

April 9, 2026
No. 14A

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

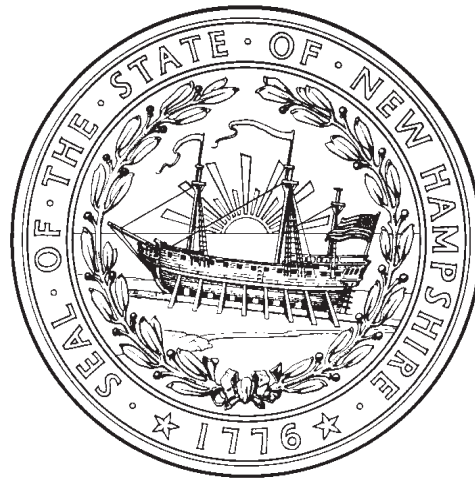
Senate Meeting Schedule Website Address:

<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 ADDENDUM

**THE SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON THURSDAY,
APRIL 16, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE SENATE CHAMBER**

The Senate Session on Thursday, April 16, 2026, in the Senate Chamber
will be live streamed at the following link:

https://youtube.com/live/Pa_gxMZlvQ0?feature=share

Please note, this link will not be live until the Senate Session on
Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1013, relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

House bill 1013 requires the Department of Agriculture to develop “best practices” and recommendations for games in which the object is to capture a pig. It also ensures that animals are handled humanely and that participants receive proper education on animal care. The committee amendment removes the enforcement by the DAMF and keeps it with Law Enforcement.

HB 1089, extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

House bill 1089 seeks to ensure that new water withdrawals for public water systems suing less than 57,600 gallons in any 24-hour period do not contribute to the contamination of existing drinking water wells or exacerbate the spread of contaminated groundwater.

HB 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

House bill 1148 adds cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of exotic and aquatic weed species committees. It expands the committees’ duties to include studying the causes and contributing factors of harmful aglal blooms and cyanobacteria.

HB 1153-FN-L, establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

House Bill 1153 creates a committee to review New Hampshire statutes related to cats and dogs. The committee received testimony highlighting inconsistencies and outdated or irrelevant provisions in current law that may need to be updated or revised.

HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Interim Study, Vote 4-1.

Senator Pearl for the committee.

House bill 1431 would have restricted the use of neonicotinoids to only licensed professionals and would require the Pesticide Control Board (PCB) to adopt rules about the proper application. The committee ultimately decided this bill would take authority away from the PCB and was not necessary.

HB 1733, relative to default electric service procurement and the recovery of competitive market supply costs.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

House bill 1733 requires the Public Utilities Commission to use fixed-price contracts for default services and limits reliance on real-time purchases. The committee amendment would prohibit utilities from recovering default service costs through a nonbypassable charge, except in extraordinary circumstances.

HB 1766-FN, relative to cruelty to livestock.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.
Senator Pearl for the committee.

House bill 1766 establishes a process and procedures for the confiscation of livestock that are involved in cruelty cases. The committee amendment makes technical changes and ensures that animals are given second chances for adoption and that authority is clear during the investigation and confiscation process.

HB 1780, increasing penalties for persons violating laws relative to the sale of seeds, plants, and nursery stock.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.
Senator Pearl for the committee.

House Bill 1780 addresses several technical inconsistencies by revising labeling standards with input from DAMF, seed suppliers, and other stakeholders. The amendment clarifies that no seed may be sold in New Hampshire more than 36 months after its production date and specifies how labeling of the production date must be updated when tested or the date be carried forward.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 524-FN, relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association and establishing a committee to study the efficacy of the New Hampshire vaccine association.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.
Senator Long for the committee.

As amended, this bill directs the New Hampshire Vaccine Association to disburse funds collected through assessments by the end of each fiscal year to the extent practicable. A committee amendment has been adopted to remove the study committee previously proposed in the bill.

HB 661-FN, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.
Senator Long for the committee.

As amended, this bill establishes requirements for the management of federal benefits received by dependent children in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides for appointment of a representative payee, which may be the Department if no other suitable candidate is available. It also directs the Department to adopt procedures regarding the establishment of ABLE accounts for dependent children for whom the Department is representative payee. The implementation of certain sections of the bill are contingent upon receipt of sufficient funding by the Department.

HB 1117-FN, relative to the right of licensed health care providers to freely communicate with patients, colleagues, and the public about medical information, emerging therapies, and treatment options.
Interim Study, Vote 4-0.
Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill provides that a health care provider shall not be subject to disciplinary action, professional sanction, or civil or criminal liability for communicating with a patient, another provider, or the public about emerging medical research, experimental treatments, innovative therapies, or off-label uses of medications, provided the communication is made in good faith and not knowingly false or misleading.

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.
Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill renews the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain. A committee amendment has been adopted to extend the renewal for an additional year.

HB 1449, limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools and requiring parents or legal guardians to be present with their child during the administration of vaccinations at such a clinic.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.
Senator Prentiss for the committee.

As amended, this bill prohibits the operation of vaccination clinics in schools during school hours with the exception of clinics which solely administer influenza vaccinations and clinics operating during public health emergencies. The committee amendment addresses accessibility and public health concerns raised by stakeholders.

HB 1566-FN-A, directing the department of health and human services to seek clarification from the Administration for Children and Families regarding the use of TANF reserve funds and repealing the requirement that the department of health and human services' biennial budget request include funding for certain child care workforce programs.

Interim Study, Vote 3-2.

Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to seek clarification from the federal government regarding the use of TANF reserve funds and to request a waiver for certain uses of such funds that the federal government determines as prohibited uses. This bill also repeals the requirement that the Department include funding for certain child care workforce programs in its biennial budget request. After hearing testimony from the Department that this request has previously been denied and is expected to be denied again, a majority of the Committee finds it best to recommend this bill for interim study.

HB 1584-FN, directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Prentiss for the committee.

As amended, this bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to include in certain materials relative to childhood immunization requirements a statement indicating that medical and religious exemptions to such requirements are available under state law. The committee amendment eliminates the disciplinary action included in the bill, preserves the religious exemption form, and addresses the intent of applying to childhood vaccines.

HB 1685, establishing a commission to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

As amended, this bill establishes a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and the adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

HB 1763-FN, establishing a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill establishes a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences. A committee amendment has been adopted to include a representative of the area agency system recommended by the Community Support Network, Incorporated.

AMENDMENTS

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1423s

05/07

Amendment to HB 524-FN

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

AN ACT relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 2 with the following:

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

2026-1423s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the New Hampshire vaccine association to disburse funds collected through assessments by the end of each fiscal year to the extent practicable.

Senate Health and Human Services
 April 9, 2026
 2026-1425s
 05/09

Amendment to HB 661-FN

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 6 with the following:

7 Contingency. Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall take effect on the date the commissioner of the department of health and human services certifies to the director of the office of legislative services and the secretary of state that the department has sufficient funding to meet the requirements of sections 1 through 4 of this act; provided further that if the date of such certification occurs prior to July 1, 2027, section 1 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2027, section 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2028, and sections 3 and 4 of this act shall take effect on the date of certification.

8 EffectiveDate.

I. Sections 1-4 of the this act shall take effect as provided in section 7 of this act.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

2026-1425s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes requirements for the management of federal benefits received by dependent children in the custody of the department of health and human services.

II. Provides for appointment of a representative payee, which may be the department if no other suitable candidate is available.

III. Directs the department to adopt procedures regarding establishment of ABLE accounts for dependent children for whom the department is representative payee.

IV. Makes implementation of paragraphs I-III above contingent upon receipt of sufficient funding by the department of health and human services.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
 April 9, 2026
 2026-1435s
 12/08

Amendment to HB 1013

Amend RSA 644:8-h as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

644:8-h Contests Involving Pigs. In order to promote an educational, humane, and safe event for contestants, livestock, and viewers, and in consultation with livestock farmers, livestock veterinarians, the state fair association, and the university of New Hampshire cooperative extension, the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food shall identify and publish best handling practices and recommendations for contests involving the capture of pigs. Such practices and recommendations shall be published in advance of the 2027 fair season and shall include:

I. Handling of pigs during release and capture.

II. Supervision of contestants during the event.

III. Guidance for training of individuals supervising or assisting.

IV. The manner and provisions for the transportation of pigs to be taken home by contestants.

2026-1435s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food to develop best practices and recommendations for games in which the object is to capture a pig.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
 April 9, 2026
 2026-1436s
 12/08

Amendment to HB 1153-FN-LOCAL

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

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

Senate Health and Human Services
 April 9, 2026
 2026-1424s
 05/05

Amendment to HB 1318

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Extension of the Committee to Study Non-pharmacological Treatment Options for Patients with Chronic Pain. Amend 2024, 274:2, VI to read as follows:

VI. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, on or before November 1, 2024, **2025, 2026, and 2027**, the committee shall submit an interim report including its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, and the governor. The committee shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the same on or before November 1, [2025] **2028**.

Senate Health and Human Services
 April 9, 2026
 2026-1426s
 12/05

Amendment to HB 1449

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

AN ACT limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools, with certain exceptions.

Amend RSA 200:27-b, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. This section shall not apply:

(a) To public elementary or secondary school or chartered public school vaccination clinics where such clinics exclusively provide influenza vaccinations.

(b) During a public health emergency declared in accordance with state or federal law.

2026-1426s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the operation of a vaccination clinic at schools during school hours with the exception of clinics which solely administer influenza vaccinations and clinics operating during public health emergencies.

Senate Health and Human Services
 April 9, 2026
 2026-1427s
 05/07

Amendment to HB 1584-FN

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

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements.

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

1 New Paragraph; Notice of Medical and Religious Exemptions. Amend RSA 141-C by inserting after section 20-f the following new section:

141-C:20-g Notice of Medical and Religious Exemptions.

I. Any printed or electronic materials relative to required childhood immunizations in RSA 141-C:20-a produced by the department of health and human services and distributed in connection with school and child care enrollment on or after the effective date of this section shall include the following statement: "Medical and religious exemptions are available under New Hampshire law." The department shall include a website link on an existing webpage detailing the current immunization exemptions under New Hampshire law.

II. The department of health and human services may adopt rules under RSA 541-A to implement this section.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

2026-1427s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of health and human services to include in certain materials relative to childhood immunization requirements a statement indicating that medical and religious exemptions to such requirements are available under state law.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1430s

07/09

Amendment to HB 1685

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study how to aid the growth of assistive technology businesses and speed up the adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

2 Membership and Compensation.

I. The members of the committee shall consist of 3 members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

II. Legislative members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

3 Duties. The committee shall:

I. Study and identify appropriate benchmarks for the increased implementation of assistive technologies for the use of New Hampshire residents in need of the same.

II. Study and identify appropriate measures for attracting assistive technology businesses to New Hampshire.

III. Conduct other activities as deemed necessary by the commission, including the formation of subcommittees and naming any appropriate new members to form the same.

4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

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

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

2026-1430s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2026

2026-1429s

12/04

Amendment to HB 1733

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

AN ACT relative to the reconciliation of default electric service rates.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Restructuring Policy Principles. Amend RSA 374-F:3, V(e) to read as follows:

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of subparagraphs (b) and (c), as competitive markets develop, the commission may approve alternative means of providing transition or default services which are designed to minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the development of competitive markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating new deferred costs, if the commission determines such means to be in the public interest. ***No reconciliation of actual and estimated wholesale power supply costs incurred by a utility to provide default service shall be recovered through a non-bypassable charge, except in extraordinary circumstances as found to exist by the commission through an adjudicative proceeding.***

2026-1429s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits utilities from collecting default electric service cost reconciliations through non-bypassable charges except when the commission, through an adjudicative proceeding, finds extraordinary circumstances.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1431s

07/09

Amendment to HB 1763-FN

Amend subparagraph II(d) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) A representative of the area agency system recommended by the Community Support Network, Incorporated;

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2026

2026-1432s

12/09

Amendment to HB 1766-FN

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-b(a)-(c) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV-b.(a) Any person charged with cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8 paragraphs III or III-a concerning livestock may have his or her livestock confiscated by the arresting officer. No animal shall be confiscated unless a person is charged under this section, except when there is probable cause to believe the livestock's life is in imminent danger. The investigating officer for a case involving livestock as defined in RSA 427:38, III shall be accompanied by the state veterinarian or designee, to include New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food staff, or a licensed veterinarian, or other qualified staff from an animal shelter facility approved by the state veterinarian, in person or by video who shall determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the livestock should be confiscated. Livestock confiscated without a warrant where a charge has not been filed shall be returned within 10 days.

(b) The department of justice shall develop a form to be distributed to any person charged with cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8, paragraphs III or IIIa, concerning livestock. The form shall inform the person of their right to have the confiscated livestock examined by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332B, chosen by the person charged, at the person's expense.

(c) Courts shall give cases in which livestock have been confiscated by an arresting officer priority on the court calendar, as outlined in RSA 644:8, IV(a)(3).

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-c(a) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV-c.(a) Except as provided in RSA 644:8, IV(b), any appropriate law enforcement officer or municipal animal control officer may take into temporary protective custody any livestock when the owner or caretaker is not present and there is probable cause to believe that it has been or is being abused or neglected in violation of paragraphs III or III-a when there is a clear and imminent danger to the livestock's health or life and there is not sufficient time to obtain a court order. Such officer shall leave a written notice indicating the type and number of livestock taken into protective custody, the name of the officer, the time and date taken, the reason it was taken, the procedure to have the livestock returned and any other relevant information. Such notice shall be left at the location where the livestock was taken into custody. The officer shall provide for proper care and housing of any livestock taken into protective custody under this paragraph. For any livestock confiscated without a warrant where a charge has not been filed, the confiscated livestock shall be returned within 10 days. If, after 10 days, the livestock has not been returned or claimed, the officer shall petition the municipal or district court seeking either permanent custody or a one-week extension of custody or shall file charges under this section. If a week's extension is granted by the court and after a period of 14 days the livestock remains unclaimed, the title and custody of the livestock shall rest with the officer on behalf of the officer's department. The department may dispose of the livestock in any lawful and humane manner as if it were the rightful owner. If after 14 days the officer or the officer's department determines that charges should be filed under this section, the officer shall petition the court. An owner of livestock taken into protective custody shall have the right as referenced in subparagraph IV(b).

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-c(d) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) No person, other than the state veterinarian or their designee, or an employee of a government agency with jurisdiction to investigate violations of this section, and which is conducting an investigation under this section, may take part during any investigation into a complaint conducted pursuant to this section. No person who may be called upon to take custody of any livestock seized as a result of a complaint under this section may participate in the decision to seize any livestock. The act of making or forwarding a complaint does not make a person part of an investigation and does not render that person ineligible to take animals into custody.

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-c(f) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(f) No custodian of livestock in temporary protective custody under this section shall spay or neuter or otherwise permanently alter the confiscated livestock in his or her custody pending final disposition of the court case unless a treating veterinarian deems such procedure necessary to save the life of the livestock or the owner of the livestock agrees in writing to the procedure or treatment. If the treating veterinarian believes that livestock which has been confiscated is in a state of suffering and that the cost to alleviate the suffering will exceed the amount of allowable reimbursement as set by Agr 3504.01(c)(8), unless the owner pays for the care or surrenders the animal outright or for care by an animal shelter facility, the animal shall be euthanized.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2026

2026-1428s

12/07

Amendment to HB 1780

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

AN ACT relative to seed laws.

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

1 New Paragraph; Seeds, Plants and Nursery Stock; New Hampshire Seed Law; Definitions. Amend RSA 433:1 by inserting after paragraph XXIII the following new paragraph:

XXIII-a. "Production date" means the calendar month and year that a seed lot's first germination test was completed.

2 New Subparagraph; Seeds, Plants and Nursery Stock; New Hampshire Seed Law; Label Requirements for Agricultural, Vegetable and Flower Seeds. Amend RSA 433:2, III by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) The production date.

3 Seeds, Plants and Nursery Stock; New Hampshire Seed Law; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 433:4, II(g)-(h) to read as follows:

II. Within the state:

(g) To use relabeling stickers without having both the calendar month and year the germination test was completed, the sell by date, as stated in ~~[RSA 433:2, III(g);]~~ RSA 433:2, V(c)[;] and RSA 433:2, VII(a), and the lot number that matches the existing, original lot number. Relabeling shall not occur more than once.

(h) ~~[To alter or falsify any seed label, seed test, laboratory report, record, or other document to create a misleading impression as to kind, kind and variety, history, quality, or origin of seed.]~~ ***To use relabeling stickers without having both the calendar month and year the germination test was completed, the sell by date, as stated in RSA 433:2, III(g), and the lot number that matches the existing, original lot number. Any relabeling sticker shall either:***

(1) Not cover the original production date; or

(2) Carry forward the original production date.

(i) To sell seed more than 36 months after its production date.

(j) To alter or falsify any seed label, seed test, laboratory report, record, or other document to create a misleading impression as to kind, kind and variety, history, quality, or origin of seed.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

2026-1428s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes the use of certain seed relabeling stickers, selling seed more than 36 months after its production date, and altering or falsify certain seed labels or documents illegal.