

May 15, 2025
No. 22A

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Website Address: <https://gc.nh.gov>

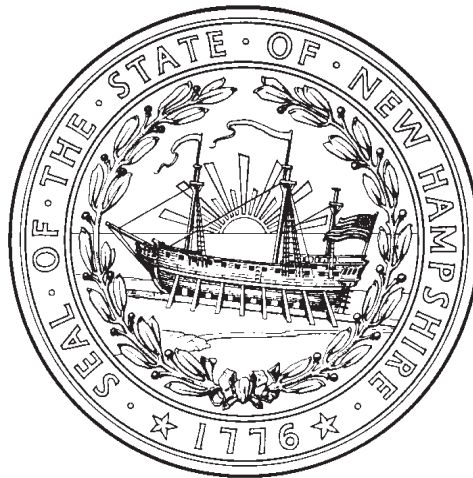
Senate Meeting Schedule Website Address:

<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 ADDENDUM

THE SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Session on Thursday, May 22, 2025, in the Senate Chamber
will be live streamed at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/VoJHn8y83co?feature=share>

Please note, this link will not be live until the Senate Session on
Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS

FINANCE

HB 328-FN, establishing a charitable gaming oversight commission.

Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill provides a General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, to the Lottery Commission to support the work of the Charitable Gaming Oversight Commission. It is assumed all of the appropriation would be expended during the biennium. Any unexpended funds would lapse to the General Fund on June 30, 2027.

HB 650-FN, removing references to repealed funds and relative to state park and robotics education funds.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 7-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

This bill removes references to repealed funds, splits the State Parks Fund into two separate funds, and changes the Robotics Education Fund to lapse excess funds into the General Fund. At the request of the Department of Education, the Senate Finance Committee made a one-word language change for clarification purposes.

HB 667-FN, relative to health education and requiring the viewing of certain videos demonstrating gestational development from embryo to fetus through birth by public school students.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-2.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill requires health curriculum to include age appropriate and medically accurate sexuality education including the presentation of a high quality, computer-generated animation or ultrasound video that shows the development of the heart, brain, and other vital organs in early fetal development.

HB 690-FN, directing the department of energy to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy.

Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

This bill requires the Department of Energy to investigate the state's potential withdrawal from ISO-New England, as well as other strategic decisions impacting ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy. Any expenditures to do the investigation shall be funded by an assessment in accordance with RSA 365:37.

HB 696-FN, relative to the application of utility property taxes and statewide education property taxes to electric generating facilities.

Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill removes the requirement that electric generators be subject to the Utility Property Tax (UPT). Generators are no longer state regulated utilities. They are now considered manufacturers and as such should be paying the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT), not the UPT. The bill also honors payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) agreements until their expiration. After such time, the SWEPT obligation may be included in any new PILOT agreement or paid in addition to it.

HB 713-FN, relative to mile markers along Route 112.

Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to install mile markers along the length of Route 112, also known as the Kancamagus Highway, from the town of Lincoln to the town of Conway. It also authorizes the installation of mile markers along Route 112 from the town of Bath to the town of Woodstock.

JUDICIARY

HB 80, allowing a public body member's presence at a meeting by electronic or other means of communication only if physical presence is unavoidable.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator McConkey for the committee.

House Bill 80 would require that public bodies not allow remote participation for meetings unless the individual's absence is unavoidable. The Committee does not find the bill expedient to legislate. The Committee had concerns surrounding the vagueness of unavoidability as stated in the bill, and did not find the criteria commensurate with other legal standards.

HB 337, relative to the reporting requirements of the judicial council.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

House Bill 337 requires that members of the judicial council be subject to filing a financial disclosure. Additionally, the bill requires that any fee schedules established by the council be reported to the legislature and State Supreme Court.

HB 376, specifying that library user information exempted from disclosure in the right-to-know law includes information regarding library cards and library membership status.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

House Bill 376 would amend the list of exemptions to RSA 91-A to include library cards and membership status. The Committee did not find additional exception to RSA 91-A prudent, nor did the committee find the bill broadly applicable.

HB 485, authorizing persons who win the state lottery to remain anonymous.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

House Bill 485 would provide in-State lottery winners the ability to remain anonymous. The winning amount, and retailer would remain subject to disclosure. The Committee found the proposal in the best interests of safety and privacy and accordingly recommend that the bill is ought to pass with amendment.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 123, defining pre-sequestration timber tax revenue, establishing a moratorium on carbon sequestration and establishing a commission to study the effects of carbon sequestration in New Hampshire forests upon state and local tax revenue, effective forest management, and the health of New Hampshire's logging industry.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

The original version of HB 123 would have expanded statewide tax policy; however, as amended by the Senate Energy Committee the bill no longer does so. Instead, it creates a study commission to better understand the implications of timber tax avoidance. The Ways and Means Committee has no concern with the bill as amended and supports the Energy Committee's recommendation.

REGULAR CALENDAR REPORTS

FINANCE

HB 71-FN, prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States and relative to department of health and human services contracts.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-2.

Senator Lang for the committee.

JUDICIARY

HB 57, relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 397, establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the department of safety.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 520, relative to authorizing hearing officers of the department of education to issue subpoenas.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

AMENDMENTS

Senate Judiciary

May 20, 2025

2025-2308s

11/11

Amendment to HB 57

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

AN ACT relative to the standards applicable to bail in criminal matters.

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

1 Bail and Recognizances; Release of a Defendant Pending Trial. Amend RSA 597:2, III(c) to read as follows:

(c) Except as provided in RSA 597:1-c, a person who is charged with **a *qualifying offense*** [~~homicide under RSA 630; first degree assault under RSA 631:1; second degree assault under RSA 631:2; felony level domestic violence under RSA 631:2-b; aggravated felonious sexual assault under RSA 632-A:2; felonious sexual assault under RSA 632-A:3; kidnapping under RSA 633:1; felony level stalking under RSA 633:3-a, VI(a); trafficking in persons under RSA 633:7; robbery under RSA 636:1, III; possession, manufacture, or distribution of child sexual abuse images under RSA 649-A; or computer pornography and child exploitation under RSA 649-B;~~] shall not be brought before a bail commissioner and shall, upon arrest, be detained pending arraignment before the court. Arraignment shall occur no later than 36 hours after the arrest, excluding weekends and holidays. At the person's appearance before the court, the court shall order that the person be detained pending trial if the court determines by a finding of probable cause that release of the person is a danger to that person or the public. In determining whether release will endanger the safety of that person or the public, the court may consider all relevant and material factors presented pursuant to paragraph VI. If the court does not find probable cause that the person must be detained, the court shall order the person released pursuant to subparagraph I(b), or, if applicable, temporarily detained pursuant to subparagraph I(d). A person arrested for violating the conditions of his or her bail for an offense listed in this subparagraph, shall be held until they can be brought before the court at the first available date. If at a subsequent hearing, the court finds probable cause exists that the person violated the conditions of his or her bail for any of the crimes listed in this subparagraph, the defendant shall be held pending trial. ***For the purpose of this subparagraph, "qualifying offense" means any of the following:***

- (1) Homicide under RSA 630;***
- (2) First degree assault under RSA 631:1;***
- (3) Second degree assault under RSA 631:2;***
- (4) Felony level domestic violence under RSA 631:2-b;***
- (5) Aggravated felonious sexual assault under RSA 632-A:2;***
- (6) Felonious sexual assault under RSA 632-A:3;***
- (7) Kidnapping under RSA 633:1;***

(8) Felony level stalking under RSA 633:3-a, VI(a);

(9) Trafficking in persons under RSA 633:7;

(10) Robbery under RSA 636:1, III;

(11) Possession, manufacture, or distribution of child sexual abuse images under RSA 649-A;

(12) Computer pornography and child exploitation under RSA 649-B;

(13) Any felony offense that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against a person; or

(14) Any felony offense, if the person has twice before been convicted of an offense listed in subparagraph (c).

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 180 days after its passage.

Senate Judiciary

May 20, 2025

2025-2302s

06/09

Amendment to HB 485

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Anonymity of Lottery Prize Winner. Amend RSA 91-A by inserting after section 5-a the following new section:

91-A:5-b Anonymity of Lottery Prize Winner.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the name, town or residence, date of prize, and the gross and net amounts of the annual prize payment of a winner which may be released by the lottery commission pursuant to RSA 287-F:10, I-i shall not be released if the winner makes a written request to the lottery commission that they wish to remain anonymous and provided that the winner satisfies at least one of the following conditions:

I. The winner is a victim of domestic violence pursuant to RSA 173-B:1, I; or

II. The winner has an active restraining order against another person.

Senate Finance

May 16, 2025

2025-2232s

08/08

Amendment to HB 650-FN

Amend RSA 188-E:24 as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

188-E:24 Robotics Education Fund Established. There is established in the office of the state treasurer a ~~[nonlapsing]~~ fund to be known as the robotics education fund which shall be kept distinct and separate from all other funds. ***The unobligated balance of the fund shall be capped at \$1,000,000, and any excess funds shall lapse to the general fund at the end of each biennium.*** The fund shall be administered by the commissioner of the department of education. The commissioner may accept and expend funds from any public or private source, including private gifts, grants, and donations.