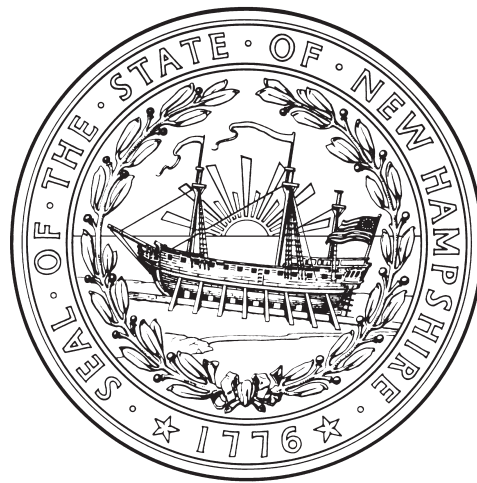


February 13, 2025
Nos. 4-5

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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



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

Legislative Proceedings

SENATE JOURNAL

**ADJOURNMENT – JANUARY 30, 2025 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – FEBRUARY 13, 2025 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 4 *(continued)*

January 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the list in the possession of the Senate Clerk, the following legislation shall be by this resolution read a first and second time by the therein listed title and referred to the therein designated committee. Adopted in recess.

First and Second Reading and Referral

25-1031

SB 292-FN-A, authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid. (Lang, Dist 2; Avard, Dist 12; Ward, Dist 8; Birdsell, Dist 19; Innis, Dist 7; McGough, Dist 11; Pearl, Dist 17; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Gannon, Dist 23; Watters, Dist 4; Sullivan, Dist 18; Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Moffett, Merr. 4; Education Finance)

25-1130

SB 293-FN, relative to using enrollment in Medicaid as a measure of eligibility for school lunches. (Long, Dist 20; Telerski, Hills. 11; Education Finance)

25-1132

SB 294-FN, relative to lab fees for career and technical education courses. (Altschiller, Dist 24; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Edgar, Rock. 29; N. Murphy, Hills. 12; Muns, Rock. 29; Education Finance)

25-0955

SB 295-FN, expanding the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts. (Sullivan, Dist 18; Gannon, Dist 23; Murphy, Dist 16; Innis, Dist 7; Avard, Dist 12; Pearl, Dist 17; Gray, Dist 6; McDonnell, Rock. 25; Noble, Hills. 2; Rice, Hills. 38; Notter, Hills. 12; Education Finance)

25-0983

SB 296, increasing the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program. (Rocheport, Dist 1; Sullivan, Dist 18; Potenza, Straf. 19; Peternel, Carr. 6; Noble, Hills. 2; Education Finance)

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has passed Bills with the following titles, in the passage of which it asks the concurrence of the Senate:

HB 60, relative to the termination of tenancy at the expiration of the tenancy or lease term.

HB 63, relative to the use of nasal spray to treat anaphylaxis.

HB 78, requiring a person to have a domicile in the district from which they serve as county commissioner.

HB 85-FN, relative to temporary licensure for student respiratory therapists.

HB 86-FN-LOCAL, increasing the cost of service for notice of civil forfeiture of unlicensed dogs to the rate for certified mail.

HB 98, relative to professional limited liability company (PLLC) assistant manager status.

HB 99, relative to a waiver from property taxes for disabled veterans.

HB 105-FN, creating a new conservation license plate and directing the additional fee to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.

HB 110, authorizing counties to establish revolving fund accounts.

HB 134, relative to the state building code.

HB 140-FN, (New Title) establishing a voluntary “blue envelope” program for drivers with autism spectrum disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders.

HB 144-FN, relative to the practice of dental hygiene.

HB 163, relative to state funds.

HB 178, relative to foster parent representation of foster children with disabilities.

HB 189, defining “clean energy” and the department of energy’s 10-year state energy strategy to include new technology small-scale nuclear energy, renewable energy, and fuel diversity; and, removing references to the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board.

HB 204, relative to criteria for reporting child support delinquencies to federal agencies.

HB 259, relative to increasing the number of handicap license plates and placards the department of motor vehicles may issue to individuals.

HB 267, relative to animal chiropractors.

HB 328, establishing a charitable gaming oversight commission.

HB 340-FN, relative to electioneering by public employees.

HB 355, relative to the membership of the solid waste working group.

HB 399, establishing a commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act.

HB 478, establishing a foster care oversight subcommittee within the oversight commission on children's services.

HB 627, relative to permitting the public utilities commission to approve new providers for the Lifeline program.

Out of Recess. Call the Senate to Order.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM LATE SESSION

Senator Birdsell moved that the Senate adjourn from the Late Session.

Adopted. Adjournment from the Late Session.

SENATE JOURNAL 5

February 13, 2025

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m., a quorum being present.

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

Good morning, Senators. Let's Pray.

Lord, we come before you today seeking your wisdom, guidance and grace as we serve the people of New Hampshire. You have placed each leader in this chamber for a purpose and we ask for your help to fulfill that calling with integrity, humility and heart for the common good. Lord, in a world of differing opinions, competing priorities, help our Senators to continue to listen well, to respect each other and to recognize that opposing views can often lead to a stronger and more just solution. Give our Senators wisdom beyond their own understanding as they navigate the complexities of our state's ever changing needs. Where division threatens, bring unity. Where challenges arise, bring clarity. And where solutions seem out of reach, remind us that nothing is impossible with you. We acknowledge our need for you in all things and ask for your blessings over our state and its people. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Senator Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. I have two very special guests here today. My wife, Heather. Always a pleasure to have her here with me. And our daughter, Jaz. Who is Jazlynn Birch. She's going to be our Senate Page for the day. Jaz attends Pembroke High school. She is a junior, and she has an interest in robotics and runs track while she is at school. She plans to attend college after high school, and I think her biggest emphasis will be probably be on environmental science. She enjoys the farm and enjoys all the aspects of the things we do but she's always very interested in science and the tings of environment so...

Jaz we have something special. Come back here with me. Something special to give. So, in honor of being our Senate Page for the day, we are presenting you, Jazlynn Birch by the Senate of the state of New Hampshire, this certificate to acknowledge your visit to the New Hampshire Senate, and to express the hope that your interest in the affairs of government will continue. Only through patriotic participation of good citizens can the fundamental freedoms of America be preserved. And it's signed by the Senate President and myself. It's for you. So thank you for being here. Thank you, Madam President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Murphy.)

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Madam President. I've had the honor and privilege over the last several years to introduce Miss Michelle Brown as my partner and fiancée. Today for the first time I have the privilege of introducing her as my wife. Ms. Michelle Murphy.

PRESIDENT CARSON: Senator, we extend, the Senate extends our heartfelt congratulations to both you and Michelle, and wish you the best of luck.

Recess. Out of recess.

The clerk read the following House Message:

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives is ready to meet with the honorable Senate in Joint Convention for the purpose of hearing the Budget Address by her Excellency, Governor Kelly Ayotte.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Senate is ready to meet with the Honorable House of Representatives in Joint Convention for the purpose of hearing the Budget Address by her Excellency, Governor Kelly Ayotte. Adopted.

Recess to meet in Joint Convention. Out of recess.

FN REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2025

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	SB 23	expanding the crime of endangering the welfare of a child.	Consent	CFL	Children and Family Law
Waive	SB 77	providing children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases the identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters.	Consent	CFL	Children and Family Law
Finance	SB 59	establishing a recruitment incentive program within the community college system for public safety communicators and dispatchers and making an appropriation therefor.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	SB 104	requiring the performance of a machine count at the request of 10 residents who have cast a ballot in the election.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Finance	SB 106	relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Finance	SB 188	allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 194	relative to qualifications for cosmetologists and relative to membership on the board of barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Finance	SB 196	relative to the exemption from competitive bidding requirements for certain state agency projects.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 201	relative to classified and unclassified positions.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration

Finance	SB 75	providing health insurance carriers access to the state immunization registry and making an appropriation therefor.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 39	relative to establishing an alternative driver education program.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Finance	SB 70	creating a mobile driver's license and non-driver identification card.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	SB 60	relative to advanced deposit account wagering.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Finance	SB 63	relative to funding for the division of travel and tourism.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Waive	SB 73	relative to the operation of bingo games.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Waive	SB 147	relative to licenses to sell pari-mutuel pools on simulcast horse races.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Finance	SB 158	raising the funding cap for the New Hampshire community development finance authority.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Waive	SB 160	relative to the administration of raffles.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Waive	SB 159	establishing a marine habitat fee.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means

Please Note: Senate Rule 4-5 requires every bill and joint resolution appropriating money, and every other bill which is accompanied by a fiscal note pursuant to RSA 14:44, which has been referred to another committee and found Ought to Pass by the Senate, shall be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for review, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Gray has reviewed the bills in the Consent and Regular Calendars to be acted upon by the Senate on February 13, 2025, and his recommendations are listed on the FN Report. Bills listed as Waive should be sent to Third Reading and bills listed as Finance should be sent to the Senate Finance Committee. The recommendations are only applicable to bills found Ought to Pass.

Without objection, the FN report is adopted.

Senator Prentiss is excused.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 43, by Senator Lang

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 106-FN, by Senator Watters

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 188-FN, by Senator Reardon

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 60-FN, by Senator Lang

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 73-FN, by Senator Rosenwald

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bill is Special Ordered to next session. Adopted.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 188-FN, allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Senator Birdsell moved that the Consent Calendar, with the relevant amendments as printed in the day's Calendar be adopted and that all such bills found Ought to Pass be ordered as follows:

FN bills not waived under Senate Rule 4-5, to the Committee on Finance; non-FN bills approved for referral to Finance by the day's FN Report, to the Committee on Finance; and all other bills, to Third Reading. Adopted.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 23-FN, expanding the crime of endangering the welfare of a child.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0. Senator Long for the committee.

This bill will strengthen the protection of children. SB23 expands the language of what constitutes the crime of endangering the welfare of a child to add other felony options. It will protect children in New Hampshire communities who are the most vulnerable.

SB 77-FN, providing children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases the identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0. Senator Long for the committee.

This bill provides children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters. It ensures equal treatment for all children passing through state services, and provides all children psychological evaluations and services as needed.

EDUCATION

SB 59-FN, establishing a recruitment incentive program within the community college system for public safety communicators and dispatchers and making an appropriation therefor.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

Senate Bill 59-FN expands the Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, and EMT Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program through the New Hampshire Community College System to include public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers. The bill also appropriates funds to cover the costs of training equipment for those participating in the Police Standards and Training Academy by establishing the Police Standards and Training Recruitment and Retention Fund. The committee amendment establishes that \$100,000 will be transferred from the existing Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, and EMT Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Fund to the Police Standards and Training Recruitment and Retention Fund.

Senate Education

February 6, 2025

2025-0301s

05/09

Amendment to SB 59-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 6 with the following:

6 Transfer of Funds; New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Recruitment and Retention Fund. The sum of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is hereby transferred from the law enforcement officers, professional firefighters, and emergency medical technicians career development, recruitment, and retention fund established in RSA 188-F:72 to the New Hampshire police standards and training recruitment and retention fund established in RSA 188-F:73. The police standards and training council shall use the funds to support the career development, recruitment, and retention program established in RSA 188-F:70. Of the funds transferred, up to \$100,000 shall be used for New Hampshire police academy cost reimbursement.

2025-0301s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill expands the law enforcement, firefighter, and EMT recruitment and retention program in the community college system to include public safety communicators and dispatchers. The bill also establishes the police standards and training recruitment and retention fund, administered by the police standards and training council, and transfers a sum to the newly established fund for New Hampshire police academy cost reimbursement.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 11, relative to the allocation of electoral college votes.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 11 would change how New Hampshire allocates its four Electoral College votes in a Presidential election. Currently, all four Electoral College votes are distributed to the overall winner of the State election. If enacted, two of the four votes would go to the overall winner of the State, while the remaining two votes would be allocated to the winner of each Congressional District respectively. The committee does not believe that the allocation of electoral votes should be changed at this time.

SB 16, requiring municipalities to post a copy of election return forms on their websites and in public locations. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

SB 16 would require municipalities to post a copy of the election result sheet that towns send to the Secretary of State on their town's website and in public locations. Currently, not all of the write-in results are listed on the Secretary of State's website. Posting the sheets towns already send to the Secretary of State would simplify finding the information for residents looking for it. The amendment clarifies that only two locations are required in total.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs
February 4, 2025
2025-0259s
07/05

Amendment to SB 16

Amend RSA 659:73, VII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VII. The city or town clerk shall, within 7 days of an election, post copies of the election return forms submitted to the secretary of state under paragraphs I and II of this section. The city or town clerk shall post copies in the 2 places where the municipality regularly posts notices of its governing body meetings, which may include the municipality's main website and any social media accounts utilized by the municipality.

SB 42, relative to notice of death affidavits.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

SB 42 would require beneficiaries of a death deed transfer to file a notice of death affidavit with the registry of deeds, which must then be transmitted to the assessor. Current statute allows for a death deed, but this bill would ensure town clerks are also notified for the purposes of voting record updates.

SB 45, clarifying the placement of political signs on municipal property.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

This bill clarifies when signs may be placed on private property, public property, and public rights of ways. The bill as amended requires owner permission for signs on private property and doesn't allow signs on public property, except signs may be placed on land over which the State right of way passes, so long as the advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic or violate any other applicable law. Therefore, the committee recommends the bill Ought to Pass as amended.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs
February 4, 2025
2025-0258s
08/05

Amendment to SB 45

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

AN ACT clarifying the placement of advertising signs on state-owned property.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Placement and Removal of Political and Other Advertising. RSA 664:17 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

664:17 Placement and Removal of Political and Other Advertising.

I. No advertising, including but not limited to political advertising, shall be placed on or affixed to any private property without the owner's consent. No advertising, including but not limited to political advertising, shall be placed on or affixed to any state-owned public property. This paragraph shall not apply to advertising that is placed on or affixed to state-owned rights-of-way with the consent of the owner of the land over which the right-of-way passes so long as the advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic or violate any other applicable law.

II. All political advertising shall be removed by the candidate no later than the second Friday following the election unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a candidate who is a winner in the primary.

III. Signs shall not be placed on or affixed to utility poles or highway signs.

IV. No person shall remove, deface, or knowingly destroy any political advertising which is placed on or affixed to public property or any private property except for removal by the owner of the property, persons authorized by the owner of the property, or a law enforcement officer removing improper advertising.

V. Political advertising placed on or affixed to any public property may be removed by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel.

VI. Political advertising removed prior to election day by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel shall be kept until one week after the election at a place designated by the state, city, or town so that the candidate, or a member of the candidate's campaign or local political committee of the same party may retrieve the items.

2025-0258s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies the conditions under which political advertising may be placed on public property.

SB 104-FN, requiring the performance of a machine count at the request of 10 residents who have cast a ballot in the election.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

SB 104, would require machine count verification if 10 residents who voted in that election request it. The committee believes that the current process for pre-election machine testing and post-election audits provide the appropriate level of verification of the voting machines.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 178, relative to the department of health and human services laboratory services for testing of water supplies. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

SB 178 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt administrative rules regarding laboratory services and fees for testing of water supplies. The bill also transfers fees for such services from statute to administrative rules. This bill is a request of the Department of Health and Human Services.

SB 194-FN, relative to qualifications for cosmetologists and relative to membership on the board of barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator McGough for the committee.

SB 194-FN safely reduces the minimum amount of required training hours cosmetology school required for a person to be issued a cosmetologist's license from 1,500 hours to 1,200 hours. The legislation does not prevent any student or school from offering additional clinical training, or work apprentice modules in addition to the minimum didactic and practical hours. The Committee heard testimony comparing the number of hours required for a cosmetologist's license to the number of hours required for various health-care providers' licenses or certifications and often the cosmetology license was a lengthier requirement, and the committee feels a reduction in this barrier to entry is appropriate and will get workers into the workforce faster and help employers hire safe and well-trained employees. The committee amendment removed the section of the bill which would have added an eighth member to the Board of Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

February 5, 2025

2025-0292s

09/08

Amendment to SB 194-FN

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

AN ACT relative to qualifications for cosmetologists.

Amend the bill by deleting section 2 and renumbering the original section 3 to read as 2.

2025-0292s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill reduces the amount of hours of training in a school of cosmetology required for a person to be issued a cosmetologist's license.

SB 196-FN, relative to the exemption from competitive bidding requirements for certain state agency projects. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 196-FN exempts certain agency projects of not more than \$1,000,000 from the Department of Administrative Services competitive bidding requirements. The current statute exempts such projects if the estimated total cost is not more than \$500,000. The bill also provides that the change in law is contingent on additional staffing within the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services.

SB 201-FN, relative to classified and unclassified positions.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

SB 201-FN authorizes the conversion of certain state positions to classified exempt salary positions, expands the rulemaking authority of the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services, amends the premium payment structure for state health care coverage, and allows temporary salary classifications for newly authorized unclassified positions. This bill is a request by the Department of Administrative Services.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

February 5, 2025

2025-0293s

06/09

Amendment to SB 201-FN

Amend RSA 99:9-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

99:9-a Conversion to Classified Exempt Salary Positions.

I. The department of administrative services, through its division of personnel, is authorized to convert non-term unclassified positions or qualifying classified positions to classified exempt salary positions.

(a) Such conversions are only applicable to positions that meet the requirements and definitions of exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the personnel rules.

(b) All conversions shall be voluntary for employees in qualifying filled positions or may occur when a qualifying position becomes vacant.

II. The appointing authority at each executive department and executive agency may request that the director of personnel convert any unclassified position that serves at the pleasure of that appointing authority or any qualifying classified position to an exempt salary position in the classified system.

(a) Upon receipt of a request under paragraph II, the director of personnel shall convert a non-term unclassified position or qualifying classified position to an exempt salary position, if the requirements of paragraph I(a) and (b) are met.

(b) Any position converted to an exempt salary position under paragraph II(a) shall be placed in the appropriate standard occupational classification group based on its duties and responsibilities.

(c) Any unclassified incumbent in a position that gets converted shall be placed at the step with a pay rate closest to the pay rate of the step they were at in the unclassified position, ensuring no reduction in pay.

(d) Any classified incumbent in a position that gets converted shall be placed at the step with a pay rate closest to the pay rate of the step they were at, ensuring no reduction in pay.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 75-FN, providing health insurance carriers access to the state immunization registry and making an appropriation therefor.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill, a request of an insurance carrier, allows health insurance carriers to access the state immunization registry and makes an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for this purpose. The intent of this is to assist insurance carriers in achieving accreditation scores. Due to concerns raised about the privacy and security of this sensitive data being made available to more people, the majority of the committee finds the bill inexpedient to legislate.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 12, relative to adding eligibility for a disability placard for certain veterans.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would allow certain veterans who already receive a special number plate under RSA 261:86 to automatically qualify for a walking disability placard. It would simplify the process, by allowing veterans to receive both the plate and placard without additional evaluations, preventing further complications at DMV offices.

SB 39-FN, relative to establishing an alternative driver education program.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill establishes an alternative driver education program and authorizes the commissioner of safety to develop and adopt rules for said purpose. The Committee heard testimony that there are wait times for residents in need of drivers education that can be a barrier to getting a drivers license. Although the Department of Motor Vehicles has worked to drop these wait times, more work needs to be done. The Committee wants to further explore with the sponsor and “pilot” type program at this time, rather than open a new state operated program.

SB 40, relative to safe boater education certificates.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill would amend RSA 270-D:13 to align the requirements for boater safety certificate qualifications with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) criteria. It would establish an online examination, approved by NASBLA, as part of the safe boater certificate qualification and would require the Department of Safety to adopt rules related to this.

SB 51, relative to decal fees and the statewide public boat access program.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill would guarantee that decal fees for the Safe Boat Program are strictly used for their designated purpose—promoting safe and public boat access. The decal fee goes into non-lapsing funds, which are essential for securing matching federal funds through the Sport Fish Restoration Act. This legislation is part of a broader effort to maintain Fish and Game funding without diverting fees for other uses.

Senate Transportation

February 5, 2025

2025-0267s

06/05

Amendment to SB 51

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

2 Lake Restoration and Preservation Fund; Boat Fee Decal. Amend RSA 487:25 to read as follows:

487:25 Lake Restoration and Preservation Fund; [~~Addition to Boat Fee~~] **Boat Fee Decal.**

I. The fee of \$9.50 collected under the provisions of RSA [~~270-E:5, H(a)~~] **270-E:5-a, II(a)** shall be paid to the director of the division of motor vehicles. The director of the division of motor vehicles shall pay over said fee to the state treasurer who shall keep the fee in a special fund to be expended by the department of environmental services. The department shall use \$.50 of the fee for lake restoration and preservation measures, exclusive of exotic aquatic weed control, \$5 of the fee for the control of exotic aquatic weeds, and \$4 of the fee for the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program. The department shall deposit the \$4 into a special account within the lake restoration and preservation fund which shall be used to administer the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program. The special fund shall be nonlapsing. All funds received under this section are continually appropriated to the department for the purposes of this subdivision.

II. The department is authorized to utilize such methods of control and to employ such personnel, consultant services, and equipment as, in its judgment, will control aquatic nuisances in the surface waters of the state as defined in RSA 485-A:2.

III. The department shall be the agency to receive and utilize federal funds, gifts, or grants from any person or association, which may be made available for the purposes of this subdivision.

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

SB 70-FN, creating a mobile driver's license and non-driver identification card.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would allow driver's licenses to be stored on mobile devices, aligning with trends in seven other states and streamlining age verification and identification to meet TSA standards. Individuals would still need to provide their physical identification to law enforcement upon request

SB 156, allowing the division of motor vehicles to contract with a third-party vendor to facilitate the secure transfer of title applications and information.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to contract with a third-party vendor to facilitate the secure transfer of title applications and information. It would establish the "Electronic Lien and Title Hub" (ELT), a contracted agent of the division responsible for electronic lien and title transactions on behalf of the DMV. The bill would implement an electronic system for sharing title and lien transactions, which would increase the security of consumer's information.

Senate Transportation
February 5, 2025
2025-0270s
11/05

Amendment to SB 156

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 Delivery of Certificate. Amend RSA 261:9 to read as follows:

261:9 [Mailing] **Delivery** of Certificate. The certificate of title shall be mailed **or delivered** to the first lienholder named in it or, if none, to the owner. In the event the lien has been satisfied by a dealer, the dealer becomes the owner and the state is authorized to mail the title to the dealer.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 63-FN, relative to funding for the division of travel and tourism.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill corrects the formula by which the meals and rooms tax allocation is calculated for the purposes of the Division of Travel and Tourism. Prior to a change in 2022, the law directed 3.15% to the state's Division of Travel and Tourism for the promotion of New Hampshire's tourism industry. When we created the municipal reimbursement fund in 2022, the change in the law resulted in the Department of Revenue Administration interpreting the allocation to the Division of Travel and Tourism to be calculated after the municipal share was removed. This resulted in a drastic reduction to travel and tourism funding. This bill corrects that and returns to the pre-2022 practice of giving the Division of Travel and Tourism 3.15% off the top prior to calculation of the municipal piece.

SB 147-FN, relative to licenses to sell pari-mutuel pools on simulcast horse races.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

SB147 expands the ability to offer simulcast horse race betting to all charitable gaming facilities. Historically, NH had four horse racing tracks and at that time the legislature limited betting on horse racing to those locations. Over time, two of those locations became defunct and the two that still exist are currently the only locations allowed to offer simulcast wagering. This bill does away with that grandfather clause and allows all charitable gaming locations to accept simulcast bets.

SB 158-FN, raising the funding cap for the New Hampshire community development finance authority.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

SB158 doubles the cap on contributions received by the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) to ten million dollars. Since 1998, the legislature has incentivized donations to the CDFA through a tax credit program whereby businesses making donations receive a 75% credit against business profits taxes, business enterprise taxes, or insurance premium taxes owed. This program has a proven track record for leveraging private investment in local communities. Last year, the CDFA invested more than \$25 million into New Hampshire communities, funding 177 community-based projects and engaged 152 business donors. This tax credit program is a valuable resource for New Hampshire communities that helps revitalize downtowns, create jobs, and increase access to affordable housing.

SB 160-FN, relative to the administration of raffles.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

SB160 was a request of the industry to modernize the statute that governs raffles held in conjunction with bingo games. It eliminates the requirement that tickets sold be numbered sequentially. Currently, the cost of a raffle ticket is limited to \$1. This bill provides flexibility to charge up to \$10 for a raffle ticket. Lastly, the bill raises the cap on the value of prizes awarded at any raffle from \$500 to \$1,200.

REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 76, relative to the office of the child advocate.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 2-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate. Adopted.

Recess. Out of recess.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator Long introduced the members of the Leadership NH class.

FINANCE

SB 71-FN, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-2. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

Senator Gray moved to re-refer to Finance.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Re-refer to Committee. Adopted.

SB 240-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for eligible water projects. Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Ought to Pass. Adopted.

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 37, relative to residential care and health facility licensing.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

Health and Human Services

January 15, 2025

2025-0012s

05/11

Amendment to SB 37

Amend the bill by replacing section 6 with the following:

6 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing: Patients' Bill of Rights. Amend RSA 151:21, XXIII(f)(3) to read as follows:

(3) [~~Hospital~~] **Facility** visitation policy detailing the rights and responsibilities specified in this paragraph, and the limitations placed upon those rights by written [~~hospital~~] **facility** policy on its website.

The question is on the adoption of the Committee Amendment. Adopted.

Senator Pearl offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Pearl, Dist 17

February 6, 2025

2025-0307s

05/02

Floor Amendment to SB 37

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

2 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Investigations and Consultations. Amend RSA 151:6, I to read as follows:

I. The department of health and human services may investigate, in response to a complaint alleging a violation of this chapter or when it has good reason to believe that the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter have been violated by any facility licensed under this chapter **or agency required to be licensed in accordance to RSA 151:2, I** or any facility providing **services beyond** room and board to 2 or more individuals unrelated to the owner or manager. Such investigations shall be conducted in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner of the department of health and human services under RSA 151:9. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall, when necessary, seek the assistance of local and state law enforcement authorities in order to complete its investigation.

Investigation results

shall be provided as a written report that identifies any noncompliance with this chapter and applicable rules adopted under this chapter. The results of investigations shall be posted on the department's website in the manner determined by the commissioner of the department of health and human services. The results so posted shall indicate the facilities and services investigated and the results for each such facility or service. Investigation results shall not be subject to RSA 151:13.

3 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Annual Inspection. Amend RSA 151:6-a, II(c) to read as follows:

(c) Facilities shall ~~not~~ be required to post notices to correct issued under subparagraph (a) of this paragraph.

4 New Subparagraph; Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Annual Inspection. Amend RSA 151:6-a, II by inserting after subparagraph (e) the following new subparagraph:

(f) The results of all inspections under this paragraph shall be posted to the department's website in the manner determined by the commissioner of the department of health and human services. The results so posted shall indicate the facilities and services inspected and the results for each such facility or service. Inspection results shall not be subject to RSA 151:13.

5 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Civil Fines. Amend RSA 151:16-b to read as follows:

151:16-b Civil Fines. All ~~[administrative fines and other]~~ civil monetary penalties collected by the department from facilities licensed under this chapter shall be kept by the state treasurer in a separate, non-lapsing, interest bearing account. Interest earned on moneys deposited in the account shall be deposited into the account. The moneys in the account shall be used by the department for the protection of the health and property of residents of facilities licensed under this chapter.

6 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Patients' Bill of Rights. Amend RSA 151:21, XXIII(b)(1) (D) to read as follows:

(D) Visitors are noncompliant with written ~~[hospital]~~ **facility** policy.

7 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Patients' Bill of Rights. Amend RSA 151:21, XXIII(f)(3) to read as follows:

(3) ~~[Hospital]~~ **Facility** visitation policy detailing the rights and responsibilities specified in this paragraph, and the limitations placed upon those rights by written ~~[hospital]~~ **facility** policy on its website.

8 Residential Care and Health Facility Licensing; Dementia Training for Direct Care Staff in Residential Facilities; Continuing Education. Amend RSA 151:50 to read as follows:

151:50 Continuing Education. The commissioner shall adopt rules to require at least 6 hours of initial ~~[continuing]~~ education for covered administrative staff members and covered direct service staff members and shall require at least 4 hours of ~~[ongoing training]~~ **continuing education** each calendar year. Such continuing education shall include new information on best practices in the treatment and care of persons with dementia.

9 Effective Date.

I. Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

II. Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2025-0307s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises residential care and health facility licensing requirements by (1) requiring licensed residential care facilities to have quality assurance programs; (2) requiring the results of investigations and inspections to be posted on the department of health and human services website; (3) removing a redundant reference to administrative fines; (4) changing the term “hospital” to the term “facility;” and (5) removing the word “continuing” from the initial education requirements and replacing the term “ongoing training” with continuing education in the annual training requirement.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment. Adopted.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 159-FN, establishing a marine habitat fee.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Murphy for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.

A roll call was requested by Senator Avard, seconded by Senator Gannon.

The following Senators voted Yes: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, McGough, Avard, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

The following Senators voted No: Watters, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators were excused: Prentiss.

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 7. Adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

PRESIDENT CARSON: We are at the conclusion of the Regular Calendar and will take up the bills that were removed from the Consent Calendar.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 43, removing articles of clothing from the definition of electioneering.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Senator Lang for the committee.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

February 4, 2025

2025-0263s

02/05

Amendment to SB 43

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Electioneering; Wearing of Clothing. Amend RSA 652:16-h, I to read as follows:

I. Wearing clothing or paraphernalia that displays a candidate’s name, likeness, or logo, a ballot measure’s number, title, subject, or logo, a political party’s name or logo, or any communication that a reasonable person would believe explicitly advocates for or against any candidate, political party, or measure. ~~[; provided that]~~ A person **who is** eligible to vote or register to vote in the voting district ~~[who is unable to remove or cover clothing that explicitly advocates for or against any candidate, political party, or measure,]~~ may wear such clothing in the polling place while actively **and expeditiously** engaged in the process of registering to vote or while actively **and expeditiously** engaged in the process of voting.

2025-0263s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows certain articles of clothing supporting a candidate or measure to be worn by a voter in the process of casting his or her vote.

The question is on the adoption of the Committee Amendment. Adopted.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 106-FN, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

Energy and Natural Resources

February 4, 2025

2025-0257s

06/05

Amendment to SB 106-FN

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

1 Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definition; Eligible Customer Generator. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a, II-b to read as follows:

II-b. “Eligible customer-generator” or “customer-generator” means an electric utility customer who owns, operates, or purchases power from an electrical generating facility either powered by renewable energy or which employs a heat led combined heat and power system, with a total peak generating capacity of up to and including one megawatt, except as provided for a municipal host as defined in paragraph II-c[, that is located behind a retail meter on the customer’s premises;] **and an industrial host as defined under paragraph II-g, that is located behind a retail meter on the customer’s premises**, is interconnected and operates in parallel with the electric grid, and is used to offset the customer’s own electricity requirements. Incremental generation added to an existing generation facility, that does not itself qualify for net metering, shall qualify if such incremental generation meets the qualifications of this paragraph and is metered separately from the [nonqualifying] **non-qualifying** facility.

2 New Paragraph; Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph II-f the following new paragraph:

II-g. “Industrial host” means a customer generator with a total peak generating capacity of greater than one megawatt and less than 5 megawatts used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of commercial, industrial, or institutional entities with one or more accounts, provided that all accounts are located within the same utility franchise service territory. In no instance shall the electrical generating facility exceed 100 percent of the industrial group’s average electric consumption over the past 12 months.

3 New Paragraph; Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. Alternative tariffs for net energy metering shall be made available to eligible customer-generators by each electric distribution utility in conformance with Order No. 26,029 dated June 23, 2017, and with net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any project that begins receiving compensation under Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs will be eligible to continue receiving that tariff for either 20 years from the year it first begins receiving compensation or through the initial tariff term ending on December 31, 2040, whichever is longer. If the commission creates new net metering tariffs through an adjudicated proceeding before December 31, 2040, eligible customer-generators receiving Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs will have the option of transitioning to new tariffs created through that proceeding. If an eligible customer-generator elects to transfer to a new tariff, they may not return to Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs. Upon the expiration of a customer-generator’s eligibility under Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs, the eligible customer-generator will have the option of transitioning to the tariff available at that time.

4 New Paragraph; Net Energy Metering; Consumption. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a.(a) Facilities eligible for the net metering tariff under this section for customer-generators larger than one megawatt and up to 5 megawatt with an in-service date after January 1, 2026 and not acting as a group net metering host, must consume at least 33 percent of the generation, on an annual basis.

(b) Consumption requirements under this section shall not apply to low and moderate income customers as defined in administrative rules of the public utilities commission in PUC 902.21.

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

2025-0257s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires large customer-generators participating in net energy metering to consume at least 33 percent of their own generation.

The question is on the adoption of the Committee Amendment. Adopted.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Adopted, bill ordered to the Committee on Finance (Rule 4-5).

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 60-FN, relative to advanced deposit account wagering.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

Senate Ways and Means

February 5, 2025

2025-0281s

02/11

Amendment to SB 60-FN

Amend RSA 284:22-c, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. The plan of operation may only be amended with the approval of the commission. The commission may withdraw approval of a plan of operation for cause.

The question is on the adoption of the Committee Amendment. Failed.

Senator Lang offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Lang, Dist 2

February 12, 2025

2025-0374s

02/11

Floor Amendment to SB 60-FN

Amend RSA 284:22-c, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. Before accepting an advance deposit wager from a New Hampshire resident, a licensed advance deposit wagering provider shall demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility in a format prescribed by the commission through a surety bond executed and issued by an insurer authorized to issue surety bonds in this state, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other form of financial guarantee in an amount to be determined by the commission. The commission may also accept, as evidence of financial responsibility, a surety bond, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other form of financial guarantee in accordance with this subdivision filed with one or more states where the applicant is licensed as an advance deposit wagering provider. The commission may ask for additional evidence of financial responsibility at any time the commission deems necessary. Any surety bond, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other form of financial guarantee issued under this subdivision shall be in favor of this state and shall specifically authorize recovery by the commission for the payment of all revenues required by this chapter.

Amend RSA 284:22-c, IV(f) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(f) Annually contracting with an independent third-party to conduct a financial audit and submit the results of the audit to the commission. If the licensed advanced deposit wagering provider is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a publicly traded company, submission of audited financial statements of the publicly-traded parent company contained in a public filing with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission shall satisfy this requirement;

Amend RSA 284:22-c, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. The plan of operation may only be amended with the approval of the commission. The commission may withdraw approval of a plan of operation for cause.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment. Adopted.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

Recess. Out of recess.

SB 73-FN, relative to the operation of bingo games.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

Senator Sullivan offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Lang, Dist 2
Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18
February 12, 2025
2025-0387s
02/08

Floor Amendment to SB 73-FN

Amend the bill by deleting section 2 and renumbering the original sections 3 and 4 to read as 2 and 3, respectively.
2025-0387s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises the definition and operational rules of “carry-over coverall” bingo games.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment. Adopted.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Perkins Kwoka: SB 106-FN

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM EARLY SESSION

Senator Birdsell moved that the Senate adjourn from the Early Session, that the business of the Late Session be in order at the present time, that all bills and resolutions ordered to Third Reading be, by this resolution, read a third time, all titles be the same as adopted, and that they be passed at the present time.

Adopted. Adjournment from the Early Session.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

SB 12, relative to adding eligibility for a disability placard for certain veterans.
SB 16, requiring municipalities to post a copy of election return forms on their websites and in public locations.
SB 23-FN, expanding the crime of endangering the welfare of a child.
SB 37, relative to residential care and health facility licensing.
SB 40, relative to safe boater education certificates.
SB 42, relative to notice of death affidavits.
SB 43, removing articles of clothing from the definition of electioneering.
SB 45, clarifying the placement of political signs on municipal property.
SB 51, relative to decal fees and the statewide public boat access program.
SB 60-FN, relative to advanced deposit account wagering.
SB 73-FN, relative to the operation of bingo games.
SB 77-FN, providing children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases the identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters.
SB 147-FN, relative to licenses to sell pari-mutuel pools on simulcast horse races.
SB 156, allowing the division of motor vehicles to contract with a third-party vendor to facilitate the secure transfer of title applications and information.
SB 160-FN, relative to the administration of raffles.
SB 178, relative to the department of health and human services laboratory services for testing of water supplies.
SB 194-FN, relative to qualifications for cosmetologists and relative to membership on the board of barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics.
SB 201-FN, relative to classified and unclassified positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Avard.)

SENATOR AVARD: Thank you, Madam President. Personal Privilege, please. This is one of our colleagues who passed away January 30. Some of you might have known him as Dapper Don. The man was exquisitely

dressed, and I knew him personally when I said well why don't you take off your coat Don? And he would say, "It's not dignified, it's not dignified," and he was very, very adamant about that. He died at eighty-nine years old, and he was from Nashua but at eighty-nine, I know when he was eighty, if you shook his hand your hand hurt. He was a very strong man. He played a lot of baseball. He was very active. He served in the Korean War. Let's see, he also served in numerous committees including the Board of Medicine, he was Vice Chair and the Chairman of Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs and he was a lifetime member of the Veterans of the Korean War, VFW, the American Legion and Nashua Post 3 and the Elks Club and I don't know, if you ever looked at any of his emails he had a list this long of all the committees he was on. He used to sit right behind me when I was a State Rep in 2010 and I would always get an earful and he would always speak his mind very, very adamant about how he believed. He was also a friend. I interviewed him on the television show years ago and he also served, which it doesn't seem to mention, but he served for the Red Cross as well for years in Nashua and just a fine gentleman, he did his public service. He was a good man and we're going to miss him and he's member of the Greek Orthodox Church too by the way. And he's survived by his niece and his nephew. But other than that I have not much more to say other than that he was a good man and we'll miss him. Thank you, Madam President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Watters.)

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Madam President. Colleagues, I wanted as we celebrate Black History Month to have an opportunity to read the great stirring words of freedom of the Slave Petition of 1779. This is an extraordinary revolutionary era document. For those of us who were around here and maybe just you and me Madam President, in 2013 we voted to posthumously free the petitioner. Better late than never. But you know the context of this petition in 1775 and the sentence and there were 656 enslaved people in New Hampshire, and we didn't abolish slavery in the state until 1857. The first signer was Nero Brewster who was the elected head of the king of the Negro Court which was a legislative judiciary body of the enslaved and free Africans there. Another signer is Prince Whipple, and you may recognize the last name because General Whipple was one of our signers of the Declaration of Independence and accompanied throughout the revolutionary war with his enslaved man Prince Whipple, who later played the violin when George Washington came and entertained him in his first presidential trip. But General Whipple was a slave trader, so you look at the Moffat-Ladd House in that wealthy house well that's how they, it's an extraordinary moment that here are these individuals who are petitioning for freedom and fighting in the Revolutionary War for freedoms that they didn't have but they believed in the possibility of America, So I will read it, it's not too long.

The Petition of Nero Brewster Pharoah Rogers, Romeo Rindges, Cato Newmarch. Cesar Garrish, Zebulon Gardner, Quam Sherburne, Samuel Wentworth, Will Clarkson, Jack Odiorne, Cipio Hubbard, Seneca Hall, Peter Warner, Cato Warner, Pharoah Shores, Winsor Moffat, Garrett Colton, Kittindge Tuckerman, Peter Warner, Prince Whipple, Natives of Africa now forcibly detained in Slavery in said State most Humbly Sheweth That the God of Nature gave them Life and freedom upon the Terms of the most perfect Equality with other men, That Freedom is an inherent Right of the human Species, not to be surrendered but by the Consent for the Sake of social Life; That private or public Tyranny and Slavery are alike detestable to Minds, conscious of the capable Dignity of human Nature;

And I just want to interrupt that the concept of the dignity of Human Nature as being an argument for freedom, this is the first time it is ever voiced in the revolutionary era.

that in Power and authority of individuals, derived solely from a principle of coercion against the will of individuals and dispose of their Persons and Properties, consists of the compleatist idea of private and political Slavery; That all men being amenable to the deity for the ill Improvement of the Blessings of his Providence, They hold themselves in Duty bound, strenuously to exert every Faculty of their Minds, to obtain that Blessing of Freedom which they are justly entitled to from the Donation of the beneficent Creator; That thro' Ignorance and brutish Violence of their native Countrymen, and by sinister Designs of others, (who ought to have taught them better) and by the avarice of both, They, while but Children, and incapable of Self-Defence, whose Infancy might have prompted Protection, were seized, imprisoned, and then transported from their native Country, where, (Tho' Ignorance and Inchristianity prevailed) They were born free to a Country, where (Tho' Knowledge and Christianity and Freedom, are their Boast) They are compelled, and their unhappy Posterity, to drag on their Lives in miserable Servitude. – Thus, often is the Parent's Cheek, wet for the Lots of a Child, torn by the cruel hand of Violence from her aking Bosom! Thus, often, in vain, is the Infant's Sigh, for the nurturing Care of it's bereaved Parent! and thus, do the Ties of Nature and Blood, become Victims, to cherish the Vanity and Luxury of a Fellow-Mortal! Can this be Right? Forbid it gracious Heaven!

Permit again your humble Slaves to lay before this Honorable assembly, some of those grievances which they daily experience and feel; Tho' Fortune hath dealt our portions with a rugged hand, yet she has smiled in the Disposal of our Persons to those who claim us as their Property; of them, as Masters, we do not complain; But, from what Authority They assume the Power to dispose of our Lives, Freedom and Property, we would wish to know; Is it from the sacred Volumes of Christianity? There we believe it is not to be found! But here hath the cruel hand of Slavery made us incompetent Judges, hence Knowledge is hid from our Minds! Is it from the Volume of the Laws? Of these also Slaves can not be Judges, but those we are told are founded in Reason and Justice; it cannot be found there! Is it from the Volumes of Nature? No. Here we are we read with others! of this Knowledge, Slavery cannot wholly deprive us; Here we know that we ought to be free agents! Here, we feel the Dignity of Human Nature! Here, we feel the Passions and Desires of men, tho' check'd by the Rod of Slavery! Here, we feel a Just Equality! Here, we know that the God of Nature made us free! Is their authority assumed from Custom? if so, Let that Custom be abolished, which is not founded in Nature, Reason nor Religion. Should the Humanity and Benevolence of this Honorable Assembly restore us to that State of Liberty of which we have been so long be deprived, We conceive that those, who are our present Masters, will not be Sufferers by our Liberation, as we have most of us spent our whole Strength and the Prime of our Lives in their Service; And as Freedom inspires a noble Confidence, and gives us the Mind of Emulation to vie in the noblest Efforts of Interprize, and as Justice and Humanity are the Result of your Deliberations, we fondly Hope that the Eye of Pity and the Heart of Justice may commiserate our Situation and put us upon the Equality of Freedom, and give us opportunity of evincing to the World our Love of Freedom, by exerting ourselves in her Cause, in opposing the Efforts of Tyranny and Oppression over the Country in which we ourselves have been so injuriously enslaved.

Therefore, your humble Servants most deeply Pray, for the sake of injured Liberty, for the Sake of Justice, Humanity, and the Rights of Mankind; for the Honour of Religion, and by all that is dear, that your Honors would graciously impose in our Behalf, and enact such Laws and Regulations as in your Wisdom you may think proper, whereby we may regain our Liberty and be rank'd as the Class of free agents, and that the Name of Slave may not more be heard in a land gloriously contending for the Sweets of Freedom; And your humble Slaves as in Duty bound will ever Pray.

Thank you, Madam President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas.)

SENATOR ABBAS: Thank you, Madam President. You know a good friend of mine the Honorable Ed De-Clercq, I served with in the House in my first term in 2019 an 2020, recently passed away. He's one of the nicest people I've ever met. He was a veteran, he's very active in the community, he served twelve years on the Planning Board in Salem. He was very active in the Sons of Legion. Whenever there was any charity fundraiser, you know, he was, you know a common face you'd see there, helping them raise money and being very generous in his own right. You know we really lost a good one, and I know when I really got to know him well, when I first ran for office when I ran for State Rep in 2019, I didn't have any campaign experience and you know it's an at large district so we're technically running against each other in the primary and the general election. And he's one of the few that gave me a lot of advice. You know, told me, you know, gave me some good pointers and it shows the kind of person that he is. You know it's very sad that we lost him but he'll be well-remembered in the community and well-remembered for all his public service. So, rest in peace, Ed. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Thank you, Madam President. I just quickly wanted to let everyone know Stay Work Play is holding a reception in Hotel Concord today, 4:30 to 6:30 and invite all of you to join them. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Rosenwald.)

SENATOR ROSENWALD: It's been a bad period for former House members, because we lost yet another one recently. Those of you who served in the other body may remember Representative Carolyn Gargas from Hollis. Long term State Rep, former Chair of Children and Family Law. And she was originally from Washington State, moved to Hollis a long time ago and followed in her mother's footsteps into that other chamber. What was so great about her is that she demonstrated every day, reaching towards the center to find the right solutions on tough policy issues. She was a kind person, nice person, good legislator and we'll miss her. Thank you.

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.

MOTION TO RECESS TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

Senator Birdsell moved that the business of the day being completed, that the Senate recess to the Call of the Chair for the purposes of introducing legislation, referring bills to committee, scheduling hearings, sending and receiving messages, vacating bills, and processing enrolled bill reports and amendments and when we recess, we recess to the Call of the Chair.

Adopted. The Senate is in recess to the Call of the Chair.