

April 16, 2026
No. 15A

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

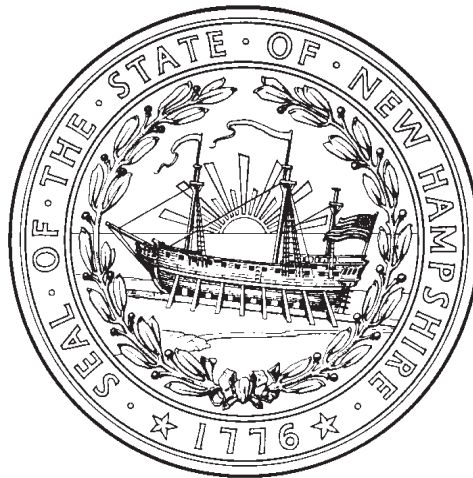
Senate Meeting Schedule Website Address:

<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 23, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Session on Thursday, April 23, 2026, in the Senate Chamber
will be live streamed at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/u-VQqYC9-HI?feature=share>

Please note, this link will not be live until the Senate Session on
Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 1643, relative to the report of a guardian ad litem.

Ought to Pass, Vote 2-1.

Senator Sullivan for the committee.

HB 1643 removes the ability of the court to request a guardian ad litem propose an allocation of decision-making authority, a parenting plan, or a specific parenting schedule. While current law disallows those proposals from being included in reports, courts can request their inclusion. This bill removes their capacity to request those proposals of the guardian ad litem.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

House Bill 1192 clarifies the definition of hazardous waste. In prior legislative sessions, the definition in RSA 318-E was modified in response to the opioid crisis. This bill restores the original language to ensure consistency with related statutes.

JUDICIARY

HB 1003, prohibiting the Grafton county attorney from engaging in the private practice of law.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would prohibit the Grafton County Attorney from practicing law, except for providing legal services to family members where no conflict exists. County Attorney is not only a demanding, full-time job, but requires a high degree of public confidence. Restricting the County Attorney from commercial law practice will avoid conflicts of interest and increase the public trust.

HB 1091, relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

As amended by the House, this bill would have required municipalities to offer non-monetary penalties for those who violate local ordinances against sleeping or camping outdoors. The committee believes this would make it harder to our cities and towns to enforce the law. The committee amendment helps ensure that law enforcement have the tools they need to remove individuals from private property if they do not have written permission from the property owner to be there.

HB 1100-FN, establishing an exception to the prohibition against interception and disclosure of telecommunication or oral communications.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

New Hampshire is a two-party consent state, which means phone calls and other communications cannot be recorded without consent of all parties. This bill sought to add that someone on a call may record if they are informed by the other party that the call is being recorded at the other end. The committee was unsure why this bill was needed given the lack of testimony at the hearing.

HB 1130-FN, relative to judicial performance evaluations.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill updates the Judicial Performance Evaluation (JPE) program to add in court observations, extend the program to other judicial officers such as part-time judges, senior active judges, and judicial referees, and improve transparency to the public. The committee amendment turns the bill into a study committee to further investigate this issue. The committee believes transparency in the judicial branch is important, but the bill as introduced requires more work.

HB 1173, relative to post-secondary education opportunities for inmates.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator Gannon for the committee.

This bill would authorize the release of any inmate in state prison to participate in a post-secondary education program. While we should support rehabilitation and education for those behind bars, these programs are not a “Get Out of Jail” card. The committee believes that the unintended consequences of this policy would outweigh its benefits.

HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would establish a legal and ethical process for people to donate their bodies to law enforcement for training purposes after their death. The safeguards include a strong written consent requirement from the individual prior to death or from next of kin afterwards, clear chain of custody documentation, and requirement for responsible disposition of remains. HB 1348 represents years of collaboration among stakeholders and would provide a safe and dignified means for people to assist the law enforcement community even after they die.

HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Abbas for the committee.

This bill clarifies that the Commissioner of the Department of Safety may designate someone to review the federal criminal history record information used to vet employees. This stems from a recommendation in a recent FBI audit and would align the law with long-standing practice and comply with federal standards. It would ensure that this sensitive information is only given to those authorized to receive criminal conviction information. The committee amendment simply removed “by federal authorities” from the bill to avoid confusion or conflicts with federal law.

HB 1438, enabling mental health caseworkers to report instances of animal abuse by their clients.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would have enabled mental health caseworkers to report instances of animal abuse by their clients. The committee believes, while well intentioned, this bill would create a two tiered system of reporting in the mental health field that would create confusion for mental health care providers. There was also concern this could create a chilling effect, where a patient would be less likely to be truthful with their mental health counselor if they knew their confidentiality could be breached, which could harm their progress in their mental health treatment.

HB 1576-FN, relative to the enforcement of criminal restitution obligations.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill would strengthen the process by which crime victims receive restitution, but would not increase the amounts paid. Establishing an annual financial review of offenders would improve enforcement efforts by determining when an offender has the ability to pay the court-ordered restitution amount. The reforms would also improve communication and transparency for crime victims.

HB 1633-FN, expanding the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights.

Interim Study, Vote 4-0.

Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This legislation is an attempt to strengthen New Hampshire's victims rights laws, particularly for victims of sexual assault. The current statute provides that sexual assault survivors may not be denied a medical examination, to have the results of forensic testing preserved, and to be given the results of any such tests. The bill would specify that a victim could request any individual element of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, even outside the timeframe when such evidence could be useful, and even when it is against best practice to do so. The Department of Justice and victims' rights advocates believe this provision would create a false expectation for survivors and complicate prosecution of suspected offenders. Additionally, the bill would inadvertently remove those unable to assert that they have been assaulted from the definition of "sexual assault survivor", including young children and non-verbal individuals. The bill would also create rights to collect evidence of crimes committed outside of New Hampshire, raising serious jurisdictional questions. While intended to help victims of sexual assault, this bill would unintentionally be more likely to harm those victims, not help them.

REGULAR CALENDAR REPORTS

JUDICIARY

HB 1457-FN, relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.
Senator Gannon for the committee.

AMENDMENTS

Senate Judiciary
April 17, 2026
2026-1544s
09/07

Amendment to HB 1091

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

AN ACT relative to unauthorized camping on private property.

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

1 Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

I. Unauthorized camping on public and private property in densely populated municipalities presents significant challenges to public health, sanitation, and safety, and interferes with the rights of property owners.

II. Municipalities have an interest in ensuring that land is not used for habitation without appropriate consent, oversight, and provision for waste disposal and emergency access.

III. While current law prohibits camping on public rights-of-way and public property without permission, there is no parallel prohibition governing unauthorized camping on private land in larger municipalities, which has resulted in conflicts between landowners, municipalities, and law enforcement.

IV. It is therefore the purpose of this act to extend existing protections against unauthorized camping to private property in municipalities of more than 10,000 residents, to clarify the role of law enforcement in such matters, and to preserve both public order and private property rights.

2 Private Property Camping Restriction. Amend RSA 236:58 and the subdivision heading preceding RSA 236:58 to read as follows:

Camping Along Highways and on Public *and Private* Property

236:58 Camping Restricted.

I. No person shall pitch a tent or place or erect any other camping device or sleep on the ground within the public right-of-way or on public property unless permission is received from the governing board of the governmental authority having jurisdiction over such public right-of-way or property.

II.(a) In any municipality with a population greater than 10,000 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, no person shall camp, erect a tent, place or erect any other camping device, or sleep on the ground upon private property unless:

(1) The person has written permission from the owner of the property; or

(2) The property owner is continuously present on the premises at the time of such camping and consents to the activity.

(b) This paragraph shall not apply to campsites or recreational campgrounds or camping parks regulated pursuant to RSA 216-I.

III. In enforcement of paragraph II of this section, law enforcement officials shall not be required to obtain or rely upon a written no trespass order from the property owner if the person cannot satisfy either subparagraph II(a)(1) or (2).

3 Additional Penalty for Camping on Private Property. Amend RSA 236:59 to read as follows:

236:59 Penalty. Any person who violates RSA 236:58 shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person; and, in addition, shall be liable for the cost of restoration for any damage caused to a highway easement or right-of-way ***or to private land disturbed by such unlawful camping.***

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

2026-1544s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits camping without permission on another's private property and adds penalties for such violations.

Senate Judiciary

April 17, 2026

2026-1546s

09/07

Amendment to HB 1130-FN

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.

2 Membership and Compensation.

I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

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

3 Duties. The committee's study shall include, but not be limited to:

I. Reviewing what other states do for judicial performance evaluations.

II. Obtaining input from judges in the New Hampshire court system on the current evaluation system.

III. Evaluating the benefits versus potential consequences of the changes proposed in 2026, HB 1130 as it passed the house of representatives, and what effect the bill as it passed the house of representatives would have on accountability and transparency.

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.

2026-1546s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.

Senate Judiciary

April 17, 2026

2026-1547s

09/07

Amendment to HB 1363

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Division of Safety; Employee Candidate Background Checks. Amend RSA 21-P:15-c, III to read as follows:

III. To obtain a state records check only, the department shall submit a state criminal history records release form to the division of state police. To obtain both the federal and the state records check, the department shall submit the criminal history records release form and applicant fingerprint card to the division of state police, which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the background investigation, the division of state police shall report any criminal conviction information to the commissioner ***or to anyone designated by the commissioner within the department of safety who is authorized to receive criminal conviction information.*** The department may submit fingerprint information electronically, in accordance with procedures established by the division of state police. The department shall maintain the confidentiality and security of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this paragraph.