and any active duty service member regardless of length of service. The bill also extends employment preferences for veterans or their spouse to include veteran owned suppliers of goods and services in dealing with the state. The amendment extends the New Hampshire National Guard Enlistment and Reenlistment Incentive Program to those who reclassify into a critical, unfilled vacancy.

HB 120, relative to transferring statutory authority from the department of education to the department of military affairs and veterans services regarding educational support services.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator McGough for the committee.

HB 120 completes the transfer of authority to oversee the functions of the Veterans Education Services from the Department of Education to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. Both departments agreed to this change.

HB 134, relative to the state building code.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator McGough for the committee.

HB 134 updates the definition of the state building code to include more recent versions of certain international codes and amendments approved by the Building Code Review Board. The committee amendment changes a date to enable the Building Code Review Board to meet prior to this going into effect.

HB 144-FN, relative to the practice of dental hygiene.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 144-FN requires a dental hygienist to be trained and to pass an examination before being permitted to administer local anesthesia. This bill is at the request of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification and the Board of Dental Examiners.

HB 180, relative to critical incident stress management teams.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

HB 180 revises training requirements for critical incident stress management teams and permits the team leader to designate team members. The bill also clarifies that a team need not be affiliated with a municipality and establishes qualifications and responsibilities of the team leader.

HB 192-FN, relative to recommendations of the joint committee on employee classification.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 192-FN revises salaries for certain unclassified state employees. This bill is a request of the Joint Committee on Employee Classification.

HB 214-FN, relative to the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator McGough for the committee.

HB 214-FN clarifies the rulemaking authority of the Executive Director of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) with regards to the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners and adds sections relating to criminal history records checks and privileged communications to the chapters on the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners to be more consistent with other OPLC-related chapters.

HB 236-FN, relative to the granting of retired status to certified public accountants.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-1.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

HB 236-FN permits the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to grant an individual who has retired and previously held a certificate as a certified public accountant (CPA) the honorific title of "CPA (retired)". This bill is a request of the Board of Accountancy.

HB 267, relative to animal chiropractors.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

HB 267 exempts individuals with degrees in veterinary medicine or chiropractics who have completed a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program, as determined by the Executive Director of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, from veterinary licensure requirements.

HB 271-FN, relative to initial license requirements for licensed social work associates.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

HB 271-FN changes the national proctored examination requirement for initial licensure for licensed social work associates to a uniform competence assessment examination of social work knowledge, skills, and abilities approved by the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice.

HB 507-FN, relative to the timeline for credentialing of mental health care providers.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator McGough for the committee.

HB 507-FN requires health carriers to process credentialing applications by mental health providers within 30 days of submission of a complete application. This brings the credentialing timeline in line with other healthcare sectors.

HB 777, codifying the law enforcement accreditation commission.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 777 codifies the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission that was established by executive order. This bill is a request of the Police Standards and Training Council, the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General.

FINANCE

HB 122-FN, relative to payment of claims arising out of actions or activities of the New Hampshire national guard.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill, a request of the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, increases the maximum payment for claims arising out of actions or activities of the New Hampshire National Guard from \$500 to \$1,000. It permits payments for claims to be paid by the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services.

HB 165-FN, relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster.

Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

This bill increases the maximum amount of disaster relief aid a municipality may receive in a calendar year under RSA 21-P:37-e from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

HB 517-FN, repealing certain outreach and marketing requirements under the Granite State paid family leave plan.

Ought to Pass, Vote 6-1.

Senator Gray for the committee.

This bill repeals the requirement that the state engage in certain outreach and marketing activities to increase awareness of the Granite State Paid Family Leave Plan. The committee believes the marketing cost outweighs the benefit and asks for your support.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 72, extending the commission to study telehealth services.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Avaré for the committee.

This bill directs the Commission to Study Telehealth Services to submit a supplemental report by June 30, 2026, and provides for repeal of the Commission on that date. This will allow the Commission to continue the important work of studying telehealth services and identifying how they can be used and developed to benefit New Hampshire.

HB 73, relative to harm reduction, substance misuse, and the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Long for the committee.

This bill defines harm reduction and drug misuse for purposes of alcohol and drug misuse treatment and prevention and establishes a substance use disorder access point program. The changes to statute proposed by this legislation will allow a more holistic approach to be taken in meaningfully and effectively addressing the substance misuse crisis facing New Hampshire.

HB 94-FN, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-0.

Senator Avaré for the committee.

This bill provides that the State Medicaid plan shall not include circumcision unless the child has a specific diagnosis for which the procedure is determined to be medically necessary. The Committee did not hear convincing testimony that this procedure is more harmful than beneficial. Furthermore, there are perceived religious and political implications on socially impacted communities. Thus, the Committee chose not to proceed with the bill at this time.

HB 370, reestablishing the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with mental illness with an impairment primarily due to intellectual disability.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill re-establishes the Commission to Study the Delivery of Behavioral Crisis Services to Individuals with Mental Illness with an Impairment Primarily Due to Intellectual Disability. This will allow the Commission to continue the important work that they were not able to finish before their previous reporting deadline.

HB 455, relative to reports by the department of health and human services regarding Medicaid enhancement for children and pregnant women.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Long for the committee.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide quarterly reports regarding Medicaid enhancement for children and pregnant women for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 and to submit such reports annually thereafter.

HB 597, establishing a designated behavioral health access point within the enhanced 911 system.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Avaré for the committee.

This bill is a request of the Department of Safety's Division of Emergency Services and Communications. It defines the designated behavioral health access point within the enhanced 911 system to enable the Division of Emergency Services and Communications to transfer 911 calls from individuals experiencing non-emergent behavioral health crises and mental health needs to appropriate service providers.

JUDICIARY

HB 778-FN, authorizing the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

House Bill 778-FN, a request of the Police Standards and Training Council, authorizes the director of the council to detail training specialists for law enforcement and crowd control services. As amended, HB 778-FN also removes mental incapacitation from the disability retirement benefits statute, given those matters are addressed in the statutes governing workers compensation.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 140-FN, establishing a voluntary “blue envelope” program for drivers with autism spectrum disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill would create a voluntary “blue envelope” program allowing drivers with autism spectrum or trauma-related disorders to signal law enforcement during traffic stops. The envelope would be used to show that the individual struggles with communication and aims to make these interactions easier for all parties involved.

HB 390-FN, relative to adding retired fire apparatus (fire trucks) to antique vehicle exemptions.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would include “retired fire apparatus” in the definition of antique vehicles. It also would specify exemptions and regulations for their use, similar to other antique vehicles.

HB 393-FN, prohibiting mooring of boats without a permit.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator McConkey for the committee.

This bill would prohibit the mooring of boats without a permit. It would also prohibit using spuds, lifts, or similar devices instead of a permitted mooring in waters that require mooring permits, while including a list of exemptions.

HB 513, allowing the department of transportation to execute a right-of-way use agreement, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, from NH Route 114, traveling south for one mile.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would allow the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to execute a right-of-way use agreement, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, traveling north along New Hampshire Route 114 for one mile.

HB 663, allowing the division of historic resources to expend moose plate funds to administer and fund grants.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill will clarify that the Division of Historic Resources may allocate moose plate funds to cover administrative costs associated with the moose plate program.

HB 745, naming a bridge in the city of Keene after Charles Redfern.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would name a bridge on Keene’s alternative trail network crossing Route 101 after Charles Redfern, the founder of Pathways for Keene, and the visionary behind the city’s trail system.

REGULAR CALENDAR REPORTS

EDUCATION

HB 231, prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

JUDICIARY

HB 51, relative to hemp-derived cannabinoids and the definition of cannabis in therapeutic cannabis.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 53, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 75-FN, legalizing cannabis for persons 21 years of age or older.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

HB 162-FN, relative to informed consent for law enforcement searches of houses or other property.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

AMENDMENTS

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

April 2, 2025

2025-1478s

06/11

Amendment to HB 64

Amend RSA 275-G:1, VI as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI. "Military spouse" shall have the same meaning as RSA 21:50, V.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 7 the following and renumbering the original sections 8 and 9 to read as 9 and 10, respectively:

8 Public Defense and Veterans' Affairs; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; New Hampshire National Guard Enlistment and Reenlistment Incentive Program Established. Amend RSA 110-B:60 to read as follows:

110-B:60 New Hampshire National Guard Enlistment and Reenlistment Incentive Program Established. For the purpose of encouraging enlistment and reenlistment in the national guard there is hereby established a New Hampshire national guard enlistment incentive program. This program authorizes a cash incentive up to \$1000 to current members of the New Hampshire national guard in the pay grades of E-1 to O-3 or any former member of the New Hampshire national guard for each new or prior service recruit that they bring into the New Hampshire national guard. The program also authorizes a cash incentive up to \$6,000 to current members of the New Hampshire national guard who are not eligible for a federal reenlistment bonus and who reenlist for service in the New Hampshire national guard, ***or who reclassify into a critical, unfilled vacancy.***

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

March 25, 2025

2025-1368s

06/08

Amendment to HB 87-FN

Amend RSA 635:5, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Any person who knowingly places a sign or poster prohibiting certain physical activity on the land pursuant to RSA 635:4 on any land for which the person knows that he or she has no

legal right nor any reasonable basis for belief of having such a right, shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor; except that notwithstanding RSA 651:2, the person shall be fined \$200 for a first offense or \$500 for a second or subsequent offense.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 1, 2025
2025-1472s
06/09

Amendment to HB 92

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

1 New Paragraph; Zoning Board of Adjustment Membership. Amend RSA 673:3 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. When a member also serves on a planning board, the individual shall recuse herself or himself from voting on matters previously decided by or pending before the planning board in a quasi-judicial capacity in which the member participated as a voting member.

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

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
March 26, 2025
2025-1436s
09/05

Amendment to HB 134

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Definition of State Building Code. Amend RSA 155-A:1, IV to read as follows:

IV. "New Hampshire building code" or "state building code" means the adoption by reference of the International Building Code 2021, the International Existing Building Code 2021, the International Plumbing Code 2021, the International Mechanical Code 2021, the International Energy Conservation Code 2018, the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code 2021 and the International Residential Code 2021, as published by the International Code Council Inc., and the National Electrical Code [2020] **2023**, as published by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., as reviewed and recommended by the state building code review board, including all amendments reviewed and approved by the board as of **April 11, 2025** [May 10, 2024], and ratified by the legislature in accordance with RSA 155-A:10.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
April 8, 2025
2025-1542s
07/11

Amendment to HB 179-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Nonpayment Fees for Hazardous Materials Accidents. RSA 154:8-a, II-a(h) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(h) A penalty of no greater than \$1,000 per day shall be paid to the claimant for each day of nonpayment beyond 90 days. The cumulative penalty imposed shall not exceed 25 percent of the cost established under subparagraph (a). As long as the responsible party adheres to a payment plan that has been established between the claimant and the responsible party, no additional daily penalty shall be imposed.

Senate Children and Family Law
April 3, 2025
2025-1487s
11/06

Amendment to HB 213

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Assignment of Income; Notice to Parties. Amend RSA 458-B:2 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

I-a. At the time of the hearing the court shall notify each party that their income assignment of wages for child support will be automatic under RSA 458-B:2 unless both parties come to an agreement under another arrangement.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
 April 8, 2025
 2025-1544s
 11/08

Amendment to HB 265

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

AN ACT requiring that a public body's meeting minutes include start and end times of the meeting and the printed name of the recording secretary.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Access to Governmental Records and Meetings; Meetings Open to Public. Amend RSA 91-A:2, II to read as follows:

II. Subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, all meetings, whether held in person, by means of telephone or electronic communication, or in any other manner, shall be open to the public. Except for town meetings, school district meetings, and elections, no vote while in open session may be taken by secret ballot. Any person shall be permitted to use recording devices, including, but not limited to, tape recorders, cameras, and videotape equipment, at such meetings. Minutes of all such meetings, including nonpublic sessions, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, [and] a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions, ***the start time and end time of the meeting, and name of the person who produced the minutes.*** The names of the members who made or seconded each motion shall be recorded in the minutes. Subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, minutes shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection not more than 5 business days after the meeting, except as provided in RSA 91-A:6, and shall be treated as permanent records of any public body, or any subordinate body thereof, without exception. Except in an emergency or when there is a meeting of a legislative committee, a notice of the time and place of each such meeting, including a nonpublic session, shall be posted in 2 appropriate places one of which may be the public body's Internet website, if such exists, or shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at least 24 hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meetings. An emergency shall mean a situation where immediate undelayed action is deemed to be imperative by the chairman or presiding officer of the public body, who shall post a notice of the time and place of such meeting as soon as practicable, and shall employ whatever further means are reasonably available to inform the public that a meeting is to be held. The minutes of the meeting shall clearly spell out the need for the emergency meeting. When a meeting of a legislative committee is held, publication made pursuant to the rules of the house of representatives or the senate, whichever rules are appropriate, shall be sufficient notice. If the charter of any city or town or guidelines or rules of order of any public body require a broader public access to official meetings and records than herein described, such charter provisions or guidelines or rules of order shall take precedence over the requirements of this chapter. For the purposes of this paragraph, a business day means the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, excluding national and state holidays.

2025-1544s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that public meeting minutes be documented with the start time, end time, and recording secretary's printed name.

Senate Judiciary
 April 3, 2025
 2025-1489s
 09/05

Amendment to HB 778-FN

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

AN ACT authorizing the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services and relative to disability retirement benefits.

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

2 New Hampshire Retirement System; Disability Retirements Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:6, II(e)(2)(A) to read as follows:

(A) The member is found to be ~~mentally or~~ physically incapacitated for the further performance of duty and that such incapacity is likely to be permanent;

2025-1489s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Authorizes the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services, upon request of the state, county, or local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

II. Removes mental incapacitation as a justification for disability retirement benefits for certain group II members.

HEARINGS

All Standing Committee hearings will be live streamed on the NH Senate's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/NewHampshireSenatelivestream>

Links are also available on the Senate Meeting Schedule.



MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

Sen. Gray (C), Sen. Innis (VC), Sen. Carson, Sen. Birdsell, Sen. Pearl, Sen. Lang, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Watters
AGENCY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

1:00 p.m.	House Finance Committee Chair Ken Weyler and committee members present to the Senate Finance Committee HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-L as passed by the House.
2:00 p.m.	Legislative Budget Assistant presents Surplus Statement to the Senate Finance Committee.
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Pease Development Authority
2:55 p.m.	Banking Department
3:05 p.m.	Department of Labor
3:15 p.m.	Employment Security
3:25 p.m.	Insurance Department

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

COMMERCE, Room 100, SH

Sen. Innis (C), Sen. Ricciardi (VC), Sen. Murphy, Sen. McGough, Sen. Fenton, Sen. Reardon

9:30 a.m. **HB 296**, relative to issuing building permits along private roads.

- 9:45 a.m. **HB 685**, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 382**, relative to authority for municipalities to regulate mandatory on-site parking requirements.
- 10:05 a.m. Hearing on proposed Amendment #, 2025-1243s repealing the requirement that vehicle funding loan contracts have successive periodic payments that are substantially equal in amount., to **HB 382**, relative to authority for municipalities to regulate mandatory on-site parking requirements.
- 10:20 a.m. **HB 437**, providing specific curative measures for undischarged mortgages.
- 10:35 a.m. **HB 413**, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

EDUCATION, Room 101, LOB

Sen. Ward (C), Sen. Sullivan (VC), Sen. Abbas, Sen. Prentiss, Sen. Altschiller

- 9:15 a.m. **HB 68**, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement.
- 9:30 a.m. **HB 108**, relative to bullying and cyberbullying across multiple school districts.
- 9:45 a.m. **HB 235**, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 292**, establishing a commission to study school administrative unit consolidation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 103, LOB

Sen. Gray (C), Sen. Lang (VC), Sen. Rochefort, Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Sen. Long

- 9:15 a.m. **HB 288**, limiting how far in advance of an election an absentee ballot may be requested.
- 9:30 a.m. **HB 340-FN**, relative to electioneering by public employees.
- 9:45 a.m. **HB 464**, prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 474**, requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.
- 10:15 a.m. **HB 569**, relative to the establishment of county-wide communication districts.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 626**, directing the secretary of state to implement a vulnerability disclosure program for certain election systems.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

Sen. Avarad (C), Sen. Pearl (VC), Sen. McConkey, Sen. Watters, Sen. Rosenwald

- 9:00 a.m. **HB 171**, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.
- 9:15 a.m. **HB 707**, requiring the department of environmental services to revise the rules for proposed new landfills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

Sen. Gray (C), Sen. Innis (VC), Sen. Carson, Sen. Birdsell, Sen. Pearl, Sen. Lang, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Watters

AGENCY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

- 1:00 p.m. Board of Tax and Land Appeals
- 1:10 p.m. Governor's Commission on Disability
- 1:20 p.m. Council on Developmental Disabilities
- 1:30 p.m. Executive Council
- 1:40 p.m. Treasury Department
- 1:55 p.m. LCHIP

2:00 p.m. Community Development Finance Authority
 2:10 p.m. Department of State
 2:30 p.m. Right-to-Know Ombudsman
 2:35 p.m. Department of Revenue Administration

JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH

Sen. Gannon (C), Sen. Abbas (VC), Sen. McConkey, Sen. Altschiller, Sen. Reardon

1:00 p.m. **HB 226-FN**, relative to the use of drug checking equipment.
 1:10 p.m. **HB 301**, relative to cultivation locations for alternative treatment centers.
 1:20 p.m. **HB 190-FN**, relative to therapeutic cannabis possession limits.
 1:30 p.m. **HB 380-FN**, relative to penalties for criminal violations of the therapeutic use of cannabis.
 1:40 p.m. **HB 198-FN**, relative to legalizing certain quantities of cannabis and establishing penalties for the smoking or vaping of cannabis in public.
 1:50 p.m. **HB 528-FN**, amending the penalties for the possession and use of psilocybin for persons 18 years of age or older.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 103, SH

Sen. Pearl (C), Sen. McGough (VC), Sen. Gannon, Sen. Altschiller, Sen. Reardon

9:00 a.m. **HB 331**, relative to the secretary of state's procedures for enrolled bills.
 9:10 a.m. **HB 445**, establishing a study commission to examine the causes of and ways to alleviate the shortage of law enforcement officers in New Hampshire.
 9:20 a.m. **HB 598**, establishing a committee to study data sources of all entities operated by all branches of government that are or are potentially made available to the public, identify the data formats of those sources, and recommend legislation to standardize types and formats of data output from all or select governmental entities.
 9:30 a.m. **HB 634**, repealing the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.
 9:40 a.m. **HB 428-L**, prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code.
 10:00 a.m. **HB 469**, relative to membership of the public deposit investment pool advisory committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 101, LOB

Sen. Rochefort (C), Sen. Avard (VC), Sen. Birdsell, Sen. Prentiss, Sen. Long

9:45 a.m. **HB 316-FN**, relative to reimbursement for ground ambulance services.
 10:00 a.m. **HB 559**, relative to staffing requirements in emergency medical transport vehicles.
 10:15 a.m. **HB 548-FN**, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model.
 10:30 a.m. **HB 705**, relative to health care cost transparency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 100, SH

Sen. Lang (C), Sen. Murphy (VC), Sen. Sullivan, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Fenton

9:00 a.m. **HB 617**, relative to the homestead right.
 9:15 a.m. **HB 647-FN**, relative to the fee for a newborn lifetime hunting and fishing license.
 9:30 a.m. **HB 658-FN**, raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund.

9:45 a.m. Hearing on proposed nongermane Amendment #, 2025-1468s creating local options for games of chance and relative to charitable gaming licenses, to **HB 737-LOCAL**, creating local options for games of chance.
EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

EDUCATION FINANCE, Room 103, SH

Sen. Murphy (C), Sen. Innis (VC), Sen. Carson, Sen. Ward, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Altschiller

1:00 p.m. **HB 557**, relative to the information that appears on the school budget ballot.
 1:10 p.m. **HB 718**, requiring the state board of education to report the unfunded financial impact to school districts for rules adopted by the board which exceed state or federal minimum standards.
 1:20 p.m. **HB 771-FN**, relative to funding for open enrollment schools.
EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH

Sen. Gannon (C), Sen. Abbas (VC), Sen. McConkey, Sen. Altschiller, Sen. Reardon

1:00 p.m. **HB 62-FN**, relative to protection of persons from domestic violence and military protective orders.
 1:10 p.m. **HB 369-FN**, relative to misdemeanor sexual assault prosecutions.
 1:20 p.m. **HB 602**, requiring certain offenders to participate in a victim impact program.
 1:30 p.m. **HB 405**, establishing a commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses and relative to prostitution and related offenses.
EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

Sen. Gray (C), Sen. Innis (VC), Sen. Carson, Sen. Birdsell, Sen. Pearl, Sen. Lang, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Watters

AGENCY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

1:30 p.m. Department of Energy
 1:45 p.m. Public Utilities Commission
 1:55 p.m. Office of the Consumer Advocate
 2:00 p.m. Department of Environmental Services
 2:25 p.m. Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food
 2:40 p.m. Judicial Branch
 3:00 p.m. Judicial Council

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 103, SH

Sen. Abbas (C), Sen. Sullivan (VC), Sen. Long

9:30 a.m. **HB 178**, relative to foster parent representation of foster children with disabilities.
 9:40 a.m. **HB 177**, relative to children in placement pursuant to an episode of treatment for which the department of health and human services has a financial responsibility.
 9:50 a.m. **HB 132-FN**, relative to liability for familial support under RSA chapter 165, aid to assisted persons.
 10:00 a.m. **HB 473-FN**, criminalizing multiple forms of exposing children to controlled substances and allowing law enforcement to take a child into protective custody for screening and testing in an instance of suspected or actual criminal exposure to controlled substances.

10:10 a.m. **HB 560**, relative to parental access to a minor child's medical records.
 10:20 a.m. **HB 273**, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records.
EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

MEETINGS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a)

9:30 a.m.	Department of Revenue Administration Training Room 109 Pleasant Street Concord, NH	Assessing Reference Manual Subcommittee
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COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN FIRST RESPONDERS (RSA 281-A:17-e)

10:00 a.m.	NH Fire Academy Classroom 1 98 Smokey Bear Blvd. Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3)

10:00 a.m.	AMC Highland Center Washburn Room U.S. Rte 302 Bretton Woods, NH	Regular Meeting
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COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF PERFLUORINATED CHEMICALS (RSA 126-A:79-a)

2:00 p.m.		Regular Meeting
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This meeting will take place by remote conference.

To listen in please follow the instructions below:

Please register for the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals meeting on April 11, 2025 2:00 PM EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5671215450474413150>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

You also may join the meeting by phone:

Call in Number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access Code: 115-413-777

Webinar ID: 947-509-755

The following email address will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: Amy.E.Rousseau@des.nh.gov. You may also call Amy Rousseau at 603-271-8801.

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (RSA 188-E:10-b)

9:00 a.m.	25 Hall Street Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2)

9:00 a.m.	Room 201, LOB	Regular Meeting
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The You Tube link to view the meeting livestream is:
<https://youtube.com/live/eK4irWRtIRY?feature=share>

LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE (RSA 17-M:1)

9:30 a.m. Room 201, LOB Regular Meeting
 The You Tube link to view the meeting livestream is:
<https://youtube.com/live/yNR3qmzDZqs?feature=share>

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**COUNTY-STATE FINANCE COMMISSION (RSA 28-B:1)**

9:00 a.m. Brown Building Regular Meeting
 129 Pleasant St
 Concord, NH

CURRENT USE BOARD (RSA 79-A:3)

10:00 a.m. Department of Revenue Administration Regular Meeting
 Training Room
 109 Pleasant Street
 Concord, NH

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)**

9:00 a.m. Room 306-308, LOB Regular Meeting

OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 21-V:10)

9:00 a.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a)

11:00 a.m. Room 210-211, LOB Regular Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025**ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a)**

9:30 a.m. Department of Revenue Administration Regular Meeting
 Training Room
 109 Pleasant Street
 Concord, NH

NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a)

9:00 a.m. NH Veterans Home Regular Meeting
 139 Winter Street
 Tilton, NH

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1)

10:00 a.m. NH Hospital Association Regular Meeting
 125 Airport Road
 Concord, NH
 Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115?pwd=bUFR3I5emt3NGVudDBYYW9SZThLUT09>

NEW HAMPSHIRE CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22)

2:00 p.m. BEA Regular Meeting
 Kingsman Room
 100 North Main Street
 Concord, NH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 281-A:62)

11:00 a.m.	NH Department of Labor 95 Pleasant St Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP (RSA 149-M:61)

9:30 a.m.	NHDES Room 208C 29 Hazen Drive Concord, NH Remote attendance option: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3435858814888164108	Regular Meeting
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13)

1:00 p.m.	Room 205-207, LOB	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD (RSA 126-BB:2)

9:30 a.m.	DHHS Brown Building Auditorium 129 Pleasant Street Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025

JOINT LEGISLATIVE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (RSA 17-I:1)

10:00 a.m.	Room 100, SH	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2)

5:00 p.m.	Edward Cross Training Center Facility 722 Riverwood Drive Pembroke, NH	Regular Meeting
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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SIEC) (RSA 21-P:48, IV)

9:00 a.m.	Marine Patrol Bureau 31 Dock Road Gilford, NH	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (RSA 188-E:10-b)

9:00 a.m.	25 Hall Street Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4)

10:00 a.m.	NHDES 29 Hazen Drive Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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Department of Agriculture,
Markets, & Food
Granite Place South
Concord, NH

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1)

10:00 a.m.

NH Hospital Association
125 Airport Road
Concord, NH

Regular Meeting

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115?pwd=bUFR3I5emt3NGVudDBYYW9SZThLUT09>

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF OHRVS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 215-A:44-a)

10:00 a.m.

Fish & Game Department
629 Main St, Ste B
Lancaster, NH

Regular Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 268 956 476 29

Passcode: sb2oU3S3

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING (RSA 19-P:1)

10:00 a.m.

NH Hospital Association
125 Airport Road
Concord, NH

Regular Meeting

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115?pwd=bUFR3I5emt3NGVudDBYYW9SZThLUT09>

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FISCAL NOTE ADDITIONS AND UPDATES HAVE BEEN AMENDED TO THE BILLS ON THE WEB SITE AND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE FOLLOWING 2025 BILLS:

SENATE BILLS: 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 27, 31, 58, 60, 65, 71, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 83, 84, 86, 87, 92, 93, 99, 100, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128, 130, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 142, 144, 147, 148, 150, 152, 157, 160, 162, 164, 168, 170, 179, 180, 181, 185, 188, 191, 193, 201, 204, 205, 208, 213, 222, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 233, 238, 239, 241, 243, 244, 245, 246, 249, 253, 258, 261, 263, 267, 274, 276, 277, 286, 297, 302

HOUSE BILLS: 10, 59, 62, 66, 77, 85, 86, 88, 111, 112, 140, 153, 179, 191, 192, 195, 196, 211, 214, 215, 218, 225, 226, 240, 260, 268, 270, 271, 276, 284, 291, 309, 327, 328, 340, 369, 377, 378, 380, 389, 393, 405, 406, 410, 416, 421, 468, 473, 494, 496, 498, 499, 502, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 511, 514, 517, 518, 521, 522, 524, 525, 526, 528, 534, 535, 536, 538, 542, 546, 547, 553, 566, 572, 574, 575, 581, 583, 586, 587, 607, 608, 609, 615, 616, 619, 621, 622, 624, 630, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 646, 648, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 657, 658, 659, 662, 665, 666, 669, 670, 671, 672, 674, 677, 680, 681, 683, 686, 687, 688, 690, 691, 694, 696, 702, 708, 710, 711, 712, 716, 719, 720, 721, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 738, 739, 741, 743, 750, 753, 755, 756, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 767, 769, 770, 771, 775, 778, 782

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ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR 2025 BILLS:

HOUSE BILLS: 399

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SENATE BILLS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

SENATE BILLS:

HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

HOUSE BILLS: 110, 127, 399

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NOTICES

NOTICE

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee, at its meeting on March 10, 2025, voted to formally issue the following interpretive rulings, which are printed below in their entirety.

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-1

Application of Recent Changes to RSA 14-C as a Result of HB 1388 (2024) (March 10, 2025)

The Legislative Ethics Committee has received a request for an interpretive ruling from the Clerk of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. He asserts that members of the General Court have raised numerous questions regarding their responsibilities under the recusal provisions in the newly enacted HB 1388.

More specifically, he asks that the Committee address the following questions:

1. When and under what circumstances is a member required to recuse themselves from consideration of a piece of legislation? If a recusal is required, please describe the steps a member should take depending on the setting, i.e. floor session, committee meeting.
2. If recusal is not required, under what circumstances is it sufficient to file a conflict of interest?
3. If neither recusal nor a filing of a conflict of interest is necessary, when is verbal disclosure appropriate?

In response, the Committee issues the following interpretive rulings:

1. Prior to the enactment of HB 1388, there was no statutory authority or written provision in the Ethics Guidelines requiring recusal in legislative matters. For the most part, when a conflict of interest existed, upon filing a Declaration of Intent form, recusal was contemplated as an option, but it was exercised at the discretion of the legislator. This was consistent with one of the primary objectives of the Ethics Guidelines, which is public disclosure.

One exception was identified in prior rulings of the Committee. It found that recusal was required in circumstances where a legislator, or a member of the legislator's household, is being compensated by an organization, holds a position in which they are able to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization, and the organization is attempting to influence the outcome of the legislative activity. This exception was incorporated in HB 1388 and was enacted as RSA 14-C:4-a, II. For guidance on its application, see *Informal Resolution 2013-5*, *Informal Resolution 2019-2*, *Advisory Opinion 2018-1*, and *Advisory Opinion 2023-3*, available on the Committee's website.

The major change brought about by HB 1388 is the required recusal found in RSA 14-C:4-a, I. This is a requirement for recusal when a legislator has a conflict of interest as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I, and the legislator or a member of the legislator's household could "be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as an outcome of the legislative activity." The terms "direct and substantial" have yet to be defined in the context of this legislation and the Ethics Guidelines as a whole. The Committee has previously indicated its intent to create an understanding of how the definitions would be applied as factual cases are brought before the Committee. That is why it previously issued an Advisory Opinion in which it advised legislators that, until the statute is better understood, they would not be subject to the imposition of sanctions provided the legislator was acting in good faith.

However, the Committee understands that there has been confusion regarding the implementation of the recusal requirement, resulting in many questions and inconsistent behavior. Therefore, some general guidance might be beneficial pending a more in-depth application of the law. This is particularly true, as guidance previously issued by the Committee may be obsolete or, worse yet, conflict with the new recusal law.

For example, previously, the Committee advised that it was sufficient to disclose a conflict when a legislator held title to property subject to current use taxation. Under the new law, if a bill would change the formula for taxation, increasing or decreasing the amount of taxes to be paid, it may be expected to have a “direct and substantial” financial impact on the legislator, making recusal mandatory. At the same time, not all current use bills would necessarily require recusal. For example, a change in property classifications, type of vegetation, or method for filing current use liens would probably not have a direct or substantial financial impact. Recusal might not be required in those circumstances, although the legislator would still have a duty to disclose.

Many legislators are members of the New Hampshire Retirement System. It is the Committee’s understanding that in the past, legislators have been inconsistent in the matter of disclosure. Many have filed Declaration of Intent forms, with some electing to participate and some opting for recusal. In some cases, legislators have filed no Declaration of Intent form but may have simply made disclosure on the Financial Disclosure Form filed at the beginning of the session. Under the new law, if a bill is introduced that changes the retirement benefit or member contribution rate, it is expected to have a direct and substantial financial impact on the legislator or a member of the legislator’s household, and recusal would be required. Again, just because someone belongs to the Retirement System, does not require recusal in all cases, only if there is expected to be a direct and substantial benefit. If a bill was dealing with the structure of the Retirement System, its investment strategy, its operating procedures or its staffing, it would be unlikely that recusal would be required, although disclosure would still be appropriate.

Recusal is required when a legislator recognizes that a legislative activity could reasonably be expected to have a direct and substantial financial impact upon them or a member of their household. That could be at a committee meeting or at any time in the legislative process. At that point, the legislator should refrain from any further legislative involvement on the legislative activity and file a Declaration of Intent form with the Clerk of their respective body, noting their recusal. They should refrain from participation in any further legislative involvement with that legislative activity. Because of the way bills are heard, the Committee recognizes that legislators may not recognize conflicts before they appear at the floor session. A Declaration of Intent form with recusal should be filed immediately upon discovery of the conflict.

It should be noted that recusal is not required from participation in any official legislative activity relating to the state budget or general revenue bills.

2. When recusal is not required, conflicts which are not “direct and substantial” may still exist. In such circumstances, the emphasis remains on public disclosure. There are three forms that are used for disclosing conflicts. These are the Financial Disclosure Form, the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form and the Declaration of Intent Form. There is also the requirement to make a verbal disclosure.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM

Every legislator has a duty to complete a Financial Disclosure Form at the beginning of their term. At that point they are to disclose any business, profession, occupation, group or matter in which they or a household member may have a financial interest. If a legislator discloses having a financial interest on the form, the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure of that financial interest in certain situations. The legislator could also be required to file a Declaration of Intent Form as provided below.

GENERAL DISCLOSURE OF NON-FINANCIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS FORM

When a legislator or a legislator’s household member has a non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, which is distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large, the legislator has a duty to complete a Declaration of Intent form if the legislator has not made that disclosure on the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests

Form. This may occur in circumstances when a legislator is an uncompensated member of a board, officer or agent of a non-profit organization. If a legislator discloses having a non-financial personal interest on the form, the legislator is required to make a verbal disclosure of that non-financial personal interest in certain situations.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

When a legislator has a financial interest that could reasonably be expected to produce greater benefit or detriment to the legislator or the legislator's household member than would accrue to any other member of a business, profession, occupation, or other group the legislator listed in the financial disclosure form, the legislator has a duty to complete a Declaration of Intent form. On the form, the legislator must declare his or her decision to either participate in or not participate in the particular official activity described on the form. If a legislator elects to declare an intention to participate in the activity, the legislator is required to detail the nature of the conflict of interest on the form.

The requirement for filing a Declaration of Intent is triggered immediately when a legislator becomes aware that a conflict of interest exists or may exist with respect to any official activity the legislator is about to undertake. An "official activity" is defined as any activity which relates to official responsibilities, including the introduction of legislation, testifying before any legislative committee or state agency, voting in committee or in house or senate session or otherwise participating in, influencing, or attempting to influence any decision of the legislature, county delegation or any state agency.

For purposes of introducing a bill, the declaration must be made prior to signing off as a sponsor or co-sponsor of a particular piece of legislation. The Declaration of Intent form must be filed with the clerk of the member's respective body prior to the time of the official action.

If there is any question in the legislator's mind as to whether a Declaration of Intent would be required, the better practice would be to file one.

3. Verbal disclosure is required when a legislator becomes aware of having a financial interest or a non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter. It is to be made prior to engaging in verbal advocacy at any meeting of the general court or county delegation. "Verbal advocacy" means an attempt by a legislator to influence his or her colleagues on a matter that is the subject of official activity in a meeting of the general court or county delegation through public verbal communication. Verbal advocacy does not include casting a vote in executive session of a committee or in a full session of the House or Senate. The verbal disclosure shall consist of a short statement that identifies the financial interest or non-financial personal interest.

Verbal disclosures must be made in the following circumstances and manner:

- (a) When **testifying** before a legislative committee regarding a bill or other matter in which the legislator has a special interest, the legislator shall make the disclosure prior to testifying.
- (b) When **appointed to a subcommittee** working on a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made upon appointment to the subcommittee and at the initial subcommittee work session.
- (c) When **serving as a member of a committee** considering a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made prior to engaging in verbal advocacy.
- (d) When **addressing the full House or Senate** on a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made prior to engaging in verbal advocacy. **If the legislator does not speak on the bill, the legislator is not required to make a verbal disclosure.**
- (e) When **appointed as a member of a Committee of Conference** on a bill in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made at the initial meeting of the Committee of Conference.
- (f) When **serving as a member of a county delegation** considering a matter in which the legislator has a special interest, the disclosure shall be made to all participants prior to engaging in verbal advocacy.

The Committee recognizes that the application of any law or guideline to individual circumstances may pose questions not easily addressed in an interpretive ruling, which is general in nature. Legislators are encouraged to bring questions about their specific circumstances to the Ethics Committee by requesting an advisory opinion or interpretive ruling.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

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Legislative Ethics Committee
INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-2
Voting on the Consent Calendar
(March 10, 2025)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann asked for guidance regarding the effect of the new recusal law (2025 HB 1388) when a conflict exists with a bill included on the Consent Calendar. Specifically, he asked if a member determines that they are required to recuse themselves from voting on a bill listed on the Consent Calendar, but wants to vote on all the other bills, does the bill have to be removed from the Consent Calendar and voted on separately.

While the current statutes provide an exception for the budget and general revenue bills, no exception is made for consent calendars. While it may not have been clear in the past, absent an exception, a strict application of the new recusal law would preclude a member from voting on the Consent Calendar if it contains a bill for which the member is required to recuse. The Committee recognizes that currently the Senate and the House have different requirements in their procedural rules for removing a bill from the Consent Calendar. In the Senate, a single member may request the removal, whereas in the House 10 members are required to make the request. In either case, if the bill is removed from the Consent Calendar, the member may file a Declaration of Intent, recuse from voting on the bill, and then vote on the balance of the calendar. But if the bill is not removed from the Consent Calendar, the member is required to file a Declaration of Intent and recuse from voting on the entire Consent Calendar.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

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NOTICE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee, at its meeting on March 24, 2025, voted to formally issue the following interpretive ruling and advisory opinions, which are printed below in their entirety.

Advisory Opinion 2025-1
Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion
from Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann
on Behalf of Senator Donovan Fenton
(March 24, 2025)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann has requested an advisory opinion on behalf of Senator Donovan Fenton, addressing whether he is required to recuse himself from participating in HB 649-FN, a bill removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund

Attorney Lehmann provided the Committee with the following facts. Sen. Fenton's family owns car dealerships in the Keene area that conduct annual physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests that are required under current law. Sen. Fenton owns an equity stake of these businesses, and he is an active participant in them. Sen. Fenton does not believe that revenue derived from inspections at his families' dealerships represent a greater or lesser percentage of revenue than other similar businesses.

The relevant statutes can be found in RSA Chapter 14-C. RSA 14-C:4-a provides as follows:

I. A legislator shall recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:

- (a) The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and
- (b) The legislator or a member of the legislator's household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.

A conflict of interest, as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I, means the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator's official activities. A special interest is defined as any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large.

Having considered the facts as presented, it is the opinion of the Committee that Senator Fenton has a conflict of interest which requires his recusal from participating in legislative activities involving HB 649-FN. Although his interest in the subject may be no greater than other businesses which perform inspections and diagnostic tests, he does have a personal interest which is greater than the public at large. Given his participation in the family business, he could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of HB 649-FN.

Because the Committee has found that recusal is required pursuant to RSA 14-C:4-a, I, it has not found it necessary to consider whether recusal would be required under the provisions of RSA 14-C:4-a, II.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 6-1]

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Advisory Opinion 2025-2
Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion
from Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann
on Behalf of Senator Victoria Sullivan
(March 24, 2025)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann has requested an advisory opinion on behalf of Senator Victoria Sullivan, addressing whether she is required to recuse herself from participation in any official activities involving RSA Chapter 194-F, the statutes entitled "Education Freedom Accounts."

Attorney Lehmann provided the Committee with the following facts. Senator Sullivan has two children who are a present and a former participant in the Education Freedom Account program. Her youngest child will be graduating in May, and no member of her family will be participating in the program after May 30, 2025. She holds no position of authority in the administration or management of the program itself.

Applying the facts as presented, the relevant statutes are:

I. A legislator shall recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:

- (a) The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and
- (b) The legislator or a member of the legislator's household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.

As defined in RSA 14-B:1, I, "Conflict of interest" means the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator's official activities.

A special interest, in turn, is now defined as: V. "Special interest" means any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large.

- (a) A financial interest exists where a legislator or household member could stand to gain or lose anything of material value as a result of the official activity.

In applying the statutory authority, it is highly improbable that recusal would be required. If there was current legislation to increase or reduce the financial benefit applicable to existing students, or if there was future legislation that provided a retroactive benefit to former students, Senator Sullivan could incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment, and recusal would be required. But it is more likely that any legislation relating to RSA Chapter 194-F will apply only to students after May 30, 2025, in which case, Senator Sullivan will incur no direct or substantial financial benefit or detriment and recusal will not be required.

Although recusal is unlikely, given her participation in the program, Senator Sullivan may still have a special interest in Education Freedom Accounts, and she may wish to disclose a conflict before participating in legislative activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

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INTERPRETIVE RULING 2025-3 (March 24, 2025)

Representative Gregory G. Hill has asked the Legislative Ethics Committee to provide an interpretive ruling, addressing whether members of the General Court, who are themselves or have a household member who is a retired member of the New Hampshire Retirement System ("NHRS"), are required to recuse themselves from participation in official legislative activity pertaining to 2025 House Bill 536-FN, an act relative to a cost of living adjustment in the state retirement system.

The following facts were provided by Representative Hill. HB 536-FN would provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) as a supplemental allowance to the retired members of the NHRS, or any of its predecessor systems, or a member's beneficiary, who have been retired for at least 60 months as of July 1, 2025. The supplemental allowance would be 1-1/2% of the first \$50,000.00 of the retired member's or beneficiaries' annual retirement allowance.

Applying the facts as presented, the relevant statutes are:

- I. A legislator shall recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:
 - (a) The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and
 - (b) The legislator or a member of the legislator's household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.

RSA 14-B:1, I, defines “Conflict of interest” to mean “the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator’s official activities.”

A special interest, in turn, is now defined as any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large. A financial interest exists where a legislator or household member could stand to gain or lose anything of material value as a result of the official activity.

In applying the facts as provided, the Committee interprets the statutory authority to provide that a legislator who is a retired member, or who has a household member, who is a retired member of the New Hampshire Retirement System, has a financial interest which should have been disclosed on the Financial Disclosure Form filed at the beginning of the legislative session.

If the retired legislator or family member would qualify for the proposed COLA, then the legislator could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit. Recusal would be required by RSA 14-C:4-a, I, and the legislator is required to refrain from participating in any legislative activities involving HB 536-FN.

If, however, the retired legislator or family member does not qualify for the COLA because of the length of their retirement, they would not be required to recuse as they would not be receiving a “direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment.” Although not required to recuse in those circumstances, verbal disclosure might still be required if the member intends to participate in verbal advocacy involving HB 536-FN.

The committee also notes that legislation is subject to amendment as it progresses through the legislative bodies. The above analysis is based upon the current proposal as presented to the Committee.

For the Committee,
Edward M. Gordon
Chairman

[Vote: 6-1]

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TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

The Senate is cordially invited to join behavioral health crisis stakeholders to “Coffee for the Crisis Line” on Tuesday, April 22 from 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM in the State House Cafeteria. Please drop by for fresh coffee and donuts and learn about the crisis system and sustainable funding for the 988 call centers.

Senator Kevin Avar

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FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

The New Hampshire Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Association cordially invites you to attend the 33rd Annual New Hampshire Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony. This Ceremony is being held to honor the Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of New Hampshire who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty while protecting the citizens of the State. The Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m., at the Memorial Site in front of the Legislative Office Building. The Ceremony will proceed rain or shine. Please do not hesitate to contact Colonel Kevin Jordan at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 603-271-3128, should you have any questions.

Senator Sharon M. Carson, Senate President

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THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

The NH Oral Health Coalition invites you to our 2025 Legislative Luncheon “#Oral Health Matters: It’s All Connected” hosted on May 29 from 11:30 to 1:30 in the NH State House cafeteria. This year’s event includes oral health and dental providers and programs from your local communities that serve those needing affordable and accessible care. Additionally, we will celebrate the NH Smiles – Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit on its 3rd birthday. Please RSVP to Gail Brown gbrown@NHOralHealth.org or 603-415-5550. See you there. All Senators and their staff members are welcome.

Senator Cindy Rosenwald

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SENATE SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 15, 2025	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
Monday, May 26, 2025	Memorial Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, June 05, 2025	Deadline to ACT on all House bills.
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Deadline to FORM Committees of Conference.
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Deadline to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports.
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Deadline to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.
Friday, July 04, 2025	Independence Day (State Holiday)
Monday, September 01, 2025	Labor Day (State Holiday)
Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Veterans’ Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday)
Friday, November 28, 2025	Day after Thanksgiving (State Holiday)
Thursday, December 25, 2025	Christmas Day (State Holiday)