

February 12, 2026
No. 6

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

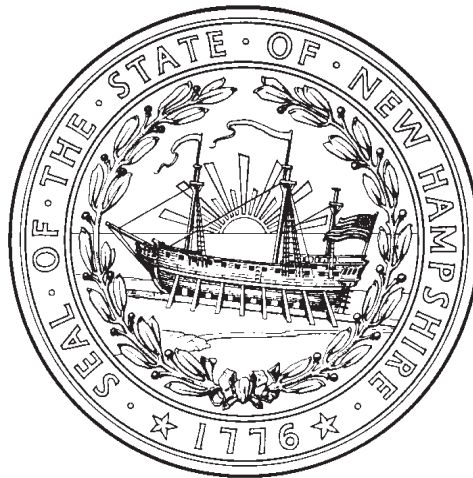
Senate Meeting Schedule Website Address:

<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.



Second Year of the 169th Session of the
New Hampshire General Court

SENATE CALENDAR

THE SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Session on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in the Senate Chamber
will be live streamed at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/cby-7LONaAs?feature=share>

Please note, this link will not be live until the Senate Session on
Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 123-FN, requiring coverage of ear acupuncture as a treatment for substance misuse under the state Medicaid plan. **01/29/2026, Pending Motion OT3rdg, Finance, SJ 2**

SB 553-FN, relative to penalties for attempting to elude pursuit by law enforcement. **01/29/2026, Pending Motion Interim Study, Judiciary, SJ 2**

SB 627-FN, relative to toll rate adjustments and periodic inflation-based toll reviews for the New Hampshire turnpike system to support the 2027-2036 ten-year transportation plan. **02/05/2026, Pending Motion Ought to Pass with Amendments #2026-0341s and #2026-0533s, Transportation, SJ 3**

SB 651-FN-A, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. **02/05/2026, Pending Motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Judiciary, SJ 3**

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS

COMMERCE

SB 415, relative to a certain exemption in interest in condominium units.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0.
Senator Murphy for the committee.

Under the Condominium Act, the Attorney General's Office has oversight over condominium developments except for condominiums with fewer than 10 units. Exemptions seek to balance the need to oversee larger developers, while reducing regulatory burdens on smaller ones. Raising the threshold would help to level the playing field as well as increase housing supply. Importantly, this bill would not create an unregulated market or eliminate consumer protections. To address concerns raised by stakeholders, the Committee Amendment would reduce the number of units that are exempted from 50 to 20.

SB 416, relative to the pooling and sharing of tips among tipped employees.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.
Senator McGough for the committee.

At the request of the \$6 billion restaurant and hospitality industry and countless service tipped employees, this bill would replace the confusing and complicated state restrictions on tip pooling with the simpler federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) rules governing the pooling and sharing of tips. Despite receiving approvals in writing from the Department of Labor on policies, determinations can change administration to administration. To help reduce confusion and uncertainty, this bill would require New Hampshire to adopt the FLSA standard, which has been in place since 1938. 47 states already default to the federal standard. The Committee Amendment made a minor correction in a reference by changing a drafting typographical error from 29 C.F.R section 531.42 to 531.52.

SB 446-FN, requiring animal care center operators to notify dog owners when a dog will be left unattended and to report injuries to animals or people which occur on the premises of the animal care center.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-1.
Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would require that animal care centers notify dog owners when a dog will be left unattended and if the center is not equipped with a functioning fire protection sprinkler system; require injuries that occur to people or animals on the center's property to be reported; and enable local law enforcement to annually

inspect centers and provide a penalty for not maintaining proper care of these centers. Currently, centers are not licensed within the state despite instances of dogs being lost, killed, or injured in their care. The Committee Amendment would replace the underlying bill by clarifying definitions; specifying what types of injuries need to be reported; requiring the Department of Agriculture to certify and perform inspections on centers every two years; and moving the inspection of pet vendors to every two years. To address concerns raised by the Department about resources and staffing, certification and inspection requirements would take effect on January 1, 2028.

SB 487, allowing credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Innis for the committee.

At the request of the Cooperative Credit Union Association and New Hampshire credit unions, this bill would allow credit union members to pay members of the board of directors for their services as a board member. This practice is permitted in 16 states. Compensating board members allows credit unions to better compete as well as attract skilled candidates. This bill would not force a credit union to compensate their board members.

SB 496, relative to supervision and registration requirements for associates of broker-dealers.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would exempt certain private residences designated by broker-dealers as a supervisory location from being classified as a branch office. This minor change would modernize and align the state's securities law with a rule adopted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in June 2024. Since then, 43 states have adopted this designation to enable certain supervisory functions to be conducted securely and effectively from a private residence without having to register that home as a branch office of the firm.

SB 503, relative to the use of spruce-pine-fir lumber.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would promote the use of New Hampshire-grown spruce-pine-fir (SPF) lumber by specifying that SPF lumber shall include spruce-pine-fir-south (SPFS) lumber within the New Hampshire building code. SPFS and SPF are the same species, and they grow in a substantially similar climate zone in northern New England and Canada. This bill would not impact existing safety standards or prohibit the use of Canadian graded SPF. The Committee Amendment clarified current practice when timber is graded in the state and specified that licensed architects and engineers should consider and provide alternative options for construction using SPFS.

SB 508, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0.

Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill would require that all grounds for appeal must be stated in the initial notice to the zoning board of adjustments and outline the stamping and acceptance of revised plans. Some developers have experienced significant delays despite meeting the requests of municipalities. Under this bill, when an applicant submits plans to a planning office, the planning board would provide feedback. If an applicant addresses the feedback, a permit would be granted. The Committee Amendment would increase the timeframe for the acceptance of revised plans from 3 business days to 10 business days.

SB 525, raising the maximum amount of state guarantees in force.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would raise the maximum amount of state guarantees in force to \$500,000,000 plus interest on March 1, 2026. Since 1992, the Business Finance Authority (BFA) has partnered with the private sector to start and grow over 6,000 New Hampshire-based companies. Currently, there is a statutory limit that caps their ability to do projects. This limit is not indexed to inflation; therefore, a substantial increase is needed to help recruit employers to the state. Importantly, the state has never had to pay out guarantees, nor has the state ever funded BFA operations or projects.

SB 562, relative to a home damage mitigation and resiliency program.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Innis for the committee.

At the request of the Insurance Department, this bill would establish the Granite State Home Mitigation and Resiliency Program to provide financial grants to homeowners to mitigate residential real property against loss from severe weather events. In recent years, homeowners insurance costs have substantially increased resulting in homeowners struggling to afford coverage. This program aims to create long-term stabilization in the market by establishing a grant fund to enable homeowners to perform necessary repairs to make their property more resilient. Similar programs have been successful in 8 states, including Alabama, Louisiana, and North Carolina. Given existing budget constraints, this program would be funded through partnerships with outside organizations. The Insurance Department is able to meet the requirements of this bill with no increase in costs or staffing.

SB 563-FN, relative to direct shippers of wine.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 6-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would have required a license for direct shippers of wine from small wineries to New Hampshire. The Liquor Commission believed the existing direct shipper statute was robust, and it already provided flexibility to sell above existing caps with approval from the Chairman. After consultation and review with the Commission, the bill is no longer needed.

SB 564, prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions.

Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0.

Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would prohibit municipalities from placing limits on maximum road length and imposing an arbitrary numerical cap on the number of housing lots on a dead-end road or street. It also would permit municipalities to place utilities within open space or perimeter buffer areas of subdivisions. This bill would not limit the authority of municipalities to enforce health, safety, and environmental protections for wetlands and protected shoreland. Further, it would not override compliance with the State Fire Code or reduce lot sizes or setbacks. This bill would protect private property rights and allow owners to safely develop their property.

SB 565-FN, relative to reports and notices by the commissioner of the insurance department regarding insurance risks associated with extreme weather.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would make changes to reports and notices given by the commissioner of the Insurance Department regarding insurance risks associated with extreme weather. The Committee Amendment would replace the entirety of the underlying bill. It would require the Department to prepare a report every five years on future risks that might increase costs for consumers in the state. The Department said they had no concerns with the amendment.

EDUCATION

SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Prentiss for the committee.

SB 429-FN requires the placement of trauma kits in public schools and makes an appropriation to a fund established to fund the placement. This bill intends to extend the current requirement that state-owned facilities have trauma kits to all public schools. The fiscal note may be reduced by placing the trauma kits in the existing wall-mounted AED compartments at schools.

SB 432-FN, authorizing the application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a doctor's note or prescription and establishing a skin cancer prevention education program.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill permits the self-application of sunscreen by children in schools and camps without the requirement of a prescription or a health care provider's note. The bill authorizes specific school and camp personnel to apply sunscreen to a child with permission of the child's parent or guardian. The bill also establishes a skin cancer prevention education program in public schools.

SB 433-FN, establishing the seizure safe schools act.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill requires schools to train at least two staff members to recognize common seizure symptoms and administer seizure rescue medication if a seizure occurs, with parental or guardian approval required before administering the medication. It also establishes a seizure education program in public schools.

SB 517-FN, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide meals to students during school hours, reimbursing schools for meals provided to students at no cost, and making an appropriation therefor.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

This bill authorizes school boards to raise eligibility for free meals, requires the department of education to reimburse schools who raise eligibility, and provides an appropriation therefor. The committee acknowledged the funding challenges associated with the program outlined in the bill, but supported the policy position.

SB 531-FN, establishing a task force to study the feasibility of the creation of cosmetology related programming in Coos County.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill establishes a task force to study and report on the feasibility of creating a cosmetology program within the Berlin Regional Career & Technical Center and New Hampshire community college system.

SB 579-FN, modifying the language for intra-district public school transfers to include schools within school administrative units.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

This bill extends parents' ability to transfer their children to other schools to include students within school administrative units (SAUs). The bill also authorizes providers of superintendent services to approve or disapprove of school transfers depending on the best interests of the student. The committee acknowledged that this bill may be unnecessary given prior Senate actions regarding open enrollment.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 405, relative to amounts reported by political committees.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 405 changes reporting requirements for campaign contributions and when additional information is required for a campaign donation. When the law was changed from reporting on three separate periods during a campaign cycle to just one period, the amounts of donations that trigger the publication of information were not increased to reflect those changes.

SB 435, relative to the zoning board of adjustment variance criteria.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

SB 435 seeks to eliminate the hardship requirement for approving zoning variances. Rather than eliminating it entirely, the amendment lowers the criteria by replacing the standard of "unnecessary hardship" with an "unreasonable restriction" test.

SB 437, making a line on the return that enumerates the number of people who attempted to register to vote but were denied registration due to lack of required documentation.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1.

Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 437 proposes adding a new line to the election results return to indicate the number of individuals who attempted to register to vote but were denied due to missing required documentation. After consulting with the Secretary of State, the committee thinks there might be alternative methods to collect this data without relying on the official election return and wishes to collaborate with the Secretary of State on exploring those options.

SB 514, preventing ballot questions concerning alterations to municipal tax caps from being altered by local legislative bodies.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 514 would prevent local legislative bodies from changing ballot questions about municipal tax caps. The committee believes other bills may address this topic more effectively and therefore recommends an interim study of SB 514.

SB 534-FN, relative to foreign funding and influence in constitutional amendment and local ballot question campaigns.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

SB 534 strengthens enforcement against foreign funding and influence in campaigns for constitutional amendments and local ballot questions. The amendment further clarifies the definition of “foreign national”, as suggested by the Attorney General’s Office.

SB 585-FN, relative to audits for communications districts.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

SB 585 provides an exception to the requirement that communications districts hire an outside accountant for an audit if they handle less than \$50,000 in funds. The committee believes an audit isn’t needed for communication districts because they typically handle minimal or no funds, and the audit cost often exceeds the funds involved.

SB 588-FN, requiring that all municipalities that are served by a school district vote on the closure of schools.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

SB 588 mandates that voters in all municipalities with a school district vote on school closures. The committee has questions that require additional investigation, which is why it supports this bill for interim study.

SB 653, enabling counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill permits counties to adjust their biennial budget dates by allowing residents to vote to move their biennial budget to the state budget’s off-year.

SB 660, relative to photo identification cards issued solely for the purpose of voting.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 660 is a request of the Secretary of State, and amends the process for obtaining a photo identification card voucher form to exempt individuals from the voter identification card fee.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 540-FN, relative to portable solar generation devices.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

Senate Bill 540, as amended, exempts portable solar generation devices from interconnection requirements and net metering, and establishes safety standards. It limits the liability of electric distribution utilities and directs the DOE to adopt rules, as necessary, to implement these provisions. As amended, it directs the building code review board to update the codes for portable solar devices and authorizes the Department of Energy to inform users about such devices and their use. It enables utilities to receive information from their customers about the type of device installed.

SB 589-FN, relative to establishing a multi-agency report on transmission corridors, interstate trucking charging terminals, and port electrification; authorizing a pilot program for microgrid development; and requiring guidelines for cybersecurity of distributed energy resources.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

Senate Bill 589 as amended establishes a task force to study port electrification. The legislation also authorizes the continuation of Department of Energy microgrid study and program development and directs the Department of Energy develop cybersecurity guidelines for distributed energy systems. It authorizes water system cybersecurity measures as requested by the Department of Environmental Services.

SB 592, enabling regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

Senate Bill 592 as amended enables regional planning commissions and conservation districts and to include habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors in their planning and inventory work. Amendment 0516s creates a commission to study transferring ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin to an alternative authority.

SB 594-FN, eliminating the use of agitators in instances where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator McConkey for the committee.

SB594 eliminates the use of agitators in instances where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water. The committee believed this legislation would safeguard the public who use the lake for recreation on the ice and would correct a loophole in the statute.

SB 599-FN, relative to the renewable energy fund.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-1.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB599 is intended to preserve funding for administrative functions within the renewable energy fund that had been included in HB 2 from the previous session. The Committee wanted to ensure continued funding for essential minor administrative tasks and to prevent any lapse in funding.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 420, relative to the state commission for human rights.

Interim Study, Vote 4-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 420 would revise the state's laws governing the State Commission for Human Rights. More time is needed for the Commission to do their work following the changes made last year before any additional changes are introduced.

SB 527, relative to written notice provided by state agencies to municipalities regarding pending applications.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 527 amends written notice requirements for state agencies relative to municipalities regarding pending applications. While presently first-class mail is required to fulfill the notice requirements, the bill expands criteria to any written notice. The amendment specifically allows the use of electronic mail to provide written notice, while also giving towns the option to opt out of electronic mail. The amendment further clarifies language around the river management notification process for local officials and applicants.

SB 567-FN, relative to the composition of the board of dental examiners and relative to temporary licenses for out-of-state professionals.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 567-FN requires that one member of the Board of Dental Examiners be a licensed general dentist to ensure broader representation within the profession. The amendment strikes Section 2 of the bill, which will be addressed in separate legislation.

SB 573, establishing certification standards for facility comfort dogs.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 573 establishes certification standards for facility comfort dogs, facility comfort dog handlers, and facility comfort dog handling teams. The amendment revises the chapter's title, modifies the applicable time requirements, provides more detailed training standards, requires that facility comfort dogs be owned by facilities, and mandates that a veterinarian determines whether a facility-owned comfort dog should be spayed or neutered.

SB 656-FN, establishing a web-based occupational license application portal for veterans and military spouses. Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator McGough for the committee.

SB 656-FN establishes a web-based occupational license application portal for veterans and military spouses. The online portal is intended to reduce the burden on veterans and military spouses who relocate frequently and need a streamlined way to maintain certain necessary licenses for employment.

FINANCE

SB 407-FN-A, making an appropriation for each full-time student eligible for the in-state tuition rate enrolled in the university system of New Hampshire.

Interim Study, Vote 7-0.

Senator Gray for the committee.

As the appropriation in SB 407-FN-A is a General Fund appropriation, and the overall status of state revenues going forward is unknown, the Senate Finance Committee thought it best at this time to hold off making the \$5.4 million commitment per year sought by this bill, and address this funding during the next budget.

SB 602-FN, relative to the withholding of state payments to the federal government in response to suspended federal aid.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 6-1.

Senator Lang for the committee.

SB 602-FN would pose a risk to the state's cash flow, jeopardize federal funding, and could expose the state to substantial financial penalties. In light of these concerns the Senate Finance Committee recommends the bill be found inexpedient to legislate.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 452, enabling health care providers to offer certain complementary and alternative health care services.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill enables an individual to offer certain complementary and alternative health care services to patients notwithstanding state licensing requirements, provided that the individual does not engage in certain conduct, and the individual discloses their qualifications and obtains informed consent from the patient for such services. Due to questions and concerns raised by the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, the Committee believes it is best to recommend this bill for interim study at this time.

SB 457-FN, relative to the licensing of international physicians.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

As amended, this bill establishes an application process to grant licenses to physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada. This bill is intended to address the state's health care workforce shortage by clarifying the pathway to licensure for physicians outside the United States, while ensuring that safeguards for patient safety remain in place.

SB 476, relative to consumer health care cost transparency.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill is intended to help New Hampshire consumers better understand the true costs of health care by enhancing the Insurance Department's HealthCost portal and allowing patients to personalize and compare costs. After hearing concerns raised by the Department about potential unintended consequences and learning that there is rulemaking in process to address this issue, the Committee believes it is best to recommend this bill for interim study at this time.

SB 477-FN, relative to increasing transparency in the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Avar for the committee.

This bill establishes certain reporting requirements for the Department of Health and Human Services, hospitals, and other covered entities participating in the 340B Drug Pricing Program. The bill also directs the Department to require claim-level 340B identifiers across fee-for-service and managed care organization claims and to implement exclusion rules to prevent duplicate discounts, consistent with GAO/CMS guidance. While the Committee appreciates the intent of increasing transparency, we feel it is best to recommend this bill for interim study because this is dealing with a federal program.

SB 501, relative to authorization of seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency by a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill is a request of the Department of Health and Human Services. It authorizes a physician, physician associate, or advanced practice registered nurse to order seclusion or restraint during a personal safety emergency at New Hampshire Hospital and other designated receiving facilities. This is a technical change to existing law, broadening the group of providers who can order these important safety measures in necessary situations.

SB 545-FN, relative to financial eligibility for the Medicare savings program.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-1.

Senator Long for the committee.

This bill removes the resource limit for the Medicare Savings Program and, subject to CMS approval, makes the low income subsidy for Medicare Part D available to residents to assist with prescription drug costs. This bill will assist New Hampshire residents in paying for Medicare and prescription costs, while relieving the Department of Health and Human Services of the administrative burden of tracking assets.

SB 550-FN, relative to insurance coverage for services provided by naturopathy providers.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill requires group insurance policies issued in the state to include coverage for naturopathy providers. This builds on past legislation requiring individual plans to provide coverage for these providers, clarifying that the same shall be required of group plans.

SB 606-FN, relative to insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

As amended, this bill requires the New Hampshire Medicaid program to provide coverage for biomarker testing under certain circumstances. This effort represents an important step in increasing access to biomarker testing. It provides the opportunity for savings down the line, as biomarker testing may prevent the need for costly testing and treatments for several conditions. This will also serve as a data line for future potential efforts to extend this coverage to commercial insurance.

SB 616-FN, relative to reporting requirements under the right to try act.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill establishes a reporting requirement for providers and facilities providing services under the Right to Try Act. This bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a report to the General Court and to adopt rules regarding the collection and reporting of such information. A committee amendment has been adopted to modify the effective date and the first due date of the report to the General Court.

HB 349-FN, relative to the practice of optometry and authorization to perform ophthalmic laser procedures.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill authorizes optometrists who meet criteria established by the Board of Registration in Optometry to perform certain ophthalmic laser procedures. This bill is intended to expand access to eye care for New Hampshire residents and contains guardrails to ensure that optometrists prove and maintain competence to perform these three ophthalmic laser procedures.

JUDICIARY

SB 556-FN, including syringes and similar medical devices in the definition of special waste for purposes of solid waste management and making the disposal of such special waste a felony.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senate Bill 556-FN expands the definition of special waste to include syringes and similar medical devices and makes the improper disposal of such waste a felony. The committee noted that while the bill intended to address public safety concerns, it could have unintended consequences, potentially exposing individuals who inadvertently discard diabetic needles to felony liability, and raised concerns about the practical enforceability of such provisions.

SB 625-FN, permitting family members of homicide victims to seek an evidentiary hearing in cases where the department of justice does not file charges in the case.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senate Bill 625-FN permits family members of homicide victims to request written explanations from the Department of Justice when charges are not filed or a retrial is declined, and allows them to petition a court for review, including the possibility of an evidentiary hearing. The committee has concerns that the bill could introduce public involvement into the investigative and prosecutorial process, potentially interfering with the Attorney General's independent authority and creating risks that such involvement could be used as a defense in criminal cases.

HB 1000, extending the indemnification of legislative security staff members to legislative sergeant-at-arms staff members while acting within the scope of their duties.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

House Bill 1000 extends existing indemnification protections for legislative security personnel to include House and Senate sergeant-at-arms staff when acting within the scope of their official duties. The bill ensures that these staff members are covered from civil claims or actions under the same standards applied to other state officers, provided their conduct is not wanton or reckless.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 404-FN, relative to economic revitalization zone tax credits.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill makes various technical changes to the Economic Revitalization Zone tax credit to help clean up the statute and ensure the program is operating efficiently, effectively and able to maximize the available credit. The bill also increases the aggregate credits awarded from \$825,000 to \$1,000,000. The program has consistently been oversubscribed, resulting in a prorated amount of roughly 30 cents on the dollar. Increasing the cap will enable those qualifying taxpayers to receive a little more of what they are eligible for.

SB 652-FN, changing the maximum award of tax credits for overpayment of due taxes.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill amends the future credit carry-forward limits for the Business Profits Tax (BPT) and Business Enterprise Tax (BET) by extending the timeline for reducing the state's tax liability with regard to refunds for overpayment of taxes. As people overpay their taxes and don't request refunds, it creates a liability for the state. This bill will spread out the amount of refunds the state is mandated to issue, reducing the amount of credit carry-forward allowed by 50% each biennium. This will continue to reduce the state's tax refund liability while also allowing the state to better manage cash flow.

REGULAR CALENDAR REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 266, relative to structural changes to the department of energy.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0.

Senator McGough for the committee.

COMMERCE

SB 526, establishing a New Hampshire-Greece trade council.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

EDUCATION

SB 430, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-1.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

SB 434, relative to regulation of public school materials.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-1.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

SB 532, increasing the requirements of the education freedom savings account oversight committee and modifying the purpose of the committee.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

SB 533, requiring the state to seek bids for contracts to oversee and operate the state's education freedom account program every three years.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Ward for the committee.

SB 576, adds definitions and reporting requirements relative to education freedom accounts.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

SB 577-FN, prohibiting the use of specific color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

SB 578, extending recess for students from kindergarten to eighth grade and prohibiting the deprivation of recess time as punishment in schools.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

SB 580-FN, establishing a school cooperative purchasing program.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 513-FN, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-2.

Senator Murphy for the committee.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 495, increasing the limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll County.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Lang for the committee.

SB 587, creating criteria for redistricting of congressional districts, state senate districts, state house of representatives districts, and executive councilor districts.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.

Senator Gray for the committee.

FINANCE

CACR 12, relating to voting on broad-based taxes.

Providing that a supermajority vote of the general court shall be required to enact any broad-based taxes.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-2.

Senator Lang for the committee.

SB 419-FN-A, relative to the housing champion designation and program and the affordable housing fund, and making appropriations therefor.

Interim Study, Vote 5-2.

Senator Innis for the committee.

SB 484-FN, prohibiting Medicaid premiums and limiting Medicaid expansion cost sharing.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-2.

Senator Lang for the committee.

SB 488, enabling the governor to declare a state of emergency due to the failure of the legislature to pass a budget or continuing resolution to fund the New Hampshire state government by July 1 of the first year of a biennium.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-2.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

SB 601-FN, relative to the allocation and disbursement of state contributions for non-state employer pension costs under the New Hampshire retirement system.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-2.

Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 604-FN-A, making an appropriation to the university system of New Hampshire.

Interim Study, Vote 5-2.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 474, relative to the effective date of the law regarding collection and reporting of abortion statistics.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

JUDICIARY

SB 467-FN, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses and establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

SB 479-FN, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for profit.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

SB 554, repealing the limitation of liability for certain design features of firearms.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

SB 623-FN, relative to requirements for law enforcement officers assisting in immigration enforcement.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 186-FN-A, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 2-1.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

AMENDMENTS

Senate Commerce

February 11, 2026

2026-0672s

07/05

Amendment to SB 415

Amend RSA 356-B:49, I(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) If not more than [10] **20** units are included in the condominium; provided, however, this exemption shall not apply to a condominium involving time sharing interests;

2026-0672s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill expands the scope of the exemption from the condominium act governing offers or disposition of interests in a condominium unit. Currently, the exemption applies to condominiums with 10 or fewer units.

Senate Commerce
February 3, 2026
2026-0507s
09/07

Amendment to SB 416

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Tip Pooling. RSA 279:26-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

279:26-b Tip Pooling. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the pooling and sharing of tips by employees shall be governed by the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. section 201 et seq.), and regulations promulgated under such act, including but not limited to 29 C.F.R. sections 531.50, 531.52, and 531.54, as amended.

Senate Education
February 10, 2026
2026-0640s
12/07

Amendment to SB 430

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

AN ACT relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents and legal guardians.

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 New Section; Communications Between Teachers, Parents, and Legal Guardians. Amend RSA 189 by inserting after section 13-c the following new section:

189:13-d Communications Between Teachers, Parents, and Legal Guardians.

I. Educators credentialed by the New Hampshire department of education shall have a duty to respond to written inquiries by parents and legal guardians regarding material information relating to their child enrolled in that educator's school. Such response to a written request shall be sent within 10 business days of its receipt and be answered completely and honestly to the extent permitted by state or federal law.

II. If, in the good faith determination of the credential holder, such complete and honest response to a request would put the student at imminent risk of physical harm, abuse, or neglect, such credential holder shall file a report with the department of health and human services within 48 hours of such determination in accordance with RSA 169-C:30, and may withhold only the information that creates the risk.

III. On or before June 30, 2027, the state board of education shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, amending the code of ethics and the code of conduct for New Hampshire educators relative to this section.

IV. Violation of this section shall be considered a violation of the code of conduct for New Hampshire educators and subject to investigation, in accordance with administrative rules, against that credential holder.

2026-0640s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires all school employees to respond honestly and completely to written requests by parents and legal guardians regarding information relating to their children.

Senate Education
February 3, 2026
2026-0508s
12/09

Amendment to SB 432-FN

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

AN ACT authorizing the application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription and establishing a skin cancer prevention education program.

Amend RSA 200:47-a, I as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. A pupil may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription if the product is regulated by the federal Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

Amend RSA 170-E:62-a, I as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. A participant in a recreation camp may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while attending such camp without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription if the product is regulated by the federal Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

2026-0508s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill permits the self-application of sunscreen by children in schools and camps without the requirement of a prescription or a licensed health care provider's note. The bill authorizes specific school and camp personnel to apply sunscreen to a child with permission of the child's parent or guardian. The bill also establishes a skin cancer prevention education program in public schools.

Senate Education
February 10, 2026
2026-0643s
12/07

Amendment to SB 434

Amend RSA 189:74-b as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

189:74-b Prohibition of Materials Harmful to Minors in Schools.

I. No later than November 1, 2027, each local school board shall adopt a procedure to be used to address complaints submitted by parents or guardians alleging that material that is harmful to minors, age-inappropriate, or otherwise offensive or inappropriate for use in the child's school. The policy shall be posted on the district website. At a minimum, the complaint resolution process shall provide that:

(a) Complaints be submitted in writing to the superintendent or designee of the school district where the student is enrolled, contain a reasonably detailed description of the material that is alleged to be harmful to minors, and propose an action to be taken by the school district relative to the material.

(b) The superintendent or designee takes reasonable steps to investigate the allegations in the complaint, including, but not limited to, reviewing the material complained of, meeting with the parent or guardian who submitted the complaint in person, or communicating with the parent or guardian by email or telephone, within 10 school days of receipt of the complaint.

(c) The superintendent or designee determines whether the material that is the subject of the complaint is harmful to minors, age-inappropriate, or otherwise offensive or inappropriate for use in the child's school or for use in the context in which the material is being used.

(d) The superintendent or designee, within 25 school days of notice of receipt of the complaint or as otherwise agreed upon by both parties, determines whether student access to, or use of, the material that is the subject of the complaint will remain in place without change, be removed, be restricted, be modified, or have other action taken with respect to the material.

(e) The superintendent or designee, within 5 calendar days of making the determination required in subparagraph (d), provides a written response to the complainant explaining his or her decision, which includes:

(1) Whether the material has been determined to be harmful to minors, age-inappropriate, or otherwise offensive or inappropriate for use in the child's school;

(2) A description of why the superintendent or designee reached his or her conclusions; and

(3) An explanation of the value the superintendent or designee finds the material provides.

(f) The complainant may appeal the determination of the superintendent or designee to the school board within 30 calendar days of receipt of the determination of the superintendent or designee, or at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the school board, whichever comes first.

(g) The local school board shall permit the parent or guardian to be heard as part of the agenda at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

(h) Within 30 calendar days of the meeting at which the appeal is heard, the local school board issues a written decision that:

(1) Is signed by the chairperson of the school board and indicates how each school board member voted, including those members who voted in the majority to affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the superintendent; and

(2) Describes the reason or reasons for the school board's decision with reference to:

(A) Whether the material has been determined to be harmful to minors, age-inappropriate, or otherwise offensive or inappropriate for use in the child's school;

(B) A description of why the school board reached its conclusions; and

(C) An explanation of the value the school board finds the material provides.

II. All decisions of the superintendent or designee and the school board, and any communications relating thereto, shall be considered public records pursuant to RSA 91-A.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
February 3, 2026
2026-0499s
04/08

Amendment to SB 435

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Powers of Zoning Board of Adjustment. RSA 674:33, I is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I.(a) The zoning board of adjustment shall have the power to:

(1) Hear and decide appeals if it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of any zoning ordinance adopted pursuant to RSA 674:16; and

(2) Authorize, upon appeal in specific cases, a variance from the terms of the zoning ordinance if:

(A) The variance will not be contrary to the public interest;

(B) The spirit of the ordinance is observed;

(C) Substantial justice is done;

(D) The values of surrounding properties are not diminished; and

(E) Literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would result in an unreasonable restriction on the use of the property.

(b)(1) For purposes of subparagraph I(a)(2)(E), "unreasonable restriction" means that, due to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, either:

(A) The proposed use is a reasonable one, and applying the restriction in the ordinance to the property does not substantially serve the general public purposes of the restriction; or

(B) The property cannot reasonably be used in strict compliance with the ordinance.

(2) The definition of "unreasonable restriction" set forth in subparagraph (1) shall apply whether the provision of the ordinance from which a variance is sought is a restriction on use, a dimensional or other limitation on a permitted use, or any other requirement of the ordinance.

(c) The board shall use one voting method consistently for all applications until it formally votes to change the method. Any change in the board's voting method shall not take effect until 60 days after the board has voted to adopt such change and shall apply only prospectively, and not to any application that has been filed and remains pending at the time of the change.

2026-0499s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies the zoning board's authority regarding unreasonable restrictions in variance requests.

Senate Commerce

February 11, 2026

2026-0685s

07/05

Amendment to SB 446-FN

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

1 New Subdivision; Animal Care Center Requirements. Amend RSA 437 by inserting after section 22 the following new subdivision:

Animal Care Center Requirements

437:23 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. "Animal care center" means a commercial dog care facility, including boarding kennels, dog daycare facilities, board-and-train programs, and grooming facilities when dogs are kept under the facility's supervision for a period of time. "Animal care center" shall not include a private residence where 5 or fewer dogs, not owned by the resident, are cared for at a time in exchange for a fee, licensed veterinary establishments, humane societies, animal shelters, municipal impound facilities, or licensed pet vendors regulated under other provisions of law.

II. "Fire protection sprinkler system" means an assembly of underground or overhead piping or conduits that conveys water with or without other agents to dispersal openings or devices to extinguish, control, or contain fire and to provide protection from exposure to fire or the products of combustion.

III. "Proper care" means an animal care center that:

- (a) Is structurally sound;
- (b) Is maintained in good repair to:
 - (1) Protect the animals from injury;
 - (2) Contain the animals; and
 - (3) Prohibit the entrance of other animals;
- (c) Has reliable and adequate electric power and potable water;
- (d) Has supplies of food and bedding stored in facilities that adequately protect such supplies against infestation or contamination by vermin, with refrigeration provided for supplies of perishable food; and
- (e) Disposes of waste according to the following:
 - (1) Any waste that would be considered infectious waste shall be stored, treated, transported, and properly disposed of;
 - (2) Provisions shall be made for the removal and disposal of:
 - (A) Animal and food wastes;
 - (B) Bedding;
 - (C) Dead animals; and
 - (D) Debris;
 - (3) Disposal facilities shall be constructed to prevent and minimize:

- (A) Vermin infestation;
- (B) Odors; and
- (C) Disease hazards; and

(4) Waste shall be removed as often as necessary, but no less than once daily, unless otherwise specified in the written animal health program.

437:24 Informed Consent Required.

I. An animal care center owner or operator who is boarding or providing services to 6 or more dogs at the center shall not leave the dogs unattended without an employee present unless:

(a) The animal care center owner or operator provides to the owner of the dog written notice that:

(1) The dog will be left unattended at the animal care center without an employee present during the hours specified in the notice; and

(2) If the animal care center is not equipped with a functioning fire protection sprinkler system, notice that the animal care center does not have a fire protection system; and

(b) The owner of the dog provides to the animal care center owner or operator a signed document consenting to the dog being left unattended as provided in the notice.

II. An animal care center owner or operator who is boarding or providing services to 6 or more dogs at the center shall provide to the owner of the dog written notice that he or she does not carry liability insurance.

437:25 Required; Report of Injuries; Inspection.

I. Animal care centers shall report to local law enforcement any injury to an animal or person that requires veterinary or medical treatment, results in death, or involves suspected cruelty or neglect, and such reports shall be investigated by local law enforcement. Minor injuries not requiring veterinary care shall require notification to the animal's owner only and shall not require reporting to law enforcement. In consultation with the New Hampshire police association and the New Hampshire association of chiefs of police, a form shall be developed for such reporting and a time frame for submitting a report after an injury. The form shall be available for animal care center operators to report qualifying injuries. Animal care centers shall also notify local law enforcement and the owner of a dog when such dog has gone missing and if or when such dog is found. Public reporting shall be limited to allegations of cruelty, neglect, or injuries requiring veterinary or medical care.

II. The law enforcement of the municipality in which the animal care center is located shall make investigative reports of injuries publicly available on its website if the investigation results in the department bringing enforcement action against the animal care center.

III. An inspector employed by or authorized by the department of agriculture, markets, and food shall conduct an inspection every 2 years to ensure compliance with this chapter. Local law enforcement or authorized inspector may assist the department in cases involving emergency conditions, cruelty, or criminal violations, but shall not conduct routine regulatory inspections. An authorized inspector may include, but shall not be limited to, an animal control officer, the mayor of a city, the select board of a town, the town manager of a town, the chief of police, or another designated town or city official. Inspections shall be conducted using standardized inspection criteria according to rules defined by the department of agriculture, markets, and food, and animal care centers shall be provided a reasonable cure period for non-critical deficiencies prior to enforcement action. The animal care center owner or operator shall be present during the inspection. Only the areas of the residence that are used for animal care purposes or for the maintenance of animal care center records shall be required to be available for inspection.

IV. If, in the judgment of the local law enforcement officer or an authorized inspector, an animal care center is not being maintained in a sanitary and safe manner, the local law enforcement officer or authorized inspector may, depending on the severity of the offense, issue a written citation. If a facility is determined to be noncompliant, the department of agriculture, markets, and food may order corrective action or temporary closure only after consideration of animal safety and continuity of care. Facilities shall maintain an emergency animal care and continuity plan to ensure animals are properly cared for or transferred in the event of a closure.

437:26 Animal Care Center Certification. No person shall operate an animal care center in the state without first obtaining a certification from the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food. Certification shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issuance and shall be renewed biennially. The cost for certification shall be a non-refundable \$200 fee, payable to the department of agriculture, markets, and food at the time of application or renewal. The commissioner shall issue certification upon determination that the applicant meets the requirements established under this chapter and any rules adopted pursuant thereto. Certification issued under this section may only be revoked or suspended upon a finding that the certificate holder has violated the provisions of RSA 437:25, IV. The commissioner may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the application process, renewal procedures, and standards for certification under this subdivision.

437:27 Penalty. An animal care center owner or operator who violates this subdivision shall be subject to a fine equal to \$500 for each animal subject to the violation and for each day the violation continues.

2 Sale of Pets and Disposition of Unclaimed Animals; Transfer of Animals and Birds; Requirements. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 437:3 to read as follows:

No pet vendor shall transfer animals or birds without a license. A pet vendor shall apply to the commissioner for a license, giving such information as the commissioner shall require. A pet vendor that transfers more than [50] **30** or more dogs, [50] **30** or more cats, [50] **30** or more ferrets, or 50 or more birds shall include proof that the zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein any facility is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to the municipal zoning regulations in his or her application. The application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable \$200 fee. All licenses shall expire ~~[on June 30 of each year]~~ **every 2 years** and be subject to renewal upon submission of a new application. No licenses shall be transferable. A pet vendor licensed under this subdivision shall:

3 Effective Date.

I. RSA 437:25, III and IV, RSA 437:26, and RSA 437:27, as inserted by section 1 of this act, shall take effect January 1, 2028.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Senate Health and Human Services
February 4, 2026
2026-0545s
09/05

Amendment to SB 457-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the licensing of physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada.

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

1 Qualifications for License; Licensees Who Graduated from Medical Schools Located in the United States or Canada. Amend RSA 329:12 to read as follows:

329:12 Qualifications of Licensees ***Who Graduated from Medical Schools Located in the United States or Canada.***

I. Applicants for licensure ***who graduated from a medical school located in the United States or Canada*** shall:

(a) Pay a fee established by the office of professional licensure and certification.

(b) Submit an application which shall be verified by oath.

(c) Submit a complete set of fingerprints and a criminal history record release form pursuant to RSA 329:11-a.

(d) Demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the office that the applicant:

(1) Is 21 years of age or older;

(2) Is of good professional character;

(3) Has completed at least 2 years of college course work or its equivalent.

(4) Has studied the treatment of human ailments in a medical school ***located in the United States or Canada***, maintaining at the time of such studies a standard satisfactory to the Accreditation Council for Medical Education and has graduated from such school ~~or has studied medicine in a medical school located outside the United States which is recognized by the United Nations World Health Organization (UNWHO) and had such studies confirmed by Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Certification];~~

(5) Has completed at least 2 years of postgraduate training approved by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, or its equivalent as determined by the board. Each applicant who has graduated from an accredited medical school prior to January 1, 1970, is required to have satisfactorily completed at least 12 months in a graduate educational program approved by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, the Canadian Medical Association, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

(6) Has successfully passed one of the following sets of examinations:

(A) National Board of Medical/Osteopathic Examiners examinations.

(B) Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX).

(C) United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

(D) Medical Council of Canada Examination (LMCC).

II. The office shall waive the examination requirement for any applicant who has satisfactorily passed all examinations and requirements to become board certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

2 New Section; Qualifications for License; Licensees Who Have Graduated from Medical Schools Outside the United States or Canada. Amend RSA 329 by inserting after section 12 the following new section:

329:12-a Qualifications for Licensees Who Have Graduated from Medical Schools Outside the United States or Canada.

I. Applicants for licensure who graduated from medical schools outside the United States or Canada shall:

(a) Pay a fee established by the office of professional licensure and certification.

(b) Submit an application which shall be verified by oath.

(c) Submit a complete set of fingerprints and a criminal history record release form pursuant to RSA 329:11-a.

(d) Demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the office that the applicant:

(1) Is 21 years of age or older;

(2) Is of good professional character;

(3) Has completed at least 2 years of college course work or its equivalent;

(4) Is an international medical graduate granted a medical doctorate or substantially similar degree by an international medical program of good standing;

(5) Is in good standing with the medical licensing or regulatory institution of the individual's licensing country;

(6) Has completed a residency, at least 2 years of postgraduate training, or substantially similar postgraduate medical training which is accredited by the equivalent of the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education in the individual's licensing country;

(7) Has practiced as a medical professional performing the duties of a physician in the individual's licensing country for no less than 5 years;

(8) Has an offer for employment as a physician at a health care provider that operates in this state;

(9) Possesses basic fluency in the English language as demonstrated by a passing score on the occupational English test for medicine or other equivalent examination approved by the board; and

(10) Has successfully passed one of the following sets of examinations:

- (A) National Board of Medical/Osteopathic Examiners examinations.
- (B) Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX).
- (C) United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).
- (D) Medical Council of Canada Examination (LMCC).

II. The office shall waive the examination requirement for any applicant who has satisfactorily passed all examinations and requirements to become board certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

III. In this section:

(a) "International medical graduate" means an individual seeking licensure who has practiced medicine as a physician in a country other than the United States or Canada.

(b) "International medical program" means a medical school that provides physicians with a medical education or training outside of the United States that is substantially similar to that required to practice as a physician in this state.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-0545s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes an application process to grand licenses to physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

January 20, 2026

2026-0177s

12/09

Amendment to SB 495

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

AN ACT repealing the limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll county.

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

1 Repeal. RSA 24:13-d, I, relative to monetary limits for transfers of appropriations in Carroll county, is repealed.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

2026-0177s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the \$1,000 limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll county and the required procedure for transfers in excess of \$1,000.

Senate Commerce

February 3, 2026

2026-0513s

12/07

Amendment to SB 503

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Statement of Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

I. The majority of structural timber harvested for building materials in New Hampshire comes from Coos County and many areas of Coos County extend farther north than portions of Canada where lumber is graded as spruce pine fir (SPF).

II. Timber graded as SPF from Canada is viewed as stronger and denser under international design standards in part because of cold climate growth conditions; however, New Hampshire's northern climate, soils, and growing conditions are substantially similar, and produce the same species of spruce, pine, and fir included in the SPF designation.

III. Architects and engineers typically specify "SPF" lumber in certain residential construction documents. Because "SPF" is an international designation reserved to Canadian graded wood, New Hampshire's native lumber graders cannot certify New Hampshire-grown spruce, pine, and fir as SPF. Instead, the same species must be graded as spruce-pine-fir south (SPFS), which is viewed in the industry as a separate, slightly weaker classification.

IV. This technical distinction disadvantages New Hampshire sawmills, loggers, and the forest products industry, even though New Hampshire-grown wood from the north country is of equal type and quality.

V. It is therefore the policy of the state of New Hampshire to ensure that New Hampshire families and New Hampshire builders can build New Hampshire homes with New Hampshire wood by eliminating the barrier between SPF and SPFS within the state building code.

VI. The general court of New Hampshire finds that wood density should be a latitudinal demarcation rather than an arbitrary designation of density based upon political borders. Viewed as latitude, New Hampshire encompasses 42 degrees, 40 minutes north up to 45 degrees, 18 minutes. Timber harvested to produce building lumber between the latitude of 43 degrees, 45 minutes, 18 seconds north to 45 degrees, 18 minutes north warrants the same density demarcation as Canadian SPF unless otherwise designated by a licensed architect or structural engineer.

Amend RSA 155-A:15, V as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Nothing herein prevents a licensed architect or engineer from specifying higher strength materials if required for safety and structural integrity of a structure. Licensed architects and structural engineers shall also consider and provide alternative options of construction utilizing SPFS lumber.

Senate Commerce
February 10, 2026
2026-0659s
04/09

Amendment to SB 508

Amend RSA 676:5-a, I as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each city, town, or municipality shall stamp and accept revised plans submitted by an applicant within 10 business days of submission.

Senate Commerce
February 10, 2026
2026-0650s
04/08

Amendment to SB 526

Amend RSA 12-O:23-b, I and II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. The general court finds as follows:

- (a) Greek-Americans were an important part of New Hampshire's early history.
- (b) Greece, officially known as the Hellenic Republic, is one of New Hampshire's largest trade partners.
- (c) New Hampshire should build upon its historic, cultural, and economic ties with the Hellenic Republic.
- (d) New Hampshire has the highest per capita concentration of Greek Americans in the country.

II. The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs and the secretary of state shall have the authority to establish a New Hampshire-Greece trade council to meet with one or more trade councils established in the Hellenic Republic. The purpose of the council shall be to advance bilateral trade and investment between New Hampshire and Greece, initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to New Hampshire and Greece, and promote business and academic exchanges between New Hampshire and Greece.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
 February 11, 2026
 2026-0681s
 07/05

Amendment to SB 527

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

1 Notice to Municipalities. Amend RSA 541-A:39, I-II to read as follows:

I. In addition to any other requirements imposed by this chapter, each agency shall ~~[give]~~ **ensure written notice *is provided*** to and afford all affected municipalities reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or comments with respect to the issuance of a permit, license, or any action within its boundaries that directly affects the municipality. Such actions shall include those which may have an effect on land use, land development, or transportation; those which would result in the operation of a business; or those which would have an immediate fiscal impact on the municipality or require the provision of additional municipal services.

II. Each agency shall ~~[give notice by first class mail]~~ **ensure written notice *is provided by first class mail*** to the town or city clerk. ***Electronic mail may be used to provide written notice unless the town or city clerk notifies the state agency that it objects to electronic mail written notices. Each state agency using electronic mail for written notices shall keep an up-to-date list of electronic mail addresses for each town or city clerk and a list of those towns or cities that object to electronic mail written notices.***

2 New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program; State Action; Notification of Rivers Coordinator; Petition for Review. Amend RSA 483:12-a, I-I-a to read as follows:

I. Any state agency considering any action affecting any river or segment designated under this chapter shall ~~[notify]~~ **ensure that** the rivers coordinator and the local river management advisory committee ***are notified*** prior to taking any such action. Such agency shall forward to the rivers coordinator and the local river management advisory committee for review and comment copies of all notices of public hearings, or, where a public hearing is not required, ***shall ensure that*** a copy of the application for issuance of a permit, certificate, or license within the designated river or corridor under RSA 485-C, RSA 485-A, RSA 483-B, RSA 12-E, RSA 270:12, RSA 482, RSA 482-A ***is provided***, except notifications for minimum impact activities under RSA 482-A:3, V and XII and for routine roadway maintenance under RSA 482-A:3, XVI on land used for agricultural purposes, RSA 149-M, RSA 430, or RSA 147-A. If an agency is notified by the rivers coordinator that a proposed activity would violate a protection measure under RSA 483:9, 483:9-a, 483:9-aa, or 483:9-b, such agency shall deny the application.

I-a. State agencies shall develop, in conjunction with the rivers coordinator and the local river management advisory committees, the procedure by which the ~~[state shall notify the]~~ appropriate local river management advisory committee ***is notified*** when state action is being considered which affects a designated river.

3 Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act; Permit Required; Exemption. Amend RSA 483-B:5-b, IV-a to read as follows:

IV-a. ~~[At the time of the permit application, the]~~ **The** applicant shall provide postal receipts or copies, verifying that the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the property is located and the local river management advisory committee, if the project is within a designated river corridor defined in RSA 483:4, XVIII and contains river and river segments designated in RSA 483:15, and all abutters have been notified of the application by certified mail. Applicants for the construction of public roads, public utility lines and associated structures and facilities, and public water access facilities shall only be required to provide postal receipts or copies, verifying that the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the property is located, and the local river management advisory committee if the project is within a designated river corridor defined in RSA 483:4, XVIII and contains river and river segments designated in RSA 483:15, have been notified of the application by certified mail.

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

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
 February 10, 2026
 2026-0645s
 07/08

Amendment to SB 534-FN

Amend RSA 664:24, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. "Foreign national" has the same meaning as in 52 U.S.C. section 30121(b) and 22 USC Section 611 (b), except that the term shall also include domestic corporate entities whose principal agent is a foreign national.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
 February 3, 2026
 2026-0511s
 04/05

Amendment to SB 540-FN

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

1 New Paragraph; Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraph:

XI. "Portable solar generation device" means a movable photovoltaic generation device that:

- (a) Has a maximum power output not exceeding 1,200 watts AC inverter output;
- (b) Is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system to a branch circuit, using a receptacle listed for that purpose;
- (c) Is intended primarily to offset a portion of the customer's on site electric consumption;
- (d) Includes anti-islanding and rapid shutdown safeguards, certified and listed per industry standards to prevent energizing during a system outage.

2 New Section; Portable Solar Generation Devices. Amend RSA 362-A by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

362-A:10 Portable Solar Generation Devices; Exemptions; Requirements.

I. A portable solar generation device that meets the requirements of this section shall be:

- (a) Exempt from interconnection requirements and interconnection agreements applicable to generators participating in net metering or otherwise interconnecting to export electric power; and
- (b) Not subject to the net energy metering provisions of RSA 362 A:9.
- (c) A maximum of one 1200 watt AC inverter output system shall be allowed per metered customer.

II. An electric distribution utility shall not require a customer using a compliant portable solar generation device to:

- (a) Obtain utility approval before installing or using the device;
- (b) Pay any fee or charge related to the device; or
- (c) Install additional utility specified controls or equipment beyond those integrated into the device.

3 New Section; Portable Solar Generation Devices. Amend RSA 155-A by inserting after section 14 the following new section:

155-A:15 Portable Solar Generation Devices.

I. The state building code review board shall amend the state building code to address portable solar generation devices, including applicable nationally recognized standards, that portable solar generation devices must comply with.

II. Each portable solar generation device shall be installed per and comply with the state building code adopted under RSA 155-A, where applicable, and shall be installed and operated in accordance with manufacturer instructions.

III. The applicable utility for the owner or operator of a portable solar generation device may develop a method for the owner to inform the utility of the wattage and number of devices at the address subsequent to installation. Such information shall be for notification purposes only and shall not require approval, interconnection review, or the execution of an interconnection agreement.

4 New Section; Liability. Amend RSA 374 by inserting after section 1-a the following new section:

374:1-b Liability for Portable Solar Generation Devices. An electric distribution utility shall not be liable for damage, injury, or compensation or charges arising from a portable solar generation device installed or used by a customer. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any cause of action against the manufacturer, installer, or owner of a portable solar generation device.

5 Rulemaking; Net Energy Meeting. Amend RSA 362-A:9, X(a) to read as follows:

(a) Establish reasonable interconnection requirements for safety, reliability, and power quality as it determines the public interest requires. Such rules shall not exceed applicable test standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)[~~or~~], Underwriters Laboratory (UL), **or The Institute of Electrical and Electronics, Inc (IEEE)**; and

6 New Section; Portable Solar Generation Devices; Website. Amend RSA 12-P by inserting after section 17 the following new section:

12-P:18 Portable Solar Generation Devices Website. The department of energy shall establish and maintain a page on its website with relevant information for consumers regarding portable solar generation devices, including meter compatibility at the state's various distribution utilities, potential impacts on electric billing, applicable safety standards and considerations, and any other information the department determines appropriate.

7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-0511s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Defines "portable solar generation device" and exempts them from interconnection requirements and net metering.

II. Requires compliance with state building code and manufacturer instructions, directs the building code review board to update codes for portable solar devices, and limits electric distribution utility liability.

III. Authorizes the department of energy to adopt rules relative to interconnection requirements for portable solar generation devices and directs the department to maintain relevant information regarding the devices on the department's website.

Senate Commerce

February 3, 2026

2026-0506s

07/05

Amendment to SB 565-FN

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

AN ACT requiring the commissioner of the insurance department to prepare and publish a report regarding fortified home and commercial standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs.

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

1 New Subdivision; Reporting. Amend RSA 412 by inserting after section 14 the following new subdivision:

Reporting

412:14-a Reporting.

I. To promote awareness of and incentives for fortified homes and commercial property standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs, the commissioner shall utilize, develop, or cause to be developed a report which shall be provided on a readily available basis to purchasers of personal property and commer-

cial property risks insurance related to fortified home and commercial standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs. The information may include references to available information on areas that may be at risk of price increases due to extreme precipitation, storm surge, coastal flooding, high winds, hurricanes, and hail. For the purposes of this section, the commissioner may consult RSA 483-B:22, FEMA flood maps, the National Flood Insurance Program, and any other available mapping that may include projected threats, including first street maps, the New Hampshire coastal viewer, and the department of environmental services coastal program, to determine areas of present and future risk to insurance coverage. Unless prohibited by law, the report may also include a summary of any information the commissioner may have received, provided by insurers, on the rate of premium cost increases in such areas. This report shall be made available by January 1, 2028, and in subsequent 5-year intervals. The commissioner may establish an advisory council to undertake these duties, under RSA 400-A:11, which may be authorized to seek grants, donations, and other sources of funding, or fees authorized under RSA 400-A:29, XVI.

II. For the purposes of this section, “fortified homes and commercial property standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs” means measures taken to reduce loss due to extreme weather events such as precipitation events, storm surge, and coastal flooding, high winds, hurricanes, or hail.

III. The commissioner shall publish the report on the insurance department’s website and ensure that the report is readily available to consumers in New Hampshire.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-0506s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the commissioner of the insurance department to prepare and publish a report regarding fortified home and commercial standards, and other mitigation and resiliency programs.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

February 11, 2026

2026-0682s

09/08

Amendment to SB 567-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the composition of the board of dental examiners.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect September 1, 2026.

2026-0682s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill mandates that one member of the board of dental examiners be a general dentist.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

February 11, 2026

2026-0683s

08/07

Amendment to SB 573

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

1 New Chapter; Comfort Facility Dog Certification. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 167-D the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 167-E COMFORT FACILITY DOG CERTIFICATION

167-E:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. “Comfort Facility dog” means a specifically trained dog that provides emotional support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes,

schools, disaster relief areas, emergency response/public safety agencies and other places where people may be experiencing stress, trauma, or crisis. Comfort facility dogs are trained to interact gently and empathetically with people, offering unconditional support and non-judgmental companionship to help alleviate anxiety, reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being and resilience. Comfort facility dogs are not considered service dogs or emotional support animals.

II. “Comfort facility dog handler” means an emergency response or public safety worker who is responsible for the care, training, and supervision of a comfort facility dog during its interactions with individuals, groups, and communities in need of emotional support or crisis response. A comfort facility dog handler shall ensure that it behaves appropriately, follows commands, and maintains a calm and comforting presence in various environments. A comfort facility dog handler shall be trained to understand canine behavior, communication, and emotional support techniques, allowing them to effectively guide the comfort facility dog’s interactions with individuals, groups, or communities in distress or crisis situations.

III. “Emergency response or public safety worker” means any law enforcement officer certified under RSA 106-L, certified county corrections officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff, state police officer, civilian law enforcement employee, civilian county corrections employee, any call, volunteer, or regular firefighter, civilian fire department employee, rescue or ambulance worker, including ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer personnel, telecommunicators, and local dispatchers, including any retired emergency response or public safety workers as defined in this section.

IV. “Local dispatcher” means a person who determines the location, status, and assistance required by callers and walk-in customers for public safety services and dispatches the appropriate police, fire, ambulance, or other units to provide needed emergency services at the state, city, town, or private emergency services level.

V. “Telecommunicator” means an employee of the department of safety, division of emergency services and communications who is responsible for receiving at the public safety answering point telephone calls made to E911 and transferring or relaying such calls to public or private safety agencies.

VI. “Comfort facility dog team” means a trained comfort facility dog and its handler, working collaboratively to provide emotional support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings. The comfort facility dog team shall undergo specialized training to develop skills in empathy, active listening, and non-verbal communication, enabling them to effectively respond to the emotional, behavioral, physical, cognitive, and relational needs of those they encounter.

VII. “Comfort facility dog trainer” means any person who is employed to train dogs for the use of a comfort facility dog or is volunteering and training to raise dogs for the use of comfort facility dogs by emergency response or public safety worker, or an individual trainer who helps an emergency response or public safety worker to train their comfort facility dog.

VIII. “Housing accommodation” means any publicly assisted housing accommodation or any real property, or portion thereof, which is used or occupied, or is intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons.

IX. “Public facility” means any place of public accommodation and any street, highway, sidewalk, walkway, public building, and any other place or structure to which the general public is regularly, normally, or customarily permitted or invited.

X. “Place of public accommodation” includes any tavern roadhouse, hotel, motel, or trailer camp, whether for entertainment of transient guests or accommodation of those seeking health, recreation, or rest; any producer, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retail shop, store establishment, or concession dealing with goods or services of any kind; any restaurant, eating house, or place where food is sold for consumption on the premises; any place maintained for the sale of ice cream, ice, and fruit preparations or their derivatives, soda water or confections, or where any beverages of any kind are retailed for consumption on the premises; any garage; any public conveyance operated on land or water, or in the air, or any stations and terminals thereof; any bathhouse, boardwalk, or seashore accommodation; any auditorium, meeting place, or hall; any theater, motion picture house, music hall, roof garden, skating rink, swimming pool, amusement and recreation park, fair, bowling alley, gymnasium, shooting gallery, billiard and pool parlor, or any other place of amusement; any comfort station; any dispensary, clinic, or hospital; any public library; any kindergarten, primary and secondary school, trade or business school, high school, academy, college and university, or any educational institution under the supervision of the state board of education, or the commissioner of education of the state of New Hampshire.

167-E:2 Comfort Facility Dog Training.

I. The initial training and certification shall be completed by the dog's second birthday. Such initial training and certification shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certifications:

- (a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).
- (b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).
- (c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

II. The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following:

- (a) A minimum of 1 hour per month of structured training. Training should focus on maintaining and reinforcing CGC, CGCA, and CGCU skills.
- (b) Exposure to various emergency or public safety environments, including interactions with first responders and the public.
- (c) Sit training.
- (d) Psychological first aid training.

III. The emergency services or public safety agency employing or owning the comfort facility dog shall maintain detailed training records. Records shall include:

- (a) Dates and duration of training sessions.
- (b) The type of training conducted.
- (c) Progress and any corrective actions needed.
- (d) Certification completion and renewal dates.

IV. Any comfort facility dog who begins their initial training after the effective date of this chapter shall not be certified under this chapter unless they are owned by the facility in which they are employed.

167-E:3 Comfort Facility Dog Handler Training.

I. Each comfort facility dog handler working with the comfort facility dog shall complete training with his or her assigned comfort facility dog. Such training and certification shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certifications:

- (a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).
- (b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).
- (c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

II. The following training shall also be required of comfort facility dog handlers:

- (a) Training on recognizing and responding to individuals experiencing mental health crises.
- (b) Education on crisis intervention techniques for first emergency response or public safety workers, including CIT training.
- (c) Training on providing basic emergency care and first aid for canine partners.

III. The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following:

- (a) A minimum of one hour per month of structured training with the comfort facility dog. Training should focus on reinforcing AKC certification skills, handling techniques, and scenario-based public interactions.
- (b) Regular exposure to emergency/public safety environments to maintain proficiency.

IV. The emergency services or public safety agency employing or owning the comfort facility dog shall maintain detailed training records for both the dog and handler. Records shall include:

- (a) Dates and duration of training sessions.
- (b) The type of training conducted.

(c) Progress and any corrective actions needed.

(d) Certification completion and renewal dates.

167-E:4 Animal Duties. The official duties performed by a comfort facility dog shall be directly related to the handler's roll as an emergency response or public safety worker. Official duties may include but are not limited to: critical incident stress management, survivor advocacy and support, school support, crisis response, community mental health support, community relations.

167-E:5 Comfort Facility Dog Licensing, Rabies Certificate and Insurance.

I. The owner of the comfort facility dog shall comply with all state and local ordinances regarding licensing and rabies certification under RSA 466:1 and RSA 466:1-a. The owner of the comfort facility dog shall also fully insure the dog for the duration of its service career.

II. Nothing in this section is intended to inhibit, interfere or impede with the protections provided to service animals and search and rescue dogs under RSA 167-D.

III. The decision to spay or neuter a comfort facility dog shall be determined by the recommendation of the dog's veterinarian.

167-E:6 Comfort Facility Dog Team Certification.

I. Each comfort facility dog team shall complete all training requirements outlined within the comfort facility dog training under RSA 167-E:2, and comfort facility dog handler training under RSA 167-E:3 in order to be certified in the state of New Hampshire.

II. Each comfort facility dog team shall complete the following certification exams every 3 years, from the date of their initial certification, to remain certified:

(a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).

(b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).

(c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

III. The emergency services or public safety agency owning or employing the comfort facility dog shall maintain all training and certification records, including:

(a) Initial therapy dog certification documentation.

(b) Recertification dates and results.

(c) Any ongoing training or corrective action records.

IV. All comfort facility dog teams working in the state of New Hampshire shall have one year from the effective date of this chapter to meet certification and recertification requirements outlined therein.

167-E:7 Comfort Facility Dog May Accompany. A comfort facility dog may accompany their handler into any public facility, housing accommodation, or place of public accommodation to which the general public is invited, while they are in the course of performing their official duties, and/or, while in the course of, or traveling to or from the location of, their official duties.

167-E:8 Prohibited Acts.

I. It is unlawful for a person, directly or indirectly, either to prohibit, hinder, or interfere with a comfort facility dog team, while in the course of performing their official duties.

II. It is unlawful for any person to represent, and/or fit, a dog with a collar, leash, vest, sign, or harness of any type which represents that the dog is a comfort facility dog if the dog is not a comfort facility dog certified under this chapter.

167-E:9 Comfort Facility Dog Care.

I. A comfort facility dog shall not be fed a raw diet in order to minimize food borne diseases that may be unintentionally transmitted to humans.

II. A comfort facility dog shall be confined when traveling above 55 miles per hour. Confinement may be a crate or tether attached to a harness but not to a collar. A remote temperature sensor shall be placed in any vehicle in which the comfort facility dog will be left unattended.

III. No prong or electronic collars or head halters shall be used for American Kennel Club testing and no dog may wear prong or electronic collars or head halters while being deployed.

167-E:10 Comfort Facility Dog Retirement. Each emergency response or public safety agency employing a comfort facility dog shall have a policy which outlines the comfort facility dog's safe and humane retirement. If it is determined that a comfort facility dog in training cannot meet the standards set forth in this chapter, such policy shall outline the comfort facility dog's permanent ownership, and/or, options to return to the agency, non-profit, business or breeder the comfort facility dog was obtained from 167-E:

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

Senate Education

February 3, 2026

2026-0509s

12/09

Amendment to SB 578

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

AN ACT relative to play-based curriculum and physical education curriculum.

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 New Paragraph; Recess Physical Education Requirement. Amend RSA 189:10 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. The school board shall ensure that recess is included in the physical education curriculum for all students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, with the exception of schools where eighth grade is a part of the high school. Elementary schools and middle schools, as described in RSA 189:25, may count recess as instructional time for pupils in kindergarten through eighth grade.

(a) For the purposes of this paragraph, recess shall be defined as physical activity that promotes fitness and well-being which shall include unstructured play outside, unless weather conditions negatively impact the safety of physical activity taking place outside.

(b) For the purposes of this paragraph, recess shall not include any time considered instructional time for a physical education class.

(c) For the purposes of this paragraph, recess shall not involve the use of electronic devices by students, including but not limited to cell phones, laptops, tablets, and video game consoles or devices.

(d) A pupil shall not be denied recess by a member of the school's staff unless the pupil's participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the pupil or to the physical safety of one or more of the pupil's peers. If a pupil's recess period is denied for safety concerns, school staff shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats and minimize exclusion from recess to the greatest extent possible.

2026-0509s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Extends play-based curriculum from kindergarten until third grade.

II. Requires recess for all students from kindergarten until the eighth grade as a part of physical education curriculum.

III. Defines recess as physical activity that promotes fitness and well-being and prohibits the use of electronic devices during recess.

IV. Specifies that elementary and middle schools may count recess as instructional time.

V. Limits withholding pupils from recess unless a pupil's participation poses a physical safety risk.

Senate Education
 February 3, 2026
 2026-0510s
 12/07

Amendment to SB 580-FN

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

AN ACT relative to establishing a school cooperative purchasing program.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 New Paragraph; School Boards; Duty to Provide Education; Duties Added. Amend RSA 189:1-a by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. School boards and the board of trustees of chartered public schools shall adopt policies relative to the:

- (a) Recruitment, employment, evaluation and dismissal of teachers and other employees;
- (b) Purchase of equipment, supplies, or services;
- (c) Requirement to provide transportation of students as described in RSA 189:6;
- (d) Preparation of an annual budget;
- (e) Training of all school members on fiduciary responsibility;
- (f) Holding of meetings for the transaction of business at least once in 2 months and requiring the attendance of the superintendent or designee;
- (g) Implementation of educational programs in consultation with the superintendent for the purposes of the development of long-term plans and identification of attainable short-term objectives;
- (h) Exercising of all powers and performance of all duties vested in and imposed upon the school board or board of trustees;
- (i) Prohibition of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, creed, color, marital status, national origin, or disability in educational programs or activities consistent with local standards which may be stricter in specific areas than the broader statewide standards;
- (j) Prevention of sexual harassment, written in age appropriate language and published and available in written form to all those who must comply, which includes, at a minimum:
 - (1) A statement that sexual harassment is against the law and against school district policy;
 - (2) A definition of sexual harassment with examples of actions that might constitute sexual harassment;
 - (3) The names and roles of all persons involved in implementing the procedures;
 - (4) A description of the process so all parties know what to expect, including time frames and deadlines for investigation and resolution of complaints;
 - (5) A prohibition against retaliation toward anyone involved in a complaint;
 - (6) A description of possible penalties including termination;
 - (7) A requirement that a written factual report be produced regardless of the outcome of the investigation;
 - (8) At least one level of appeal of the investigators recommendation; and
 - (9) A clear statement that someone can bypass the internal process and proceed directly to the New Hampshire commission on human rights, with address and phone number, or office of civil rights, with address and phone number; and
- (k) Annual evaluation of the superintendent based on written criteria established by the school board or board of trustees.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following and renumbering the original sections 4-6 to read as 5-7, respectively:

4 New Paragraph; School Administrative Unit Boards; Duties Added. Amend RSA 194-C:5 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. The school board of each school administrative unit shall adopt the policies described in RSA 189:1-a, VI.
2026-0510s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a school cooperative purchasing program to allow multiple school districts or school administrative units (SAUs) the ability to enter into joint agreements for the procurement of specific goods and services in schools.

II. Authorizes the state board of education to place schools and SAUs into a receivership in limited circumstances.

III. Requires school boards and the board of trustees of chartered public schools to adopt policies relative to their schools.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
February 3, 2026
2026-0512s
04/05

Amendment to SB 589-FN

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

AN ACT relative to port electrification, microgrid development, and cybersecurity standards for energy and water systems.

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

1 Statement of Purpose. The purpose of this act is to promote New Hampshire's energy resilience and deployment of technologies supporting marine shipping, microgrid development, and cybersecurity for distributed energy resources.

2 New Paragraph; Energy Infrastructure Development and Corridors; Definition of Microgrid Added. Amend RSA 162-R:1 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

III-a. "Microgrid" means a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources acting as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid, with the ability to connect/disconnect to operate in grid-connected or island mode, improve reliability and resilience to grid disturbances, and enable local assets to collaborate to save costs, run during interruptions, or support remote operations. A microgrid may also feature system modeling/simulation, power electronic converters and control algorithms, controller hardware-in-the-loop testing, power hardware-in-the-loop testing, programmable AC/DC power supplies for grid/PV/battery emulation, and hybrid microgrid testing including distribution integration of wind turbines, PV, dynamometers, loads, and energy storage.

3 New Sections; Port Electrification Task Force. Amend RSA 162-R by inserting after section 6 the following new section:

162-R:7 Port Electrification Report.

I. There is hereby established a task force to report on port electrification.

II. The task force shall consist of:

(a) The director of the division of ports and harbors, or designee, who shall serve as chair and convening authority, and shall administer the task force.

(b) The commissioner of the department of transportation, or designee.

(c) The commissioner of the department of energy, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.

III. The report shall:

(a) Identify feasible technologies and locations for charging infrastructure, energy supply, including on-site generation, and energy storage units, to serve hybrid electric, and fuel cell electric ships, for shipping, fisheries, and other vessels, and portside power supply for conventional-fueled vessels.

(b) Assess applicable state, federal, and international regulations and regulatory barriers.

(c) Identify associated costs, funding sources, and potential models for private development.

(d) Identify transmission and interconnection siting.

IV. The report required by this section shall be completed on or before June 30, 2027. Copies shall be submitted to the governor, speaker of the house, president of the senate, and the chairs of the house and senate standing committees for transportation, energy, and commerce.

4 Microgrid Investigation Phase II.

I. Within 120 days of the effective date of this section, the department of energy shall initiate a proceeding to continue to investigate the potential benefits, risks, and key considerations around developing a framework for electricity microgrids, in the state, continuing the work begun in Inv 2024-001. In so doing, the department shall consult with electric distribution utilities, microgrid technology companies, distributed generation project developers, high density load businesses, and any other relevant entities.

II. The department's investigative proceeding shall examine and make recommendations concerning:

(a) The feasibility of financing options for microgrids, including C-PACER.

(b) Identifying political subdivisions and industrial users open to microgrid development.

(c) Development of an approach to use the "sandbox" methodology to enhance the regulatory process.

(d) Cybersecurity standards for microgrids and other distributed energy resources.

(e) The need for legislation or regulatory relief to allow for pilot projects

(f) Evaluation criteria for a pilot project.

(g) Any other relevant issue raised in the department's investigative proceedings.

III. The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than one year after initiating the study.

IV. For the purposes of this section, "microgrid" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 162-R:1, III-a.

5 Cybersecurity and Electric Grid Interconnection Guidelines.

I. Within 120 days of the effective date of this section, the department of energy shall initiate a proceeding, in consultation as deemed necessary with the governor's advisor for utility critical infrastructure cybersecurity, the managing director of the New England Utility Cybersecurity Integration Collaborative, distributed energy resources businesses, and regional/federal transmission authorities, to determine:

(a) The need for guidelines or standards for cybersecurity standards for distributed energy generation and related devices.

(b) The proper venue for promulgation of those guidelines or standards, including, but not limited to rulemaking, statutory changes, and including guidelines or standards within existing procedures and filings.

II. The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than one year after initiating the study. The report shall include recommendations for statutory changes, rulemaking, or other actions as needed. The department shall submit copies of the report to the governor, senate president, speaker of the house, and chairs of senate and house energy policy committees.

6 New Section; Cybersecurity Protection Program; Public Water Systems. Amend RSA 485 by inserting after section 3-d the following new section:

485:3-e Cybersecurity Protection Program.

I. Public water systems shall implement a cybersecurity protection program that is commensurate with the size and complexity of the public water system in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

II. Public water systems that do not use an Internet-connected control system are exempt from the provisions of this section.

III. In this section “cybersecurity protection program” means steps to prevent an event from occurring on or conducted through a computer network that jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of computers, information systems, communications systems, networks, physical or virtual infrastructure controlled by computers or information systems, or the information or processes residing thereon.

IV. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement a cybersecurity protection program for public water systems.

7 New Section; Cybersecurity Protection Program; Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Amend RSA 485-A by inserting after section 485-A:5-e the following new section:

485-A:5-f Cybersecurity Protection Program.

I. Wastewater treatment plants or wastewater facilities shall implement a cybersecurity protection program that is commensurate with the size and complexity of the wastewater treatment plant or wastewater facility in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

II. Wastewater treatment plants or wastewater facilities that do not use an Internet- connected control system are exempt from the provisions of this section.

III. In this section “cybersecurity protection program” means steps to prevent an event from occurring on or conducted through a computer network that jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of computers, information systems, communications systems, networks, physical or virtual infrastructure controlled by computers or information systems, or the information or processes residing thereon.

IV. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement a cybersecurity protection program for wastewater treatment plants or wastewater facilities.

8 Repeal. RSA 162-R:7, relative to the port electrification task force, is repealed.

9 Effective Date.

I. Section 8 of this act takes effect July 1, 2027.

II. The remainder of this act takes effect upon its passage.

2026-0512s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a port electrification task force, directs investigation into microgrid development and cybersecurity standards, and mandates cybersecurity programs for water and wastewater systems.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

February 3, 2026

2026-0516s

04/05

Amendment to SB 592

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

AN ACT enabling regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors and creating a commission to study transferring ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program to an alternative authority.

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

1 Conservation Commission; Habitat Strongholds and Wildlife Corridors Included. Amend RSA 36-A:2 to read as follows:

36-A:2 Conservation Commission. A city or town which accepts the provisions of this chapter may establish a conservation commission, hereinafter called the commission, for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town. Such commission shall conduct researches into its local land and water areas and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial

bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work. It shall keep an [index] **inventory** of all open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas, **including habitat strongholds as defined in RSA 207:1, XIII-a and wildlife corridors as defined in RSA 207:1, XXXVI**, within the city or town, as the case may be, with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such areas, including lands owned by the state or lands owned by a town or city. **The inventory of habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors is intended for informational purposes for regional planning commissions and shall not be utilized as the basis for municipal zoning or planning purposes.** It shall keep an [index] **inventory** of all marshlands, swamps and all other wet lands in a like manner, and may recommend to the city council or selectmen or to the department of natural and cultural resources a program for the protection, development or better utilization of all such areas. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report which shall be printed in the annual town or municipal report. The commission may appoint such clerks and other employees or subcommittees as it may from time to time require.

2 Purposes; Habitat Strongholds and Wildlife Corridors Included. Amend RSA 36:45 to read as follows:

36:45 Purposes. The purpose of this subdivision shall be to enable municipalities and counties to join in the formation of regional planning commissions whose duty it shall be to prepare a coordinated plan for the development of a region, taking into account present and future needs with a view toward encouraging the most appropriate use of land, such as for agriculture, forestry, industry, commerce, and housing; the facilitation of transportation and communication, **including habitat strongholds as defined in RSA 207:1, XIII-a and wildlife corridors as defined in RSA 207:1, XXXVI**; the proper and economic location of public utilities and services; the development of adequate recreational areas; the promotion of good civic design; and the wise, efficient expenditure of public funds. The aforesaid plan shall be made in order to promote the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the region and its inhabitants. To promote these purposes the office of planning and development shall delineate planning regions for the state so that each municipality of the state will fall within a delineated region and shall have the opportunity of forming or joining the regional planning commission for that planning region. In determining these regions the office shall consider such factors as community of interest and homogeneity, existing metropolitan and regional planning agencies, patterns of communication and transportation, geographic features and natural boundaries, extent of urban development, relevancy of the region for provision of governmental services and functions and its use for administering state and federal programs, the existence of physical, social and economic problems of a regional character, and other related characteristics. To accommodate changing conditions, the office may adjust the boundaries of the planning regions, after consultation with the respective regional planning commissions.

3 Regional Planning Commission; Powers and Duties; Habitat Strongholds and Wildlife Corridors Included. Amend RSA 36:47, I to read as follows:

I. A regional planning commission's powers shall be advisory, and shall generally pertain to the development of the region within its jurisdiction as a whole. Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to reduce or limit any of the powers, duties or obligations of planning boards in individual municipalities. The area of jurisdiction of a regional planning commission shall include the areas of the respective municipalities within the delineated planning region. It shall be the duty of a regional planning commission to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of the region within its jurisdiction, including the commission's recommendations, among other things, for the use of land within the region; for the general location, extent, type of use, and character of highways, major streets, intersections, parking lots, railroads, aircraft landing areas, waterways and bridges, and other means of transportation, communication, and other purposes; **including a consideration of habitat strongholds as defined in RSA 207:1, XIII-a and wildlife corridors as defined in RSA 207:1, XXXVI**; for the development, extent, and general location of parks, playgrounds, shore front developments, parkways, and other public reservations and recreation areas; for the location, type, and character of public buildings, schools, community centers, and other public property; and for the improvement, redevelopment, rehabilitation, or conservation of residential, business, industrial and other areas; including the development of programs for the modernization and coordination of buildings, housing, zoning and subdivision regulations of municipalities and their enforcement on a coordinated and unified basis. A regional planning commission may authorize its employees or consultants to render assistance on local planning problems to any municipality or county which is not a member of said regional planning commission. The cost of such assistance shall be paid entirely by the municipality or county to which the service is rendered or partly by said municipality or county and partly by any gift, grant, or contribution which may be available for such work or by combination thereof. Said commission shall keep a strict account of the cost of such assistance and shall provide such municipality or county with an itemized statement.

4 New Paragraph; Executive Director Fish and Game Commission; Consultations Regarding Habitat Strongholds and Wildlife Corridors. Amend RSA 206:10 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. The executive director of the fish and game commission may consult with regional planning commissions, conservation commissions, and the department of transportation concerning habitat strongholds as defined in RSA 207:1, XIII-a and wildlife corridors as defined in RSA 207:1, XXXVI.

5 New Section; Department of Environmental Services. Amend RSA 21-O by inserting after section 14 the following new sections:

21-O:14-a Winnepesaukee River Basin Program; Position Established.

I. There is established in the office of the commissioner the unclassified position of director of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP). The director shall be qualified to hold the position by reason of education and experience, and shall perform such duties as the commissioner from time to time may authorize. The director shall be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the WRPB as well as the execution of all programs and projects.

II. The commissioner shall nominate, for appointment by the governor, with the consent of the executive council, the unclassified director of the WRPB, who shall serve for a term of 4 years.

III. The salary of the director of the WRPB shall be as specified in RSA 94:1-a.

IV. Funding shall be transferred into a new expenditure class number 11 within accounting unit 03-44-44-442010-1300.

21-O:14-b Winnepesaukee River Basin Program Commission.

I. There is established a commission to study transferring ownership and/or operation of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program (WRBP) to an alternative authority which supports the municipalities served by the WRBP.

II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

- (a) One members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (b) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (c) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.
- (d) One member of the public, appointed by the Winnepesaukee River Basin program advisory committee.
- (e) One member of the public, appointed by the mayor of Laconia.

III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

IV. The commission shall:

- (a) Identify all of the state-owned physical assets that are necessary for the operation of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program (WRBP).
- (b) Evaluate whether the WRBP should continue to be owned and operated by the state or whether ownership and/or operational control should be transferred to an alternative authority.
- (c) Determine if ownership of the WRBP were to be transferred to such an authority, how should the value of the assets being transferred be determined.
- (d) Identify what statutory provisions would need to be amended in order to transfer ownership and/or operational control of the WRBP.
- (e) Receive input from the department of environmental services, the Winnepesaukee River Basin program advisory board, and the municipalities served by the WRBP.
- (f) Identify any other issues that may need to be addressed in order to transfer ownership and/or operational control of the WRBP to an alternative authority. Issues may include but not be limited to legal requirements to create a separate regional authority and governance structure; service and intermunicipal agreements; workforce considerations; organizational requirements for finance, administration and engineering; means for sustainable

operations and maintenance; mechanisms for capital projects and bonding/financing future infrastructure costs; organizational structure shortfalls; transfer of federal permit authorities; asset transfer costs and requirements; transfer of legacy financial obligations; and conceptual transition sequence and timeline.

V. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

6 Compensation of Certain State Offices; Salaries Established; Position Added. Amend RSA 94:1-a, I(b) by inserting the following:

JJ Department of environmental services director of Winnepesaukee River Basin Program

7 Effective Date.

I. Sections 5 and 6 of this act shall take effect upon passage.

II. This remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-0516s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Enables regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors.

II. Creates a commission to study transferring ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin program to an alternative authority.

III. Creates the position of director of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program within the department of environmental services.

Senate Health and Human Services

February 11, 2026

2026-0689s

05/07

Amendment to SB 606-FN

Amend RSA 420-J:28 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

420-J:28 Biomarker Testing; State Medicaid Plan Coverage Requirements.

I. Biomarker testing shall be covered by the New Hampshire Medicaid program for beneficiaries when the biomarker test is determined as medically necessary by the New Hampshire Medicaid program for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of an enrollee's disease or condition when the test provides clinical utility and is demonstrated by the following medical and scientific evidence, including but not limited to any of the following:

(a) Labeled indications for an FDA-approved or -cleared test;

(b) Indicated tests for an FDA-approved drug;

(c) Warnings and precautions on FDA-approved drug labels;

(d) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determinations or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Local Coverage Determinations; or

(e) Nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements.

II. If utilization review, including but not limited to prior authorization, is required, the utilization review entity, or any third party acting on behalf of the New Hampshire Medicaid program shall approve or deny a prior authorization request and notify the beneficiary, and the ordering health care provider.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

2 New Section; Medicaid Coverage of Biomarker Testing. Amend RSA 167 by inserting after section 4-f the following new section:

167:4-g Biomarker Testing; Medicaid Coverage Requirements.

I. The state Medicaid plan shall cover biomarker testing, as defined in RSA 420-J:27, II, in accordance with the requirements of this section when the biomarker test is determined as medically necessary by the New Hampshire Medicaid program for the beneficiary.

II. Biomarker testing shall be covered for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of the beneficiary's disease or condition when the department of health and human services determines that the test provides clinical utility, as defined in RSA 420-J:27, III and is demonstrated by the following medical and scientific evidence and determined as medically necessary by the New Hampshire Medicaid program, including but not limited to any of the following:

- (a) Labeled indications for an FDA-approved or -cleared test;
- (b) Indicated tests for an FDA-approved drug;
- (c) Warnings and precautions on FDA-approved drug labels;
- (d) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determinations or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Local Coverage Determinations; or
- (e) Nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements.

III. Risk-bearing entities contracted under the state Medicaid plan to deliver services to beneficiaries shall provide biomarker testing at the same scope, duration and frequency as the Medicaid program otherwise provides to enrollees.

IV. The state Medicaid plan shall ensure coverage, as outlined in paragraph II, is provided in a manner that limits disruptions in care including the need for multiple biopsies or biospecimen samples.

V. If utilization review, including but not limited to prior authorization, is required, the state Medicaid plan, utilization review entity, or any third party acting on behalf of an organization or entity subject to this section shall approve or deny a prior authorization request and notify the enrollee, the enrollee's health care provider, and any entity requesting authorization of the service within 14 days for non-urgent requests or within 72 hours for urgent requests.

VI. The enrollee and participating provider shall have access to a clear, readily accessible, and convenient process to request an exception to a coverage policy of the state Medicaid plan or by risk-bearing entities contracted to the program. The process shall be made readily accessible to all participating providers and enrollees online.

VII. The department of health and human services shall submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services any amendment to the state Medicaid plan required to provide coverage for biomarker testing in accordance with this section.

VIII. The provisions of this section shall only take effect provided that there is sufficient funding included in the operating budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2029.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2026-0689s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the New Hampshire Medicaid program to provide coverage for biomarker testing under certain circumstances.

Senate Health and Human Services

February 4, 2026

2026-0544s

05/07

Amendment to SB 616-FN

Amend RSA 126-Z:9, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall make an annual aggregated report of the data reported to the department by providers under this chapter to the general court. This report shall be due February 1 of each year, beginning February 1, 2028.

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

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.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

COMMERCE, Room 100, SH

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

9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION

9:45 a.m.

HB 565, allowing persons under 21 into veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs under certain conditions.

10:00 a.m.

SB 669-FN, relative to on-premises licenses for licensed barbershops and salons.

10:15 a.m.

HB 529, relative to the liquor commission.

10:30 a.m.

HB 1168, relative to employer documentation requirements.

10:45 a.m.

HB 1196-FN, repealing the state housing champion designation and grant program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

EDUCATION, Room Map Room, SL

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

9:15 a.m.

SB 403, requiring all schools to start the school year after Labor Day.

9:30 a.m.

SB 658-FN, authorizing the department of education to establish a safe and resilient schools advisory council.

9:45 a.m.

SB 575, establishing a study committee to study the issue of school bullying.

10:00 a.m.

SB 574, establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units.

10:15 a.m.

SB 431, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 122-123, SH

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

9:15 a.m.

HB 158, relative to public inspection of absentee ballot lists.

9:30 a.m.

HB 281, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format.

9:45 a.m.

HB 463, relative to the composition of the board of recount in elections for the select board and for the school board.

10:00 a.m. **HB 365-FN**, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters.
EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

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

9:00 a.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

9:30 a.m. **SB 475**, including a determination of the best interest of the animal in the definition of foster home.

9:40 a.m. **SB 535**, defining residential breeder and imported animal for the purposes of animal transfers.

9:50 a.m. **SB 442**, relative to pet transfers.

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

1:15 p.m. **HB 704-FN-A**, making an appropriation to the retired senior volunteer program.

1:25 p.m. **HB 246-FN-A**, directing the state conservation committee to implement the conservation district climate resilience grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

1:40 p.m. **HB 104-FN**, relative to requiring an official declaration of war for the activation of the New Hampshire national guard in a foreign state.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH

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

1:00 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

1:30 p.m. **CACR 11**, relating to sheriffs. Providing that no person shall hold the office of county sheriff after he or she has attained the age of 75 years.

1:40 p.m. **HB 54-FN**, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit.

1:50 p.m. **SB 657-FN**, relative to the oversight of artificial intelligence.

2:00 p.m. **SB 667-FN**, relative to the assault of emergency room personnel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

TRANSPORTATION, Room 122-123, SH

Sen. Ricciardi (C), Sen. McConkey (VC), Sen. Ward, Sen. Prentiss, Sen. Fenton

1:00 p.m. **HB 1190-FN**, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21.

1:10 p.m. **HB 1350-FN**, relative to antique motor vehicles.

1:20 p.m. **HB 1485-FN**, relative to eligibility and fees for late refund requests of road tolls.

1:30 p.m. **SB 668-FN**, authorizing a historic marker on a highway for the purpose of acknowledging the abuse of former residents of the youth development center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 103, SH

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

9:00 a.m. Hearing on proposed non-germane Amendment #, 2026-0579s adopting the physician associate licensure compact, to **SB 425**, relative to the terms and qualifications for the adjutant general and deputy adjutant general, and commandant of the New Hampshire veterans' home.

- 9:10 a.m. **HB 1025**, relative to the designation of the chief financial officer as a civilian employee within the department of military affairs and veterans services.
- 9:20 a.m. **HB 1101**, relative to the membership and governance of the state veterans council.
- 9:30 a.m. **HB 1152**, designating the funds account for donations and bequests received by the department of military affairs and veterans services to be non-lapsing funds.
- 9:40 a.m. **HB 392-FN**, directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health access and the department of environmental services' functions for environmental justice.
- 9:50 a.m. **HB 1193**, naming a 911 call service center in Laconia in honor of Bruce G. Cheney.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1162**, extending the commission on Holocaust and genocide studies.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 100, SH

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

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 666-FN**, relative to consumer protection, transparency, and oversight of certain health care transactions and establishing a study committee to analyze health insurance providers, their practices, policies, premiums, management, and the impact to consumers.
- 9:15 a.m. **SB 664-FN**, limiting hospital executive compensation in communities designated as distressed place-based economies under certain circumstances.
- 9:30 a.m. **SB 670-FN-A**, establishing a developmental services oversight commission; relative to membership and duties of the incapacitated and vulnerable adult fatality review committee; relative to reporting requirements regarding the death of a child in residential care; and relative to the registry of founded reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- 9:45 a.m. **SB 665-FN**, requiring pharmacies to charge consumers the lowest available price for prescription drugs.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 122-123, SH

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

- 9:30 a.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

MEETINGS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1)

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------|
| 9:30 a.m. | Executive Council Chambers
Room 208, SH | Regular Meeting |
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MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION (RSA 227-B:3)

- | | | |
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| 10:00 a.m. | Appalachian Mountain Club
Highland House
White Mountain Trail
Bretton Woods, NH | Regular Meeting |
|------------|--|-----------------|

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF PERFLUORINATED CHEMICALS (RSA 126-A:79-a)

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2:00 p.m. | Remote Only | Regular Meeting |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
- Joint meeting of the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals & the Commission to Study Environmentally Triggered Chronic Illness

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 February 13, 2026 2:00 PM EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8637317398493433177>

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: 190-004-962

Webinar ID: 388-954-979

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.

COMMISSION TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTALLY-TRIGGERED CHRONIC ILLNESS (RSA 126-A:73-a)

2:00 p.m.

Remote Only

Regular Meeting

Joint meeting of the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals & the Commission to Study Environmentally Triggered Chronic Illness

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 February 13, 2026 2:00 PM EST at:

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Access Code: 190-004-962

Webinar ID: 388-954-979

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.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION (RSA 193-E:2-f)

4:00 p.m.

Room 100

Regular Meeting

21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

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

1:00 p.m.

Department of Revenue Administration
Training Room
109 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH

Equalization Subcommittee

COMMISSION ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE (RSA 126-T)

2:00 p.m.

NH Hospital Association
Conference Room 1
125 Airport Road
Concord, NH

Regular Meeting

People may also attend using the following:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26094978428630?p=MZG4ob2lggWeUN4teP>

Meeting ID: 260 949 784 286 30

Passcode: 4NF3iF3F

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)**

9:00 a.m.

Room 100, SH

Regular Meeting

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

9:00 a.m.

Room 103, SH

Regular Meeting

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13)

9:30 a.m.

Room 158, GP

Regular Meeting

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a)

1:00 p.m.

Room 230, GP

Regular Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026**NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a)**

9:00 a.m.

New Hampshire Veterans Home
Tarr South Conference Room
139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH

Regular Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026**ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a)**

9:30 a.m.

Department of Revenue Administration
Training Room
109 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH

Assessment Review Standards
Subcommittee

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026**NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON SUICIDE PREVENTION (RSA 126-R:2)**

10:00 a.m.

National Guard Edward
Cross Training Center
722 Riverwood Drive
Pembroke, NH

Regular Meeting

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE (RSA 14-B:2)

1:00 p.m.

Room 103, SH

Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 115-A:2)**

5:00 p.m.

Edward Cross Training Complex
722 Riverwood Drive
Pembroke, NH

Regular Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

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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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROGRAMS STUDY COMMISSION (RSA 79:32)

10:00 a.m.	Room 154, GP	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

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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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4)

9:00 a.m.	NHDES 29 Hazen Drive Concord, NH	Source Water Protection Subcommittee
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MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (RSA 17-J:2)

9:00 a.m.	Room 228, GP	Regular Meeting
	The You Tube link to view the meeting livestream is: https://youtube.com/live/wIYOkF-vY-8?feature=share	

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

9:30 a.m.	Room 228, GP	Regular Meeting
	The You Tube link to view the meeting livestream is; https://youtube.com/live/lZRro8WydBI?feature=share	

COMMISSION TO STUDY COSTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (RSA 186-C:1-a)

10:00 a.m.	Room 231, GP	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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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 Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115	

EDUCATION FREEDOM SAVINGS ACCOUNT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 194-F:12)

1:00 p.m.	Room 231, GP	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

COUNTY-STATE FINANCE COMMISSION (RSA 28-B:1)

10:00 a.m.	Brown Building 129 Pleasant Street Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

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

5:00 p.m.	Edward Cross Training Complex 722 Riverwood Drive Pembroke, NH	Regular Meeting
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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1)

9:30 a.m.	New Hampshire Department of Justice Press Room 1 Granite Place Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

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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MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

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

10:00 a.m.	NH Hospital Association 125 Airport Road Concord, NH Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115 Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

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

5:00 p.m.	Edward Cross Training Complex 722 Riverwood Drive Pembroke, NH	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

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

10:00 a.m.	NH Hospital Association 125 Airport Road Concord, NH Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430173115 Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

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

5:00 p.m.	Edward Cross Training Complex 722 Riverwood Drive Pembroke, NH	Regular Meeting
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FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1)

9:30 a.m.	Executive Council Chambers	Regular Meeting
	Room 208, SH	

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

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	
	Meeting ID: 874 3017 3115	

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1)

9:30 a.m.	Executive Council Chambers	Regular Meeting
	Room 208, SH	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1)

9:30 a.m.	Executive Council Chambers	Regular Meeting
	Room 208, SH	

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2026

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (RSA 12-J:1)

9:30 a.m.	Executive Council Chambers	Regular Meeting
	Room 208, SH	

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2026 PENDING VETO MESSAGES:

SENATE BILLS: 268

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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 2026 BILLS:

SENATE BILLS: 27, 33, 49, 83, 88, 103, 404, 424, 446, 478, 481, 484, 485, 491, 492, 502, 506, 515, 531, 538, 540, 543, 545, 547, 550, 559, 565, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 589, 591, 597, 601, 602, 603, 608, 610, 611, 614, 615, 618, 622, 625, 627, 628, 631, 635, 636, 637, 645, 651, 666, 669

HOUSE BILLS: 59, 104, 109, 112, 155, 164, 191, 194, 206, 215, 219, 222, 232, 241, 246, 257, 297, 340, 349, 365, 366, 510, 529, 590, 609, 610, 629, 649, 707, 709, 1471, 1477, 1483, 1727, 1832

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ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR 2026 BILLS:

HOUSE BILLS: 451, 705

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SENATE BILLS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

SENATE BILLS: 15, 27, 33, 34, 36, 49, 83, 94, 103, 134, 182, 186

HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

HOUSE BILLS: 59, 109, 126, 191, 221, 222, 292, 340, 481, 649, 707, 751

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NOTICES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

NH Life Sciences will offer a free lunch at their inaugural Legislative Day on Thursday, February 19th at noon in the State House Cafeteria. Meet the NHLS members, your constituents, and hear about their impressive economic impact in communities throughout New Hampshire. They will showcase their range and reach of life sciences companies across the Granite State through our state's life sciences association.

Senator David Rochefort

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

All members and staff are cordially invited to attend the New Hampshire Association of Counties' Annual Legislative Conference, to be held on Tuesday, February 24, at the Grappone Center in Concord from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Guests are welcome to join NHAC for the breakfast reception or for the full program. The breakfast reception will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. In addition to networking with elected and appointed county officials from all ten of New Hampshire's counties, the conference will feature panel presentations focused on federal updates from the Congressional offices, the role of county government in New Hampshire, and other timely topics. This event is complimentary; however, advance registration is requested. Please RSVP to Kate Horgan at khorgan@dupontgroup.com.

Senator James Gray
Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Senate Minority Leader

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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

The annual Water's Worth It! legislative breakfast is set for Thursday, March 5, 2026 at the Hotel Concord (11 S Main Street). Check in for the event begins at 7:00 AM with a buffet breakfast. Water quality professionals will present information on drinking water and wastewater treatment challenges in New Hampshire. This year's featured speaker Catherine Grady, MSc, Waterborne Disease and Wastewater Surveillance Epidemiologist will present "Wastewater Surveillance - A Community Diary of Infectious Disease". In addition, staff from the NH Department of Environmental Services Water Division will also address the audience. All legislators and staff are invited to enjoy a hearty breakfast and learn more about New Hampshire's water infrastructure. There is no cost for enjoying breakfast with your legislative peers and attending this event.

Please RSVP to info.nhwpca@gmail.com by March 2nd to reserve your seat at this important breakfast. The breakfast is sponsored by the NH Water Pollution Control Association in conjunction with New Hampshire Water Works Association, Granite State Rural Water Association, and a wide-ranging coalition of other NH non-profit water organizations.

Senator Denise Ricciardi

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SENATE SCHEDULE

Monday, February 16, 2026	President's Day (State Holiday)
Monday, February 23, 2026 - Friday, February 27, 2026	SENATE BREAK
Thursday, March 05, 2026	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all Senate bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
Thursday, March 26, 2026	CROSSOVER - Deadline to ACT on all Senate bills.
Thursday, April 30, 2026	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
Thursday, May 14, 2026	Deadline to ACT on all House bills.
Thursday, May 21, 2026	Deadline to FORM Committees of Conference.
Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.	Deadline to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports.
Thursday, June 04, 2026	Deadline to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.
Friday, July 03, 2026	Independence Day (Observed) (State Holiday)
Monday, September 07, 2026	Labor Day (State Holiday)
Wednesday, November 11, 2026	Veterans' Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 26, 2026	Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday)
Friday, November 27, 2026	Day after Thanksgiving (State Holiday)
Friday, December 25, 2026	Christmas Day (State Holiday)