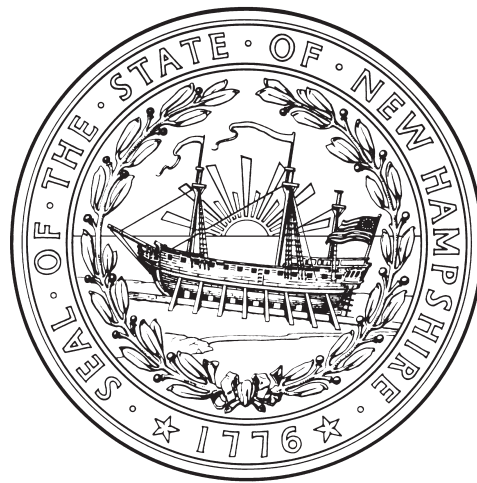


December 4, 2024
No. 1

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Web Site Address: www.gencourt.state.nh.us



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

Legislative Proceedings

SENATE JOURNAL

ORGANIZATION DAY – DECEMBER 4, 2024 SESSION

SENATE JOURNAL 1

December 4, 2024

ORGANIZATION DAY

The Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Clerk of the Senate, called the Senate to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Reverend Mark Warren, chaplain to the Senate, offered the following prayer:

First of all, I just want to say congratulations Senators. I see new faces and old friends. I've had the privilege of serving as a chaplain for the last four years, one of your chaplains, and I just want to let you know before the session starts, I make myself available to you. Just reach out to the clerk's office if you ever need anything. I'm here to serve you guys. But let's pray. Lord, we gather today with gratitude for the senators who have answered the call to serve the people of New Hampshire. Thank you for their dedication, their willingness to lead, and their commitment to the well-being of our state. As they begin this new session, we ask for your wisdom and guidance in their decisions, your strength to sustain them, your peace to steady their hearts. May they approach their work with humility, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility for those that they represent. Lord, we hold to the promise of your word that if anybody lacks wisdom, let them ask you who generously gives it to them without reproach, and it will be given to them. We ask for this wisdom today that it may shape their decisions and their discussions. Bless their efforts, protect their families, and remind them daily of the privilege and honor of serving others. May their work help our state flourish and bring glory to your name. Amen.

Senator Rochefort led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Clerk of the Senate, called the Roll of the Senate for attendance. There were 24 members present.

Recess. Out of recess.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR SENATORS

At this time, on the first Wednesday in December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, being the day prescribed by the Constitution for the Legislature of New Hampshire to assemble and the Honorable Christopher T. Sununu, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, accompanied by the Honorable Executive Council, will come into the Senate Chamber, and will now subscribe the oaths of office, and witness the signing of the oath by each individual Senator, and verify that these are duly qualified as Senators agreeably to the provision of the Constitution.

Recess. Out of recess.

The Clerk recognized the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the Honorable Executive Council.

The Clerk recognized the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the Honorable Governor Christopher T. Sununu.

The Clerk recognized the Honorable Governor Christopher T. Sununu.

GOVERNOR CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU: Hey, well good morning. Great to see everybody here. Congratulations. Great to see a lot of the families here that have joined us. A special thanks to the families that endured all the very painful, sometimes painful campaigns that their spouses and loved ones had to go through. And congratulations, obviously, to all the incoming, the existing Senators, the incoming Senators, the new team. I don't know. I think you've had four great sessions. I don't know how you're going to top the last four. But something tells me, even without me at the helm, you guys will be able to get through it. I think you guys are going to be in great hands. State's in great shape. A lot of great work to do. So again, thank you for the service. It really is. We emphasize this in New Hampshire more than any other state in the country. It really is a love of service. Last time I checked, you're not doing it for the money. You're not doing it for the paycheck, just a love of community. And that in itself creates such a wonderful checks and balance in a community driven process unlike anywhere else really that you find in the world. It's really awesome. Okay. With that, would you all please raise your right hand? I'll raise mine too. Preparing for the high fives after. So just please repeat after me.

I, state your name, of your town, do solemnly swear, that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire, and will support the constitution thereof. So help me God.

I, state your name, do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent on me as State Senator according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution and laws of the state of New Hampshire. So help me God.

Please note that Senator Altschiller elected to take the following oath:

I, state your name, of your town, do solemnly affirm that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire, and will support the constitutions thereof. This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury.

I, state your name, do solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as State Senator according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution and laws of the state of New Hampshire. This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury.

GOVERNOR CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU: Congratulations. So I would just remind you to make sure you sign your oaths at this time and counselors, you can go say congratulations. Thank you.

WHEREUPON, the Governor and Council witnessed the signing of the oath by each of the following individual Senators, verifying that these are duly qualified as Senators pursuant to the provisions of the New Hampshire Constitution:

District No. 1	David Rochefort
District No. 2	Timothy P. Lang
District No. 3	Mark McConkey
District No. 4	David H. Watters
District No. 5	Suzanne M. Prentiss
District No. 6	James P. Gray
District No. 7	Daniel E. Innis
District No. 8	Ruth Ward
District No. 9	Denise Ricciardi
District No. 10	Donovan Fenton
District No. 11	Timothy McGough
District No. 12	Kevin A. Avard
District No. 13	Cindy Rosenwald
District No. 14	Sharon M. Carson
District No. 15	Tara Reardon
District No. 16	Keith R. Murphy
District No. 17	Howard Pearl
District No. 18	Victoria Sullivan
District No. 19	Regina Birdsell
District No. 20	Patrick Long
District No. 21	Rebecca Perkins Kwoka
District No. 22	Daryl Abbas
District No. 23	William M. Gannon
District No. 24	Debra Altschiller

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

The Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Clerk of the Senate, stated that nominations for President of the Senate are in order.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell for a nomination.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: Thank you, Madam Clerk and well a warm welcome to everyone. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. I proudly stand here today to nominate my friend and colleague Sharon Carson as Senate President. I've known Sharon for about fourteen years now and to me she epitomizes what I believe to be the characteristics of a great Senate President. It's honesty integrity and leadership. You don't have to wonder what's on her mind. She will most certainly be honest with you and let you know. She also always knows what to do in tough situations and has always been able to work in a bipartisan manner. I'm personally impressed with her leadership capabilities because she knows them, she shows them to us every day whether it's teaching her students or working with the executive departments or even working with us as Senators and our staff. Senator Carson's commitment to her family is truly inspiring as a devoted wife, mother, teacher and Senator, she balances multiple roles with remarkable dedication passion love and grace. And finally as a fellow female veteran, I know it's not always an easy road serving in the military. But I know her tenacity and hard work got her through it and paved her way to be a great Senate President. So I ask that we cast one vote as a body for Sharon Carson for New Hampshire the Senate President. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas for a second.)

SENATOR ABBAS: Thank you. I second the nomination of Senator Sharon Carson, my friend from District 14. I just want to say I got to know Senator Carson when I was a member of the House sitting on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and I was always impressed with her leadership skills. In the military she was an effective leader. As a teacher and a professor she's an effective leader and as a public service it's no surprise that transitioned to an effective leader as a Senator. I can say firsthand myself whether I was a member of the House or even in my first term serving the State Senate I was a beneficiary of those leadership skills where sitting on, serving on the committee with her whether it was a private phone call, whether we're in caucus, whatever it may be, constantly leading by example and I think that's critical for any Senate President to have this lead by example and I think when it comes to Senator Carson there's no one that would do a better job at that position than her. So I'm honored to second her nomination for Senate President. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka for a second.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Thank you, Madam Clerk. I rise to also second the nomination of Senator Carson as President. In a time of deeply divided politics, it is up to each of us to remember that good, resilient government, government that empowers each of our Granite Staters in their own lives, is bipartisan. That getting the people's work done should be guided first by solutions that work, and that the fabled reaching across the aisle is no more than getting to know each other as people, as citizens, and as neighbors. The campaign is behind us now, and now begins the season of governing. Because in the end, we and our voters agree on more than we disagree about. In such a spirit, I second the nomination of Senator Carson for President of the Senate. I hope there will be things we can work together on this session. Such as, we all know our residents need housing, we know our businesses need work force, and we know our families need childcare. I hope that we can work together to be laser focused on these solutions that work together. I hope you will all join me in casting one vote for Senator Carson for President.

Hearing no further nominations, the Clerk declared nominations to be closed.

Adopted. Senator Sharon M. Carson was elected President of the Senate.

The Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Clerk of the Senate, requested Senator Birdsell to escort Senator Sharon M. Carson, President of the Senate, to the rostrum.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE SENATE

PRESIDENT CARSON: Thank you. Please everyone be seated. I'd also like to say good morning and welcome my esteemed colleagues, friends, and all of the guests that are here with us today. I stand before you today overwhelmed with gratitude and humility as I accept this incredible honor. To each of you who have placed your trust in me to lead this distinguished chamber as a nominee of both the Republican and the Democratic caucus, I'm deeply grateful. Your confidence humbles me, and I'm inspired by the responsibility we share to serve the people of our great state. Leadership, as we all know, is not about titles or accolades. It's about making decisions guided by courage and conviction, especially in times of challenge. It's about standing firm for what we believe is right, even when it is not easy. Every time we gather in this chamber, we carry this responsibility together. And today, I reaffirm my commitment to lead with those principles, ensuring that our collective focus remains on the people that we were elected to serve. We could not do this without the unwavering support of our families and our friends, many who are here with us today. Let's take a moment to show our appreciation for them. And I will just give them a hand. Thank you. On a more personal note, I'd like to thank a few people who have been instrumental in my journey.

First, my husband, Greg, who's here today. Your love and support and confidence have been my foundation. Who would have thought an accidental meeting of two army privates forty-six years ago at Fort Sam Houston would lead us to where we are today? To my good friend, Deb Chroniak, who worked with me for eleven years and helped really to shape me and shape my understanding of the legislative process and taught me invaluable lessons, including bringing order to chaos in the legislative process. I also want to recognize two incredible leaders and mentors, former Senate President Chuck Morse and former Senate President Jeb Bradley, who is with us here today. Both included me on their leadership teams and taught me the art of being an effective legislator and leader. I also want to acknowledge my friend, the Honorable Mary Ellen McKay, who was unable to be with us today because she had a family emergency. Mary Ellen, your friendship and wavering support means the world to me. And I especially want to honor our departed friend, Senator Bob Clegg. Bob encouraged me to run for the Senate and taught me nearly everything I know about navigating the rocky road of politics while keeping one's values intact. Bob was my mentor and a true friend, always reminding me to rise above petty politics. He is deeply missed, but his legacy lives on in his legislative record, and in all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. As we embark on this new chapter, I am energized by the work ahead. Together, we have an opportunity to build on the traditions of civility and collaboration that makes this chamber truly unique. Our shared mission is clear, to preserve and expand the New Hampshire advantage, ensuring that our state remains a place where families thrive, businesses grow, and communities flourish. By honoring our traditions and fostering collaboration within both chambers of the New Hampshire Legislature and with our friends and colleagues across the aisle, we will meet the needs of those who elected all of us, leaving New Hampshire stronger for future generations. Once again, thank you for this incredible honor. I am deeply humbled to serve as your Senate President, and I look forward to the important work we will accomplish together. Thank you.

ELECTION OF THE CLERK OF THE SENATE

President Carson stated that nominations for Clerk of the Senate are in order.

(The Chair recognized Senator Reardon.)

SENATOR REARDON: Thank you. I'm honored to nominate my constituent and friend, Tammy Wright, for the position of Clerk of the State Senate. I'd also like to recognize Jennifer and Clark Heintz, friends of Tammy's, for over fifty years who could be here today to celebrate her. Tammy's a person of exceptional character with a stellar reputation, deep institutional knowledge, and utmost professionalism. Her extraordinary work ethic and comprehensive understanding of the rules have been invaluable to the Senate and her guidance will undoubtedly continue to serve the body well. I've known Tammy since junior high. We've raised our children side by side in Concord. She's principled and has really strong values. And I'm proud to call her a friend. She has earned the trust and respect of Senators on both sides of the aisle, through years of unwavering integrity, fairness, and dedication to the institution. Tammy Wright is truly exceptional. We are fortunate to have her and her steadfast commitment to this body. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting her for this important role and cast your vote for Tammy Wright as Clerk of the Senate.

(The Chair recognized Senator Avard.)

SENATOR AVARD: Thank you, Madam President, and I do second, and having been the chair of Rules for five terms, or this will be the fifth term. I've worked closely with Tammy, and I echo the statements of the professionalism and the institutional knowledge that she has, and the non-partisanship that she brings to the table. We have a lot of new blood every few years and I think we have some new talent in the clerk's office, and they'll be under the tutelage of Tammy, and we really appreciate everything that she's done. She dots every I, every word, and she does a remarkable job when the rubber hits the road and we get all stressed out up here. So with that, I just want to encourage all my colleagues to vote yes on this nomination. Thank you, Madam President.

Hearing no further nominations, President Carson declared nominations to be closed.

Adopted. The Honorable Tammy L. Wright was elected Clerk of the Senate.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR SENATE OFFICER

PRESIDENT CARSON: Raise your right hand and where appropriate state your name and repeat after me.

I, state your name, do solemnly swear, that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire and will support the constitution thereof. So help me God.

I, state your name, do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Senate Clerk according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution and laws of the state of New Hampshire. So help me God.

PRESIDENT CARSON: Congratulations.

RESOLUTION NO. 1
RULES ADOPTION

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the 2023-2024 Session be adopted as the Rules of the 2025-2026 Session, with the changes which have been provided here today.

SENATOR BIRDELL: The amendment on your desks includes, number one, Senate rule 2-33, remote participation in Senate session, amended the date to be 2026. Number two, Senate rule 4-7, standing committees added the Committee on Children and Family Law, and three, deadlines.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE RULES

Amend Senate Rule 2-33 by replacing with the following:

2-33 Remote Participation in Senate Session - Upon the vote of two-thirds of members present and voting, a member may participate in a Senate session from a remote location by electronic or other means that ensures that the member participating remotely is able to simultaneously see and hear each of the other members of the Senate speak during the session. The member participating remotely shall identify his or her location and identify all persons present in the location from which the member is participating. The member's participation shall be audible to the public watching the Senate's livestream. No roll call shall be required unless moved and seconded pursuant to Rule 2-25. A quorum of the Senate shall be present in the chamber at all times. This rule shall expire at the end of the 2026 legislative session.

Amend Senate Rule 4-7 by replacing with the following:

4-7 Standing Committees - The standing committees of the Senate shall be as follows: the Committee on Capital Budget, the Committee on Children and Family Law, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Education, the Committee on Election Law and Municipal Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Executive Departments and Administration, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Health and Human Services, the Committee on Judiciary, the Committee on Rules and Enrolled Bills, the Committee on Transportation, and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Amend Senate Rule 7-1 by replacing with the following:

7-1 Deadlines. After conferring with the Minority Leader, the deadlines may be reasonably amended at the discretion of the Senate President, to be timely noticed on the General Court website.

- (a) Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – Deadline for the Office of Legislative Services to accept drafting of a Senate Bill, Senate Concurrent Resolution, or Senate Joint Resolution with complete information for the 2025 Session.
- (b) Wednesday, January 08, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. – Deadline for prime sponsors to sign off on legislation.
- (c) Friday January 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. – Deadline for co-sponsors to sign off on legislation.
- (d) Monday, February 24, 2025 – Friday, February 28, 2025: SENATE BREAK.
- (e) Thursday, March 06, 2025 – Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all Senate bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
- (f) Thursday, March 27, 2025 – CROSSOVER – Deadline to ACT on all Senate bills.
- (g) Thursday, May 15, 2025 – Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
- (h) Thursday, June 05, 2025 – Deadline to ACT on all House bills.
- (i) Thursday, June 12, 2025 – Deadline to FORM Committees of Conference.
- (j) Thursday, June 19, 2025 – Deadline to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports.
- (k) Thursday, June 26, 2025 – Deadline to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.

Adopted.

AMENDMENT TO ETHICS GUIDELINES

Senator Birdsell moved adoption of the proposed amendment to Ethics Guidelines provided in the Senate Calendar.

Proposed Amendments to the Ethics Guidelines

{Incorporating changes enacted by 2024, 340 (recusal), 2021, 37 (biennial financial disclosure filing) and 2021, 91 (repeal of interest & dividends tax)}

ETHICS GUIDELINES**1 PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE.****I. Public Office as a Public Trust**

Legislators shall treat their office as a public trust, only using the powers and resources of public office to advance public interests, and not to attain personal benefits or pursue any other private interest incompatible with the public good.

II. Principle of Independent Objective Judgment

Legislators shall employ independent objective judgment in performing their duties, deciding all matters on the merits free from conflicts of interest and both real and apparent improper influences.

III. Principle of Accountability

Legislators shall ensure that government is conducted openly, equitably and honorably in a manner that permits the citizenry to make informed judgments, have confidence in the integrity of the legislature, and hold government officials accountable.

IV. Principle of Conduct

Legislators shall treat each other, legislative employees, and the public with dignity and respect.

2 DEFINITIONS.**I. “Anything of Value” includes but is not limited to the following:**

- (a) A pecuniary item, including money, or a bank bill or note;
- (b) A promissory note, bill of exchange, order, draft, warrant, check, or bond given for the payment of money;
- (c) A contract, agreement, promise, or other obligation for an advance, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money;
- (d) A stock, bond, note, or other investment interest in an entity;
- (e) A receipt given for the payment of money or other property;
- (f) A cause of action;
- (g) A gift, tangible good, chattel, or an interest in a gift, tangible good, or chattel;
- (h) A loan or forgiveness of indebtedness;
- (i) A work of art, antique, or collectible;
- (j) An automobile or other means of personal transportation;
- (k) Real property or an interest in real property, including title to realty, a fee simple or partial interest, present or future, contingent or vested within realty, a leasehold interest, or other beneficial interest in realty;
- (l) A promise of employment or continued employment; and
- (m) A rebate or discount in the price of anything of value unless the rebate or discount is made in the ordinary course of business to a member of the public without regard to that person’s status as a public official or public employee, or the sale or trade of something for reasonable compensation that would ordinarily not be available to a member of the public.

II. “Conflict of Interest” is the condition in which a legislator has a special interest in any matter which could directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of the legislator’s official activities.**III. “Expense Reimbursement” shall mean any price, charge, fee, expense, or other cost which is waived, forgiven, reduced, prepaid, or reimbursed in any form for the reasonable expenses of attendance,**

registration, travel, meals, or lodging related to a bona fide conference, meeting, seminar, or educational, cultural, or informational program. "Expense reimbursement" shall not include any expense reimbursement made by the general court to a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee.

IV. "Gift" shall mean:

- (a) Money in any amount, whether in the form of cash, check, or any other negotiable or non-negotiable instrumentality for the transfer of money.
- (b) Any other tangible thing, intangible thing, service, or the use thereof having an individual value of greater than \$50. For purposes of this section, "service" shall not include acceptance of legal services on an individual basis when the legislator enters into an attorney-client relationship with the attorney for the purposes of addressing a complaint or petition if the attorney is not a registered lobbyist.
- (c) Multiple tangible things, intangible things, services, or the use thereof having an individual value \$50 or less with an aggregate value greater than \$250 from any single source during any calendar year.

V. "Honorarium" means a payment in any form to a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee for an appearance, speech, written article or other document, service as a consultant or advisor, or participation in a discussion group or similar activities. Honorarium does not include a payment for such activities for which the person is being compensated by the state, a county, the United States of America, or any other employer or client, where the activity giving rise to the honorarium is not related to or associated with any public office or government employment.

VI. "Household Member" shall mean any person living in the same domicile as a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee who shares a common economic interest in the expenses of daily living, including, but not limited to, a spouse, child, or parent.

VII. "Immediate Family" includes a spouse, guardian, parent, sibling, child, or dependent.

VIII. "Legislation" is a bill, resolution, or constitutional amendment.

IX. "Legislative Employee" includes all house, senate, and joint staff whether employed on a part-time, full-time, permanent, or temporary basis.

X. "Legislative Officer" includes those employees of the House and Senate who are elected by members of the General Court.

XI. "Official Activities" are activities which relate to official responsibilities including the introduction of legislation, testifying before any legislative committee or state agency, voting in committee or in house or senate session or otherwise participating in, influencing, or attempting to influence any decision of the legislature, county delegation or any state agency.

XII. "Official Business" means, for legislators, legislative officers, and legislative employees, the discussion or transaction of legislative business, namely, any official action or non-action with regard to any potential pending or existing bill, resolution, amendment, report, or study, any other matter pending or proposed in a committee or in either house of the general court, or an issue of public policy which is or may be the subject of legislative attention, or any other matter which is within the official jurisdiction or cognizance of the general court.

XII-a. "Organization" shall be construed broadly to mean any business, corporation, whether for profit, non-profit, not-for-profit, social welfare organization, or natural person. "Organization" shall not include the United States of America, the state of New Hampshire, a county within the state of New Hampshire, or any political subdivision within the state of New Hampshire.

XIII. "Special Interest" means any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large.

- (a) A financial interest exists where a legislator or household member, **or a person or organization, whether nonprofit or for profit, by which the legislator is employed, or from which the legislator receives compensation, to act as the person's or organization's agent or advocate**, could stand to gain or lose anything of material value as a result of the official activity.
- (b) A non-financial personal interest exists where a legislator or household member has a responsibility for the welfare of an organization, **whether nonprofit or for profit**, by virtue of holding a position with a fiduciary responsibility, such as a board member, trustee, or director.

- (c) *A legislator's or household member's ownership of securities of a publicly traded corporation shall not be construed to constitute a "special interest" in matters that may affect the corporation unless the legislator or household member serves as an officer, board member, trustee or director of the corporation or owns more than one percent of the outstanding securities of the corporation.*

XIV. "Verbal Advocacy" means an attempt by a legislator to influence his or her colleagues on a matter that is the subject of official activity in a meeting of the general court or county delegation through public verbal communication. "Verbal advocacy" does not include casting a vote in executive session of a committee or in a full session of the House or Senate.

3 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

- I. The activities listed in this section are prohibited. Filing a declaration in compliance with section 6 of these Guidelines does not excuse or absolve legislators from compliance with the provisions of this section or the provisions of RSA 14-C:3 prohibiting certain activities.
- II. Legislators shall not solicit, accept, or agree to accept anything of value from another for themselves or other persons, if the legislator receives such thing of value:
 - (a) Knowing or believing the other's purpose to be the influencing of an action, decision, opinion, recommendation, or other official activity.
 - (b) Knowing or believing that the giver is or is likely to become subject to or interested in any matter or action pending before or contemplated by the legislator or the General Court.
 - (c) In return for advice or other assistance relating to a legislator's official activities.
 - (d) In return for introducing legislation, testifying before any legislative committee or state agency, voting in committee or in House or Senate session, or otherwise participating in, influencing, or attempting to influence any decision of the legislature, county delegation, or any state agency.
 - (e) In return for an endorsement, nomination, appointment, approval or disapproval of any person for a position as, or advancement of, a public servant.
 - (f) In return for having given a decision, opinion, recommendation, nomination, vote, or other official activity.
 - (g) In violation of RSA 14-C.
- III. Legislators shall not:
 - (a) Reveal information which the legislator has obtained confidentially in the course of his or her official activities.
 - (b) Reveal information about state agency operations or decisions which the legislator would not reveal to any member of the general public requesting such information.
 - (c) Threaten reprisals or promise inducements of any kind to influence another so as to obtain special personal benefits for the legislator, the legislator's immediate family or household member, or for certain constituents which would not be available to others under similar conditions.
 - (d) Conduct private negotiations with any governmental agency in an attempt to obtain a decision on a pending matter which would result in special personal benefit to the legislator, to the legislator's immediate family or household member, or to certain constituents which would not be available to others under similar conditions.
 - (e) Use their public position or office to obtain anything of value for the private benefit of the legislator, a member of the legislator's immediate family, or a household member.
 - (f) Use state-provided services or facilities for private gain.
 - (g) Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment as defined in RSA 14-B:1, IV.
 - (h) Violate any policy or rule adopted by the House or Senate relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as members of the legislature. "Rule" means any rule adopted pursuant to RSA 14-B and shall not include any rule of proceeding adopted by the house of representatives or the senate.

4 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES; PERMITTED GIFTS.

- I. Nothing in section 3, Prohibited Activities, shall be construed to prohibit the following:
 - (a) Giving or receiving campaign contributions made for the purpose of defraying the costs of a political campaign in compliance with RSA 664 or the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

- (b) Assistance to constituents in their dealings with state agencies.
- (c) Advocacy of a particular outcome on matters pending before a state agency when the legislator believes such a decision would benefit the general public or the legislator's constituents generally.
- (d) Submission by a legislator of recommendations or references on behalf of a candidate for state employment when the legislator believes the candidate is qualified and suitable for such employment.
- (e) Acceptance of expense reimbursement for the reasonable expenses for attendance, registration, travel, meals, and lodging related to a bona fide conference, meeting, seminar, or educational, cultural, or informational program related to the legislator's office so long as disclosure of any such reimbursement is made no later than the last day of the month following the month during which the expense reimbursement was received. This disclosure shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in the form prescribed in RSA 14-C. This provision shall not be construed to require reporting of an expense reimbursement made by the general court to a legislator.
- (f) Acceptance of an honorarium so long as disclosure is made no later than the last day of the month following the month during which the honorarium was received. This disclosure shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in the form prescribed in RSA 14-C.
- (g) Acceptance of meals or beverages with a value of greater than \$50 consumed at a meeting or event, the purpose of which is to discuss official business so long as disclosure is made no later than 10 days following the meeting or event at which the meals or beverages were consumed. Meals or beverages accepted under this subparagraph shall be limited to \$250 in the aggregate from any single source during any calendar year. Disclosure shall be filed in a report in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in the form prescribed in RSA 14-C.
- (h) Acceptance of anything permitted to be accepted pursuant to RSA 14-C.

II. The following shall not be considered gifts for the purposes of these Guidelines:

- (a) A political contribution as defined in RSA 664.
- (b) A commercially reasonable loan made in the ordinary course of business.
- (c) Repayment to an elected official, public official, public employee, constitutional official, or legislative employee of a bona fide loan made by such a person.
- (d) A ceremonial plaque, award, or other commemorative object, which is personally inscribed to the recipient, and which has a value of \$150 or less.
- (e) Objects which primarily serve an informational purpose provided in the ordinary course of business, such as reports, books, maps, or charts.
- (f) Money in any form, an object, or any tangible or intangible thing of economic value, where the donor's act of giving is purely private and personal in nature and the money, object, or thing of economic value would have been given and received even if the person were not an elected official, public official, public employee, constitutional official, or legislative employee.
- (g) Wages, salary, benefits, mileage, or payment for expenses received by the person in his or her regular course of employment or business which is unrelated to the government position held.
- (h) Wages, salary, benefits, mileage, or payment for expenses paid to the person by the state, a political subdivision of the state, or the United States of America related to performance of official duties.
- (i) Tickets or free admission from any source to a political, charitable, or ceremonial event provided that acceptance of any tickets or free admission as permitted by this subparagraph shall be limited to \$250 in the aggregate from any single source during any calendar year and:
 - (1) The proceeds of the event are subject to the political contributions and expenditure reporting law, RSA 664, or the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 as amended, provided that the recipient reports the source of the tickets or free admission pursuant to RSA 14-C:4; or
 - (2) The event is sponsored by a charitable organization that is registered with the division of charitable trusts, department of justice, or which is a charitable organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code, provided that the recipient reports the source of the tickets or free admission pursuant to RSA 14-C:4; or
 - (3) The event is primarily ceremonial or celebratory in nature and is public or, if by invitation only, is planned to have an attendance greater than 50 people, provided that the recipient reports the source of the tickets or free admission pursuant to RSA 14-C:4; or

- (4) The event is published as an event open for attendance by any member or employee of the general court in the calendar of the senate or the house.
- (j) An expense reimbursement, including any expense reimbursement made by the general court to a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee.
- (k) An honorarium.
- (l) Meals and beverages having a value of more than \$50 consumed at a meeting or event, the purpose of which is to discuss official business, provided that acceptance of such meals and beverages as permitted by this subparagraph shall be reported pursuant to RSA 14-C:4 and limited to \$250 in the aggregate from any single source during any calendar year.

5 DISCLOSURE FORMS.

I. LEGISLATOR'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM.

Every representative, senator, and officer of the House and Senate shall file with the Legislative Ethics Committee a financial interest disclosure form pursuant to RSA 14-B:8 [~~annually~~] no later than the third Friday in January *in the first legislative session of the biennium*. If the legislator's or officer's financial circumstances change, he or she shall file a new financial interest disclosure form prior to participation in any official activity which would have been affected by the change.

The form shall read substantially as follows:

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM FOR STATE SENATORS, STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL COURT

As prescribed by RSA 14-B:8

Name of Legislator/Officer _____
(CIRCLE ONE) (PRINT NAME)

Address _____
(STREET) (TOWN/CITY) (ZIP CODE)

Office held _____ County/District _____

Telephone Number _____

I. Sources of Income

Identify below the name, address, and type of any business, profession, or other organization (including any unit of government) in which you or a household member served as an employee, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or proprietor, or in any other professional or advisory capacity, from which you or a household member derived any income in excess of \$10,000 during the preceding calendar year. Sources of retirement benefits from any business, professional, or other organization must be included. Social Security, federal retirement and/or federal disability benefits do not need to be included.

For purposes of this form a "household member" means any person living in the same domicile as you and who shares a common economic interest in the expenses of daily living, including, but not limited to, a spouse, child, or parent.

- 1) a) Name of business, profession, or other organization _____
b) Address of organization _____
c) Type of organization _____
- 2) a) Name of business, profession, or other organization _____
b) Address of organization _____
c) Type of organization _____
- 3) a) Name of business, profession, or other organization _____
b) Address of organization _____
c) Type of organization _____

(attach additional sheets if necessary)

If you or a household member had no qualifying income, indicate by INSERTING YOUR INITIALS after the following statement.

My or my household member's income does not qualify _____

II. Disclosure of Financial Interests

Identify and describe below any financial interest you or a household member may have. ***For the purposes of this form***, you have a "financial interest" in a business, profession, occupation, group, or matter listed in this section if a change in law, administrative rule, or other official action by the General Court affecting the listed business, profession, occupation, group, or matter would potentially have a financial effect on you or a household member that is distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large.

Please note: If your participation in an official activity creates a conflict of interest **not disclosed** by the information on this form, **you must complete and file** a Declaration of Intent Form in accordance with section 6 of the Ethics Guidelines. Also, if such activity could reasonably have a greater benefit or detriment to you or a household member than other members of a group identified in this form, a Declaration of Intent Form is required. See section 6 of the Ethics Guidelines for information regarding particular conflicts of interest you may have.

Do you or a household member have a financial interest, as defined above, in any of the following businesses, professions, occupations, groups, or matters? Check any of the following which apply and describe the nature of your or your household member's financial interest:

(a) Any profession, occupation, or business licensed or certified by the State of New Hampshire. List each such profession, occupation, or category of business:

(b) Health Care

Describe: _____

(c) Insurance

Describe: _____

(d) Real estate, including brokers, agents, developers, and landlords

Describe: _____

(e) Banking or financial services

Describe: _____

(f) State of New Hampshire, county or municipal employment

Describe: _____

(g) New Hampshire Retirement System

Describe: _____

(h) Current use land assessment program

Describe: _____

(i) Restaurants and lodging

Describe: _____

(j) Sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages

Describe: _____

(k) Practice of law

Describe: _____

(l) Any business regulated by the Public Utilities Commission

Describe: _____

(m) Legal forms of gambling or charitable gaming

Describe: _____

(n) Education

Describe: _____

(o) Water resources

Describe: _____

(p) Agriculture

Describe: _____

(q) New Hampshire taxes: Business Profits Tax, Business Enterprise Tax[, Interest and Dividends Tax]

(r) Other

Describe: _____

I hereby swear or affirm that the foregoing information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Notice to electronic filers: Typing your first and last name states your intent to sign this form electronically, in accordance with RSA 294-E:2, VIII.

SIGNATURE OR TYPED FIRST AND LAST NAME OF LEGISLATOR/OFFICER DATE

RSA 14-B:10 Penalty. Any representative, senator, or officer of the House of Representatives or Senate who knowingly fails to file the form required under RSA 14-B:8 or who knowingly files a false statement on such form shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (This penalty applies whether the form is signed personally or electronically.)

Complete and return to the Legislative Ethics Committee, State House Room 112, no later than the third Friday in January.

II. LEGISLATOR'S NON-FINANCIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS DISCLOSURE FORM.

A legislator who has a non-financial personal interest may file with the Legislative Ethics Committee a general disclosure of non-financial personal interests form. If participation in an official activity creates a conflict of interest not disclosed by the information on the general disclosure of non-financial personal interests form, a legislator must complete and file a Declaration of Intent Form in accordance with section 6 of the Ethics Guidelines.

The form shall read substantially as follows:

GENERAL DISCLOSURE OF NON-FINANCIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS FORM

A "non-financial personal interest" exists where a legislator or household member has a responsibility for the welfare of an organization, *whether nonprofit or for profit*, by virtue of holding a position with a fiduciary responsibility, such as a board member, trustee, or director.

Description of Non-Financial Personal Interest

Identify and describe below the non-financial personal interest you or a household member may have. A "household member" is any person living in the same domicile as you who shares a common economic interest in the expenses of daily living, including, but not limited to, a spouse, child, or parent.

Please identify each "non-financial personal interest."

NAME OF LEGISLATOR:

LIST ORGANIZATIONS AND YOUR POSITION:

NAME OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND RELATIONSHIP TO YOU:

LIST ORGANIZATIONS AND POSITION:

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Legislator

6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROCEDURE.

- I. No legislator having a conflict of interest shall participate in any official activity associated with the matter without complying with the procedure set forth in this section.

- II. No declaration of intent form shall be required if no benefit or detriment could reasonably be expected to accrue to the legislator or the legislator's household member as a member of a business, profession, occupation, or other group, to any greater extent than to any other member of such business, profession, occupation, or other group, provided that disclosure of the legislator's or household member's membership is made in the Financial Disclosure Form pursuant to section 5 of the Ethics Guidelines. For purposes of these guidelines, groups shall be limited to those generally recognized and of a substantial size.
- III. No declaration of intent form shall be required if a legislator discloses a non-financial personal interest of the legislator or legislator's household member on the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form.
- IV. When a legislator becomes aware that a conflict of interest exists or may exist and the conditions set forth in paragraphs II and III are not met, the legislator shall proceed in accordance with either subparagraph (a) or (b):
 - (a) Declare that the legislator will not participate in any official activity associated with the issue; or
 - (b) Declare that the legislator intends to participate in the official activity and provide a description of the conflict of interest.
- V. The declaration required in subparagraphs IV (a) and (b) of this procedure shall be publicly announced prior to any participation by the legislator in the official activity in accordance with section 7 of these Guidelines. The declaration of intent form shall be filed with the clerk of the member's respective body prior to the time of the official activity and be made available for public inspection during normal business hours.

6-a RECUSAL FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- I. *A legislator shall recuse from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to legislation when:*
 - (a) *The legislator has a conflict of interest with the subject of the legislation as defined in RSA 14-B:1, I; and*
 - (b) *The legislator or a member of the legislator's household could reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment as a result of the outcome of the legislative activity.*
- II. *A legislator shall recuse from participation in any official legislative activity pertaining to the specific legislation that causes a conflict when the legislator or a member of the legislator's household satisfies all of the following:*
 - (a) *Receives financial remuneration from an organization;*
 - (b) *Holds a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization; and*
 - (c) *The organization has lobbied, testified, or otherwise attempted to influence the outcome of the official legislative activity.*
- III. *Exceptions to Recusal for Conflicts of Interest.*
A legislator shall not be required to recuse themselves from participation in any official legislative activity regarding preparation, review, or approval or disapproval of the state budget or general revenue bills.
- IV. *Persons Having Substantial Influence. Those persons who hold any of the following powers, responsibilities, or interest having substantial influence over the affairs of the organization may include, but are not limited to, the following:*
 - (a) *Voting members of the governing body;*
 - (b) *Presidents, chief executive officers, or chief operating officers; and*
 - (c) *Treasurers and chief financial officers.*
- V. *Facts and Circumstances Tending to Show Substantial Influence. Whether a person holds a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization shall be determined based on the totality of the circumstances. Facts and circumstances tending to show that a person has substantial influence over the affairs of an organization include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- (a) *The person founded the organization;*
- (b) *The person is a substantial contributor to the organization;*
- (c) *The person's compensation is primarily based on revenues derived from activities of the organization, or of a particular department or function of the organization, that the person controls;*
- (d) *The person has or shares authority to control or determine a substantial portion of the organization's capital expenditures, operating budget, or compensation for employees;*
- (e) *The person manages a discrete segment or activity of the organization that represents a substantial portion of the activities, assets, income, or expenses of the organization, as compared to the organization as a whole; or*
- (f) *The person owns a controlling interest (measured by either vote or value) in a corporation, partnership, or trust or other entity.*

VI. Facts and Circumstances Tending to Show No Substantial Influence. *Facts and circumstances tending to show that a person does not have substantial influence over the affairs of an organization include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- (a) *The person has taken a bona fide vow of poverty as an employee, agent, or on behalf, of a religious organization;*
- (b) *The person is a contractor (such as an attorney, accountant, or investment manager or advisor) whose sole relationship to the organization is providing professional advice (without having decision-making authority or a title of authority within the organization) with respect to transactions from which the contractor will not economically benefit either directly or indirectly (aside from customary fees received for the professional advice rendered);*
- (c) *The direct supervisor of the individual does not hold a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the non-governmental organization, business, or person;*
- (d) *The person does not engage in any management decisions affecting the organization as a whole or a discrete segment or activity of the organization that represents a substantial portion of the activities, assets, income, or expenses of the non-governmental organization, business, or person, as compared to the organization as a whole; or*
- (f) *Any preferential treatment a person receives based on the size of that person's contribution is also offered to all other donors making a comparable contribution as part of a solicitation intended to attract a substantial number of contributions.*

VII. A legislator shall file a declaration of intent form whenever the legislator is required to recuse from participation in any official legislative activity.

**New Hampshire General Court
House/Senate Clerk's Office
DECLARATION OF INTENT**

Legislators are required to file this form whenever:

- 1) A legislator or a legislator's household member has a **financial interest that is not disclosed on the Financial Disclosure Form; or**
- 2) **A legislator or a legislator's household member has a financial interest that has been disclosed on the Financial Disclosure Form** that could reasonably be expected to have a greater financial impact on a legislator or a legislator's household member than would accrue to any other member of [the] **that specific** business, profession, occupation, or other group which the legislator listed in the Financial Disclosure Form; or
- [2] 3) A legislator or a legislator's household member has a **non-financial personal interest** distinct from and greater than the public at large in the outcome of a matter that is the subject of official activity, and the legislator has not made this disclosure in the General Disclosure of Non-Financial Personal Interests Form; **or**
- 4) **A legislator is required to recuse from participation in any official legislative activity (pursuant to RSA 14-C:4-a and Ethics Guidelines Section 6-a).**

Name of Legislator: _____ Date Filed: _____

District/County: _____

Bill or other issue creating conflict of interest: _____

Subject matter of the bill or issue: _____

☐ WILL NOT PARTICIPATE

☐ **WILL RECUSE**

I have elected not to participate, or I am recusing myself from participation, in action on the above-mentioned bill or issue.

Reason for not participating or for recusing: _____

Nature of effect on legislator, household member, or organization: _____

Signature: _____

☐ WILL PARTICIPATE

I will participate on the above-mentioned bill or issue.

Description of Conflict of Interest

Identify and describe below the conflict of interest you or a household member may have with this bill or issue. A household member is any person living in the same domicile as you who shares a common economic interest in the expenses of daily living, including, but not limited to, a spouse, child, or parent.

This bill or issue creates a: ☐ financial interest ☐ non-financial personal interest

Nature of effect on legislator, household member, public body, or organization: _____

Additional information: _____

Signature: _____

7 VERBAL DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

- I. ***In addition to filing a Financial Disclosure Form and/or a Declaration of Intent as required by law or by these Guidelines, a [A] legislator who becomes aware of a financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of a matter shall make a verbal disclosure prior to engaging in verbal advocacy at any meeting of the general court or county delegation. The verbal disclosure shall consist of a short statement that identifies the financial interest or non-financial personal interest.***
- II. The disclosures required pursuant to paragraph I of this section shall be made in the ~~[following]~~ manner ***and on each occasion specified below:***

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

8 LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEE CODE OF CONDUCT.

I. General Principles of Conduct.

- (a) A legislative employee or officer shall view his or her work for the General Court as a public service and shall strive to promote the common good of the citizens of the State of New Hampshire through the devotion of his or her professional talents and energies to the support of the General Court in its mission as the representative of the citizens of this state.
- (b) A legislative employee or officer shall act in a way that makes him or her worthy of the trust the General Court places in staff members and officers.
- (c) A legislative employee or officer shall provide objective advice, information, and alternatives to legislators, independent of the employee's or officer's personal beliefs or interests or the interests of third parties. A legislative employee or officer shall avoid activities that conflict with this objectivity or give the appearance of conflict.
- (d) A legislative employee or officer shall treat all legislators with dignity and respect and provide services of equal quality to the employee's or officer's appropriate legislative clientele.

II. Prohibited Activities.

- (a) The activities listed in this paragraph are prohibited. Making disclosure in compliance with paragraph IV of this section does not excuse or absolve legislative officers or employees from compliance with the provisions of this paragraph or the provisions of RSA 14-C:3 prohibiting certain activities.
- (b) A legislative employee or officer shall not violate the provisions of RSA 14-C.
- (c) A legislative employee or officer shall not accept any gift from givers who wish to influence the work activities of the employee or officer.
- (d) A legislative employee or officer shall not accept any employment or serve in any position, in addition to legislative employment, which would impair the employee's or officer's independence of judgment.
- (e) Except within the scope of employment, a legislative employee or officer shall not provide any service to a lobbyist or any other person in any matter or action pending before the General Court.
- (f) A legislative employee or officer shall not use or attempt to use the employee's or officer's official position to (1) personally obtain any privilege, exemption, special treatment, or any other thing of value, or (2) obtain any such benefit for others except as required to perform duties within the scope of employment.
- (g) A legislative employee or officer shall not accept or solicit anything of value for the private benefit of the employee or officer, or the employee's or officer's immediate family or household member under circumstances in which it can be reasonably inferred that the legislative employee's or officer's independence of judgment is impaired or is intended as a reward for any official action.

- (h) A legislative employee or officer shall not use state-provided services or facilities for private gain.
- (i) A legislative employee or officer shall not disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the employee's or officer's official position to any person or group not entitled to receive such information, nor shall the employee or officer use such information for personal gain or benefit or for the benefit of others.
- (j) A legislative employee or officer shall not enter into any contract with a state agency involving services or property, unless the contract is made after public notice and competitive bidding; except in cases where public notice and competitive bidding are not required, the contract or agreement shall be filed with the employee's or officer's supervisory officer.

III. Permitted Activities. The activities listed in this paragraph are permitted.

- (a) Acceptance of awards, prizes, honors, or gifts of a minimal value.
- (b) Acceptance of informational material relevant to the employee's or officer's official function, such as books, pamphlets, reports, documents, periodicals, or other information that is recorded in a written, audio, visual, or digital format.
- (c) Acceptance of expense reimbursement for the reasonable expenses for attendance, registration, travel, meals, and lodging related to a bona fide conference, meeting, seminar, or educational, cultural, or informational program related to the legislative employee's or officer's employment so long as disclosure of any such reimbursement is made no later than the last day of the month following the month during which the expense reimbursement was received. This disclosure shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in a form prescribed in RSA 14-C. This provision shall not be construed to require reporting of an expense reimbursement made by the general court to a legislative employee or officer.
- (d) Acceptance of an honorarium so long as disclosure is made no later than the last day of the month following the month during which the honorarium was received. This disclosure shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in the form prescribed in RSA 14-C.
- (e) Acceptance of meals or beverages with a value of \$50 or more consumed at a meeting or event the purpose of which is to discuss official business so long as disclosure is made no later than 10 days following the meeting or event at which the meals or beverages were consumed. Meals or beverages accepted under this subparagraph shall be limited to \$250 in the aggregate from any single source during any calendar year. Disclosure shall be filed in a report in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in the form prescribed in RSA 14-C.
- (f) Solicitation or acceptance of gifts, grants, or donations on behalf of an official meeting, conference, or event held within the state of New Hampshire of a state or national legislative association to which the general court pays dues and which includes among its membership the New Hampshire general court, officers, or staff. Any legislative employee or officer who receives gifts, grants, or donations pursuant to this subparagraph shall disclose the source and amount of any gift, grant, or donation to the Office of the Secretary of State ~~[and shall be]~~ in the form prescribed in RSA 14-C.
- (g) Acceptance of anything permitted to be accepted pursuant to RSA 14-C.

IV. Disclosure Procedure. When a legislative employee or officer becomes aware that his or her participation in a particular activity presents a conflict of interest or conflicts with his or her objectivity or gives the appearance of a conflict, the employee or officer shall immediately make disclosure of this fact to his or her supervisory officer. All such reports shall be forwarded to the Chief of Staff of the House, or the Chief of Staff of the Senate, or the Director of the Office of Legislative Services, or the Legislative Budget Assistant, as appropriate.

Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2
OFFICIAL RETURN OF VOTES

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State be requested to furnish the Senate with the official return of votes from the various Senatorial Districts. Adopted.

The Chair recognized the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the Honorable David M. Scanlan, the Secretary of State.

(The Chair recognized the Honorable David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State.)

SECRETARY OF STATE SCANLAN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Senate, as required by Part 2, Article 33 of the New Hampshire Constitution, I'm here to present the official return of votes for the State Senate elections. I believe that all of you have a copy of the official returns in your packet. You will be receiving them shortly. Anyway, those official returns reflect that each of you received a plurality of votes in your respective Senate districts, and as a result, you are duly elected as New Hampshire State Senators. Congratulations to all of you, and that concludes my report.

The Honorable David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State, appeared and presented the return of votes for State Senators from the various Senatorial Districts, as returned to the Secretary of State's Office from the General Election held November 5, 2024

COMMITTEE REPORT

The selected committee to whom was referred the various returns of votes for State Senators from the several districts, having attended to their duties and having examined the returns made to the Secretary of State and the records in the office of said Secretary, report that they filed the state of the vote returned from the several districts as follows:

First District	
David Rochefort, r	17,613
Rusty Talbot, d	<u>13,371</u>
Plurality for Rochefort	4,242
Second District	
Timothy Lang, r	20,117
Carlos Cardona, d	<u>14,372</u>
Plurality for Lang	5,745
Third District	
Mark McConkey, r	21,058
Bill Marsh, d	<u>16,066</u>
Plurality for McConkey	4,992
Fourth District	
David H. Watters, d	19,666
Shawn Mickelonis, r	<u>12,847</u>
Plurality for Watters	6,819
Fifth District	
Suzanne M. Prentiss, d	23,028
John McIntyre, r	<u>11,709</u>
Plurality for Prentiss	11,319
Sixth District	
James P. Gray, r	18,561
John Ceskavich, d	<u>12,483</u>
Plurality for Gray	6,078
Seventh District	
Daniel Innis, r	17,888
Stu Green, d	<u>14,337</u>
Plurality for Innis	3,551
Eighth District	
Ruth Ward, r	18,463
David Trumble, d	<u>13,178</u>
Plurality for Ward	5,285

Ninth District

Denise Ricciardi, r	17,235
Matthew McLaughlin, d	<u>16,211</u>
Plurality for Ricciardi	1,024

Tenth District

Donovan Fenton, d	20,841
Rick Merkt, r	<u>12,166</u>
Plurality for Fenton	8,675

Eleventh District

Tim McGough, r	18,440
Shannon E. Chandley, d	<u>17,767</u>
Plurality for McGough	673

Twelfth District

Kevin A. Avard, r	19,841
Ben Ming, d	<u>15,643</u>
Plurality for Avard	4,198

Thirteenth District

Cindy Rosenwald, d	14,334
Stephen Scaer, r	<u>10,913</u>
Plurality for Rosenwald	3,421

Fourteenth District

Sharon M. Carson, r	19,429
Kara Roy, d	<u>13,611</u>
Plurality for Carson	5,818

Fifteenth District

Tara Reardon, d	20,272
Pamela Ean, r	<u>11,912</u>
Plurality for Reardon	8,360

Sixteenth District

Keith Murphy, r	18,435
Michael York, d	<u>14,080</u>
Plurality for Murphy	4,355

Seventeenth District

Howard Pearl, r	19,762
Kelly Roberts, d	<u>14,456</u>
Plurality for Pearl	5,306

Eighteenth District

Victoria Sullivan, r	13,289
Donna M. Soucy, d	<u>12,541</u>
Plurality for Sullivan	748

Nineteenth District

Regina Birdsell, r	19,505
Michelle Moge, d	<u>12,556</u>
Plurality for Birdsell	6,949

Twentieth District

Pat Long, d	13,159
Brittany Ping, r	<u>10,290</u>
Plurality for Long	2,869

Twenty-First District

Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, d	22,700
Don Cardinale, r	<u>11,155</u>
Plurality for Perkins Kwoka	11,545

Twenty-Second District

Daryl Abbas, r	22,892
Wayne Haubner, d	<u>12,899</u>
Plurality for Abbas	9,993

Twenty-Third District

Bill Gannon, r	22,670
Brenda Oldak, d	<u>13,648</u>
Plurality for Gannon	9,022

Twenty-Fourth District

Debra Altschiller, d	20,497
Patrick Abrami, r	<u>16,926</u>
Plurality for Altschiller	3,571

Recess. Out of recess.

RESOLUTION NO. 3
SELECT COMMITTEE OF THREE

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the return of votes from the several Senatorial Districts be referred to a Select Committee of three with instructions to examine and count the same and report to the Senate where any vacancies or contest exists and if so, in what Senatorial District. Adopted.

President Carson appointed Senator Birdsell, Senator Ward, and Senator Perkins Kwoka to serve as the Select Committee to examine the vote totals.

Recess. Out of recess.

SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

Senator Birdsell reported that the Select Committee to which was referred the various return of the votes for state Senators from the several districts, having attended to their duties and having examined the returns made to the Secretary of State, reports that it finds the state of the vote returned from the several districts to be correct.

Senator Birdsell moved to adopt the report. Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 4
SALARY AND MILEAGE PAYMENTS

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the biennium salary of the members of the Senate be paid in one undivided sum as early as practical after adoption of this resolution, and be it further RESOLVED, that the mileage of members of the Senate be paid every two weeks during the session. Adopted.

Without objection, the Clerk is instructed to enter all House Messages into the Senate Journal. Adopted.

Recess. Out of recess.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

SENATOR CARSON: At this point we're waiting on the House to conduct their business before we can go into joint session, so what I'm going to do is give all of you the opportunity to introduce your guests, and we're going to start at District 1 with Senator Rochefort.

(The Chair recognized Senator Rochefort.)

SENATOR ROCHEFORT: Good morning. Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to introduce my parents, Rich and Pidy Rochefort from Lancaster.

(The Chair recognized Senator McConkey.)

SENATOR McCONKEY: Thank you. I appreciate that. I would like to introduce my wife, Carol. You could stand, Carol. My daughter, Victoria, one of my grandsons, Bentley boy, right there. My best friend, Vincent Vaccaro, and here on the Senate floor is my oldest son, Dale.

(The Chair recognized Senator Prentiss.)

SENATOR PRENTISS: Thank you, Senator Carson. Starting with up in the gallery, I'd like to introduce my dear friend, Elizabeth Ash, from Hanover, New Hampshire. I'd also like to introduce former State Senator, our friend, David Currier, who's joined us today, and also the former Deputy Director of 9-1-1, my good friend, Peter DeNutte. And then on the floor, I'm fortunate to have my youngest brother, who it's his birthday today, David Laubner and his wife, Kristen.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gray.)

SENATOR GRAY: Thank you. The person who told me that 7-11-70 was my lucky day, my wife, Joanne, and next to her, my daughter, Jennifer Kinville.

(The Chair recognized Senator Innis.)

SENATOR INNIS: Thank you, Madam President. It's my pleasure to introduce my husband since August 10th, Spencer Wyand.

(The Chair recognized Senator Ward.)

SENATOR WARD: Thank you, Madam President. It's my great pleasure to introduce my husband. Without him, I would not be able to do what I'm doing right now.

(The Chair recognized Senator Ricciardi.)

SENATOR RICCIARDI: Thank you, Madam President. Starting in the gallery, I'm grateful to my friend, Debra Lapress, who's very supportive. Thank you for being here today. And on the floor, my husband, Giorgio, who truly is my biggest supporter. And I really couldn't do this without him. So thank you, honey. I love you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Fenton.)

SENATOR FENTON: Thank you, Madam President. As we know, it takes a village to do this job. And I brought my village here with me today. I want to thank my best friend. He's up in the gallery, Andrew Loney. Our good friend, Jack Crisp, my mom and dad, who I wouldn't be here without, both figuratively and literally. My two wild boys, Harrison and Cooper, our beautiful, sweet Emmeline, and the rock of my family, my wife, Jackie. So thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator McGough.)

SENATOR McGOUGH: Thank you, Madam President. My pleasure to start in the gallery to introduce the front row Officer River Marmorstein. And down on the floor, joining me, Colonel Larry Miller and his wife, Patricia Miller, my dear friends. Thank you very much.

(The Chair recognized Senator Avar.)

SENATOR AVARD: Thank you, Madam President. My beautiful wife, Tracy, whose shoulders I stand on, because without her, I couldn't do this job at all. And I'm very grateful for everything she does. She's a gem.

(The Chair recognized Senator Rosenwald.)

SENATOR ROSENWALD: Thank you, Madam President. I have on the floor, my wonderful husband of forty-seven years, Peter Klementowicz and my son, Henry Klementowicz, who some of you know, and I also have here with me in spirit, as always, my mother, represented by one of her handbags. And I bring this because she was born before women had the right to vote, and I like to remind myself that I've had opportunities she never had. And I hope that my daughter, who's getting sworn in at the House today, and her daughter, who's there, will have even more opportunities than I've had. Thank you, Madam President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Reardon.)

SENATOR REARDON: Thank you, Madam President. Behind me, my husband, Jim Bouley, and my three children. Whitney, Matthew, and Jackson.

(The Chair recognized Senator Murphy.)

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Madam President. In the gallery today, I have two guests. Two women that make it possible for me to be here. First, all the way from Baltimore, my mother, Deborah Passarell. Seated to her right, My fiancée, Michele Brown, who keeps the trains running on time at my restaurant so I can attend. Thank you very much.

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. It's good to say that, by the way. I previously had five of my six siblings in the gallery, but some of them work for the state and they had to go back to work. So they have since gone. But my wife, my lovely wife Heather, is here. And as you've heard from all of us, without our family members and especially our spouses, we could not do what we do. I appreciate you and I thank you for your patience because I know I'm gone a lot. Thank you and thanks to all of you. You are my extended family. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Sullivan.)

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you, Madam President. Today, I have my husband who puts up with all of my shenanigans and who supported me in this race from the get go. My mom, Mary Wojdylak. My son, Seamus, who has knocked on more doors for candidates in the state than maybe anybody. And in spirit, my son, Buddy, who has abandoned me for college. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: Thank you, Madam President. I'll start in the gallery. I have my sister up from Florida. She comes up every two years for it and I appreciate her time. My son-in-law, Chad, Penny, my granddaughter, and my daughter, Erica. There he is and on the floor, I have my husband who without, as everyone says, without him with keeping the home fires burning and the dogs quiet, this would not be happening.

(The Chair recognized Senator Long.)

SENATOR LONG: Thank you Madam President. First in the gallery, my favorite sister, Patricia. She's the only one that's here, I could say that. And a friend of the family's, Maura Carroll. And on the floor is my beloved wife, Karen Long.

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Thank you, Senator Carson. My family is making themselves known right now. So up in the gallery, that's my littlest one, Madison, saying hi right now. And my father-in-law, Dave, my sister-in-law, Suzanne Kwoka, And then down here on the floor is my two beautiful girls, Logan and Colby, my wife, Katelyn, who, as all of you have said, keeps everything running when we are missing. So thank you to you and my mother-in-law, Diane. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas.)

SENATOR ABBAS: Thank you, Madam President. Although I don't have any friends here, who needs friends when you have an amazing family, and I have the two most important women in my life are here today, my mother, Annette, and my wife, Jessica. And I can't do this without them. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gannon.)

SENATOR GANNON: Thank you, Madam President. Victoria, I've got to correct you on one thing. There's one person who knocked on more doors. My daughter, Carrie, who couldn't be with us today, went out with Senator Birdsell, who would not go in her car because she wanted to get her exercise in and had arguments with my daughter. How many more houses can we hit if we go in a car? But you came out and I appreciate that, Reg. My son, Billy, you're back there behind the beautiful woman in red. Our future governor, we'll talk about that at another time. His beautiful girlfriend, Michaela. And then the rest of my, most of the rest of my team, Pauline, Katie, and my wonderful wife, Janice. Thank you for coming with me this summer. A long summer. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

(The Chair recognized Senator Altschiller.)

SENATOR ALTSCHILLER: Thank you, Madam President. I'm pleased to introduce my partner, my husband, the love of my life, Howard Altschiller.

PRESIDENT CARSON: I'm just going to introduce my husband, Greg. Most of you know him. I've been here for so long, he knows everybody. Stand up, and Deb Chroniak. Most of the people in here again know Deb because she worked with the Senate for many, many years but thank you, thank you both for being here.

Recess. Out of recess.

HOUSE MESSAGE

Madam President:

The House of Representatives has organized and elected its officers:

Speaker of the House: Sherman Packard

Clerk of the House: Paul C. Smith

Sergeant-at-Arms: J.B. Cullen

HOUSE MESSAGE

Madam President:

The House of Representatives has organized and is ready to meet with the Senate in Joint Convention for the purpose of electing a Secretary of State and a State Treasurer.

RESOLUTION NO. 5
JOINT CONVENTION

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Senate meet in Joint Convention with the House of Representatives for the purpose of electing the Secretary of State and the State Treasurer. Adopted.

Recess to meet in Joint Convention. Out of recess.

Senator Innis is excused.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THE EARLY SESSION

Senator Birdsell moved that the Senate now adjourn from the Early Session, that the business of the Late Session be in order at the present time; and that when we adjourn, we adjourn to Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Adopted. Adjourned from the Early Session.

LATE SESSION
ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSSELL: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to recognize the fact that we have a member that is leaving us. After ten years of service, Jack Mullen is going to be going to LBA. So, thank you for your time and thank you for your dedication to us.

Without objection, all Personal Privileges and Unanimous Consent shall be entered into the permanent *Journal of the Senate*. (Rule 2-16 and Rule 2-17). Adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Birdsell moved that the Senate, having organized and completed its business for the day, adjourn to Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Adopted. The Senate is adjourned to Wednesday, January 8, 2025.